



THE DATA CENTER

Independent Analysis for Informed Decisions in Southeast Louisiana

Data for disaster recovery

Dr. Allison Plyer

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[@allisonplyer](https://twitter.com/allisonplyer)

Each disaster is different...

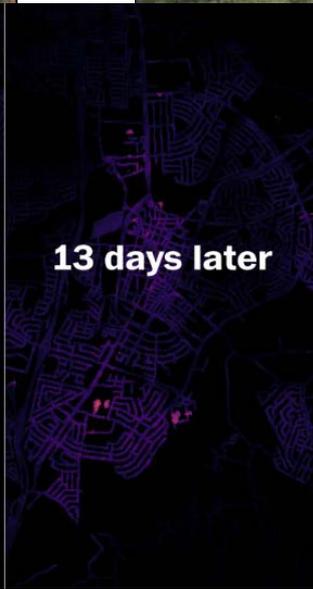
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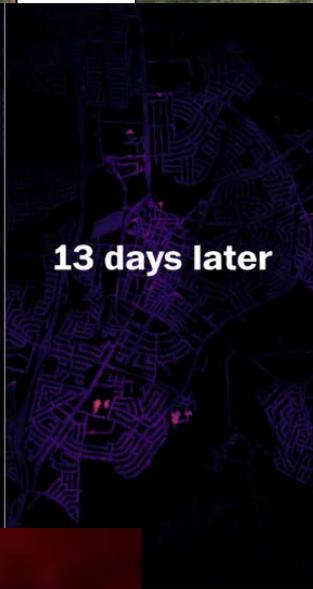
Each disaster is different...



Each disaster is different...



Each disaster is different...



Each disaster is different...



Before Maria



8 days later



13 days later



Each disaster is different...



Before Maria



8 days later



13 days later

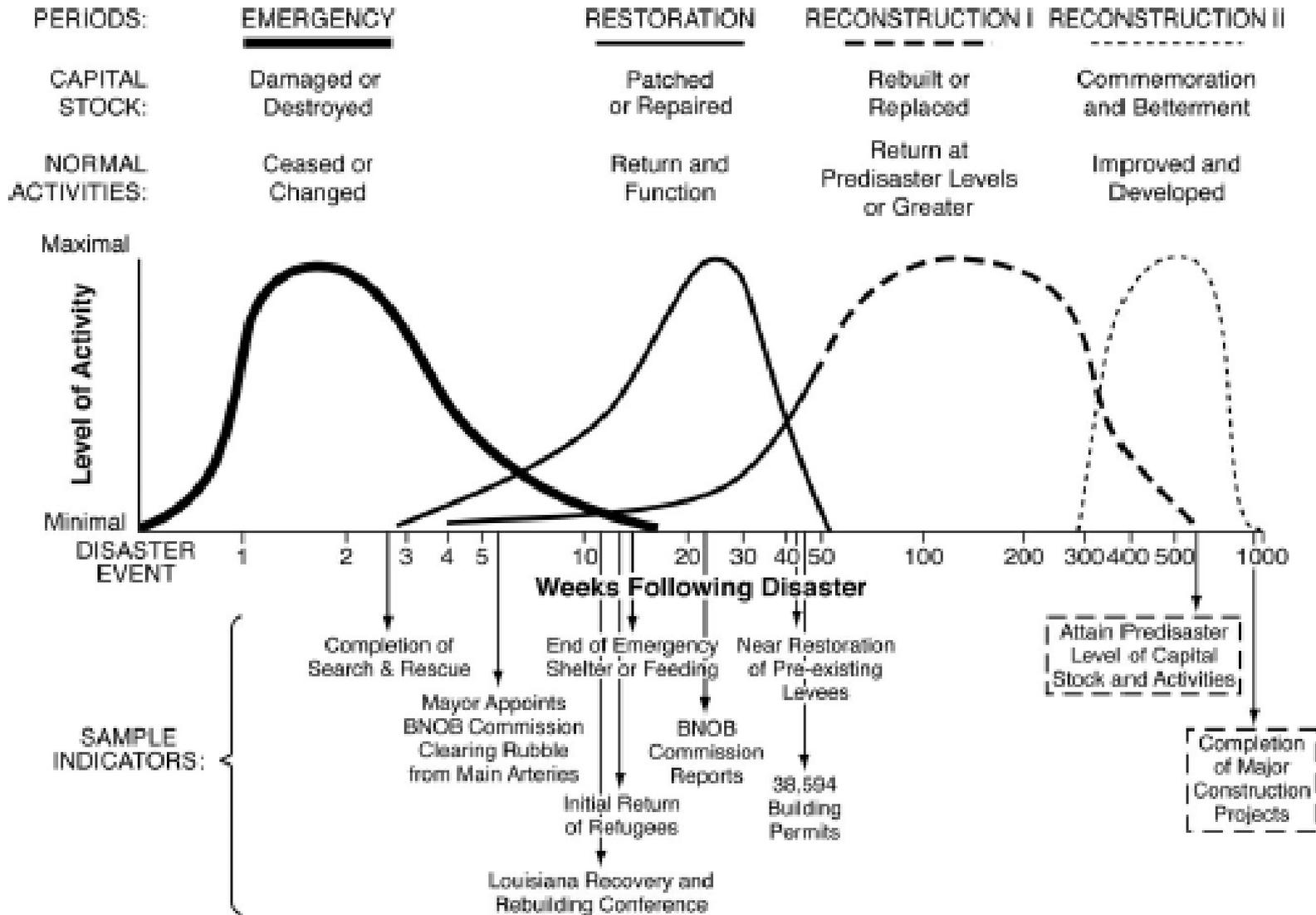


- 1. Each disaster is different... but they have predictable phases.**
- 2. Recovery takes many years.**
- 3. Census data become almost immediately obsolete after a large-scale disaster.**
- 4. Economic data is relatively timely.**
- 5. Lack of timely data about rapid and ongoing population change stymies policymaking and private investment in recovery.**
- 6. Other data needs for disaster recovery?**

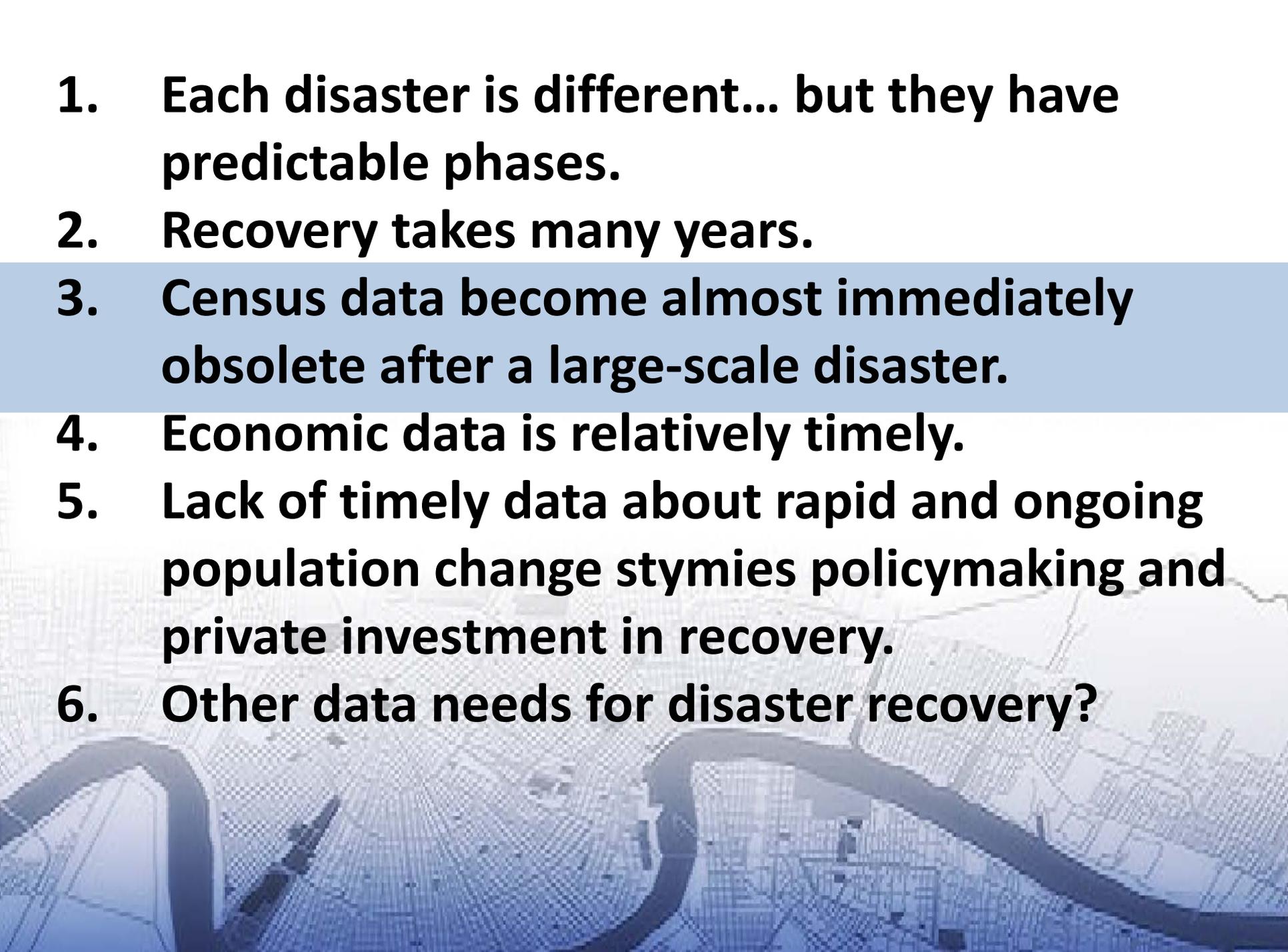
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Emergency

