Assigning Blame: The Effect of Personal Experience, Social Networks and Media on Attributions of Blame for the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina

Weighted Frequency Report

1. How attentive have you been to the news coverage of Hurricane Katrina? Would you say...

Very attentive	57.8
Somewhat attentive	35.1
Not very attentive	4.0
Not at all attentive	3.0
Don't know/No answer	0.1

2. How have you been getting most of your news about the impact of Hurricane Katrina? From television, newspapers, radio, magazines, the internet, or word of mouth?

Television	76.3
Newspapers	6.3
Radio	4.4
Magazines	0.0
Internet	9.0
Word of mouth	3.6
Don't know/No answer	0.5

3. Have you seen any television news coverage of the hurricane?

Yes	92.9
No	7.1
Don't know/No answer	0.0

4. Which station would you say you've watched the most for hurricane coverage?

ABC	9.8
CBS	5.3
NBC	8.7
MSNBC	3.3
CNN	31.3
FOX	16.6
Local News	16.8
Don't know/No answer	8.1

5. How attentive have you been to the news coverage of the latest storm, Hurricane Rita? Would you say...

Very attentive	35.8
Somewhat attentive	39.2
Not very attentive	18.0
Not at all attentive	6.7
Don't know/No answer	0.2

6. Did you or your property experience any direct harm from Katrina or Rita?

Yes	4.5
No	95.5
Don't know/No answer	0.0

7. Asked of those who answered yes to question 6: Which hurricane?

Katrina	48.4
Rita	34.3
Both	17.3
Don't know/No answer	0.0

8. Would you say the losses you experienced from the hurricane were extremely high, high, somewhat high, somewhat low, low, or extremely low?

Extremely high	20.8
High	13.4
Somewhat high	11.3
Somewhat low	17.3
Low	9.9
Extremely low	24.6
Don't know/No answer	2.7

9. Do you know someone who had to evacuate because of Hurricane Rita or Katrina?

Yes	35.1
No	64.8
Don't know/No answer	0.1

10. Do you know someone who stayed behind to ride out Hurricane Rita or Katrina?

Yes	15.6
No	84.3
Don't know/No answer	0.1

11. Do you know someone who lost a home because of Hurricane Rita or Katrina?

Yes	18.8
No	80.8
Don't know/No answer	0.4

12. Do you know someone who lost a job because of Hurricane Rita or Katrina?

Yes	16.1
No	83.2
Don't know/No answer	0.8

13. How concerned are you that the recent hurricanes will cause a nationwide economic recession? Would you say you are...

Very concerned	39.5
Somewhat concerned	32.6
Not too concerned	17.8
Not at all concerned	7.9
Don't know/No answer	2.2

14. I'm going to read you a few statements about Hurricane Katrina and the aftermath, and I'd like you to tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree or strongly disagree with each one.

a. First responders and rescuers could have entered New Orleans more quickly if crime and violence had not broken out.

Strongly agree	11.6
Agree	44.9
Neither agree nor disagree	6.4
Disagree	27.8
Strongly disagree	5.5
Don't know/No answer	3.8

b. The damage from Katrina was so unexpected and overwhelming that no government could have adequately responded to it.

Strongly agree	11.0
Agree	37.6
Neither agree nor disagree	1.9
Disagree	36.4
Strongly disagree	10.5
Don't know/No answer	2.5

14. I'm going to read you a few statements about Hurricane Katrina and the aftermath, and I'd like you to tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree or strongly disagree with each one.

c. The U.S. national government knew Katrina was coming and did not adequately prepare to respond.

Strongly agree	23.0
Agree	40.0
Neither agree nor disagree	3.7
Disagree	24.0
Strongly disagree	6.7
Don't know/No answer	2.6

d. The human suffering in New Orleans was the result of too many people ignoring the evacuation orders.

Strongly agree	16.6
Agree	49.8
Neither agree nor disagree	5.2
Disagree	22.8
Strongly disagree	3.5
Don't know/No answer	2.0

e. The U.S. national government was too slow to get supplies and assistance to New Orleans.

