



## **HOUSING AUTHORITY OF NEW ORLEANS PRE-KATRINA RESIDENT SURVEY**

### **Executive Summary**

Each of the points presented below is based on results of interviews with 2,109 residents of public housing units operated by the Housing Authority of New Orleans as of August 28, 2005. The surveys were conducted between the months of October, 2007 and February, 2008.

- At the time of the survey almost exactly half (50.5%) of pre-Katrina public housing residents interviewed had moved back to New Orleans. The other half resided throughout the United States with concentrations in Louisiana and Texas.
- Of those having moved back to New Orleans, over one-third (38.3%) reported living in the public housing unit they had occupied prior to Katrina. The largest proportion of these (almost 40%) said they wanted to continue living in the public housing unit occupied at the time. About a third said they wanted to move to the Section 8 voucher program. Smaller proportions said they wanted to move to a repaired public housing unit, move to a redeveloped public housing unit, or expressed no preference (see Figure 1).
- Of those having moved back to New Orleans but not living in the public housing unit occupied prior to Katrina, the largest proportion of these (42.2%) indicated a preference for moving to the Section 8 voucher program for their future housing needs. Smaller proportions indicated a preference for returning to the repaired public housing they occupied prior to Katrina, moving to any available public housing unit, moving to a redeveloped unit in a community where there is a range of household incomes, or expressed no preference (see Figure 2).
- Of those who had not moved back to New Orleans, about one-third (34.2%) said they want to return to New Orleans and receive Section 8 housing vouchers, and just over a third (37.9%) said they want to remain where they are and receive Section 8 housing vouchers. Smaller proportions expressed preferences for public housing in New Orleans or where they were presently living, or had no preference (see Figure 3).
- When those who said they want to return to New Orleans were asked about the timing of their possible return, over half (54.1%) said they would like to return

within two months or less, and over half (56.5%) said they believe they actually could return within three months or less (see Table 3).

- The most frequently cited barriers to returning to New Orleans expressed by those wishing to return were transportation needs and assistance needed with packing and moving (see Table 4 and Appendix B).
- Summarizing housing and location choices it is found that approximately 20.3% of all respondents express a preference for returning (or already have returned) to New Orleans and living in the public housing unit occupied prior to Katrina; 14.6% express a desire for returning to New Orleans and living in any available public housing unit; 36.6% express a preference for returning to New Orleans and receiving Section 8 housing vouchers; 2.7% say they do not want to return to New Orleans but want to remain in public housing in the city where they are currently residing or in any city other than New Orleans; 18.7% say they do not want to return to New Orleans but want to receive Section 8 housing vouchers where they are currently residing or in any city other than New Orleans; and 6.9% express no particular housing or location preference (see Table 5).



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### **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

In July of 2007, the University of Texas at Arlington, through personnel at its School of Urban and Public Affairs (hereafter referred to as the “Research Team”), contracted with the Housing Authority of New Orleans (“HANO”) to conduct a survey of those 5,146 households who resided in public housing units operated and/or administered by HANO as of August 28, 2005, just prior to Hurricane Katrina’s landfall on August 29 of that year.

HANO’s request for proposals identified the following questions to be addressed by the survey:

- Which and how many households intend to return to that public housing dwelling unit occupied by that household as of August 28, 2005?
- Which and how many households intend to return to residence in a repaired public housing unit or comparable dwelling unit in New Orleans, in instances where the public housing dwelling unit occupied by the household as of August 28, 2005 is unavailable?
- When households intend to return to public housing dwelling units occupied by the household as of August 28, 2005 or to other public housing or comparable dwelling units in New Orleans?
- Which and how many households intend to continue to receive rental housing assistance from the Federal Government in jurisdictions outside of New Orleans?

### **METHODOLOGY**

In order to conduct the survey, the Research Team subcontracted with Survey Communications, Inc (S.C.I. Research), a full service, national marketing research firm based in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. S.C.I. Research is experienced in conducting both quantitative and qualitative research. To facilitate its telephone surveying operations, S.C.I. employs computer assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) technology for all its polling and public opinion projects. The CATI system allows interviews to be entered directly into S.C.I.’s main computer system, thus increasing both accuracy and speed of interview completions.

Initially, a two-pronged methodology was developed and employed to contact target families and complete the survey process. First, utilizing a data base of families, contact numbers, and addresses to be supplied by HANO, outbound telephone calls would be made to targeted families from S.C.I.'s 70-station call center in Baton Rouge operating seven days per week. Second, utilizing this same data base, postcards were to be sent to all families informing them of the survey and inviting them to call an exclusive toll free telephone number where they would be asked to complete the survey by one of S.C.I.'s research professionals.

In order to enhance participation in the project, the cards referred to above offered eight (8) \$250 cash prizes for those agreeing to participate in the survey. The eight "winners" would be selected at random from among those volunteering to participate in the project.

The Research Team anticipated that some contact information in the HANO data file would be dated or incomplete. To supplement and update information in the file, the Team contracted with a group of New Orleans public housing residents who, through their resident contacts and networks, would assist in verifying phone numbers and locating the whereabouts of those for whom the HANO data file provided missing or incomplete information. It was anticipated that this process would be used throughout the data collection process. As S.C.I. determined that a particular resident or family could not be reached either by phone or by mail, it was planned that the resident group would attempt through its resources to locate that resident or family.

## **THE SURVEY INSTRUMENT**

The Research Team, in close collaboration with HANO and HUD officials, developed a draft survey designed to respond to the issues identified in HANO's request for proposals. On July 20, 2007, the Research Team met in New Orleans with a group of approximately twenty (20) leaders of resident councils and public housing residents, along with other stakeholders, to refine the survey and to add some questions that residents, themselves, wished to be pursued. Following extensive review and revision by several parties, the survey was finally approved for administration in early October and phone calling began on October 12, 2007. The survey, as approved, is attached as Appendix A.