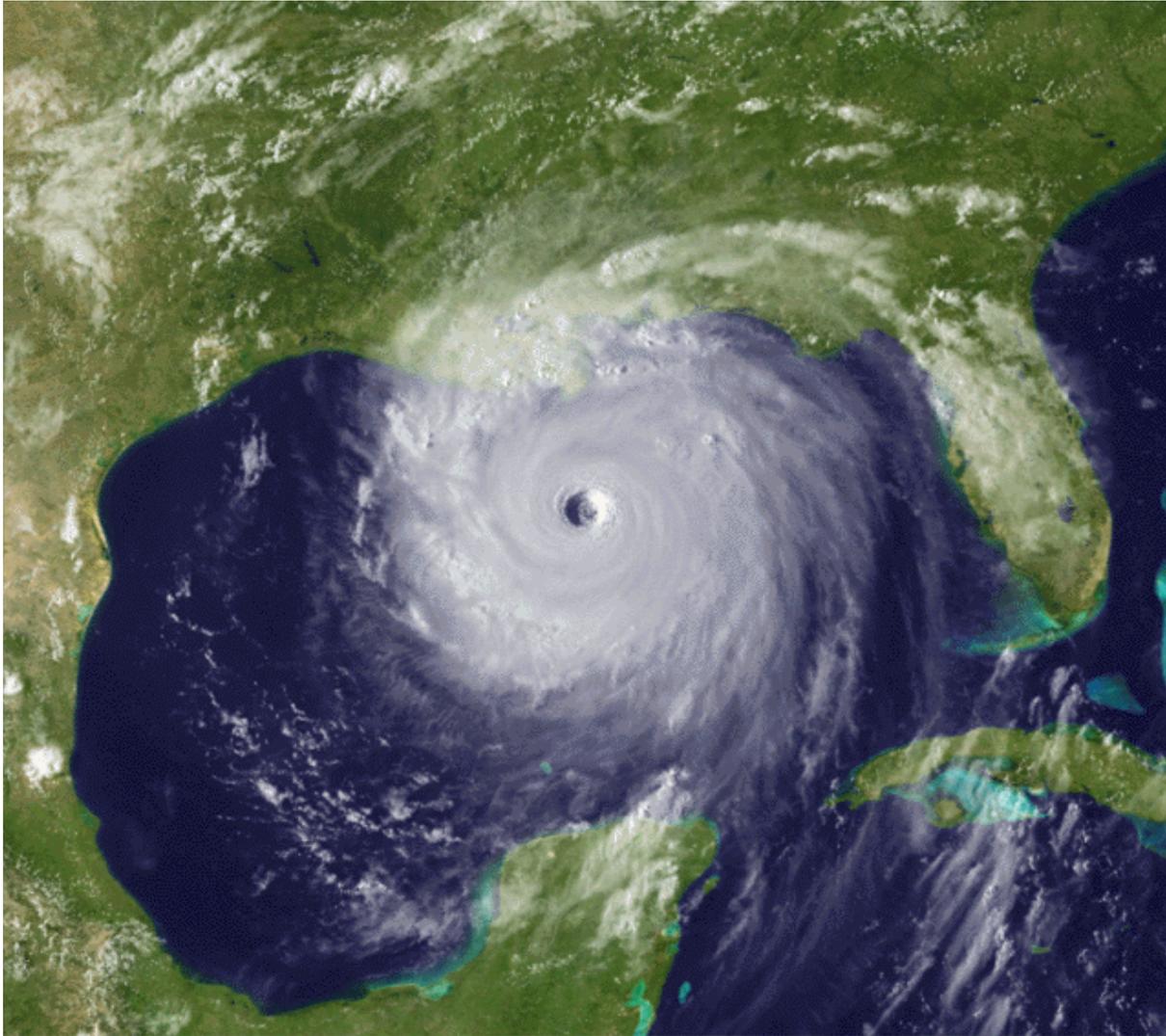
Recovery



Source: Kates, Colten, Laska, Leatherman (2006). *Reconstruction of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina: a research perspective*.

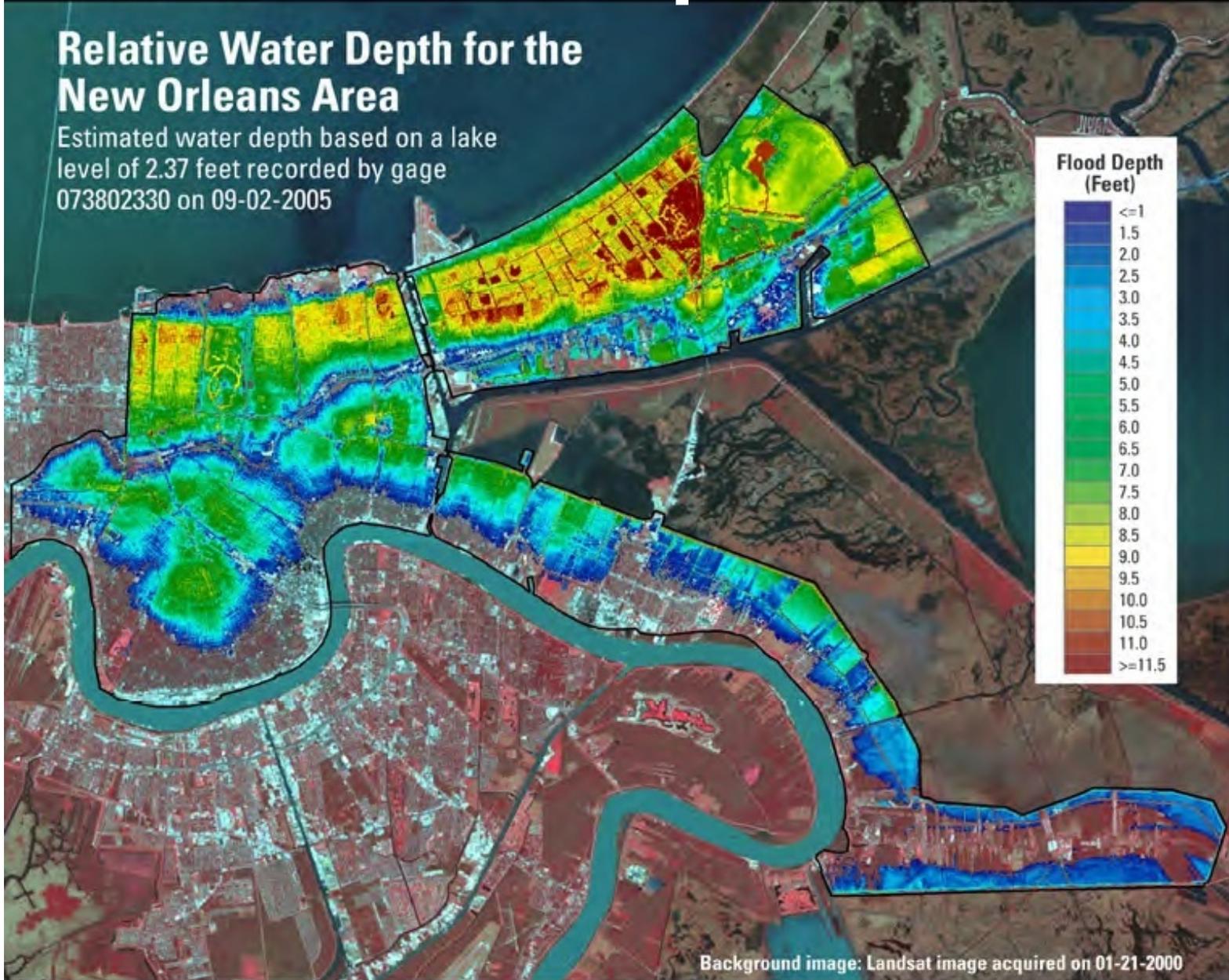
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- 
- An aerial photograph of a city, likely New Orleans, showing a large river (the Mississippi River) winding through the urban landscape. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue grid pattern, which serves as a background for the text.