Strongly agree	29.0
Agree	42.8
Neither agree nor disagree	3.6
Disagree	19.5
Strongly disagree	3.6
Don't know/No answer	1.4

15. Now I'd like to know how much you think each of the following reasons affected the length of time it took the U.S. national government to get aid to victims stranded in New Orleans. Did it have a great effect, some effect, very little effect, or no effect?

a. The victims were mostly Black.

Great effect	23.7
Some effect	18.2
Very little effect	11.1
No effect	39.2
Don't know/No answer	7.8

b. The victims were mostly poor.

Great effect	33.4
Some effect	19.9
Very little effect	11.6
No effect	30.6
Don't know/No answer	4.5

c. The area was too difficult to reach.

Great effect	20.2
Some effect	23.4
Very little effect	17.4
No effect	35.7
Don't know/No answer	3.3

d. Officials from Washington were too incompetent.

Great effect	31.2
Some effect	27.7
Very little effect	12.8
No effect	23.1
Don't know/No answer	5.3

15. Now I'd like to know how much you think each of the following reasons affected the length of time it took the U.S. national government to get aid to victims stranded in New Orleans. Did it have a great effect, some effect, very little effect, or no effect?

e. Lack of communication between levels of government.

Great effect	59.5
Some effect	27.5
Very little effect	4.7
No effect	4.7
Don't know/No answer	3.6

f. State government failed to call for enough help.

Great effect	43.7
Some effect	27.7
Very little effect	10.9
No effect	11.2
Don't know/No answer	6.4

g. Officials from Washington were too inexperienced.

Great effect	30.3
Some effect	28.1
Very little effect	11.9
No effect	22.6
Don't know/No answer	7.0

16. Now I'd like to know how you think government and government officials responded in the first few days after Hurricane Katrina hit. For each, please tell me whether the performance was excellent, good, only fair, or poor.

a. President Bush.

Excellent	5.9
Good	19.3
Only fair	29.6
Poor	42.3
Don't know/No answer	2.9

b. FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Administration.

Excellent	4.4
Good	18.3
Only fair	25.9
Poor	45.1
Don't know/No answer	6.2

c. The Department of Homeland Security.

Excellent	3.2
Good	20.1
Only fair	28.0
Poor	37.5
Don't know/No answer	11.3

d. Louisiana Governor Blanco.

Excellent	3.9
Good	20.6
Only fair	30.1
Poor	35.3
Don't know/No answer	10.0

e. New Orleans Mayor Nagin.

Excellent	7.8
Good	22.4
Only fair	26.3
Poor	34.9
Don't know/No answer	8.6

17. How do you think the following responded in the first few days after Hurricane Rita hit?

a. President Bush.

Excellent	12.3
Good	36.4
Only fair	23.2
Poor	16.5
Don't know/No answer	11.6

b. FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Administration.

Excellent	10.0
Good	36.1
Only fair	26.3
Poor	12.8
Don't know/No answer	14.8

c. Texas Governor Perry.

Excellent	16.4
Good	37.8
Only fair	17.8
Poor	6.9
Don't know/No answer	21.0

18. Based upon what you've seen after the recent hurricanes, are you more, about the same, or less confident in the U.S. national government's ability to respond to future crises such as...

a. other hurricanes?

More confident	35.5
About the same	30.6
Less confident	31.9
Don't know/No answer	2.0

b. a major flu epidemic?

More confident	17.7
About the same	31.4
Less confident	46.8
Don't know/No answer	4.2

c. earthquakes?

More confident	18.5
About the same	39.1
Less confident	37.2
Don't know/No answer	5.2

d. a biological terrorist attack, such as small-pox?

More confident	17.7
About the same	28.7
Less confident	47.3
Don't know/No answer	6.3

e. a nuclear terrorist attack?

More confident	17.1
About the same	30.9
Less confident	47.0
Don't know/No answer	5.0

19. Have you felt angry because of what's happened in New Orleans after Katrina?

Yes	51.5
No	48.1
Don't know/No answer	0.4

20. Asked of those who answered yes to question 19: Are you extremely angry, somewhat angry, or slightly angry?

Extremely angry	41.6
Somewhat angry	43.0
Slightly angry	14.8
Don't know/No answer	0.5

21. Have you felt disappointment because of what's happened in New Orleans after Katrina?

Yes	74.8
No	23.9
Don't know/No answer	1.3

22. Asked of those who answered yes to question 21: Are you extremely disappointed, somewhat disappointed, or slightly disappointed?