## **DATA COLLECTION**

On July 16, the Research Team received from HANO a data file titled, "Housing Authority of New Orleans Former Public Housing Tenants Current Available Addresses." This was the file to be used to obtain contact information—addresses and telephone numbers—of the 5100 targeted families. It became immediately apparent that the data file was far more dated, incomplete, and error-filled than originally thought. Of the approximately 5100 family records contained in the file, 509 (10%) had no contact information at all—no phone numbers and no addresses. Of the remaining records, calling attempts revealed that over 2,000 (39%) phone numbers were "disconnected," and

another 1,400 (27%) numbers were found to be “wrong.” Additionally, close to 60 percent of postcards that had been sent to every address in the data file were, because of faulty addresses, returned as “undeliverable.” All totaled, approximately 75 percent of the resident data file consisted of incorrect or useless information. Thus, at the same time that surveying was taking place, considerable time and effort had to be invested in attempts to update and correct the data file of target families.

The Research Team pursued several updating strategies. The team acquired as many resident data files as HANO could provide and developed a computer matching program that would compare records on those files with the original HANO-provided resident file in an attempt to match and then update as many “wrong” and “disconnected” numbers and faulty or incomplete mailing addresses as possible. These files included all the relocation files from the various New Orleans housing sites (Lafitte, Desire, St. Bernard, Iberville, Fisher, etc.), the relocation files from all the “scattered site” locations, HUD’s Disaster Information System (DIS) files, the Providence/Enterprise Outreach Effort files, various Displaced Resident Data Files, along with the updated contact information that our hired New Orleans resident group could locate. Comparing these files was a challenging process due to the sheer volume of names and addresses contained in those files, because no common identification numbers (like social security numbers) were attached to the records in the files, and also because of the initial incompatibility of the obtained files (in some names were listed alphabetically, in others they were not; in some last names were listed first, in others last names were listed second; in some files, names were in the first column of the data file, in other files names were in other columns; and so forth). But, the effort was completed and as a consequence many “wrong” and “disconnected” numbers were updated and phone contact was made. Additionally, as mentioned above, postcards were mailed to every address supplied by HANO asking for cooperation in completion of the survey and in updating contact information where possible. The survey firm, in making its calls, inquired of every “wrong” number that was encountered about the whereabouts of the “correct” person for that particular survey attempt, and then followed up with a fresh round of calls to every “corrected” number that was thereby discovered. In total, more than 36,000 call-attempts were made.

In a final attempt to update address and phone records and to contact as many residents as possible, the 82 housing authorities that had accepted HANO displaced residents were contacted by letters, emails, phone calls, revised letters, revised emails, and additional follow-up phone calls and asked to provide contact information for those residents. Through this process, current addresses were obtained for over 500 additional residents. Each of these was mailed two postcards requesting that they call the survey firm to participate in and complete the survey. The first postcard was mailed on January 21, 2008 and the second on February 4.

As a result of all these efforts, the Research Team firmly and absolutely believes that an exceptional effort was made to locate, contact, and conduct the survey of those HANO residents displaced by Hurricane Katrina. This work went far beyond the normal practice of survey researchers, and produced a satisfactory result, given the difficulty of the task.

## THE SAMPLE

Through these efforts a total of 2553 former residents (49.6%) were contacted and of these 2109 (40.9%) agreed to participate in the survey.<sup>1</sup> Of the 2109 former residents completing the survey, 1063 (50.5%) indicated that they had returned to New Orleans and were living in New Orleans (or in a New Orleans zip code) at the time of the survey; 1046 (or 49.6%) indicated that they were living outside of the New Orleans area. Although the bulk of respondents reported living in either Louisiana (62.1%) or in Texas (23.9%), 36 states in total were identified by respondents as their state of residence at the time that they completed the survey.<sup>2</sup>

### Site Location Comparison of All Pre-Katrina HANO Residents With Sample

Table 1 compares the site locations of all those residents living in HANO housing units as of August 28, 2005 with the locations of those completing the survey.

| HANO Development | Number and Percent Occupied as of August 28, 2005 | Number and Percent Occupied by Survey Respondents |
|------------------|---|---|
| St. Thomas       | 33 (.6)   | 8 (.4)  |
| C.J. Peete       | 144 (2.7)   | 67 (3.2)  |
| Iberville        | 673 (13.0)  | 208 (9.9)   |
| Lafitte          | 866 (16.8)  | 382 (18.1)  |
| B.W. Cooper      | 1015 (19.7)                                       | 306 (14.5)  |
| St. Bernard      | 963 (18.7)  | 405 (19.2)  |
| Florida          | 125 (2.4)   | 55 (2.6)  |
| Guste            | 543 (10.5)  | 213 (10.1)  |
| Fisher           | 174 (3.3)   | 46 (2.2)  |
| Desire           | 71 (1.3)  | 21 (1.0)  |
| Scattered Sites  | 540 (10.4)  | 351 (16.2)  |
| Refused          |   | 47 (2.2)  |
| Totals           | 5146 (100.0)                                      | 2109 (100.0)                                      |

Although there are some variances when comparing pre-Katrina resident location of all residents with those responding to the survey (for example, 10.4% of all pre-Katrina residents reported living in “scattered sites” compared with 16.2% of respondents) for the most part the resident comparisons are reasonably close, certainly within acceptable percentages of statistical accuracy.

