

Descriptive Statistics

Demographics

Based on survey data collected in summer 2006, RALLY estimates that the current population of Central City is probably between 9,100 and 10,000 people, the best estimate being 9,582 (Table A) The current occupancy rate is estimated at 32.9%.

Table A: Estimated population and occupancy rate in Central City.

		Estimate	Range (95% conf.)
2006*	Central City Population	9582	9,156 - 10,008
	Occupancy Rate	32.9%	
2000**	Central City Population	19072	
	Occupancy Rate	78.8%	

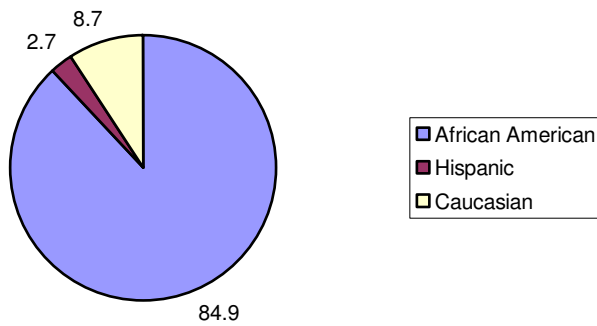
*Figures calculated from RALLY's summer 2006 survey of Central City

**Figures from the 2000 US Census

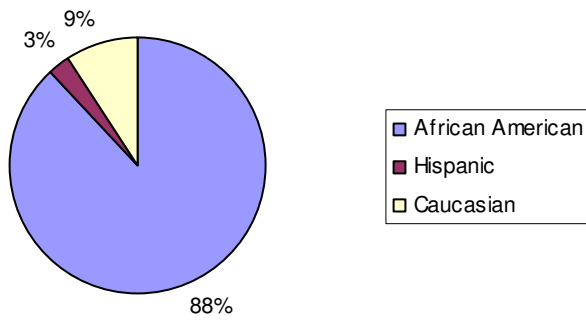
Surveys were completed with 218 households. Demographics of the respondents are presented in Annex B, Table 1. The 218 household respondents reported on the experiences of 630 household members, including themselves. The number of family members per household ranged from one to nine; the mean household size was 3.04. Among the respondents surveyed, 84.9% were African American, 8.7% were Caucasian and 2.8% were Hispanic. These findings do not deviate considerably from the data collected from the 2000 Census. Of the household members reported upon, 7.45% were four years old or younger. Additionally, 10.46% of household members were 65 years old or older (Annex B, Table 1). The majority of households (69.5%) contain adults of both sexes. While 15.9% of households have only male adults and 14.6% of households have only female adults (Annex B, Table 3). Almost half of the responding households (48.8%) report having a pre-Katrina household income of less than \$2000 per month (Annex B, Table 1).

Chart A: Percentage of Central City residents by ethnicity and year reported.

Central City Ethnicity: 2000 Census



Central City Ethnicity 2006



Livelihoods

Hurricane Katrina dramatically affected the livelihoods of many gulf-coast residents. While the damage all but wiped out some industries it also created other means by which to make a living. While 33.3% of households surveyed in Central City reported a decrease in income post-Katrina, 24.1% reported an increase in their household income. The remainder of the responding households (39.4%) reported no change in income. When asked if they had any new sources of income since the hurricane, 42.5% of households reported receiving money from FEMA, 33.0% stated that they got money from the Red Cross and 7.9% of the households said that construction work supplied them with a new source of income (Annex B, Table 4). Only 62.2% of households reported having at least one member that is employed full time. Seventeen percent of the remaining households contain no employed members. And, 17.1% report that all members of the household are retired (Annex B, Table 6). Jobs and job training is seen by the responding households as a priority in rebuilding Central City (Chart B).

Housing

The households interviewed reported a relatively low percentage of homeownership (33.6%). However, it should be noted that this percentage has increased dramatically post-Katrina. The 2000 Census found the percentage of homeownership in Central City to be 16.3%. These results suggest that homeowners are more prevalent among the current population of Central City. Conversely, the percentage of tenants in the neighborhood has dropped. The 2000 Census reported that 83.7% of the Central City population rented their

residences. After hurricane Katrina, only 58.4% of the households stated that they rented or leased their residence (Annex B, Table 1).

The housing issue is a great concern for many households in Central City. Thirty-six percent of respondents indicate that since returning to New Orleans their household has had difficulties accessing information about housing issues. Many see a connection between renovating homes destroyed by the storm and the productivity of their neighborhood. One focus group participant, a white male in his late 30's, expressed the need for housing in this manner, following a lengthy discussion on the lack of stores,

But you see, a lot of the problems are the housing. You see a lot of the housing ain't here for the people that need them to live here and have a store to run. They got to have some where to live, to work at that store. And a lot of these house and stuff....I mean look at them, look at the neighborhoods, nobody's in them. They're not livable, they're not getting worked on, there just sitting there.

Housing that is adequate in both quality and quantity is essential for the revitalization of any community.

Most of the respondents (65.2%) said that the head of household lived at their current residence prior to Katrina. Eleven percent claimed the head of household lived in Central City before the hurricane but at a different residence. And, 19.1% of respondents report that the head of household lived in New Orleans before the hurricane but in a different neighborhood. Household size has fluctuated since the storm. Twenty-four percent of responding households claim to have new members. A slightly higher percentage of households, 27.9%, report having fewer members after Katrina. When asked if the missing members plan on returning to live in the household, 56.9% of responding households said no. While, 20.7% of the households said, yes, their missing members were planning on returning (Annex B, Table 5).

