

KATRINA: ONE YEAR LATER

August 17-21, 2006

One year after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, Americans say the government is still not doing all it could - or should - to help its victims. Many remain displeased with how rebuilding efforts are going and skeptical that the Big Easy will return to normal any time soon.

Comparing today's assessments with those immediately after the hurricane, Americans' assessments of the government response have grown even harsher - they still overwhelmingly call the federal and the state and local governments' actions inadequate. Nor do they think government has learned its lessons - many fear that it has not done all it could have to improve disaster response. Less than half the country approves of President Bush's efforts to aid the victims, although this approval rating has risen from six months ago.

Half of Americans are still dissatisfied or even angry with the way rebuilding efforts are going on the Gulf Coast. That displeasure has subsided only a bit from last winter, when six in ten felt negatively.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT GULF REBUILDING EFFORTS?

	Now	2/2006
Pleased	6%	5%
Satisfied	32	26
Dissatisfied	39	43
Angry	11	16

For some, feelings may be determined by their personal closeness to last year's events. 25% of Americans report having a close relative or friend who has been affected by Hurricane Katrina.

As they did six months ago, most Americans say the government does have at least one responsibility: 63% today think the Federal government ought to guarantee housing to displaced victims.

SHOULD THE FEDERAL GOV'T CONTINUE TO PROVIDE HOUSING FOR VICTIMS?

	Now	2/2006
Yes	63%	67%
No	29	23

Only one in three Americans thinks the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is currently doing all it can to help the people affected by Katrina. In February, when only one in four thought FEMA was accomplishing all it could. Just 30% think Louisiana state and local governments are helping as best they can.

IS ... DOING ALL IT CAN NOW TO HELP KATRINA VICTIMS?

	Now	2/2006
FEMA	32%	27%
LA state/local government	30%	26%

Despite what it may have learned from Katrina, most Americans do not think federal disaster preparedness has improved as much as it could have over the past year. Just 35% say the government has done all it can in the past year to try to improve how it responds to natural disasters; 59% say it has not.

SINCE KATRINA, HAS GOVERNMENT DONE ALL IT CAN TO IMPROVE ITS DISASTER RESPONSES?

Yes	35%
No	59

While more than half of Americans have some confidence in the government's ability to respond to disasters, few have a great deal of it. And four in ten have little or none. Americans express slightly more confidence now than they did six months ago.

CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT TO RESPOND TO NATURAL DISASTERS?

	Now	2/2006
A great deal	13%	10%
Fair amount	43	39
Not much/none	44	51

In the weeks following Katrina, most Americans said that the events had made them feel less confident about the government's ability to respond to disasters.

LOOKING AHEAD: THE FUTURE OF THE CRESCENT CITY

Americans aren't any more optimistic about the future of New Orleans than they were six months ago. While seven in 10 think most of New Orleans will be rebuilt, most Americans - 64% - think rebuilding it will take longer than two years. Another 25% say most of New Orleans will probably never be rebuilt.

WILL MOST OF NEW ORLEANS BE REBUILT?

	Now	2/2006
Yes, within a year or two	8%	11%
Yes, but will take longer than a year or two	64	60
No, it never will	25	27

Most of the public - 67% - is paying attention to the rebuilding of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. 45% think at least some progress has been made in rebuilding the region, but only 7% say there has been "a lot" of progress. 25% say there has been little or no progress. There has been little change on this since the six-month anniversary of Katrina.

HOW MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN REBUILDING THE GULF COAST?

	Now	2/2006
A lot	7%	7%
Some	38	34
Not much/none	25	38
Don't know	29	21

Those paying "a lot" of attention to the rebuilding of the region are more likely than those paying less attention to say little or no progress has been made.

Most Americans continue to say New Orleans is not ready to be a tourism and convention destination again. 71% say it is not ready yet, while 17% say the city is ready. These numbers are only a bit more positive than six months ago.

IS NEW ORLEANS READY TO BE A TOURIST DESTINATION?

	Now	2/2006
Yes	17%	11%
No	71	78

Still, Americans are more divided on their overall image of New Orleans. Nearly half have a good image of the city of New Orleans. 42% hold a bad image of the city.

IMAGE OF NEW ORLEANS

Good	49%
Bad	42

Those living in the East and West are more likely than those living in the South and Midwest to say they have a good image of New Orleans. 54% of Democrats have a good image of New Orleans, compared to 45% of Republicans. Blacks and whites hold similar views of New Orleans.

45% of Americans say they would visit New Orleans in the next year or so if they had the time and money, but more - 54% - say they would not. 55% of those age 18 to 29 would visit "The Big Easy" -- the highest of any age group. 57% of blacks say they would visit New Orleans, compared to just 42% of whites.

WOULD YOU VISIT NEW ORLEANS IN THE NEXT YEAR?