Aug 29, 2005



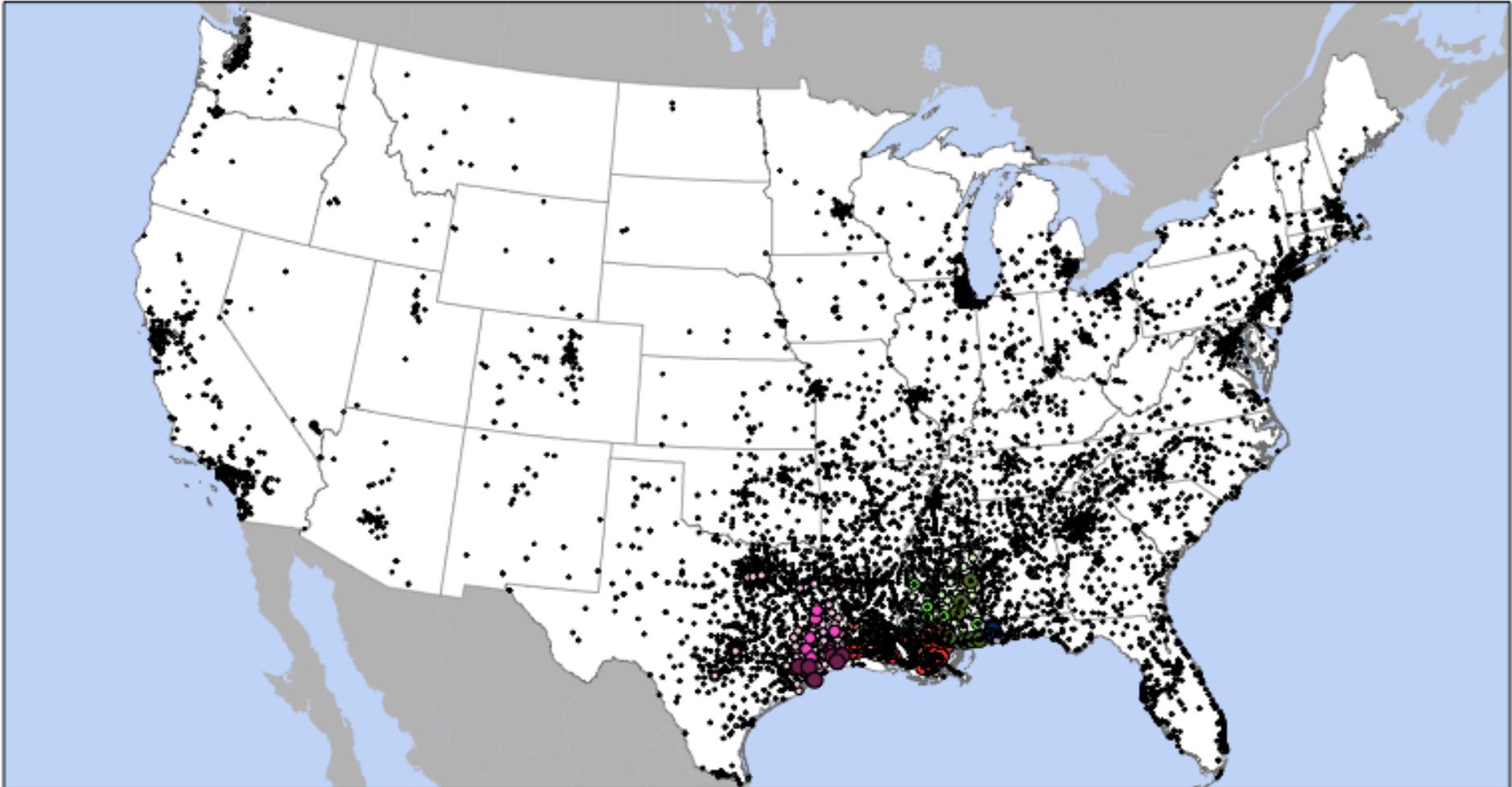
Relative Water Depth for the New Orleans Area

Estimated water depth based on a lake level of 2.37 feet recorded by gage 073802330 on 09-02-2005



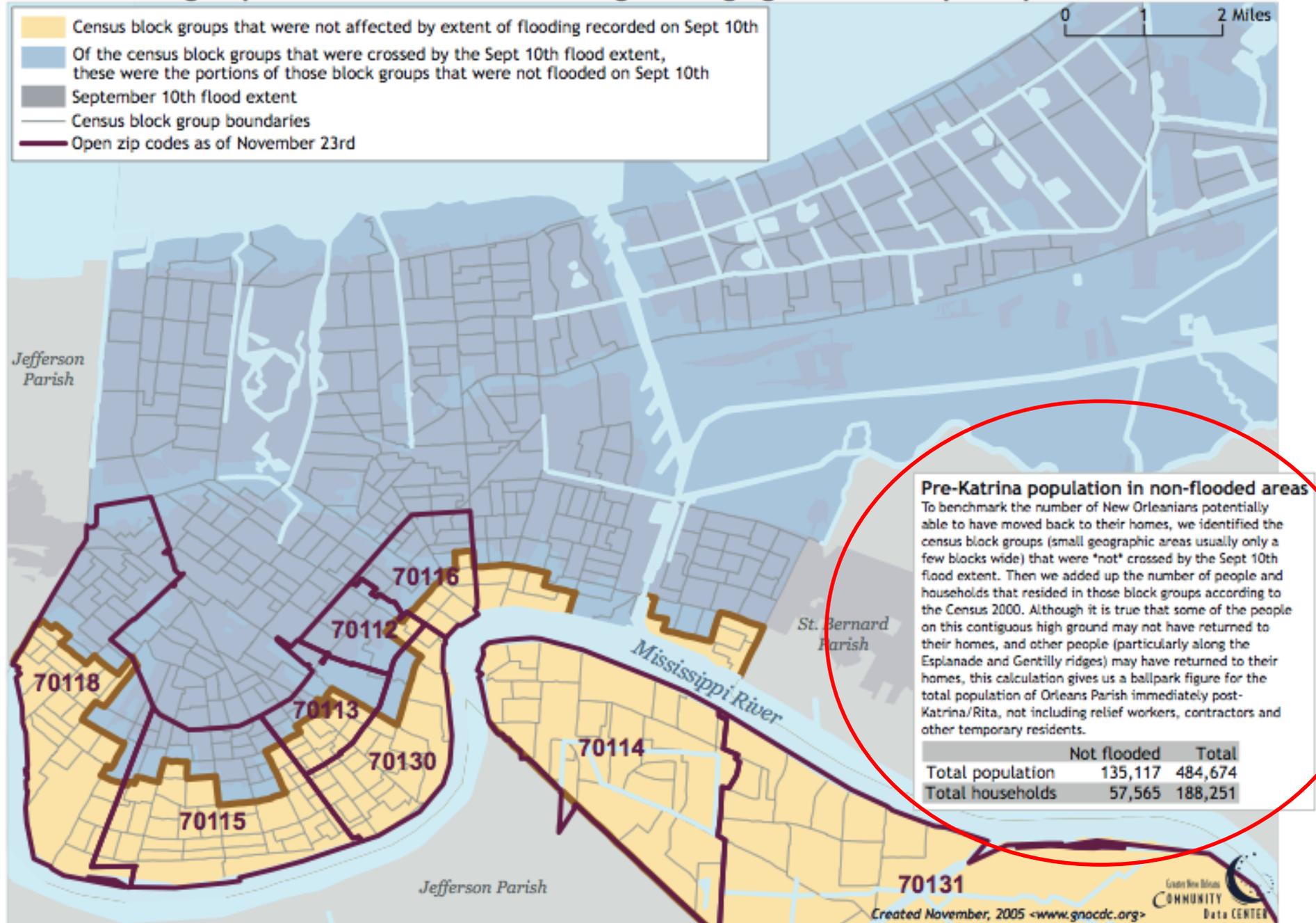
Oct 31, 2005

Locations of Katrina/Rita Applicants from Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas as of 10/31/05



FEMA

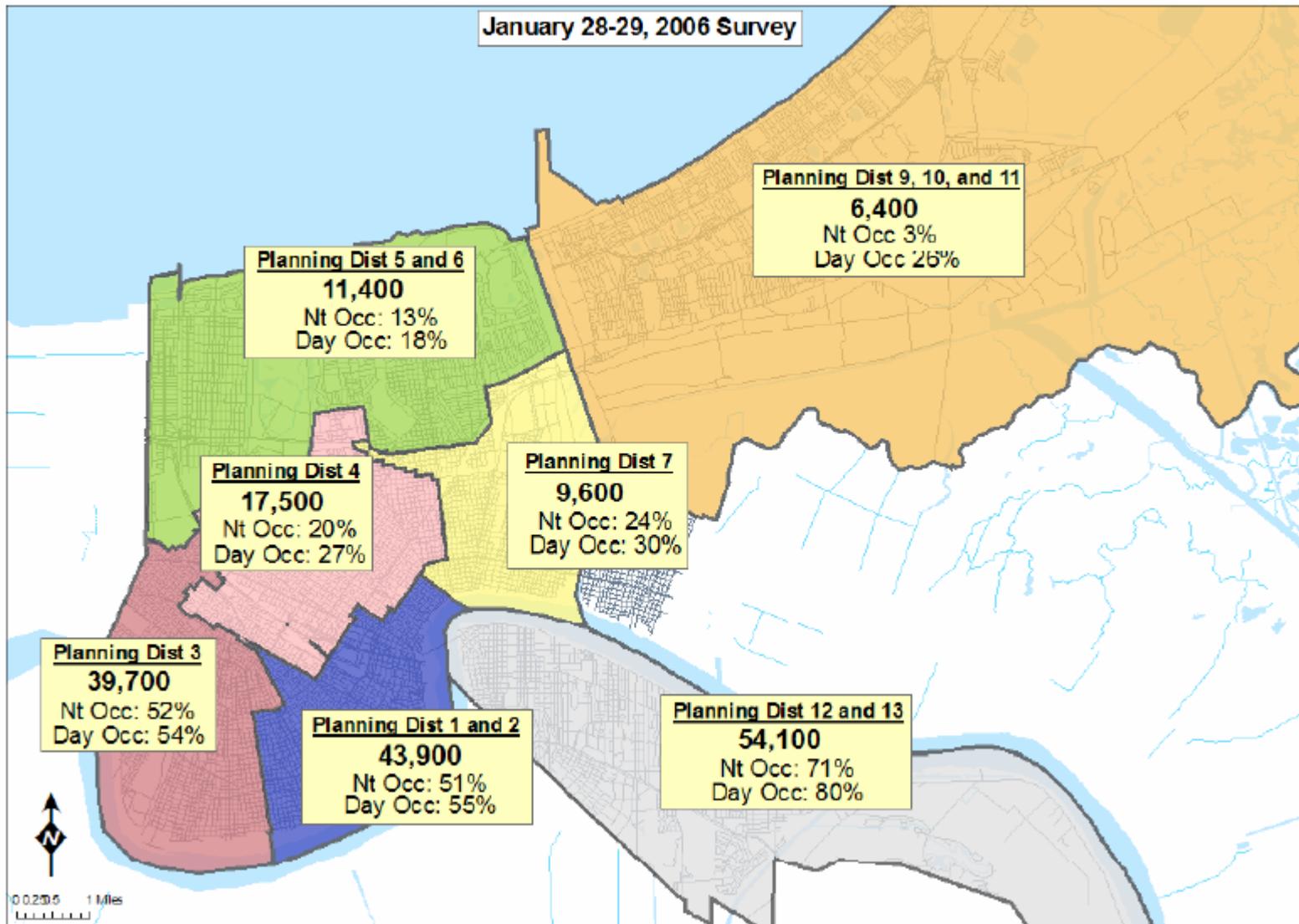
Census block groups in Orleans Parish on contiguous high ground with open zip codes