Many primary tenants in Central City are ill-equipped for another hurricane. Almost eighty percent (79.4%) of the tenants do not have renters insurance and 82.6% of them do not have flood insurance. Homeowners are considerably better off. Only 23.6% of them are without homeowners insurance and 40.3% of homeowners do not have flood insurance (Table B).

Table B. Percent of households without insurance by homeowners and primary tenants.

Households with insurance			
<i>Homeowners</i>			
w/o homeowners insurance	%	23.6	
	N	17	
	Con. Int.	(15.0, 35.1)	
w/o flood insurance	%	40.3	
	N	29	
	Con. Int.	(31.9, 49.3)	
<i>Primary Tenants</i>			
w/o renters insurance	%	79.4	
	N	77	
	Con. Int.	(69.0, 87.0)	
w/o flood insurance	%	82.6	
	N	76	
	Con. Int.	(73.8, 88.9)	

* Confidence Interval (Con. Int.) at 95%

Multiple households reported the absence of common household/neighborhood amenities such as a working kitchen (19.4%), heat (15.5%), air conditioning (13.0), smoke detector (34.0%), garbage pick up at least once a week (11.7%) and adequate neighborhood lighting (25.6%). Many households reported having problems with mold (17.2%), pests (40.5%) and roof leaks (20.6%) (Annex B,

Table 7). More than eleven percent (11.7%) of responding households report having a trailer installed on their property (Annex B, Table 5).

Nearly forty percent (37.6%) of the households report that they cannot afford rent and 42.1% state increased rent as a problem for them since Katrina (Annex B, Table 12). This was also reflected in a focus group where one individual, an African American female in her mid-50's, expressed that a major problem she faced was finding affordable housing in the neighborhood.

Health

It is quite clear that Hurricane Katrina damaged health related infrastructure and disrupted routine health services for the residents of Central City. Provision of health care services is currently in a transition phase, as the temporary post-emergency clinics have closed and many pre-Katrina doctor offices, clinics and hospitals remain unopened. Many focus group participants expressed worry about the declining health care available for the uninsured. Charity hospital, the main source of health care for many residents before the storm, is currently not planning on re-opening its doors.

“We had a lot of problems with health care before the storm but now it’s just worse.”
- White male, mid-30’s

A number of health related problems were attributed to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Of the households surveyed, 54.4% reported that disruption of health care was a main impact of the hurricane. A quarter (25.4%) of the responding households, indicated that they no longer have health insurance after Katrina. Another quarter of the households (25.4%) indicated that they

still do not have the prescription drugs/medicines that they need. The need for available and affordable prescriptions was expressed by an African American male in his late 50's who can no longer receive his prescriptions for free from the clinic. He said, "I can't get my medications I used to get, and I used to get them free of charge. Now if you ain't able to pay for it you got to live with out it." (Annex B, Table 13)

Among households surveyed, 36.1% reported health problems as being one of the greatest problems that the household continues to have since returning to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, and 36.6% of the households report that fulfilling regular eating habits is a problem following Hurricane Katrina. Being able to find the necessary care for health problems was reported to be another big problem by 36.6% of respondents. Indeed, the population surveyed was inundated with chronic illnesses; 43.5% reported having at least one member with a chronic illness or disability. Common chronic medical conditions included physical disability (65.7%), mental disability (43.5%), cancer (15.0%), cardiovascular disease (37.0%) and diabetes (45.1%). Of those households that contain one or more members with a chronic illness or disability, 20.9% were unable to access the care that they needed. Twenty-four percent were able to access care for only some services, and 53.8% were able to access needed care for all services (Annex B, Table 11). Respondents in a focus group expressed the need for a health clinic in Central City that would provide basic services to residents, such as preventative and primary care. One respondent, an African American female in her early 60's, said:

One thing for myself, would be my weight, we need someone to teach us what to do about weight. We have chest pain, shortness of breath, tingling in the legs. And eye doctors to help us with our vision.

The enormous burden of ill-health on Central City would be eased by providing low-cost health care services in a location easily accessible for most residents. Distributing appropriate information about social services and opportunities for support would benefit households within Central City. The responding

households indicated that they have had difficulties since returning to New Orleans accessing assistance programs (40.3%) and finding opportunities for social support (36.1%). (Annex B, Table 12)

Education

An educated population is essential for the socio-economic development of a community. As compared to the 2000 Census, Central City has demonstrated an increase in populations with higher levels of education. During the Census it was determined that 34.1% of the population had less than a high school level of education. After hurricane Katrina, the percentage of the households surveyed that had members with less than a high school degree or GED dropped to 24.3%. The percentage of responding households that have at least one member with a high school diploma or GED has risen from 26.2% in 2000 to 37.8% after Katrina. Also, the percentage of responding households that have at least one member with some college or higher degree rose from 29.9% to 36.5%. This trend suggests that either the population of Central City is becoming more educated or that the more educated residents were the ones that returned to Central City after the storm (Annex B, Table 2).

One major concern of many households in Central City is finding schooling for their children. Of the households with school-aged children, 32.9% stated that finding schooling was a problem after the hurricane (Annex B, Table 37). Education is clearly important to households with school-age children which, despite the obstacle, made every effort to enroll their children in one school or another this past spring. Over ninety percent (91.1%) of those households with at least one school-aged child had enrolled them in school last spring, and an additional 8.1% were planning to enroll their children in the fall (Annex B, Table 2). As one focus group participant, an African American male in his mid-60's, explained, "Education is the key."