## Other Sample Characteristics

Table 2 reports some of the other characteristics of the sample. Responses to each of the housing preferences examined in this study are compared with responses to each of these characteristics and differences that are found to be statistically significant are noted in the discussion that follows.<sup>3</sup>

| <b>Table 2: Respondent Characteristics</b>    |      |      |
|---|------|------|
| Characteristic                                | N    | %    |
| Is respondent currently                       |      |      |
| Participating in Section 8 Voucher Program    | 435  | 20.6 |
| Participating in the Disaster Voucher Program | 640  | 30.3 |
| Living in Public Housing                      | 663  | 31.4 |
| None of these                                 | 371  | 17.6 |
| Is Respondent                                 |      |      |
| Living with relatives                         | 182  | 8.6  |
| Living with friends                           | 27   | 1.3  |
| Renting a private house or apartment          | 1481 | 70.2 |
| Living in a home that respondent purchased    | 26   | 1.2  |
| Living in a FEMA trailer                      | 16   | .8   |
| Homeless                                      | 5    | .2   |
| In some other living arrangement              | 372  | 17.6 |
| Highest Grade of Formal Education             |      |      |
| Less than high school                         | 834  | 39.5 |
| High school diploma or GED                    | 894  | 42.4 |
| Technical/Vocational Training                 | 34   | 1.6  |
| Some College                                  | 255  | 12.1 |
| College Degree                                | 56   | 2.7  |
| Other/refused                                 | 36   | 1.7  |
| Total Number of People in Household           |      |      |
| 1   | 559  | 26.5 |
| 2   | 466  | 22.1 |
| 3   | 436  | 20.7 |
| 4   | 331  | 15.7 |
| More than 4                                   | 317  | 15.0 |
| Total Number Adults in Household              |      |      |
| 1   | 1227 | 58.2 |
| 2   | 576  | 27.3 |
| 3   | 216  | 10.2 |
| 4   | 62   | 2.9  |
| More than 4                                   | 28   | 1.4  |
| Total Number of Children in Household         |      |      |
| 0   | 908  | 43.1 |
| 1   | 434  | 20.6 |
| 2   | 336  | 15.9 |
| 3   | 248  | 11.8 |
| 4   | 96   | 4.6  |
| More than 4                                   | 75   | 4.0  |
| Employment Status                             |      |      |
| Employed full time                            | 480  | 22.8 |
| Employed part-time                            | 269  | 12.8 |
| Student                                       | 41   | 1.9  |
| Homemaker                                     | 82   | 3.9  |
| Retired                                       | 140  | 6.6  |
| Unemployed                                    | 330  | 15.6 |

|  |     |      |
|--|-----|------|
| Elderly or disabled and unable to work | 744 | 35.3 |
| Refused to answer                      | 23  | 1.1  |

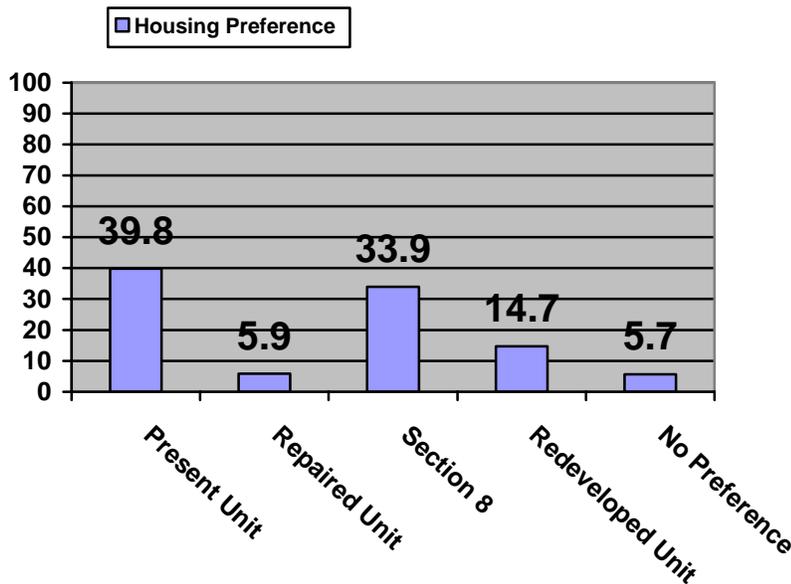
### RESIDENTS HAVING MOVED BACK TO NEW ORLEANS AND LIVING IN THE PUBLIC HOUSING UNIT OCCUPIED PRIOR TO KATRINA

At the time of the survey, a total of 407 (19.2%) respondents reported having moved back to New Orleans and were living in the public housing unit they had occupied prior to Katrina. Of these, 50 said their household size had increased (average of 1.6 people) 30 said their household size had decreased (average of 1.0 people) and most (327) said their household size had not changed. Most (340) said that the unit they were currently occupying was appropriate for their present family size.

When asked about their future housing preferences, most (162 or 39.8%) said they wanted to continue to live in the public housing presently occupied. An additional 24 (5.9%) said they wanted to move to some other repaired public housing unit, 138 (33.9%) said they wanted to participate in the Section 8 voucher program, 60 (14.7%) said they wanted to move to a redeveloped public housing unit in a community where there is a range of household incomes, and 23 (5.7%) indicated no preference.

Figure 1, below, shows percentage responses to this question.

Figure 1  
Housing Preferences (in percents) of those Living in Unit Occupied Prior to Katrina



Those residents whose household size had either increased or decreased were more likely to indicate a preference for moving to Section 8 housing than those whose

household size had remained the same, as also were those with greater numbers of people living in the household and especially those with greater numbers of children.