Sources: Sept 10th flood extent (FEMA), zip code boundaries (ESRI), other boundaries (Census TIGER)

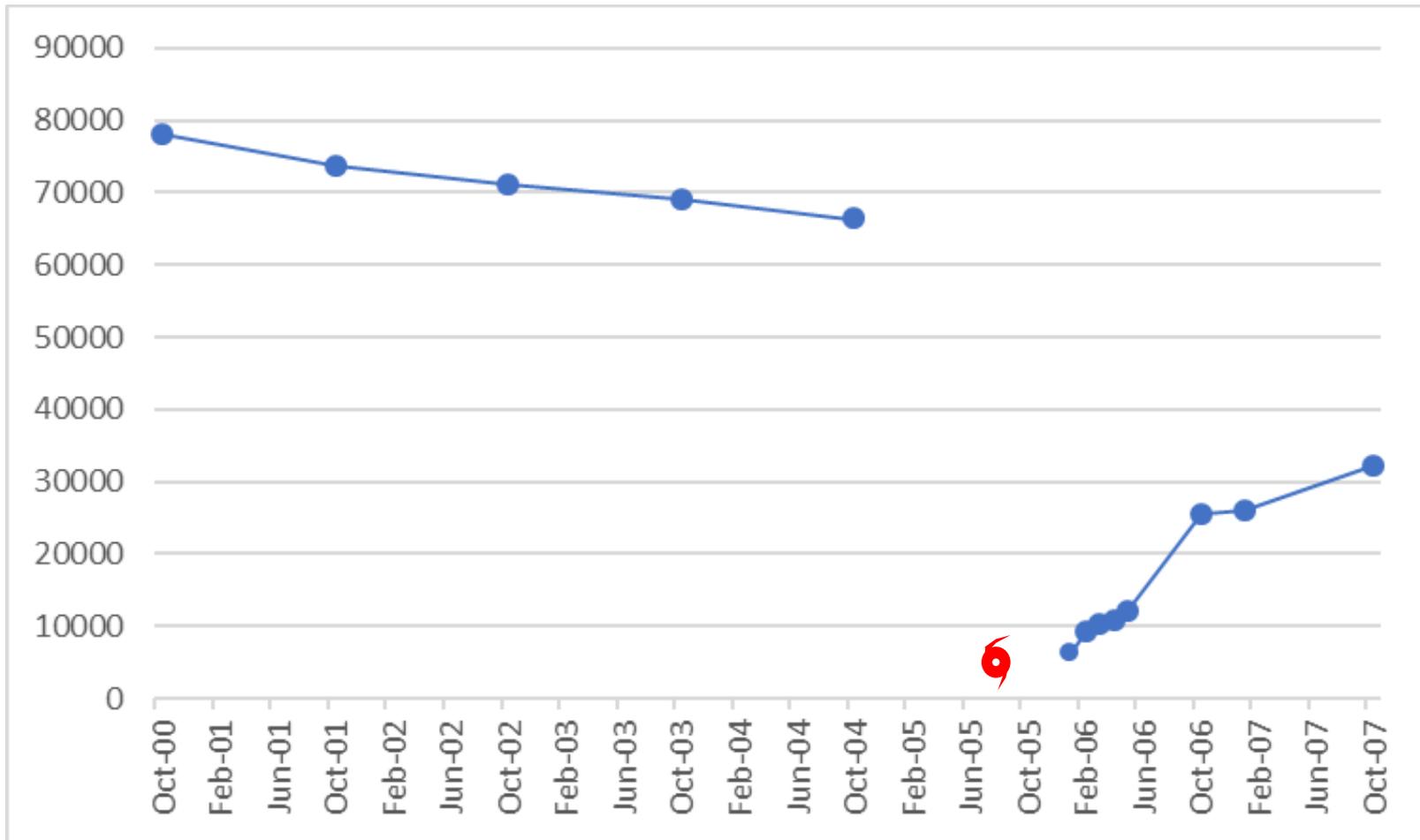
Oct, Nov, Dec 2005, Jan 2006

RAPID POPULATION ESTIMATE PROJECT



Public School Enrollment

New Orleans

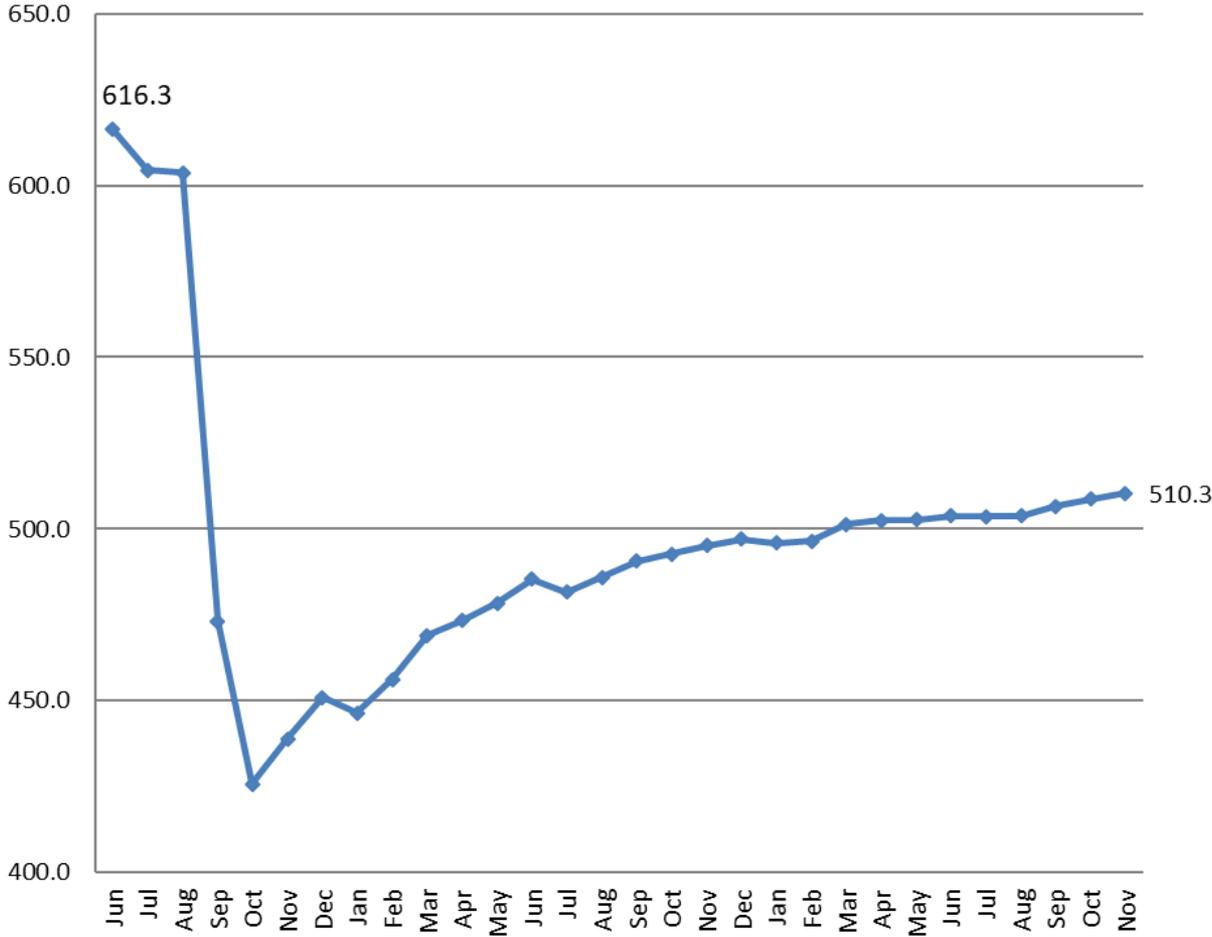


Demographic and economic conditions change dramatically post-disaster. In many cases, changes continue to unfold at a rapid pace over months and years.

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Non-farm Jobs

In thousand, metro New Orleans



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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Data Tables:

[\(Is this data current?\)](#)

[People & Household Characteristics](#)

[Housing & Housing Costs](#)

[Income & Poverty](#)

[Transportation](#)

[Employment](#)

[Educational Attainment](#)

[Immigration & Language](#)

[Disabilities](#)

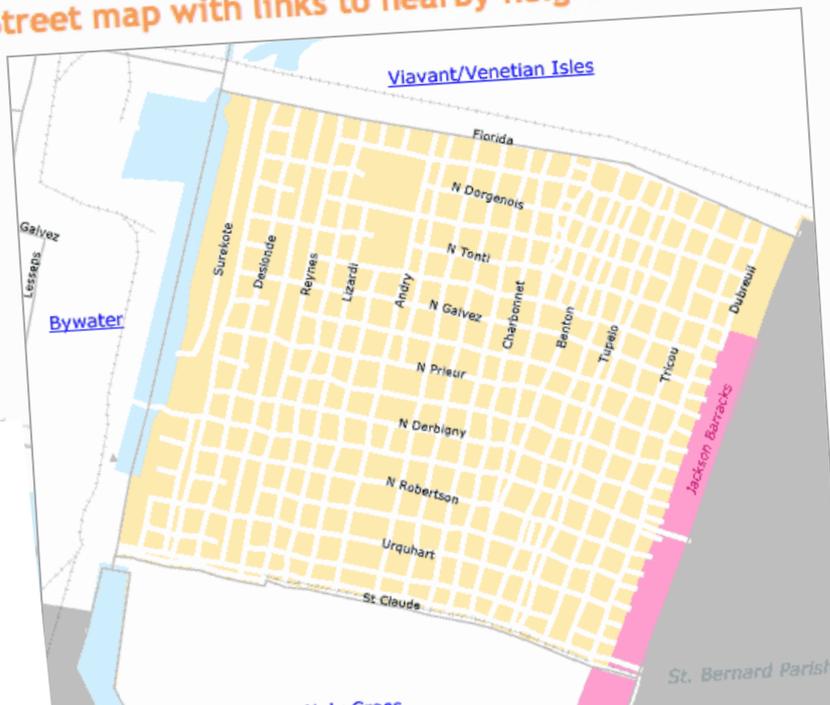
[Neighborhood Characteristics](#)