Extremely disappointed	50.1
Somewhat disappointed	38.9
Slightly disappointed	10.2
Don't know/No answer	0.8

23. Have you felt afraid because of what's happened in New Orleans after Katrina?

Yes	25.7
No	73.2
Don't know/No answer	1.1

24. Asked of those who answered yes to question 23: Are you extremely afraid, somewhat afraid, or slightly afraid?

Extremely afraid	42.3
Somewhat afraid	36.6
Slightly afraid	21.1
Don't know/No answer	0.0

25. Have you felt shocked because of what's happened in New Orleans after Katrina?

Yes	63.3
No	36.3
Don't know/No answer	0.4

26. Asked of those who answered yes to question 25: Are you extremely shocked, somewhat shocked, or slightly shocked?

Extremely shocked	53.1
Somewhat shocked	33.9
Slightly shocked	12.7
Don't know/No answer	0.2

27. I'm going to read you a list of policies that have been mentioned in response to the recent hurricanes and I'd like to know how you feel about each. Do you strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree or strongly disagree that...

a. The government should create penalties for people who fail to follow mandatory evacuation orders.

Strongly agree	13.5
Agree	36.2
Neither agree nor disagree	6.1
Disagree	36.0
Strongly disagree	6.3
Don't know/No answer	1.9

27. I'm going to read you a list of policies that have been mentioned in response to the recent hurricanes and I'd like to know how you feel about each. Do you strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree or strongly disagree that...

b. FEMA, or the Federal Emergency Management Administration, should be given independent authority to manage disasters.

Strongly agree	13.2
Agree	42.4
Neither agree nor disagree	7.2
Disagree	26.4
Strongly disagree	5.6
Don't know/No answer	5.1

c. Congress should appoint an independent commission to investigate how government handled the response to Hurricane Katrina.

Strongly agree	23.8
Agree	44.0
Neither agree nor disagree	3.6
Disagree	22.1
Strongly disagree	4.8
Don't know/No answer	1.8

d. Congress should pass a law to limit the type of people that presidents can appoint to key positions, such as emergency preparedness agencies.

Strongly agree	17.5
Agree	40.8
Neither agree nor disagree	6.3
Disagree	25.0
Strongly disagree	4.5
Don't know/No answer	5.8

e. The U.S. national government should have greater authority to order military troops to enter a state in the time of a major disaster.

Strongly agree	22.5
Agree	55.7
Neither agree nor disagree	3.8
Disagree	13.4
Strongly disagree	3.4
Don't know/No answer	1.2

f. Congress should increase the annual budget for FEMA.

Strongly agree	12.7
Agree	48.7
Neither agree nor disagree	7.9
Disagree	22.2
Strongly disagree	1.8
Don't know/No answer	6.7

g. Congress should increase the annual budget for Homeland Security.

Strongly agree	15.3
Agree	45.8
Neither agree nor disagree	5.9
Disagree	25.6
Strongly disagree	2.7
Don't know/No answer	4.8

h. Government should give surplus federal land to low-income citizens to build homes.

Strongly agree	16.4
Agree	43.3
Neither agree nor disagree	8.3
Disagree	23.6
Strongly disagree	4.0
Don't know/No answer	4.4

27. I'm going to read you a list of policies that have been mentioned in response to the recent hurricanes and I'd like to know how you feel about each. Do you strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree or strongly disagree that...

i. Congress should establish worker recovery accounts that provide up to $5,000 for job training, education and child care during victims' search for employment.

Strongly agree	20.6
Agree	55.9
Neither agree nor disagree	6.2
Disagree	12.2
Strongly disagree	2.2
Don't know/No answer	2.8

j. The U.S. national government should increase funding to programs that reduce global warming.

