Impacts & Consequences of Failed or Delayed Recovery

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Conceptualizing Recovery

- Reconstruction: rebuilding physical structures
- Restoration: re-establishing prior physical & social patterns, return to original condition
- Rehabilitation: restoring people, not things, and raising them to a higher level than pre-impact
- Recovery: a process and an outcome

*EL Quarantelli, “The Disaster Recovery Process,” 1999*
Measures of Individual or Household Recovery

- Housing stability
- Economic stability
- Social roles / networks re-established
- Access to civic & institutional resources (schools, health care, transportation, lifelines)
- Mental health
Studying Katrina’s Impact: Gulf Coast Child & Family Health Study

- Method: multi-stage cluster sample
- Sample: 1,079 randomly selected LA & MS displaced or greatly impacted households
- Interviewed
  - Baseline – within 1st year after Katrina
  - At 2nd year anniversary
  - At 3rd year anniversary
- Group is representative of 60,000 – 100,000 displaced and greatly impacted Katrina survivors
CAFH Study measures

- Housing and relocation status
- Health status (physical + mental health)
- Access and use of health services
- Attitudes & behaviors regarding social institutions (justice, health, faith-based)
- Personal sense of self-efficacy, resilience, and recovery
Projected rate of housing stability among displaced Katrina survivors
Impacts & Consequences

- Unstably housed are...
  - 2.3 times as likely to report mental health disability
  - 1.9 times as likely to report a child with emotional problem
  - 3.1 times as likely to have a poor sense of community
  - 1.8 times as likely to have a child whose academic performance was worse after the hurricane
  - 1.9 times as likely to not have adequate social support

- All of these are equally true of people living in households with incomes below $20,000 as those above