[Give us your feedback...](#)

Lower Ninth Ward Neighborhood

“The Lower Ninth Ward consists of two distinct neighborhoods, [Holy Cross](#) and this neighborhood, the Lower Ninth Ward, called by some, *The Lower 9*. The neighborhood is rich with small businesses, barber and beauty shops, corner stores, eateries, day care centers, as well as public schools and some say, far too many churches. It has a resilient history of survival and activism.” [Read more in the [Neighborhood Snapshot](#)]

Street map with links to nearby neighborhoods:



GNOCDC > St. Roch Neighbor

Edit View Go Bookmarks

St. Roch Neigh Attainment

Data Tables: [People & Hou](#)
[Transportation, Employmen](#)
[Neighborhood Characteristi](#)

Educational atta

[Definitions and source li](#)

Level of schooling (2000)

Total population 18 year

Less than 9th grade

9th to 12th grade,

High school diplom

Some college or A

Bachelor's degree

Teens without high (2000)

Total population 16

% not enrolled in high school grad

Source Citation: U.S. C
Community Data Center

Enrollment

<GNOCDC>St. Roch Neighbor

File Edit View Go Bookmarks

← → ↻ × 🏠

Household Charac

Which number do household characteris recommend you take view data on what typ Note, we have choser of the Census' narrow

[Definitions and source li](#)

Households by type (2000)

Total households

Female householder (no present) with children

Male householder (no with children under 18

Married-couple family under 18

Nonfamily household under 18

Households with no years

Children in house

Population under 18 households

Children living a

Done

<GNOCDC>St. Roch Neighborhood: People&Household Characteristics - Mozilla Fi...

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Help

http://www.gnocdc.org/orleans/7/24/...

Go

Grandparents as caregivers

Recently, there has been a lot of interest in understanding the role of grandparents as caregivers. Census 2000 data focuses on the number of grandparents who have responsibility for a grandchild (or grandchildren) in the household they live in, but does not give us information on the number of children who have grandparents as caregivers.

[Definitions and source links](#)

Grandparents as caregivers (2000)	St. Roch	Orleans Parish	Louisiana	United States
Total grandparents living in households with grandchildren under 18				
Grandparent responsible for grandchildren under 18	708	17,338	122,240	5,771,671
Grandparent not responsible for own grandchildren under 18	53.4%	54.7%	54.9%	42.0%
Source Citation: U.S. Census Bureau. <i>Census 2000 Sample Characteristics (SF3)</i> . From a compilation by the GNO	46.6%	45.3%	45.1%	58.0%

Community Data Center. <<http://www.gnocdc.org>>

Find related data...

For data on **houses people live in**, whether they **rent or own**, etc., visit the [Housing and Housing Costs](#) data page.

You'll find data on **family income** and **people living in poverty**, in the [Income & Poverty](#) data tables.

Go to the [Educational Attainment](#) page to find

Done



[Home](#) » [Ask Allison](#)

Ask Allison



Hi, I'm Allison Plyer, Senior Consultant with the Community Data Center. We work with nonprofit clients to use data to support their grantwriting, planning and advocacy efforts.

We know that using data can be frustrating at times. We're here to help!

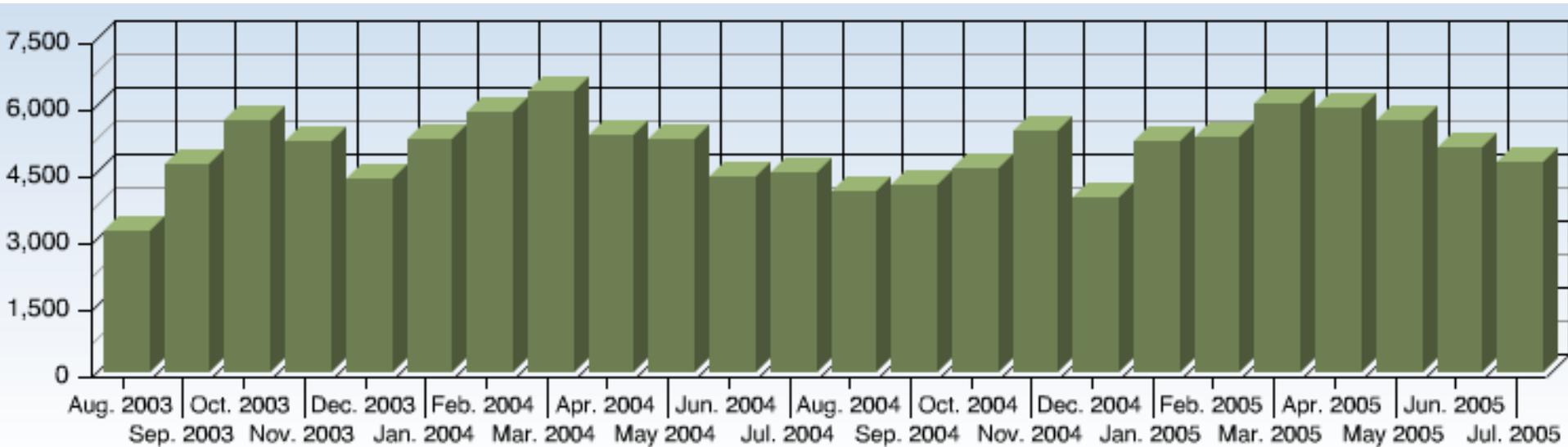
We've tried to create a web site that makes getting local data really easy. But there's a whole world of data out there and we've published only a small portion. If after reviewing our website, you haven't found what you're looking for, this is the page to be on.

If you are a New Orleans area nonprofit organization, you can receive one hour of free help from us. (If it will take longer, we can work to negotiate something.)

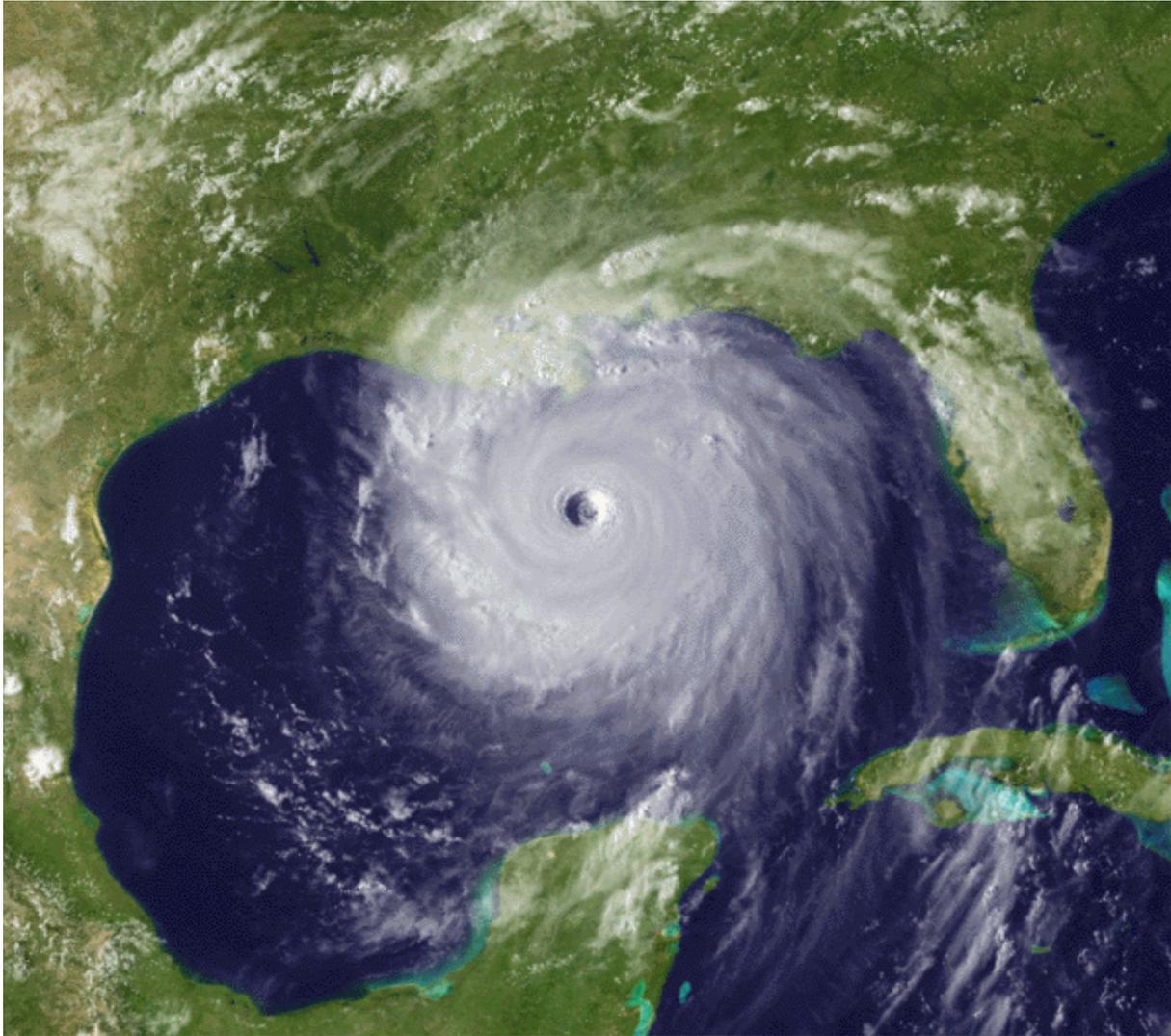
Please start by submitting the following information. I'll contact you within one business day of receiving your request. Once you make a request, my colleagues and I will work to help you find the best data to meet your needs. This process can take up to two weeks.