Strongly agree	17.6
Agree	50.7
Neither agree nor disagree	6.2
Disagree	16.7
Strongly disagree	4.5
Don't know/No answer	4.3

28. The reconstruction effort in New Orleans alone is expected to cost between 150 and 200 billion dollars. I'm going to list some different ways that the U.S. national government could pay for the reconstruction and relief after the hurricane. Please tell me how much you support each one. Would you say you strongly support, support, are neither supportive nor against, against, or strongly against each of the following?

a. Increase personal income taxes.

Strongly support	5.1
Support	26.1
Neither supportive nor against	5.4
Against	42.2
Strongly against	18.8
Don't know/No answer	2.4

b. Reduce spending on Iraq.

Strongly support	31.2
Support	35.4
Neither supportive nor against	5.9
Against	20.0
Strongly against	5.7
Don't know/No answer	1.9

c. Reduce spending on the recently passed transportation bill.

Strongly support	6.1
Support	39.7
Neither supportive nor against	14.4
Against	20.1
Strongly against	3.6
Don't know/No answer	16.1

d. Reduce spending on domestic programs such as Medicaid or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families.

Strongly support	4.7
Support	16.5
Neither supportive nor against	4.7
Against	52.8
Strongly against	19.7
Don't know/No answer	1.6

28. The reconstruction effort in New Orleans alone is expected to cost between 150 and 200 billion dollars. I'm going to list some different ways that the U.S. national government could pay for the reconstruction and relief after the hurricane. Please tell me how much you support each one. Would you say you strongly support, support, are neither supportive nor against, against, or strongly against each of the following?

e. Allow the Bush tax cuts to expire rather than make them permanent.

Strongly support	12.4
Support	42.2
Neither supportive nor against	10.5
Against	19.4
Strongly against	5.2
Don't know/No answer	10.3

f. Delay implementation of the Medicare prescription drug program.

Strongly support	7.4
Support	21.6
Neither supportive nor against	7.8
Against	44.7
Strongly against	14.6
Don't know/No answer	3.9

g. Increase the size of the deficit.

Strongly support	4.1
Support	26.2
Neither supportive nor against	7.8
Against	43.6
Strongly against	13.2
Don't know/No answer	5.2

29. In situations of a catastrophic disaster, which level of government should be in charge of directing rescue and relief efforts?

U.S. national government	39.1
State government	24.6
Local government	15.2
More than one level of government	17.3
Don't know/No answer	3.7

30. In situations of a terrorist attack, which level of government should be in charge of directing rescue and relief efforts?

U.S. national government	72.0
State government	9.0
Local government	5.0
More than one level of government	11.0
Don't know/No answer	3.0

31. Some people feel that government should do everything possible to improve the social and economic position of Blacks, while other people feel that the government should not make any special effort because Blacks should help themselves. Which of those is closest to your personal opinion?

Government should do everything possible to improve the social and economic position of Blacks.	37.1
Government should not make any special effort because Blacks should help themselves.	42.2
Don't know/No answer	20.7

32. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?

Approve	38.6
Disapprove	55.9
Don't know/No answer	5.5

33. Would you say you agree strongly, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or disagree strongly with the following.

"I consider myself well qualified to participate in politics."

Agree strongly	17.6
Agree	43.0
Neither agree nor disagree	6.8
Disagree	26.4
Disagree strongly	5.2
Don't know/No answer	0.9

34. Would you say you agree strongly, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or disagree strongly with the following.

"Public officials don't care much about what people like me think."

Agree strongly	15.6
Agree	44.7
Neither agree nor disagree	6.0
Disagree	26.2
Disagree strongly	6.4
Don't know/No answer	1.1

35. How much of a majority is required for the U.S. Senate and House to override a presidential veto? A bare majority (50% plus one), a two-thirds majority, or a three-fourths majority?

Bare majority (50% plus one)	11.1
Two-thirds majority	62.3
Three-fourths majority	14.1
Don't know/No answer	12.5

36. Who has the responsibility for deciding if a law is constitutional or not? Is it the president, Congress, or the Supreme Court?

President	7.9
Congress	25.0
Supreme Court	61.6
Don't know/No answer	5.5

37. What category was Hurricane Katrina when it came ashore? Was it a category 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5?

