

# Hoffman Triangle

A special focus was paid to an area of Central City designated as the Hoffman Triangle in the second round of surveying. This area represents the north point of the Central City neighborhood. It begins at Claiborne Avenue and extends north (lake side) to the tip of Central City, forming a triangle. There was extensive flooding in the Hoffman Triangle after the breach of the levees in 2005, and flood depths as high as 6 feet were seen in the worst areas (Map 4 in Annex C).

The demographic makeup of the Hoffman Triangle is slightly different from the rest of Central City following Hurricane Katrina. Over forty percent (41.4%) of the responding households in the Triangle are homeowners, as compared to 32.4% of responding households outside of the Triangle that own homes. And, in sharp contrast, only 24.1% are considered primary tenants in the Triangle, whereas 49.7% of households outside of the Triangle are primary tenants (Annex B, Table 38). The general trend for higher home-ownership in the Hoffman Triangle is illustrated in Map 3 in Annex C.

The post-Katrina change in income also varied between these two groups. One quarter (25.3%) of the responding households outside the Triangle expressed an increase in income, while only 16.7% of households within the Triangle reported an income increase. Half of the responding households in the Triangle claimed to have had a decrease in income post-Katrina, but only 30.6% of households surveyed outside of the Triangle reported an income decrease. (Annex B, Table 39)

There was also an overwhelming disparity in household amenities available to these two groups. Twenty-three percent of the responding households in the

Triangle stated that they lack weekly garbage pick up, 90% do not have internet and 40% do not have a working kitchen (Table I).

*Table I: Percent of households that report specific characteristics of vulnerability by residential area (inside Hoffman Triangle and Outside of Hoffman Triangle).*

<b>Characteristics of Households</b>		<b>Hoffman Triangle</b>	<b>Outside of Hoffman Triangle</b>
<b>Lacks Household Amenities</b>			
Garbage pick-up	%	<b>23.3</b>	<b>9.8</b>
	N	7	18
	Con. Int.	(18.5, 29.0)	(6.1, 15.4)
Internet	%	<b>90.0</b>	<b>68.6</b>
	N	27	127
	Con. Int.	(84.9, 93.5)	(61.3, 75.1)
Working kitchen	%	<b>40.0</b>	<b>16.1</b>
	N	12	30
	Con. Int.	(33.7, 46.7)	(11.9, 21.5)
Heat	%	<b>36.7</b>	<b>12.0</b>
	N	11	22
	Con. Int.	(30.8, 43.0)	(7.8, 18.0)
Air conditioning	%	<b>30.0</b>	<b>10.3</b>
	N	9	19
	Con. Int.	(24.3, 36.4)	(7.0, 14.9)
Smoke detector	%	<b>36.7</b>	<b>33.5</b>
	N	11	62
	Con. Int.	(30.5, 43.3)	(26.0, 42.0)
Ample lighting in neigh.	%	<b>41.4</b>	<b>23.1</b>
	N	12	43
	Con. Int.	(34.9, 48.1)	(17.5, 30.0)

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

The impact of Hurricane Katrina on the household also seemed to be more extensive in the Hoffman Triangle than in the rest of Central City. Almost two-thirds (65.5%) of the responding households in the Triangle reported a disruption in health care and 51.7% reported losing a job. In contrast, 52.7% of households outside of the Triangle reported disruption in health care and 40.5%

of the households complained of a job loss. The number of respondents reporting loss of health insurance and loss of benefits--both a reflection of job loss--differs between those households that reside in the Hoffman Triangle and those outside of the Triangle. Of households in Hoffman Triangle, more than 41% reported losing their health insurance and 37.9% losing their benefits. Outside of the Triangle, 22.8% claim to have lost their health insurance and 28.5% lost their benefits. Considerably, the greatest reported impact from the hurricane in the Hoffman Triangle is losing touch with family and friends (72.4%) (Annex B, Table 40).

The widespread devastation in the Hoffman Triangle is reflected in the continuing problems faced by those who have returned and are trying rebuild their lives and their community. Over one-third (36.7%) of households in the Triangle expressed that finding a job is a problem due to the Hurricane. Sixty percent of these households stated that they lack utility services, compared to only 26.9% of households outside of the Triangle who reported lacking utilities. Difficulties accessing assistance programs and a lack of opportunities for social support were also reported hurricane related problems for many households (46.7% and 40.0%, respectively) living in the Hoffman Triangle. Outside of the Triangle, 39.2% of the responding households said they have difficulty accessing assistance and 35.5% stated that they had problems locating opportunities for social support. The sense of a lack of social support could stem from the high number of community members that have still not returned to Central City. In the Hoffman Triangle, 70.0% of the responding households felt a loss of sense of community. Just over half (51.1%) of households surveyed outside of the Triangle reported a lost sense of community. The greatest disparity between the responding households living in the Hoffman Triangle and those living elsewhere in Central City, is the availability of local supermarkets. In the Triangle, 70.0% report this as a problem and outside the Triangle only 40.5% report this as being a problem (Annex B, Table 41).