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After the Big One: Hurricane Katrina Response Evaluation

Emmanuel Fernandes
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Miranda Lawall
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Hope Shevchuk
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Kelley Slabinski
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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Abstract

In August of 2005, Hurricane Katrina impacted over 15 million people.¹ Devastation through population displacement, poor preparation, and water contamination directly affected a significant portion of these people's physical and mental health. Through an in-depth evaluation of the social responses, we have developed a more adequate plan. We achieved this through an informational brochure, a post-distribution survey, and letters to companies to increase education and address regulations and policies; reducing health concerns for future hurricanes.

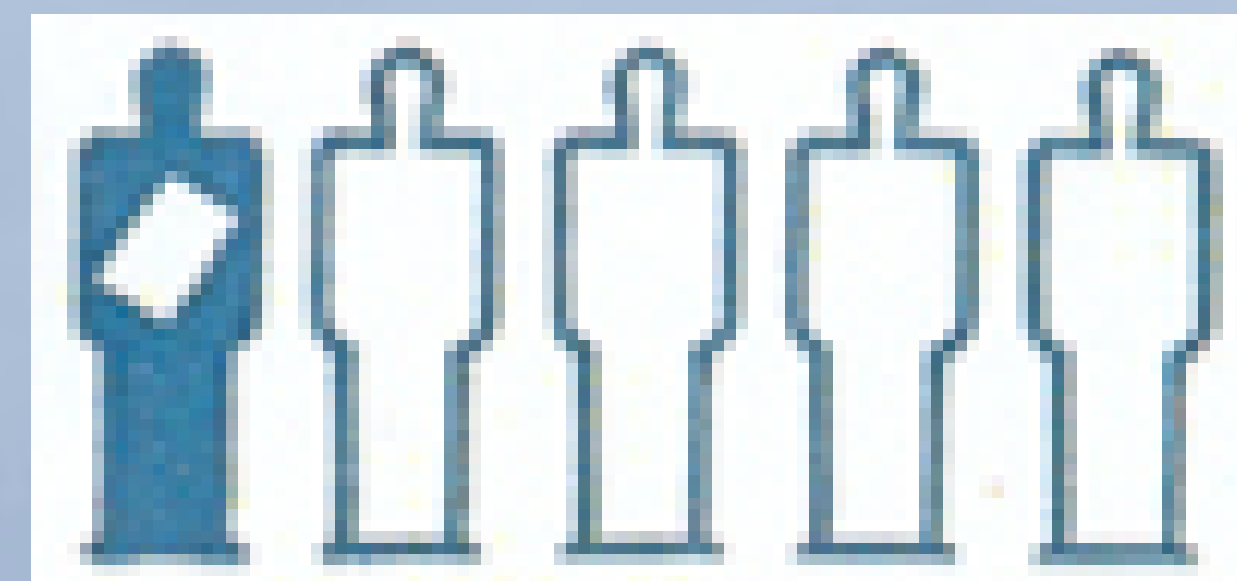
Problems

- Mold developed from standing water²
- Generators brought inside produced a build up of carbon monoxide gas³
- West Nile Virus increased due to the wet environment⁴
- Over 11 million gallons of oil contaminated water due to poor regulations⁵
- Lack of mental health resources⁶