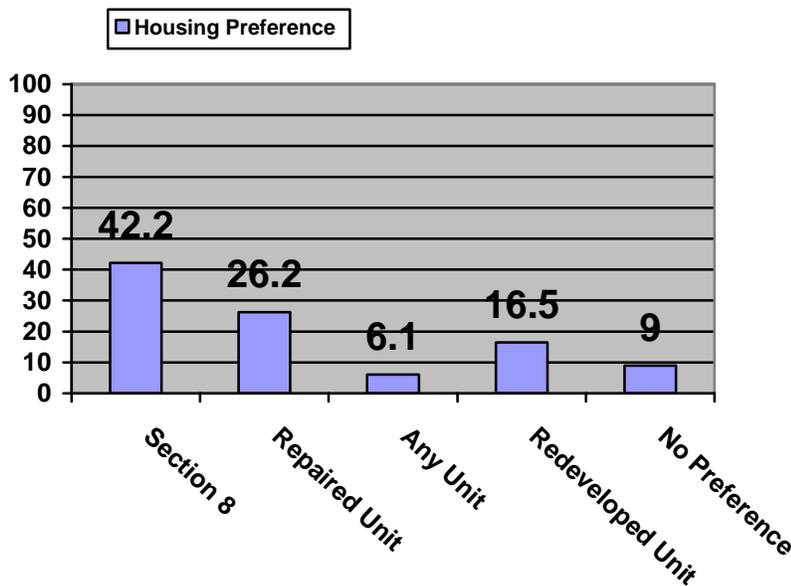
**RESIDENTS HAVING MOVED BACK TO NEW ORLEANS AND NOT LIVING IN THE PUBLIC HOUSING UNIT OCCUPIED PRIOR TO KATRINA**

At the time of the survey 656 (31.0%) residents reported having moved back to New Orleans, but were living someplace other than the public housing unit occupied prior to Katrina. Of these, 282 (43.0%) were participating in the Section 8 housing program and 150 (23.1%) were participating in the Disaster Voucher Program.

When asked their preference for their future housing needs in New Orleans, 277 (42.2%) indicated a preference for being in the Section 8 housing program and not returning to public housing, 172 (26.2%) indicated a preference for returning to the repaired public housing unit they occupied prior to Katrina, 40 (6.1%) indicated a preference for returning to any available public housing unit in the city, 108 (16.5%) indicated a preference for moving to a redeveloped public housing unit in a community where there is a range of household incomes, and 59 (9.0%) indicated no preference.

Figure 2, below, shows percentage responses to this question.

Figure 2  
Housing Preferences (in percents) of those Not Living in Unit Occupied Prior to Katrina



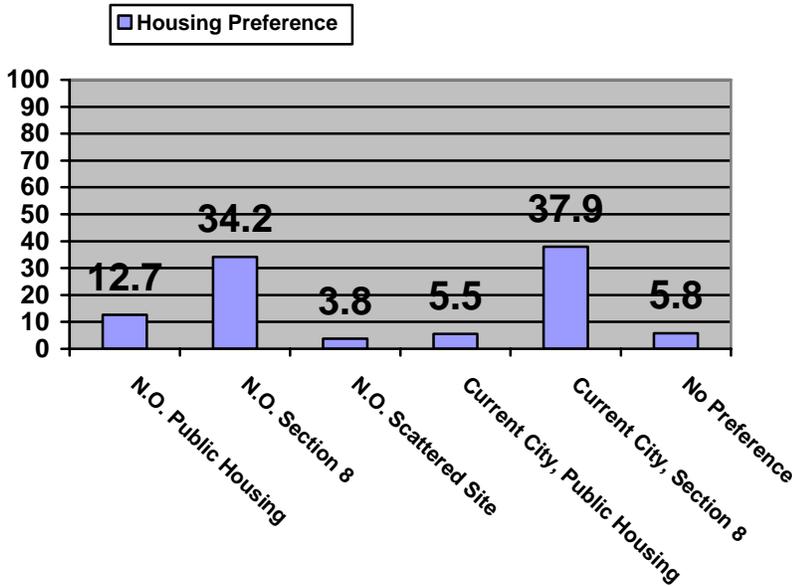
Those with higher levels of education were more likely to indicate a preference for Section 8 housing, as also were those with greater numbers of people and greater numbers of children living in the household.

**RESIDENTS HAVING NOT MOVED BACK TO NEW ORLEANS AT TIME OF SURVEY**

At the time of the survey, 1046 (or 49.5%) of former public housing residents had not moved back to New Orleans. As mentioned above, the bulk of these were living in Louisiana or Texas, but they also were scattered in sites across the United States. When asked their future housing preferences roughly half (50.7%) said they want to return to New Orleans, and roughly half said they did not want to return to New Orleans, or they were unsure of their future preferences. Of the 1046 respondents, 133 (12.7%) said they want to return to New Orleans and live in a public housing unit, 358 (34.2%) said they want to return to New Orleans and receive Section 8 vouchers, 40 (3.8%) said they want to return to New Orleans and live in scattered site public housing, 58 (5.5%) said they want to remain in the city they currently are living in, or move to some city other than New Orleans, and stay in public housing there, 396 (37.9%) said they want to remain in the city they currently are living in, or move to some city other than New Orleans and receive a Section 8 voucher, and 61 (5.8%) said they had no preference.

Figure 3, below, shows percentage response to this question.

Figure 3  
Housing Preferences (in percents) of those Living in Some City Other than New Orleans



Responses to this question varied by education, employment status, and numbers of people living in the households. Those with higher levels of education and those

employed either full time or part time were more likely to say they want to remain in their current city or move to some city other than New Orleans (either in public housing or Section 8), those with lower levels of education and those not employed full or part time were more likely to say they want to return to New Orleans. Those with larger numbers of people in the household (3 or more) were most likely to say they wanted to return to New Orleans in Section 8 housing (40.4%), or to stay in the city where they currently reside and receive Section 8 housing there (39.4%). Those with only 1 or 2 family members were more likely to indicate a preference for returning to New Orleans public housing (16.9%) or Section 8 housing (27.8%), or to stay in the city where they currently reside and receive Section 8 housing there (36.4%).

#### Preferences of Those Wishing to Return to New Orleans Public Housing

Of those 133 respondents wishing to return to a New Orleans public housing unit, 96 (or 72.2%) said they want to return to the unit that they occupied prior to Katrina. For 40 (41.7%) of these that unit was Lafitte, for 17 (17.7%) that unit was St. Bernard, and for 12 (12.5%) that unit was Guste.

