

After the Storm: Return Migration & Neighborhood Change in Post- Katrina New Orleans*

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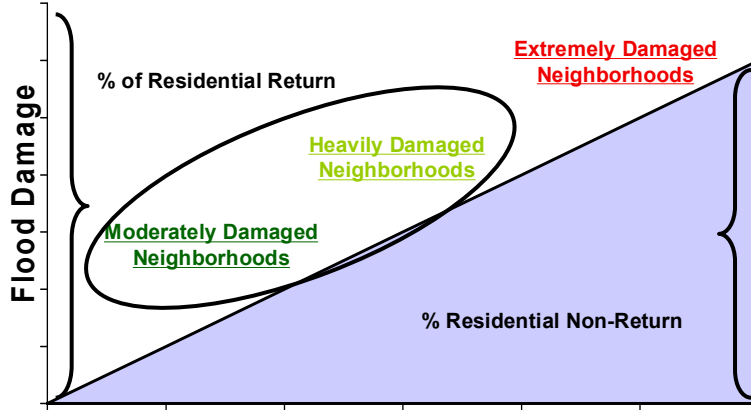
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* Preliminary background and findings submitted in consideration for extension and presentation at the 2007 annual meeting of the Population Association of America.

Overview

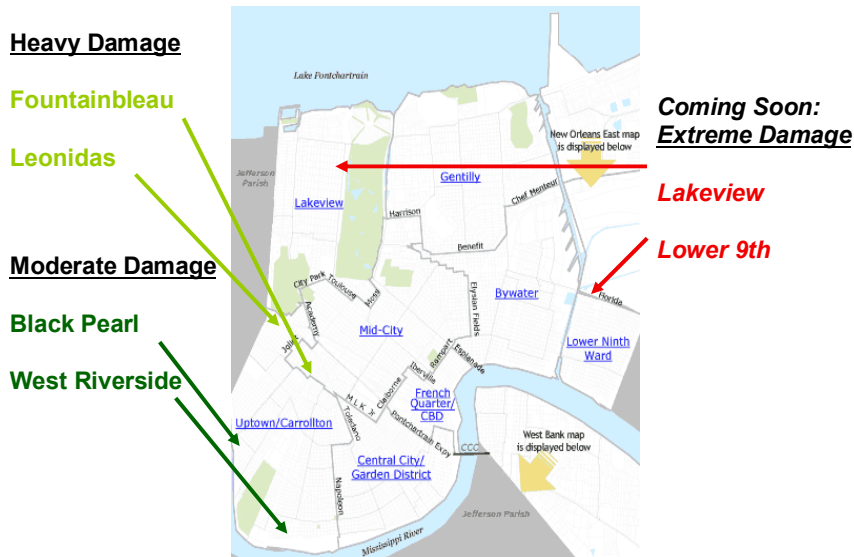
- **The Focus:**
 - Return migration to the City of New Orleans
 - Uptown neighborhoods, 6-12 months after Katrina
- **The “Natural Experiment”:**
 - Constant: same “migratory push” at same time for all residents
 - Variation: resolve & social resources for return
- **The General Hypothesis:**
 - Race & class influence resolve & resources for return
 - Result: erosion of unique cultural geography of Uptown neighborhoods

A Typology of Neighborhoods, by Flood Damage & Potential for Return

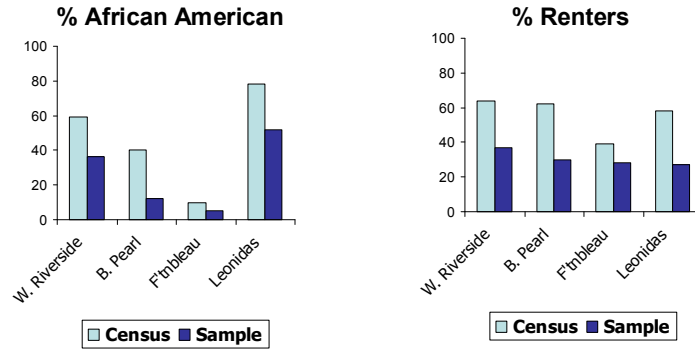


Assumption: level of flood damage determines amount & type of return (e.g., displaced v. non-displaced return)

Sampled Neighborhoods, (Moderate- & Heavy-Damage Uptown Areas)

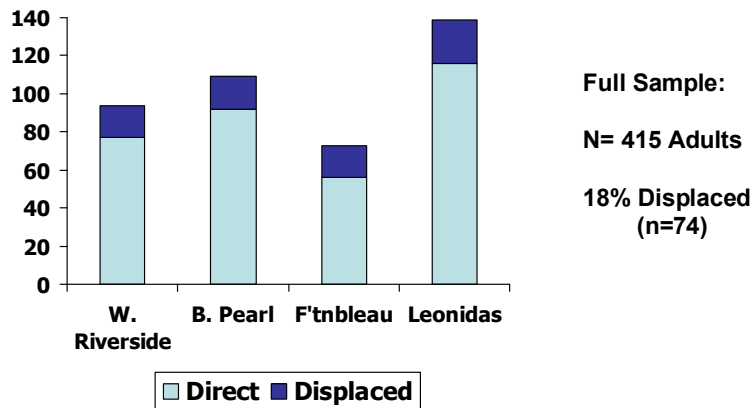


2000 Census v. Sample Data (N=415), by Neighborhood



- Whites & homeowners appear more likely to have returned.
- Still, African Americans and renters have returned.