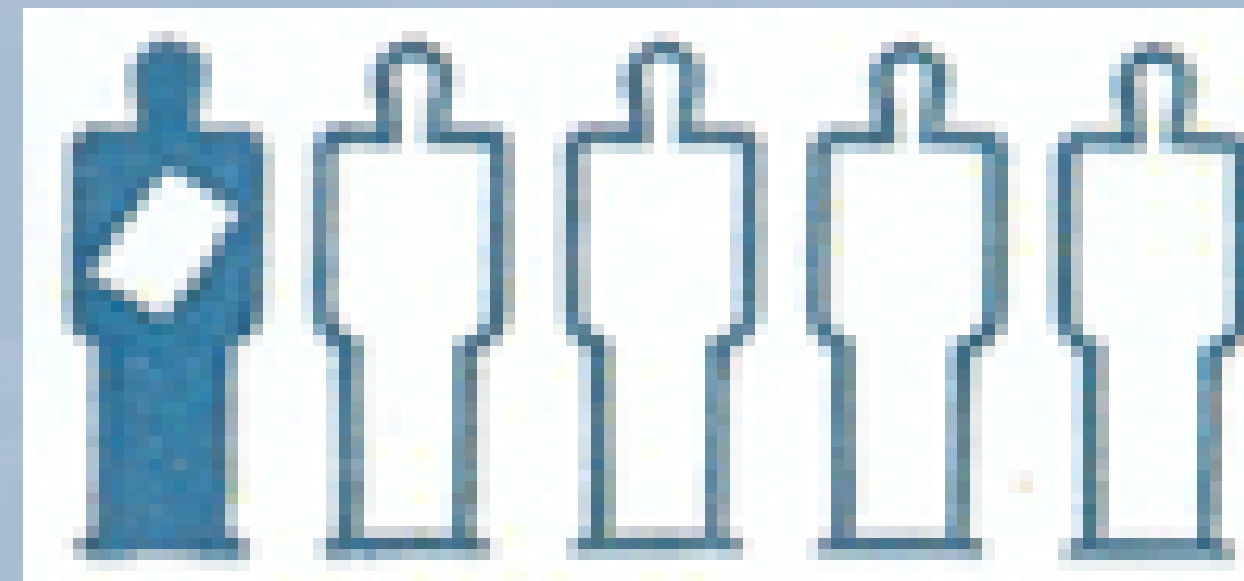
Health Effects

- Mold
 - Infections
 - Respiratory illnesses
- Carbon Monoxide Poisoning
- West Nile Virus
- Water Contamination
 - Sewage
 - Oil Spills
- Mental Illness
 - Depression
 - Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
 - Anxiety



19.1% of recorded illnesses due to skin or wound infection⁸

22.5% of recorded illnesses due to acute respiratory infection⁸

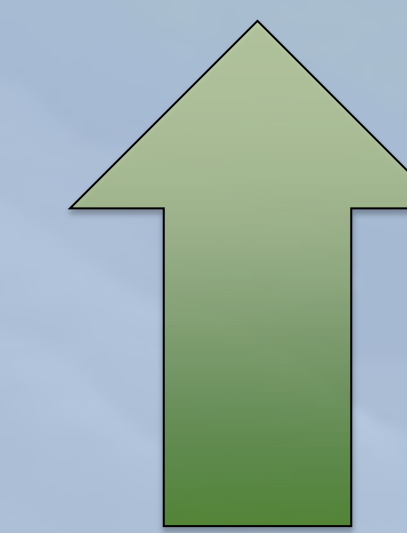


37.5% prevalence of mild-moderate or serious mental illness⁹

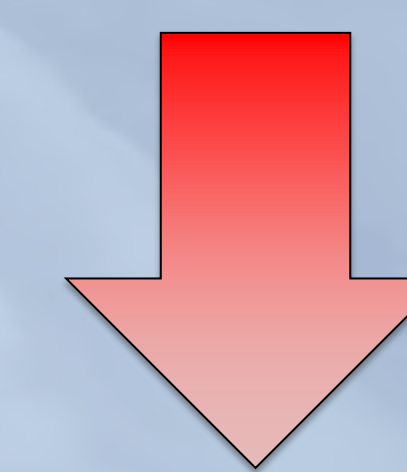
Methods

- Informational pamphlet
 - Post-distribution survey
- Drafted letters to oil companies and FEMA
 - Addressing regulations and policies
 - Responsibility of responders

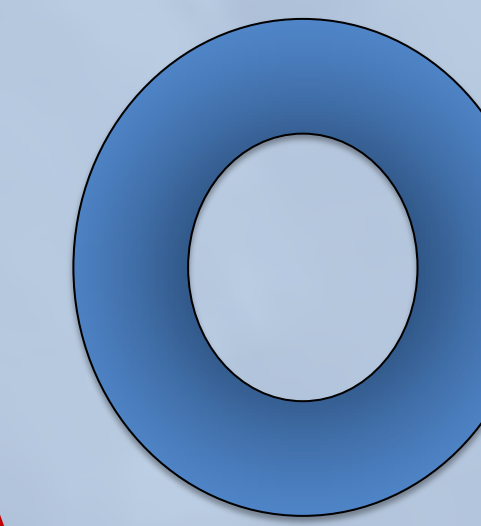
Anticipated Results



Increase:
Education among affected population
Water quality



Decrease:
Incidents of stated health problems
Oil spills



No Effect:
Immediate destruction
Weather damages
Drowning incidents

Maximizing Pamphlet Efficiency

In order to increase the number of individuals reading the pamphlet there needs to be:

- Repetitive encouragement from officials
- An incentive such as a coupon or certificate included
- Annually updated information
- A timely distribution
- Translate into multiple languages

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