Of those 37 respondents wishing to return to a public housing unit other than the one they occupied prior to Katrina, 21.6% said they wanted to return to the Iberville unit and 16.2% said they wanted to return to “scattered site” units. Other unit options were selected in proportions smaller than these.

#### Preferred Options for Those Whose Public Housing Unit Preference Might Not Be Available

Those wishing to return to New Orleans to live in public housing units were asked about their preferences if the unit they selected as their first choice unit were not available, or were not available immediately. Under such circumstances, 64.7% said they would be willing to move to another unit either permanently or temporarily, 27.8% said they would not be willing to accept a unit other than their first choice, and 7.5% said they had no preference.

When asked if their first choice unit were being repaired or was being reconstructed as part of a mixed-income community would they like to live in that unit, 86.5% responded in the affirmative.

When asked if they would be willing to live in any public housing unit in New Orleans until their first preference is rehabilitated or reconstructed, 51.3 % answered in the affirmative, 45.2% answered negatively.

Finally, when asked if they would be willing to live in any public housing unit for now and then later transfer to a redeveloped unit or a newly constructed unit in a community where there exists a range of household incomes, 51.1% answered in the affirmative, 30.8% answered negatively, and 12.0% had no opinion.

## BARRIERS TO RETURNING TO NEW ORLEANS

All of those residents living outside of New Orleans at the time of the survey but who said they want to return, were asked when they would like to return, when they actually could return, and what barriers might delay their returning. Responses are shown below.

|  | One month or less | Two months | Three months | Four to Six Months | Seven to Twelve Months | Longer than Twelve Months | Uncertain |
|--|-------------------|------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| When would respondent <u>like</u> to return  | 43.9%             | 10.2       | 12.4         | 12.4               | 7.9                    | 5.8                       | 7.3       |
| When could respondent <u>actually</u> return | 29.8%             | 12.8       | 13.9         | 13.9               | 9.6                    | 8.1                       | 11.9      |

As shown in Table 3, most respondents say they would like to return in very short order, and many say they actually could return very shortly. Over half (54.1%) say they would like to return within two months or less, and over half (56.5%) say they actually could return within three months or less. Very small percents say they would want or need more than 12 months to return.

Respondents were asked what barriers, if any, might delay their return. Responses are shown in Table 4, and also in Appendix B.

| Possible Barriers  | Yes   | No    | No Answer |
|--|-------|-------|-----------|
| Need Transportation  | 83.2% | 15.6% | 1.1       |
| Need Assistance with Packing and Moving                                  | 76.5  | 22.2  | 1.3       |
| Children Enrolled in School in Present Location                          | 45.8  | 52.5  | 1.7       |
| Health Care Issues   | 42.7  | 55.9  | 1.3       |
| Current Have Housing Lease That Cannot Be Broken                         | 33.3  | 59.1  | 7.5       |
| Have Given a Housing Deposit at Current Location that Cannot be Returned | 20.7  | 71.6  | 7.7       |
| Need Day Care for Children   | 13.4  | 85.1  | 1.5       |
| Currently Employed and Don't want to Give up Job                         | 9.8   | 88.1  | 2.1       |
| Lack of Employment Opportunities in New Orleans                          | 15.1  | 77.8  | 7.2       |
| Other (Note: all other mentioned barriers listed as Appendix B)          |       |       |           |

As shown in Table 4, the most important barriers are those dealing with transportation and packing and moving assistance. Significant numbers of respondents also report children enrolled in schools as well as health care as potential barriers. Far fewer mention such items as day care needs or job opportunities (either where they are or in New Orleans). Respondents were asked if there were any other factors that might delay their return to New Orleans. The total list of those items mentioned is included as Appendix B.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

HANO identified four main questions or issues to be pursued in this survey. Answers to each are provided below.

1. Which and how many households intend to return to that public housing dwelling unit occupied by that household as of August 28, 2005?

**Answer:** Almost exactly half of those responding to this survey had already moved back to New Orleans at the time of survey administration. Of these 407 (or 19.2% of total respondents) said they were living in the unit they had occupied prior to Katrina. Of those in the sample who had not returned to New Orleans at the time of the survey, 96 (or 4.5% of total respondents) said they want to return to New Orleans and live in the same public housing unit that they occupied prior to Katrina. Thus 23.7 percent of respondents either already were living in the same dwelling unit that they occupied prior to Katrina or said that it was their preference to do so.

2. Which and how many households intend to return to residence in a repaired public housing unit or comparable dwelling unit in New Orleans, in instances where the public housing dwelling unit occupied by the household as of August 28, 2005 is unavailable?

**Answer:** Those who had not already returned to New Orleans but who indicated that they want to do so and that their desire is to live in public housing when they do return were asked their preference if the public housing unit of their first choice is not available or is being repaired. Under such circumstances, just over half (54.9%) of respondents said they would be willing to permanently move to another public housing unit and another 9.8% said they would be willing to do so temporarily. When asked if they would be willing to live in any public housing unit in New Orleans while their first choice is being rehabilitated or reconstructed, again about half (51.3%) responded affirmatively. When asked if they continued to wish to live in their first choice unit if that unit were being repaired or reconstructed as part of a mixed-income community, 86.5% answered affirmatively.

3. When households intend to return to public housing dwelling units occupied by the household as of August 28, 2005 or to other public housing or comparable dwelling units in New Orleans?

**Answer:** Almost exactly half of the sample (50.5%) had already returned to New Orleans at the time of the survey. Of those who had not yet returned, just over half (50.7%) said they want to do so. Of these, over half (54.1%) said they would like to return within two months or less and over half (56.5%) said they believe they actually would be able to return in less than three months.

4. Which and how many households intend to continue to receive rental housing assistance from the Federal Government in jurisdictions outside of New Orleans?