Category 1	0.9
Category 2	1.9
Category 3	14.0
Category 4	48.2
Category 5	31.4
Don't know/No answer	3.6

38. Based on your understanding, who is responsible for requesting National Guard troops to begin operations after a hurricane? Is it state governors, FEMA, President Bush, or are you not sure?

State governors	53.2
FEMA	6.9
President Bush	23.7
Not Sure/Don't know/No answer	16.3

39. Now I have just a few questions about you. First, what is your religious preference? That is, are you Christian, Jewish, Muslim, something else, or do you have no preference?

Christian (Catholic or Protestant)	72.2
Jewish	2.3
Muslim	1.1
Something else	5.8
No preference	18.6

40. Do you consider yourself a born-again Christian or not?

Yes	44.8
No	53.5
Don't know/No answer	1.8

41. We hear a lot of talk these days about liberals and conservatives. In thinking about yourself would you say that you are extremely liberal, liberal, somewhat liberal, middle of the road, somewhat conservative, conservative, or extremely conservative?

Extremely liberal	2.8
Liberal	13.3
Somewhat liberal	11.5
Middle of the road	32.3
Somewhat conservative	15.2
Conservative	15.9
Extremely conservative	5.2
Don't know/No answer	3.9

42. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an independent or something else? Asked of respondents: Would that be a strong or weak Democrat? Would that be a strong or weak Republican? Would you say that you lean toward the Democratic or Republican Party?

Strong Democrat	22.4
Weak Democrat	14.9
Independent – Leaning Democrat	9.9
Independent	8.6
Independent – Leaning Republican	7.3
Weak Republican	10.9
Strong Republican	17.4
Something else	8.7

43. Are you married now and living with your spouse? Or, are you widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

Married	55.7
Widowed	6.2
Divorced	10.3
Separated	2.4
Never married	24.9
Don't know/No answer	0.5

44. What is the highest grade of school or year of college you have completed?

Less than high school	5.9
High school diploma	20.8
Some college (less than a four-year degree)	30.3
College graduate	28.0
Advanced degree (graduate or professional)	15.0

45. Is the home you live in owned by you or someone in your family?

Yes	76.0
No	23.8
Don't know/No answer	0.2

46. Which of the following best describes you? Employed part-time, employed full-time, homemaker, student, retired, or unemployed.

Employed part-time	7.9
Employed full-time	57.7
Homemaker	7.3
Student	7.2
Retired	14.7
Unemployed	5.2

47. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	60.1
Black/African American	12.2
Hispanic/Latino	13.7
Asian	4.2
Native American	0.8
Other (Specify)	9.0

48. Asked of those who answered Hispanic in question 47: Would you describe your Hispanic origin as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Latin American, Central American, or Spanish?

Mexican	37.2
Puerto Rican	10.6
Cuban	6.1
Latin American	2.3
Central American	1.1
Spanish	9.9
Don't know/No answer	32.9

49. In what year were you born? (Ages Calculated)

18 – 25	15.4
26 – 35	21.6
36 – 45	21.2
46 – 55	17.9
56 – 65	10.3
66 – 75	8.3
76 – 85	4.4
86 and Over	1.0

50. I am going to read you a list of income categories. Please tell me which one best describes the total income of all members of your family living in your house in 2004 before taxes. This should include salaries, wages, pensions, dividends, interest, and all other income. Would it be less than $50,000, between $50,000 and $100,000 or over $100,000?

Less than $50,000	37.4
Between $50,000 and $100,000	33.7
More than $100,000	15.3
Don't know/No answer	13.7

51. Please stop me when I come to the income category that best describes your household...

Less than $5,000	4.4
Between $5,000 and $14,999	7.3
Between $15,000 and $24,999	9.5
Between $25,000 and $34,999	10.9
Between $35,000 and $49,999	12.1
Between $50,000 and $64,999	13.6
Between $65,000 and $74,999	9.8
Between $75,000 and $84,999	9.9
Between $85,000 and $94,999	3.1
Between $95,000 and $99,999	2.2
Between $100,000 and $114,999	2.8
Between $115,000 and $129,999	3.3
Between $130,000 and $144,999	1.8
Between $145,000 and $159,999	2.3
$160,000 or more	7.0

52. What is your gender?

Male	47.8
Female	52.2