

# Katrina's hidden cost

The prevalence of mental illness among *Hurricane Katrina* survivors rose from 15% before the storm to about 31% after it. A study of 1,043 survivors by Harvard Medical School suggests 200,000 people from Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi face serious mental illness in the wake of the disaster



## Post-hurricane experiences

Major financial, income, or housing loss	85%
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Extreme physical adversity; <i>e.g., sleeping on floor, lack of food</i>	36%
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Extreme psychological adversity; <i>e.g., threats of physical violence</i>	23%
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Reported having nightmares (New Orleans residents)	25%
	50%

<b>Emotional resilience:</b> <i>Deeper sense of meaning or purpose in life</i>	88.5%
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