**Answer:** At the time of the survey, 1046 (49.5%) of the sample continued to live outside of New Orleans. Of these 454 (43.4%) said they want to remain in the city where they are currently living, or move to some city other than New Orleans, and either continue to live in public housing or receive Section 8 vouchers at those sites.

## SUMMATION

Table 5, below, summarizes the percent of sample respondents selecting each housing and location preference and extrapolates these proportions to a projected frequency response for all 5146 pre-Katrina HANO residents.<sup>4</sup>

| Housing and Location Preferences:  | Sample Percents (based on Survey of 2109 Residents): | Extrapolated Frequencies For All (5146) Pre-Katrina HANO Residents: |
|--|--|---|
| Return to New Orleans and Live in Public Housing Unit Occupied Prior to Katrina <sup>1</sup>                                 | 20.3%  | 1045  |
| Return to New Orleans and Live in Any Available Public Housing Unit <sup>2</sup>   | 14.6   | 751   |
| Return to New Orleans and Receive Section 8 Housing Vouchers   | 36.6   | 1883  |
| Not Return to New Orleans and Remain in Public Housing in City where Currently Residing or Any City Other than New Orleans   | 2.7  | 139   |
| Not Return to New Orleans and Receive Section 8 Housing Vouchers where Currently Residing or Any City Other than New Orleans | 18.7   | 962   |
| No Preference Expressed  | 6.9  | 355   |
| Totals   | 99.9% (rounded)                                      | 5140 (rounded)  |

<sup>1</sup> Includes those already having moved back to New Orleans and living in New Orleans public housing at time of survey.

<sup>2</sup> Includes scattered site locations, remodeled or repaired units, or redeveloped units in a community where there is a range of household incomes.

For comparative purposes, Table 6 below presents the housing and location preferences of those 1160 respondents who prior to Katrina lived in HANO Developments C.J. Peete, Lafitte, B. W. Cooper, or St. Bernard.

| <b>Table 6.<br/>Housing and Location Preferences of Those Respondents Previously Living in C.J. Peete, Lafitte, B.W. Cooper, or St. Bernard</b> |      |                |
|---|------|----------------|
|   | N:   | Percent:       |
| Housing and Location Preferences:   |      |                |
| Return to New Orleans and Live in Public Housing Unit Occupied Prior to Katrina <sup>1</sup>  | 228  | 19.6           |
| Return to New Orleans and Live in Any Available Public Housing Unit <sup>2</sup>  | 154  | 13.2           |
| Return to New Orleans and Receive Section 8 Housing Vouchers  | 432  | 37.2           |
| Not Return to New Orleans and Remain in Public Housing in City where Currently Residing or Any City Other than New Orleans                      | 43   | 3.7            |
| Not Return to New Orleans and Receive Section 8 Housing Vouchers where Currently Residing or Any City Other than New Orleans                    | 237  | 20.4           |
| No Preference Expressed   | 66   | 5.6            |
| Totals  | 1160 | 99.7 (rounded) |

<sup>1</sup> Includes those already having moved back to New Orleans and living in New Orleans public housing at time of survey.

<sup>2</sup> Includes scattered site locations, remodeled or repaired units, or redeveloped units in a community where there is a range of household incomes.

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Of the 2,109 completed surveys, 1,431 were secured through outbound calls, 678 were secured through inbound calls in response to postcard requests. The average length of each completed interview was 11 minutes and 12 seconds. Although not a true “random” sample in the strictest sense, we know of no systematic biases existing in the sample produced. A probability sample of this size would be considered to accurately reflect population characteristics within a confidence interval range of considerably less than plus or minus two percent.

<sup>2</sup> By assigning unique identification numbers to each resident, the survey firm made every attempt to ensure that each contacted resident would respond once and only once. However, the data file as analyzed included some duplicated identification numbers. These could have occurred in a variety of ways. For example, a resident could have unknowingly shared his or her callback card, including identification number, with another resident; or, respondents could have misspoken when giving their number to coders; or, coders could have mis-entered the number during the interview process, and so forth. In any case, the analysis reported here was conducted both with the full data set as well as the data set with all duplicated identification codes deleted. There were no statistical or substantive differences in results noted.

<sup>3</sup> Tests of significance are based on the chi-square test of statistical significance.

<sup>4</sup> Considering the three categories of respondents to the survey (those having already moved back to New Orleans and living in the public housing unit occupied prior to Katrina, those having moved back to New Orleans and not living in the public housing unit occupied prior to Katrina, and those having not moved back to New Orleans at the time of survey), it can be seen that the mathematical derivation of each of these percentages is as follows: A total of 430 (20.3%) respondents (162+172+96) said they want to return to New Orleans and live in the public housing unit occupied prior to Katrina or are already doing so; 309 (14.6%) respondents (84+148+77) said they want to return to New Orleans and live in any available public housing unit; 773 (36.6%) of respondents (138+277+358) said they want to return to New Orleans and receive Section 8 housing vouchers; 58 (2.7%) said they do not want to return to New Orleans but want to remain in public housing in the city where currently residing or in any city other than New Orleans; 396 (18.7%) of respondents said they do not want to return to New Orleans but want to receive Section 8 housing vouchers where currently residing or in any city other than New Orleans; and 143 (6.7%) of respondents (23+59+61) indicated no housing or location preference.

**APPENDIX A:**

**SURVEY INSTRUMENT**

***Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am calling for the New Orleans Housing Authority. May I speak with Ms. \_\_\_\_\_? We have been asked by the Housing Authority of New Orleans to contact families displaced by Hurricane Katrina to determine their interest in returning to New Orleans and in returning to the public housing unit that they occupied before the storm.***

***The New Orleans Housing Authority identified your household as one that was displaced by Katrina, is this correct?***

***(If yes, continue)***

***(If no, ask if respondent knows the whereabouts and can give a phone number or address of the person identified)***

***The survey should take just about 10 minutes.***

1. First, what City, State, and zip code do you currently live in?

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

1a. If “New Orleans” or New Orleans zip code, go to Q2.