Visits to gnocdc.org

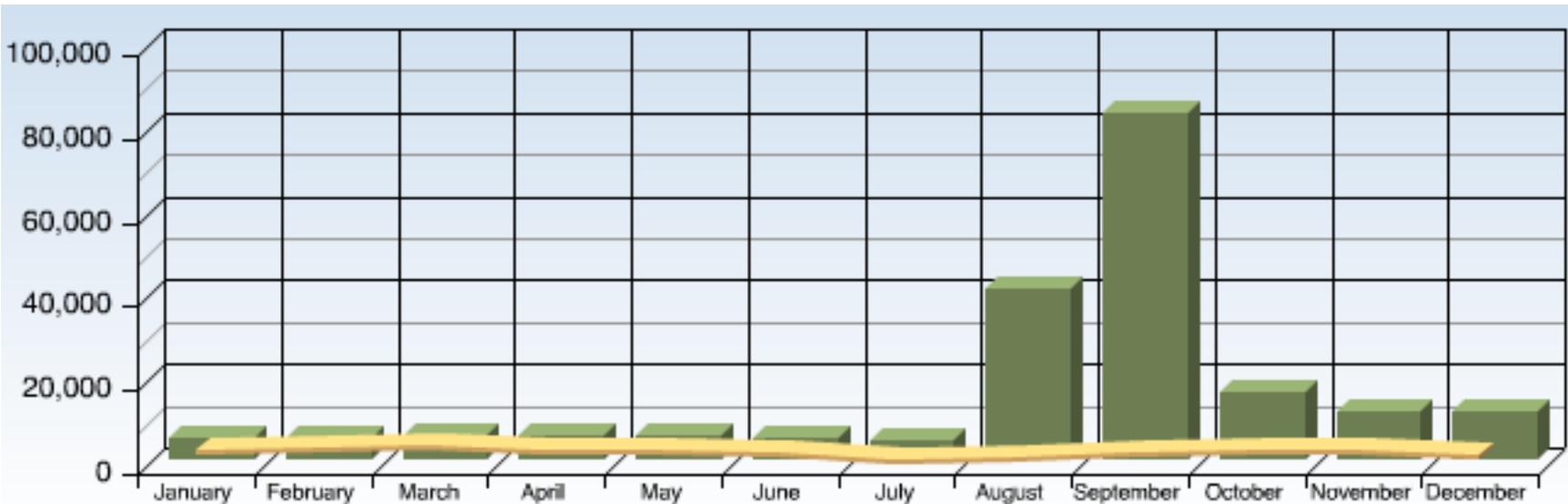
For the two years preceding Katrina



Approx 5,000 visits/month, 60,000 visits/year



2005 visits to gnocdc.org



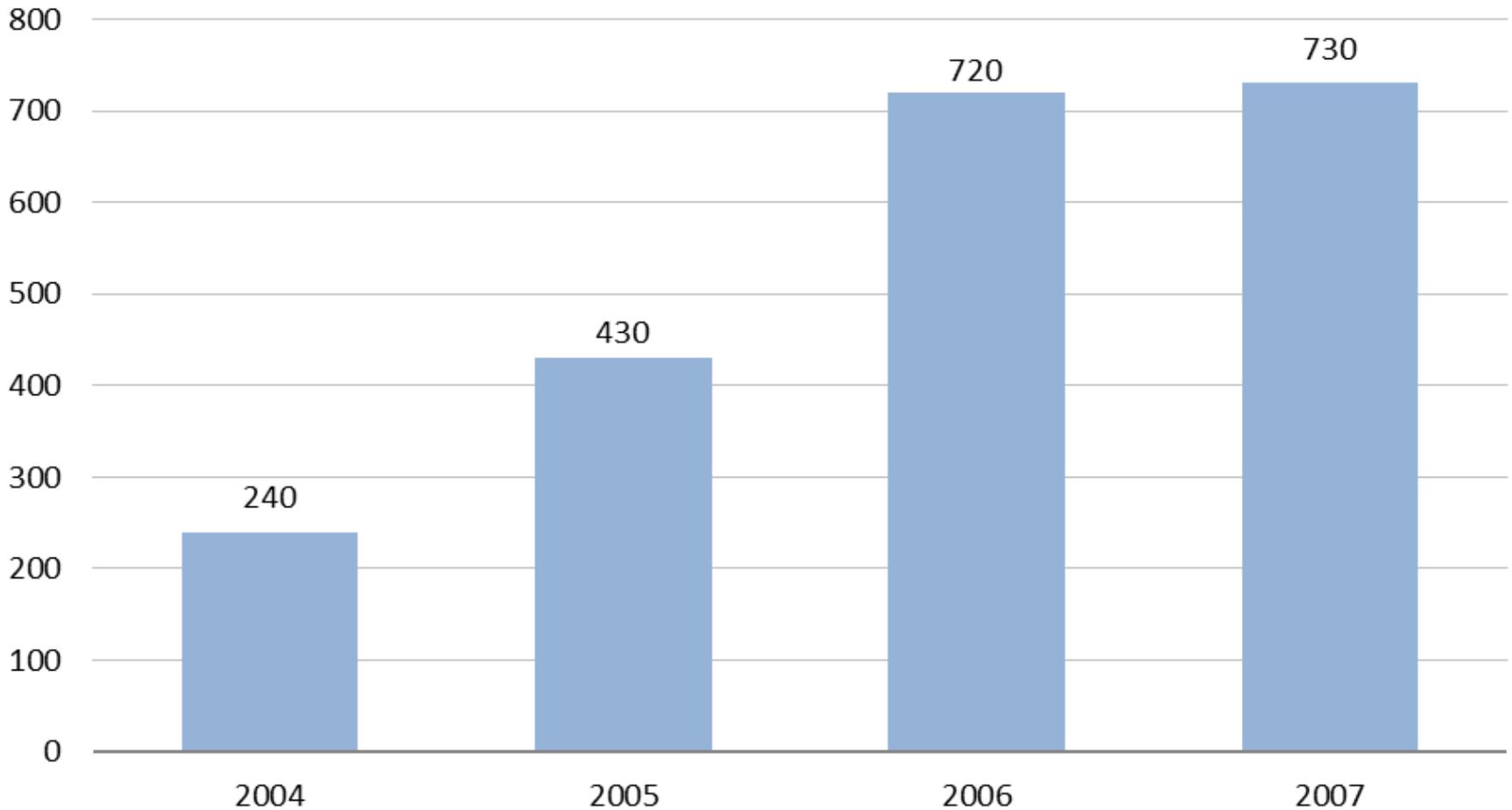
Baseline 5,000 visits/month

40,000
visits

80,000
visits

In 2006:
15,000
visits/month

Questions to "Ask Allison"



Post-Katrina questions tripled as well

"I need population estimates for the New Orleans area as the denominator for health rate calculations."

- US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention"

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- Nielsen Media Research

Annual Census Population Estimates Lag 9 Months

2007

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February						
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26	27	28	29	30		

March						
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29	30	31				

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December						
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2008

January						
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March						
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Alternative sources of population data

Utility
accounts

Surveys

Public school
enrollment

Postal data

Drivers Licenses

Traffic
Volume

Voter
Registration

Vehicle
Registration

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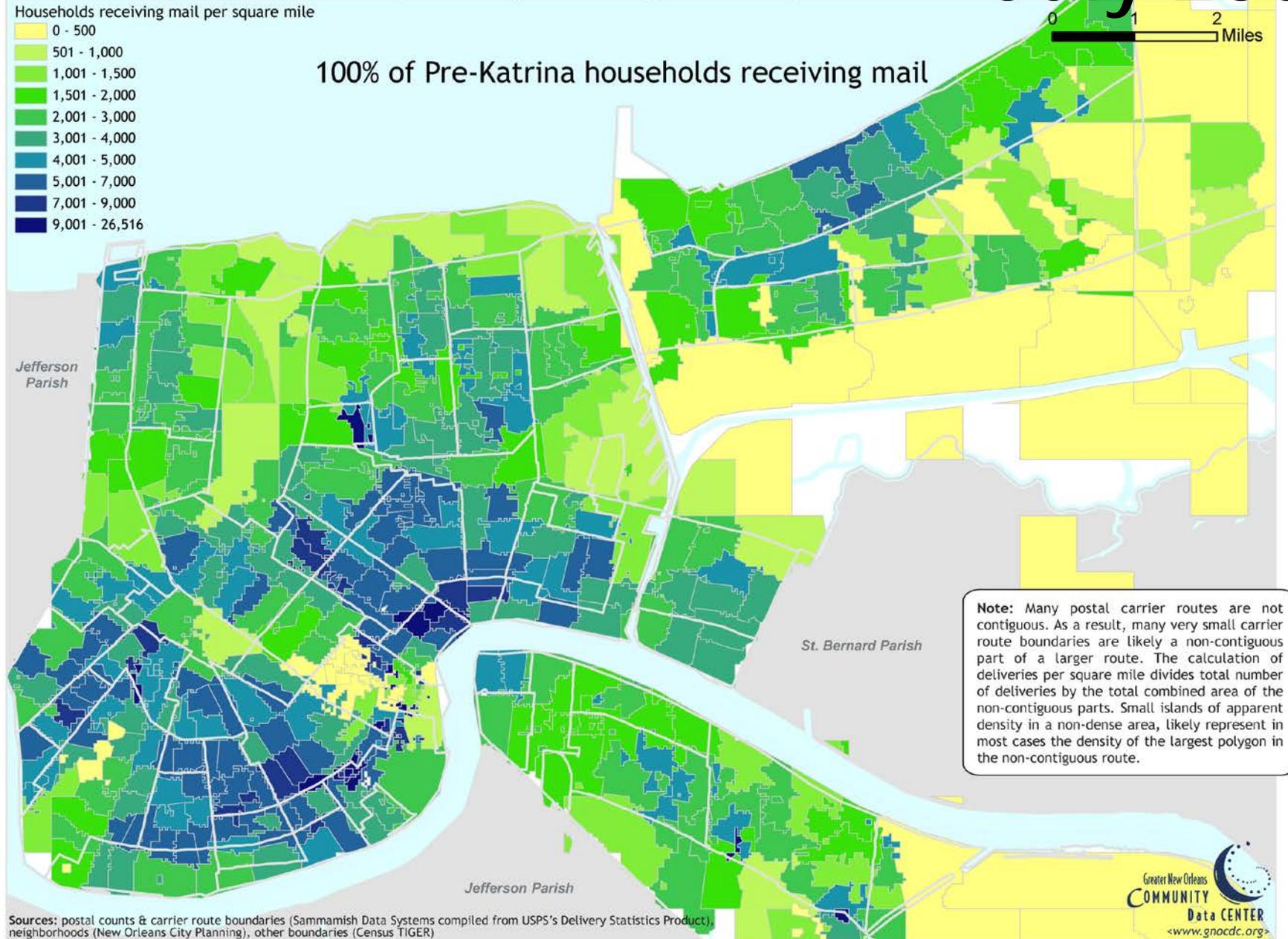
USPS data is published monthly with a two-week lag time.