Yes	45%
No	54

LOOKING BACK: ASSESSING THE RESPONSE

One year later Americans still overwhelmingly call the federal response to Katrina inadequate. As they look back, assessments of the federal government's reaction are even lower than they were in the weeks following the disaster. Today 17% say the response was adequate; last September 20% thought it was. Views on state and local

government response also have grown more negative with time. Today 15% say Louisiana's government response was adequate; last September 24% did.

WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO KATRINA ADEQUATE?

	Now	9/2005
Federal gov't was adequate	17%	20%
State/local gov't was adequate	15%	24%

Large majorities of both blacks and whites say the federal response fell short, but blacks are especially likely to say so. Eight in ten whites, but nearly all blacks, label the response inadequate.

WAS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO KATRINA ADEQUATE?

	Total	Whites	Blacks
Yes	17%	19%	4%
No	80	78	95

African Americans have held these very negative assessments of federal efforts have been in place since the hurricane. In the weeks after Katrina, the September 9-13 CBS News/New York Times poll found that a majority of African Americans thought federal assistance efforts were substandard, and a majority also believed that race played a key role in the slowness of the response. Whites in that poll, by comparison, did not believe race had been a factor.

African Americans are also more likely than whites to have a close friend or relative affected by Katrina. Today four in ten blacks say they do, while two in ten whites say the same.

In assessing the response, there are some partisan differences in Americans' views as well. While they cast aspersions on both levels of government, Republicans are more likely to say the federal response was adequate - 34% say so - than they are to say the local response was -- only 13% think so. Democrats are more likely to criticize the federal government, while independents blame both equally.

When Americans are asked to volunteer, in their own words, who they think was most at fault for the conditions that plagued New Orleans in the days after the levees broke, the public gives the greatest amount of blame to the federal government -- 20% cite it. This is up from six months ago, when 13% blamed it specifically.

Today, FEMA continues to be singled out for blame by one in ten. State and local governments are blamed too: 16% point to city government as most culpable, 16% point to Louisiana state government. Both are up from six months ago. With the passage of time, Americans have become more likely to direct their blame at a specific level of government. In the weeks after Katrina, and also six months later, more Americans blamed all levels of government from top to bottom.

MOST TO BLAME FOR SITUATION IN NEW ORLEANS

	Now	2/2006	9/2005
Federal government	20%	13%	10%
New Orleans city gov't	16	9	12
Louisiana state gov't	16	5	7
The residents themselves	12	11	12
FEMA	10	14	11
President Bush	7	11	8
New Orleans mayor/ Ray Nagin	4	8	8
Government general/ all levels	2	11	12
LA Gov./ Kathleen Blanco	3	4	5

Americans today are less like to blame specific politicians: fewer today than six months ago name President Bush, Mayor Ray Nagin, or Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco.

THE PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE

Most still disapprove of President Bush's response to the needs of those affected by the disaster, but evaluations are up from last winter. Today 41% approve of how he is addressing the victims' needs. In February, 32% did. Just after the disaster, assessments were similar to today's, at 44%.

BUSH'S RESPONSE TO NEEDS OF KATRINA VICTIMS

	Now	2/2006	9/2005
Approve	41%	32%	44%
Disapprove	51	64	48

African Americans (who overwhelmingly disapprove of President Bush's job performance, generally) also give the President lower marks on this measure. Only two in ten African Americans approve of how Bush is responding to hurricane victims. These views have not changed in the past year,

Confidence in the President's general ability to handle a crisis remains at about the same level today as right after the hurricane. Today 27% have a lot of confidence in his ability, and 26% have some. In October 2005, the same number had a lot of confidence. Just after September 11, 2001 two-thirds had a lot of confidence in his crisis handling.

CONFIDENCE IN BUSH HANDLING A CRISIS?

	Now	10/2005	9/2005	9/2001
A lot	27%	27%	32%	66%
Some	26	25	19	24
A little	20	24	25	7
None	25	23	23	2

This poll was conducted among a nationwide random sample of 1206 adults, interviewed by telephone August 17-21, 2006. The error due to sampling could be plus or minus three percentage points for results based on the complete sample.

CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
Katrina: One Year Later
August 17-21, 2006

q14 How much confidence do you have in George W. Bush's ability to handle a crisis -- a lot, some, a little, or none at all?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	*** Party ID ***				Aug06a
A lot	27	59	5	22	24
Some	26	29	20	29	29
A little	20	5	29	23	22
None at all	25	7	45	22	24
DK/NA	2	0	1	4	1

q16 How much confidence do you have in the ability of the U.S. government to respond to natural disasters -- a great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or none at all?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb06b
	%	%	%	%	%
A great deal	13	23	7	9	10
A fair amount	43	54	33	42	39
Not very much	32	18	43	34	37
None at all	12	4	17	13	14
DK/NA	0	1	0	2	x

q71 I'd like to ask you some questions about what happened in the days just AFTER the hurricane hit the Gulf area last year. Do you think the federal government responded adequately to Hurricane Katrina or could it have done much better?