1b. If any city other than New Orleans, go to Q10

2. Are you living in the public housing unit that you occupied prior to Katrina?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ (go to Q3) No \_\_\_\_\_ (go to Q7)

3. Has the size of your household increased since the Katrina storm in 2005?

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ (how many?) (go to Q5) No: \_\_\_\_\_ (go to Q4)

4. Has the size of your household decreased since the Katrina storm in 2005?

Yes: (how many?) (go to Q5) no: \_\_\_\_\_ (go to Q5)

5. Is the unit you are living in appropriate for your present family size?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ (go to Q6)                      No \_\_\_\_\_ (go to Q6)

6. For your future housing needs in New Orleans, would your preference be to:

- a. continue to live in the public housing unit you presently occupy (go to Q21)
- b. move to some other repaired public housing unit (go to Q21)
- c. participate in the Section 8 voucher program (go to Q21)
- d. move to a redeveloped public housing unit in a community where there is a range of household incomes(go to Q21)

7. Are you participating in the Section 8 voucher program

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ (go to Q9 )                      No \_\_\_\_\_ (go to Q8)

8. Are you participating in the Disaster Voucher Program?

Yes \_\_\_\_ ( go to Q9 )                      No\_\_\_\_\_ ( go to Q9)

9. For your future housing needs in New Orleans, which of the following would you prefer (select one)

- 1. remain in the Section 8 program (or enter Section 8 program if “no” to 7)and not return to public housing (go to Q21)
- 2. return to the repaired public housing unit occupied prior to Katrina (go to Q21)
- 3. return to any available public housing in the city of New Orleans (go to Q21)
- 4. move to a redeveloped public housing unit in a community where there is a range of household incomes. (go to Q21)

10. If given the opportunity, which of the following housing options would you prefer: (select one):

- a. return to New Orleans to live in public housing (go to Q11).
- b. return to New Orleans and receive a Section 8 Voucher (go to Q18).
- c. remain in the city you are currently living in, or move to some city other than New Orleans, and stay in public housing there (Go to Q21).
- d. remain in the city you are currently living in, or move to some city other than New Orleans, and receive a Section 8 voucher to use there (go to Q21).

11. Would you like to live in the repaired public housing unit that you occupied prior to Katrina?

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ (go to Q12)    No:\_\_\_\_\_ (go to Q14)

12. If the housing unit that you occupied prior to Katrina is not available, are you willing to move to another public housing unit or comparable unit in the same neighborhood?

Yes, permanently \_\_\_\_\_ (go to Q13)

Yes, but only temporarily \_\_\_\_\_ (go to Q13)

No \_\_\_\_\_ (go to Q13)

13. If the housing unit that you occupied prior to Katrina is not available are you willing to move to another public housing unit or comparable unit in a different New Orleans neighborhood?

Yes, permanently \_\_\_\_\_ (go to Q14)

Yes, but only temporarily \_\_\_\_\_ (Go to Q14)

No \_\_\_\_\_ (go to Q14)

14. Would you like to live in any available public housing unit for now and then later transfer to a redeveloped unit or newly constructed unit once the public housing communities in New Orleans are rebuilt into communities where there are a range of household incomes.

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ (go to Q15)

No: \_\_\_\_\_ (go to Q15)

15. Has the size of your household increased since the Katrina storm in 2005?

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ (how many?) (go to Q16)      no: \_\_\_\_\_ (go to Q17)

16. Will these new household members be living with you when you return to public housing?

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ (go to Q18)

no: \_\_\_\_\_ (go to Q 18)

17. Has the size of your household decreased since the Katrina storm in 2005?

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ (how many?) (go to Q18)      no: \_\_\_\_\_ (go to Q18)

18. If there were nothing delaying your return to New Orleans, how soon would you like to return? Would your preference be to return in about one month or less, in two months, in three months, or what?

1. one month (or less) \_\_\_\_\_

2. two months \_\_\_\_\_

3. three months \_\_\_\_\_
4. four to six months \_\_\_\_\_
5. seven to twelve months \_\_\_\_\_
6. longer than twelve months \_\_\_\_\_
7. don't know/can't say \_\_\_\_\_

(go to Q19)

19. What is the earliest that you believe you actually could return to New Orleans? Do you think that could happen in about one month, two months, three months, or what?

4. one month (or less) \_\_\_\_\_
5. two months \_\_\_\_\_
6. three months \_\_\_\_\_
4. four to six months \_\_\_\_\_
5. seven to twelve months \_\_\_\_\_
6. longer than twelve months \_\_\_\_\_
7. don't know/can't say \_\_\_\_\_

(go to Q 20)

20. Are any of the following factors reasons that would delay your return to New Orleans?

- a. need transportation to return yes\_\_\_ no\_\_\_
- b. need assistance with packing and moving yes\_\_\_ no\_\_\_
- c. children enrolled in school in present location yes\_\_\_ no\_\_\_
- d. health care issues yes\_\_\_ no\_\_\_
- e. currently have housing lease that cannot be broken yes\_\_\_ no\_\_\_
- f. have given a housing deposit at current location that cannot be returned  
yes\_\_\_ no\_\_\_
- g. need day care for children yes\_\_\_ no\_\_\_
- h. currently employed/don't want to give up current job yes\_\_\_ no\_\_\_
- i. lack of employment opportunities in New Orleans yes\_\_\_ no\_\_\_
- j. other (specify)

(go to Q21)

**The following questions to be asked of all respondents:**

21. Prior to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, which New Orleans public housing unit did you live in:

1. BW Cooper
2. CJ Peete
3. Desire
4. Fischer
5. Florida
6. Guste
7. Iberville
8. Lafitte
9. St. Bernard
10. St. Thomas
11. Other sites scattered throughout New Orleans