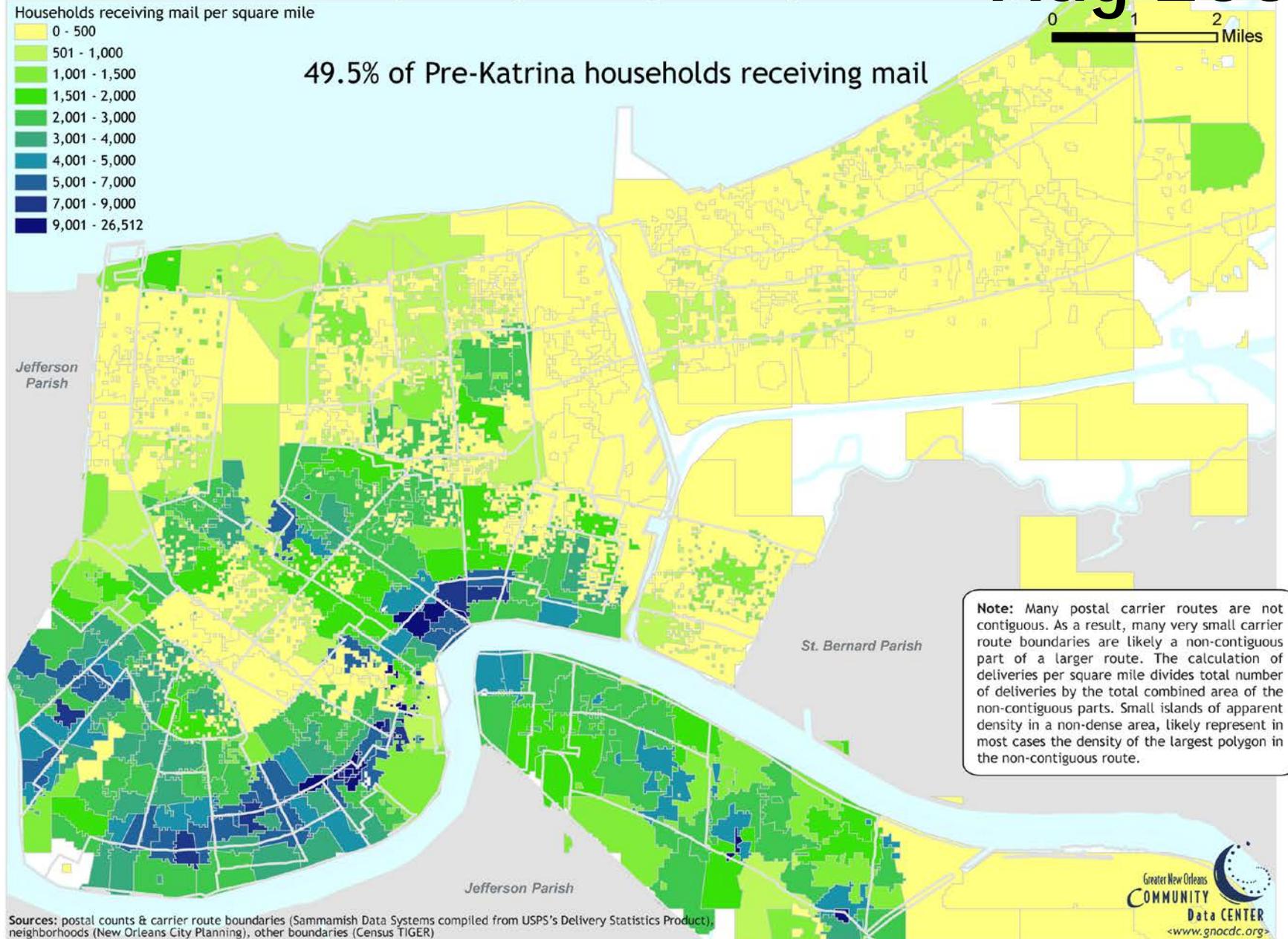
[Kathleen Flynn | Times]

McCann holds his notepad of new addresses that will receive mail on his route - a record of returning life.

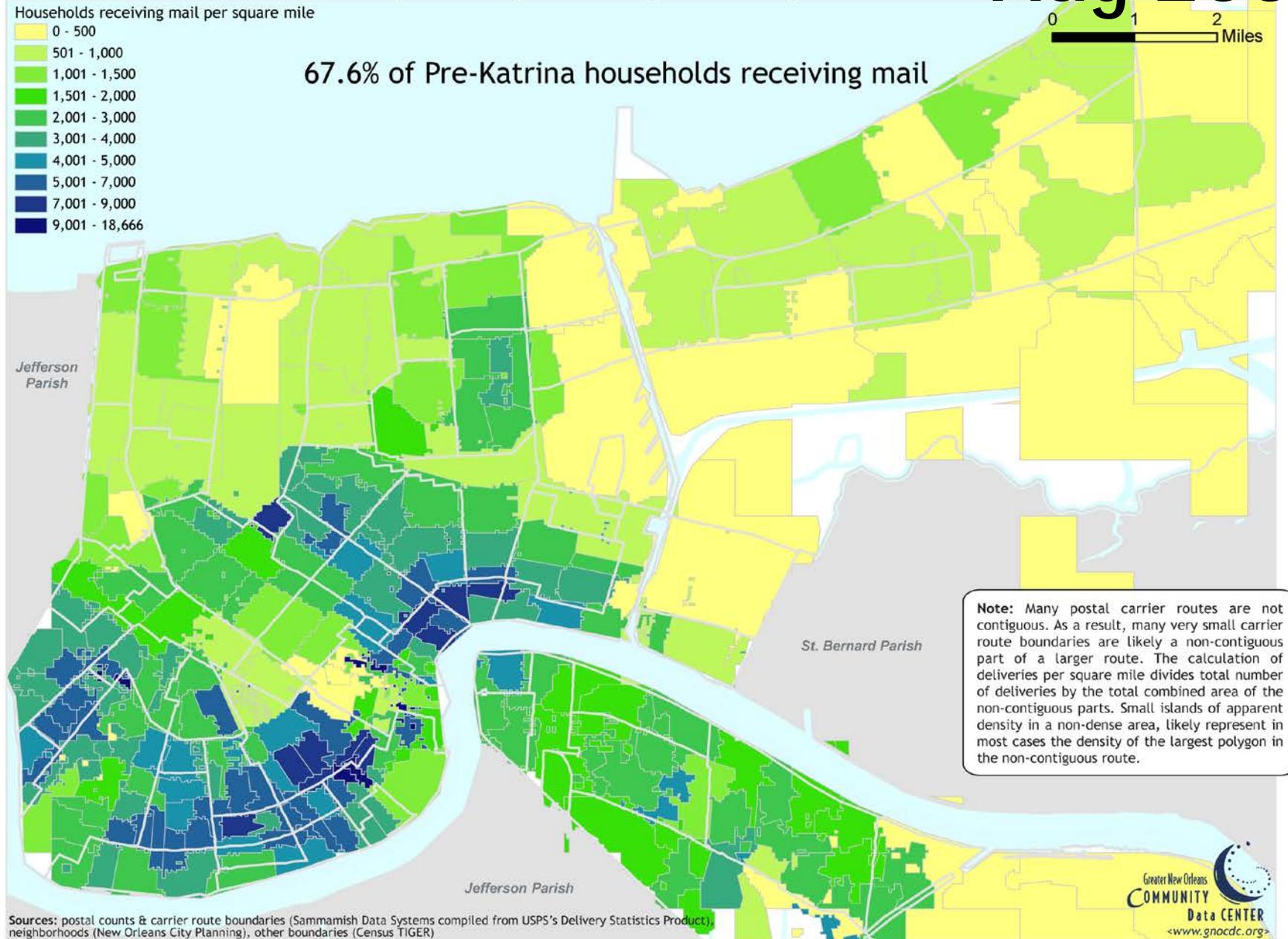
Orleans Parish Households Actively Receiving Mail Per Square Mile by Carrier Route: July 2005