					Sep05a*
Adequate	17	34	6	13	20
Much better	80	63	93	83	77
DK/NA	3	3	1	4	3

*Asked w/o phrase "last year"

q72 Do you think the Louisiana state and local government responded adequately to Hurricane Katrina, or could it have done much better?

					Sep05a
Adequate	15	13	17	14	24
Much better	81	81	81	80	70
DK/NA	4	6	2	6	6

q73 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is responding to the needs of people affected by Hurricane Katrina?

					Feb06b
Approve	41	74	19	35	32
Disapprove	51	20	72	56	64
DK/NA	8	6	9	9	4

q74 In New Orleans, after the Hurricane, hundreds of thousands of people were unable to evacuate the flooded city and they lacked food, water, and shelter. Who would you say was most to blame for those conditions? IF SAY GOVERNMENT, ASK: Do you mean the federal government in Washington, or the state and local government in Louisiana?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb06b
	%	%	%	%	%
Federal gov't	20	10	28	20	13
City gov't/New Orleans	16	21	12	17	9
State gov't/Louisiana	16	20	13	14	5
Residents of New Orleans	12	20	6	12	11
FEMA	10	5	15	10	14
The President/G.W.Bush	7	3	13	5	11
Mayor of New Orleans	4	6	2	4	8
Governor of Louisiana	3	3	2	2	4
Government (all levels)	2	0	2	4	11
Mother Nature/the weather	1	2	0	1	2
Nothing	1	1	0	2	1
Other	1	0	1	0	2
DK/NA	7	9	5	8	9

q76 How much attention have you been paying to the rebuilding of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast -- a lot, some, not much, or none?

A lot	18	14	23	17
Some	49	45	49	51
Not much	26	31	23	23
None	7	9	5	8
DK/NA	0	1	0	1

q77 From what you have heard or read, how much progress has been made so far in rebuilding New Orleans and the Gulf Coast --a lot, some, not much, none at all, or don't you know enough about it yet to say?

					Feb06b
A lot	7	11	5	4	7
Some	38	40	38	36	34
Not much	23	13	30	26	32
None at all	2	1	2	2	6
Don't know enough	29	33	25	30	21
DK/NA	1	2	0	2	0

q78 Which best describes your feelings about the way things are going in the rebuilding of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast? Are you pleased, satisfied but not pleased, dissatisfied but not angry, or angry?

Pleased	6	7	5	6	5
Satisfied	32	44	26	29	26
Dissatisfied	39	30	45	41	43
Angry	11	5	17	11	16
DK/NA	12	14	7	13	10

q79 Right now, do you think that federal agencies like FEMA are doing all they can reasonably be expected to do to help the people affected by Hurricane Katrina, or could they be doing more?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb06b
	%	%	%	%	%
All that could be expected	32	52	19	26	27
Could be doing more	59	40	73	62	66
DK/NA	9	8	8	12	7

q80 Right now, do you think Louisiana state and local government officials are doing all they can reasonably be expected to do to help the people affected by Hurricane Katrina, or could they be doing more?

All that could be expected	30	35	29	26	26
Could be doing more	55	50	57	57	60
DK/NA	15	15	14	17	14

q81 Do you think the Federal Government should continue to provide housing for all people left homeless by Hurricane Katrina, or is this no longer the responsibility of the federal government?

Guarantee housing	63	44	76	67	67
Not responsibility	29	47	19	25	23
DK/NA	8	9	5	8	10

q82 From what you've heard or read, do you think New Orleans is ready now to return to being a tourism and convention destination, or is it not ready for that yet?

Ready	17	20	16	16	11
Not ready yet	71	69	73	70	78
Some ready/some not (vol.)	2	2	2	1	3
DK/NA	10	9	9	13	8

q83 Which of these do you think is most likely?...1. Most of New Orleans will be rebuilt in the next year or two. 2. Most of New Orleans will be rebuilt, but it will take longer than a year or two. 3. Most of New Orleans will probably not be rebuilt.

Will, in the next year or	8	10	7	8	11
Will, but will take longer	64	70	62	62	60
Will probably not be rebuilt	25	17	29	27	27
DK/NA	3	3	2	3	2

q84 In the year since Hurricane Katrina, do you think the federal government has done all it could reasonably be expected to do to make sure the government responds better to future natural disasters, or could the government have done more?

Done all it reasonably could	35	58	22	28
Could have done more	59	35	74	65
DK/NA	6	7	4	7

q89 In general, do you have a good image or a bad image of New Orleans?

Good image	49	45	54	46
Bad image	42	47	39	41
DK/NA	9	8	7	13

q91 If you could afford it and had the vacation time, would you visit New Orleans in the next year or so or not?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Yes	45	38	52	45
No	54	61	46	55
Already live there (vol.)	0	0	0	0
DK/NA	1	1	2	0

q93 Do you have any close relative or friend who was directly affected by Hurricane Katrina?

					Sep05b
Yes	25	20	31	23	23
No	75	80	69	77	77
DK/NA	0	0	0	0	0

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1206	
Total Republicans	357	367
Total Democrats	419	419
Total Independents	430	420