22. Are you currently?

1. participating in the Section 8 Program,
2. participating in the Disaster Voucher Program
3. living in public housing
4. None of the above

23. If none of the above, are you:

1. living with relatives
2. living with friends
3. renting a private house or apartment
4. purchasing a home
5. living in a FEMA trailer
6. other

24. And what is the last grade of formal education that you have completed?

1. Less than High School
2. High School diploma, or GED
3. Technical/Vocational Training
4. Some College
5. College degree

25. Total number in your household, including yourself: \_\_\_\_\_

26. Total number of adults (18 and over) in your household (including yourself):\_\_\_\_

27. Total number of children (under 18) in your household:\_\_\_\_\_

28. Which of the following best describes your current employment situation? Are you:

1. Employed full time\_\_\_\_

2. Employed part time \_\_\_\_
3. Student \_\_\_\_
4. Homemaker \_\_\_\_
5. Retired \_\_\_\_
6. Unemployed \_\_\_\_
7. Elderly or Disabled and unable to work \_\_\_\_
8. refused to answer \_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME AND HAVE A NICE  
(DAY/EVENING). GOOD BYE.**

## **APPENDIX B:**

### **ALL OTHER MENTIONED FACTORS THAT MIGHT DELAY RETURN**

1. The cost of housing/I need a school for children.
2. I am waiting for my section 8 voucher to transfer to LA.
3. Finding something comfortable and safe.
4. Need a place to stay in New Orleans.
5. I need a place to live.
6. I need surgery and there's no hospital in New Orleans.
7. Our area isn't redeveloped yet.
8. I'm waiting on federal government finances.
9. I would need it in writing that I have a unit to live in.
10. I need a section 8 voucher.
11. I just need a place to stay when I get there.
12. Crime or money.
13. Crime in New Orleans/Better schools here.
14. I have to know where I'm going to live.
15. Grandchildren are the only thing that keeps me here.
16. My daughter is handicapped.
17. I just signed a one year lease.
18. My apartment in New Orleans is not ready.
19. Trying to find a place to live.
20. Financial hardships; you need money to get back home.
21. There no where to go back to in New Orleans.
22. No housing in New Orleans.
23. Health factors.
24. Not the same in New Orleans/School are over crowded.
25. Bus services in New Orleans are non-existent.
26. Just need a place to live.
27. Affordable housing.
28. Nice housing in a good location/Close to doctor.
29. Finding a house there.
30. Just the expenses of moving.
31. Daughter age 24 is very ill and needs my help for her care.
32. Handicapped would need special help moving.
33. Not sure what is going on with school system in New Orleans.
34. Affordable housing.
35. Affordable housing.
36. 82 years old and happy in Bentonville.
37. Daughter is in her last year of school.
38. There's nowhere to move back to.
39. Job pay/Crime in New Orleans.

40. I am in school right now and it's my last semester.
41. I only need help moving.
42. Money
43. \$600 Social Security Income is the only income I have.
44. Levee Location.
45. I don't think the levee is fixed.
46. Money and family.
47. The crime.
48. Daughter killed by hit and run driver.
49. I need some furniture and money to get down there.
50. There is no place to go back to.
51. Fear of the levee not really being fixed.
52. I am trying to get my voucher straight in Houston before I move.
53. If something comes up with my health.
54. Housing authority threw all of my belongings out.
55. I need a comfortable place to live.
56. Money
57. Crime
58. I cannot receive housing aid.
59. A better environment for my children.
60. Crime
61. Family needs to be placed together.
62. My lease is up in February/Money.
63. Lack of housing/Section 8 voucher.
64. Finance Problems
65. Safety issues/levee security/transportation
66. Nothing other than children in school.
67. I would take a section 8/would rather a senior citizens ap??
68. A place to live.
69. Violence in the city.
70. Very sick mother who lives in Houston.
71. Son graduating in 2008.
72. The violence.
73. If they could get a handle on the crime.
74. Lack of funds to move.
75. Financial help only.
76. Financing would be a problem.
77. Only if my unit is not going to be reopened.
78. Need home health care.
79. Safety and security.
80. Crime.
81. I will need financial assistance.
82. Adequate housing; I just want to be in a safe place.
83. I will need money to pay gas and housing.
84. Just the money to move back and relocate.
85. Need financial aid in moving.
86. I now have my grandchildren.

87. I would need help getting stuff out of storage.
88. Where will my kids go to school?
89. Too much crime.
90. I would need section 8 and help with moving and finding another job.
91. Only if they put in the hospital.
92. Crime rate.
93. Can not find housing.
94. Move back into decent area.
95. Would like to have additional family members living with me.
96. Waiting for housing to be repaired.
97. Economy in New Orleans
98. Good housing
99. Finance/nice place to stay.
100. Waiting on a grandchild to be born.
101. Food stamps.
102. I don't have anywhere to live out there.
103. The school systems there.
104. The money to get a UHAUL.
105. Crime rate
106. Fear of being homeless in New Orleans.
107. Crime
108. Finding a house.
109. The money status.
110. Stress.
111. Transportation around the city of New Orleans.
112. Need assistance to move back to New Orleans.
113. Expected housing rates.
114. Housing availability.
115. Housing availability.
116. Having dental work and physical exams
117. I need to find a house.
118. I do not have the money for deposit.
119. Have to find a place to stay.
120. I just need help to get back.
121. Lack where I want to live.
122. I'd need to be guaranteed housing aid.
123. Family doesn't want to go back to New Orleans
124. I will need doctor's care.
125. My mother goes to the doctor about once a week.
126. I do not have enough money.
127. I need financial assistance to help with moving.
128. Lack of safe housing.

A summation of these items shows that housing issues (cost and affordability, voucher issues, housing quality, lease issues, and so forth) are the most mentioned impediments to moving back. Following this are money and financial issues, crime, health care, family issues, and education.