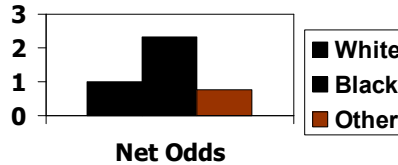
Returns, by Neighborhood & Displacement Status



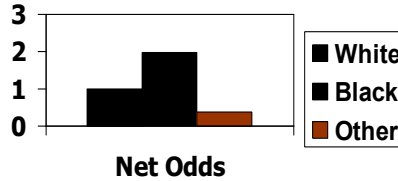
Resolve: Who Returned despite Displacement?

Logit Analyses of Returns:

(1) $\text{Pr}(\text{Displaced}) = \text{Race}^* + \text{Gender} + \text{Age} + \text{Parent} + \text{Pre-K Renter} + \text{Educational Attainment}$



(2) $\text{Pr}(\text{Displaced}) = \text{Race}^* + \text{Gender} + \text{Age} + \text{Parent} + \text{Pre-K Renter} + \text{Ln}(\text{Household Income})$



Supplemental Analysis

* Odds of black returns knowing someone at place of evacuation were only 1/4 those of white returnees ($p < .000$).

Modes of Return, by Displacement Status (The “How?” Question)

- **Direct & Displaced Returns averaged same evacuation time (54 days)**
- **Direct & Displaced Returns are equally likely to be employed**
 - but, 26% of Displaced now with different employers (v. 10% of Direct Returns)
- **Displaced are more likely to return to multiple addresses**
 - 48% v. 21% of Direct Returns ($p < .000$).
- **Displaced were less insured (home, renter or flood)**
 - Only 55% had any insurance v. 68% of Direct Returns ($p < .05$)
 - Only ~70% of losses covered (v. ~80% among Direct Returns)
- **Most Displaced report getting local housing help from family & friends**
 - 47% -- currently living with a family homeowner
 - 31% -- currently living elsewhere with help from friends/family

Social Resources: Sources of Cash & Non-Cash Assistance

- $Pr(\text{Help}_i) = \text{Displaced} + \text{Race} + \text{Gender} + \text{Age} + \text{Parent} + \text{Pre-Katrina Renter} + \text{Educational Attainment}$
- Displaced & Direct Returns **don't** differ significantly on resources
- $i = \text{Cash Assistance from . . .}$ (net odds):
 - Family or Friends: [-] Black (0.49X of whites)
 - Red Cross: [+] Black (4.4X of whites); Other races
 - FEMA: [-] Other races (0.09 of whites); [+] Females
 - Church: [+] Black (2.6X of whites)
- $i = \text{Non-Cash Assistance from . . .}$ (net odds):
 - Family or Friends: [-] Black (0.56X of whites); [-] Age (-2%/yr)
 - Red Cross: [+] Parent (1.9X of non-parents)
 - FEMA: ...
 - Church: [+] Black (2.2X of whites); [+] Parent

Specific Types of Unpaid Network Assistance

- $Pr(\text{Help}_i) = \text{Displaced} + \text{Race} + \text{Gender} + \text{Age} + \text{Parent} + \text{Pre-K Renter} + \text{Educational Attainment}$
- Again, Displaced & Direct Returns **don't** differ significantly by help
- $i = \text{Unpaid Network Assistance . . .}$
 - with pre-storm preparations: + grad/prof'l degree; + female
 - during evacuation: + grad/prof'l degree; college degree
 - with recovery activities: + grad/prof'l degree
 - with Emotional stress: + grad/prof'l; college; + female; - parents

Looking Ahead

- Plans to leave New Orleans within 1 year?
 - Direct and Displaced Returns equally likely to stay (~ 90%)
- Plans to leave Neighborhood within 1 year?
 - Direct Returns plan to stay, regardless of race, etc.
 - Displaced Returns more likely to leave, especially if African-American
 - Net odds:
 - White, non-displaced [ref.]: 1.0
 - Black, non-displaced: 1.1
 - White, displaced: 3.4
 - Black, displaced: 17.1

Summary

- African Americans (particularly renters) are returning to Uptown NOLA at lower rates than whites.
- Resolve: These rates would be even lower if displaced African Americans weren't returning with housing help from family/friends and institutional support from Red Cross/churches.
- Resources: As these supports fade & Displaced Returns leave, Uptown neighborhoods will likely become whiter and more elite, eroding one of the City's unique cultural geographies.