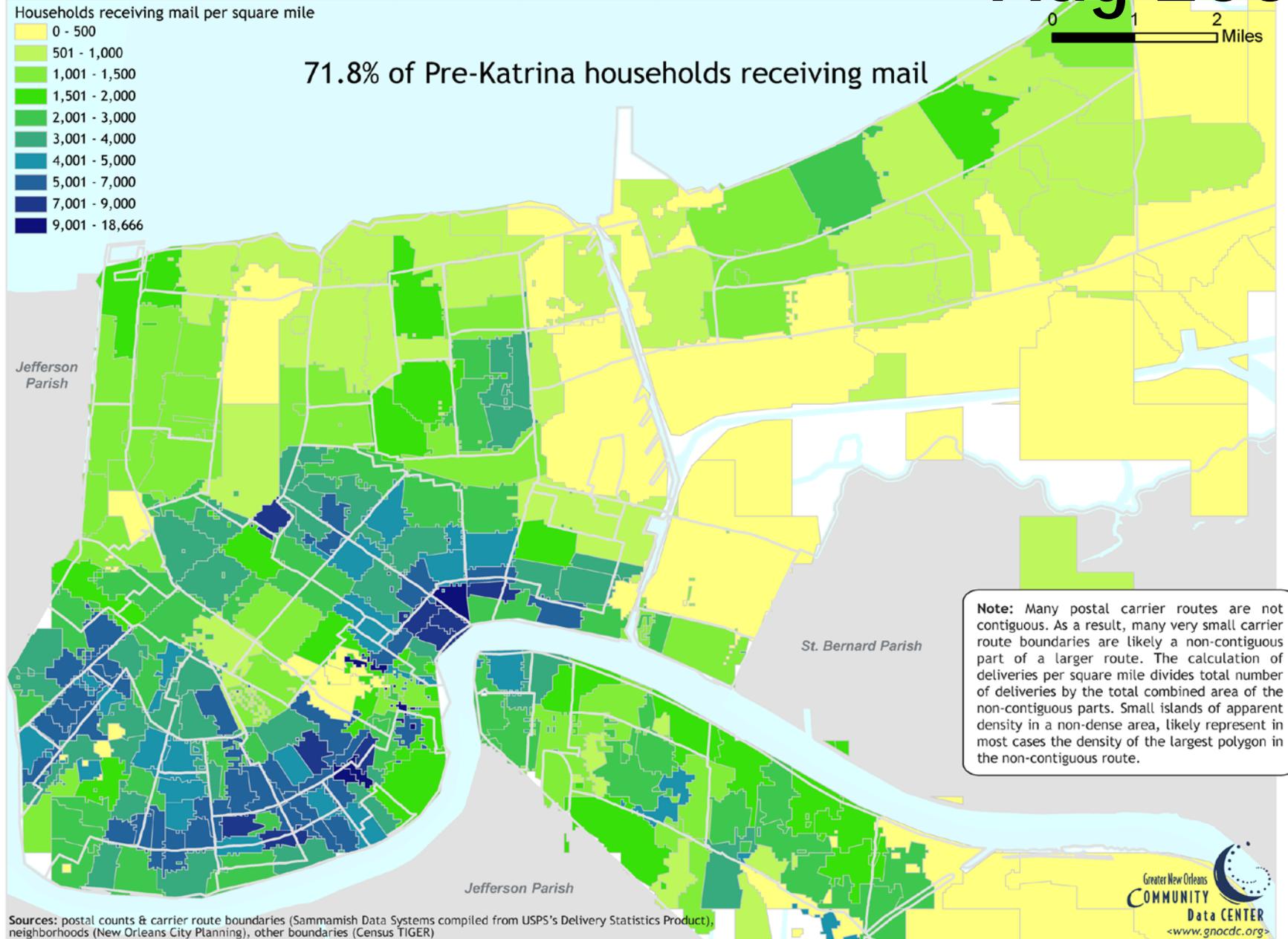
Orleans Parish Households Actively Receiving Mail Per Square Mile by Carrier Route: **Aug 2006**



Orleans Parish Households Actively Receiving Mail Per Square Mile by Carrier Route: Aug 2007



Orleans Parish Households Actively Receiving Mail Per Square Mile by Carrier Route: Aug 2008



ON THE MAP:

156,512 households received mail in September 2009, in New Orleans, compared to 203,457 in June 2005

Population density Sep 2009
(households per square mile)
Low High

Double-click to zoom for counts by block:



WHAT IS THIS DATA?



Photo by Kathleen Elyon © St. Petersburg Times

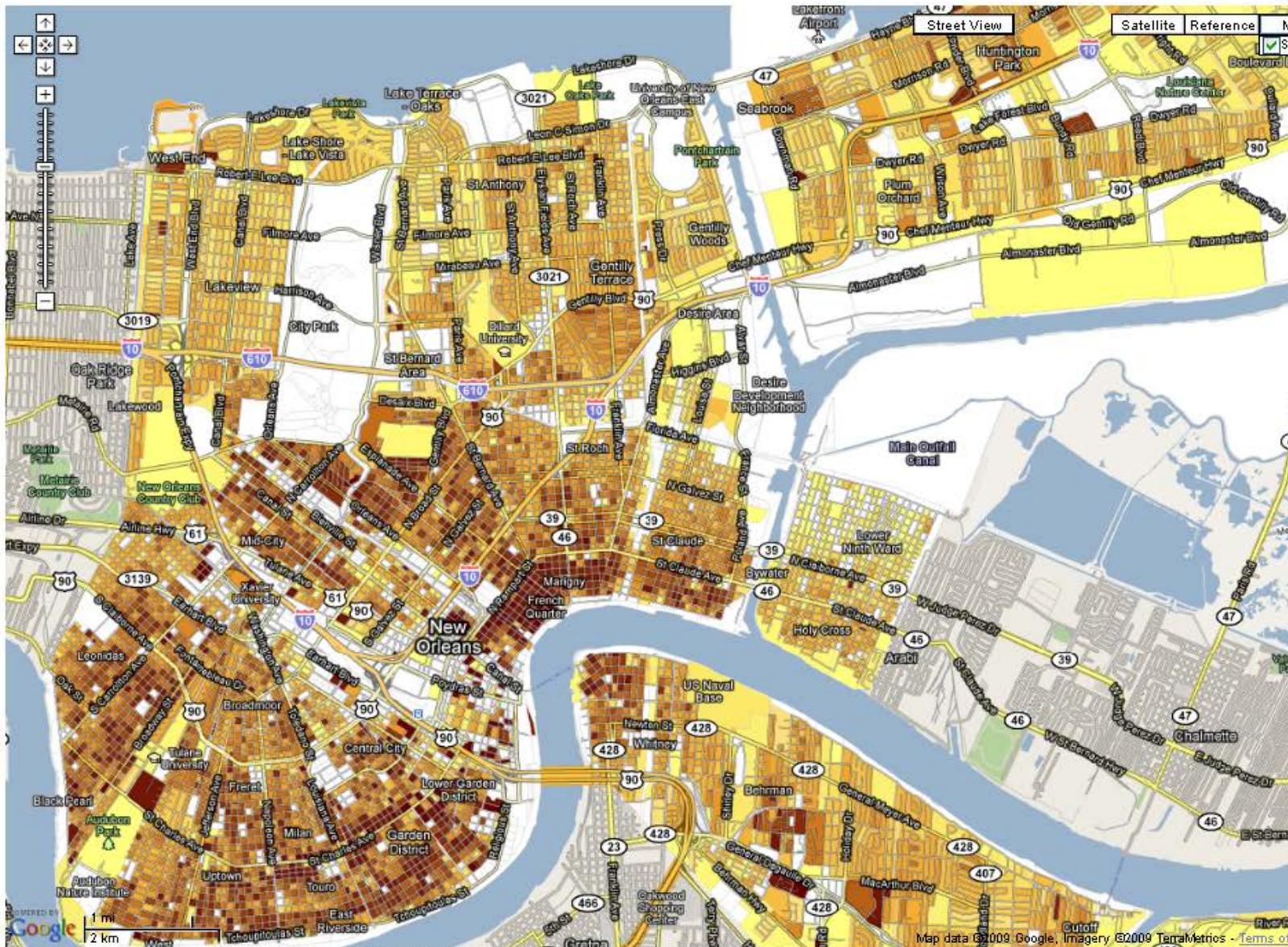
This mailing list data represents the number of residential addresses per block where the mailman knows someone picks up the mail. [Learn more >](#)

THIS DATA IS NOT...

...the number of people living at an address.

...how much mail a residence receives.

...change of address orders or other USPS central processes.



Source citation: GNO Community Data Center analysis of Valassis Residential and Business Database. Available at www.gnocdc.org.

Uncertainty impedes private sector investing.

"I need population estimates for the New Orleans area as the denominator for health rate calculations."

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Highest priority data for disaster recovery

Population indicators at frequent intervals for small geographies



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Audience: Policymakers, media, general public, business, philanthropy, affected individuals

Use case: Build common understanding of context ... as it changes

- What is the pace of distribution of recovery funding?
- How is recovery progressing and where is it lagging?
- What is the strength of the housing market?
- What is the strength of the economy?
- How to reprioritize spending or invest?

[Key domains: population, housing, economy, infrastructure]

Data gaps for disaster recovery

- **Population indicators at frequent intervals for small geographies**
- **Recovery funding flows**
- **Parcel-specific housing data**
- **Status of infrastructure (schools, hospitals, public transportation, etc.)**





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Suggestions:

- Get feedback directly from FEMA as well as localities that have experienced disasters to see if current tools have been useful to them in Preparedness and Response efforts.
- Examine the possibility of publishing preliminary post-disaster population indicators that may be more timely (albeit less rigorous than current annual population estimates) to support Recovery.
- Get input from on-the-ground data experts who can articulate additional data gaps for recovery for various disasters.