

A Survey of the Jewish Community of Greater New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina



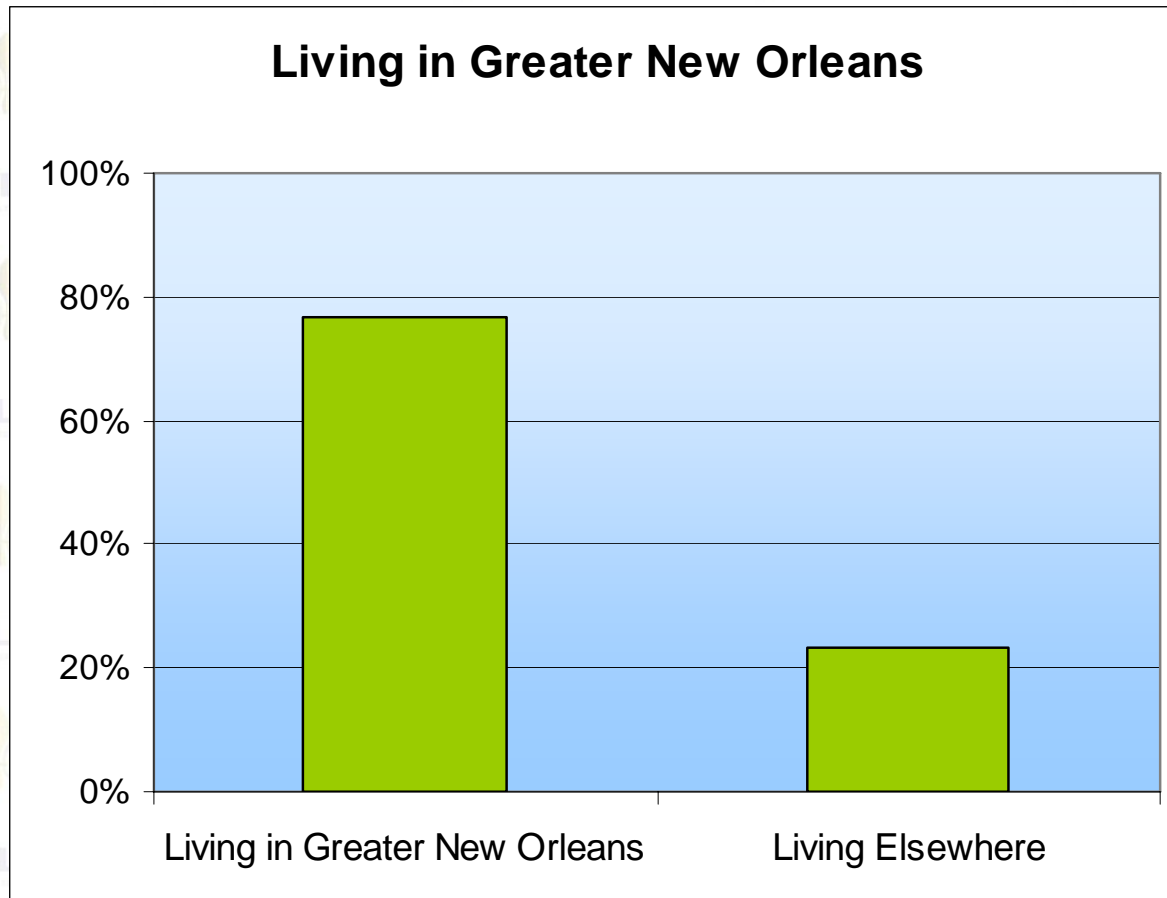
Conducted June-December, 2006

N = 707

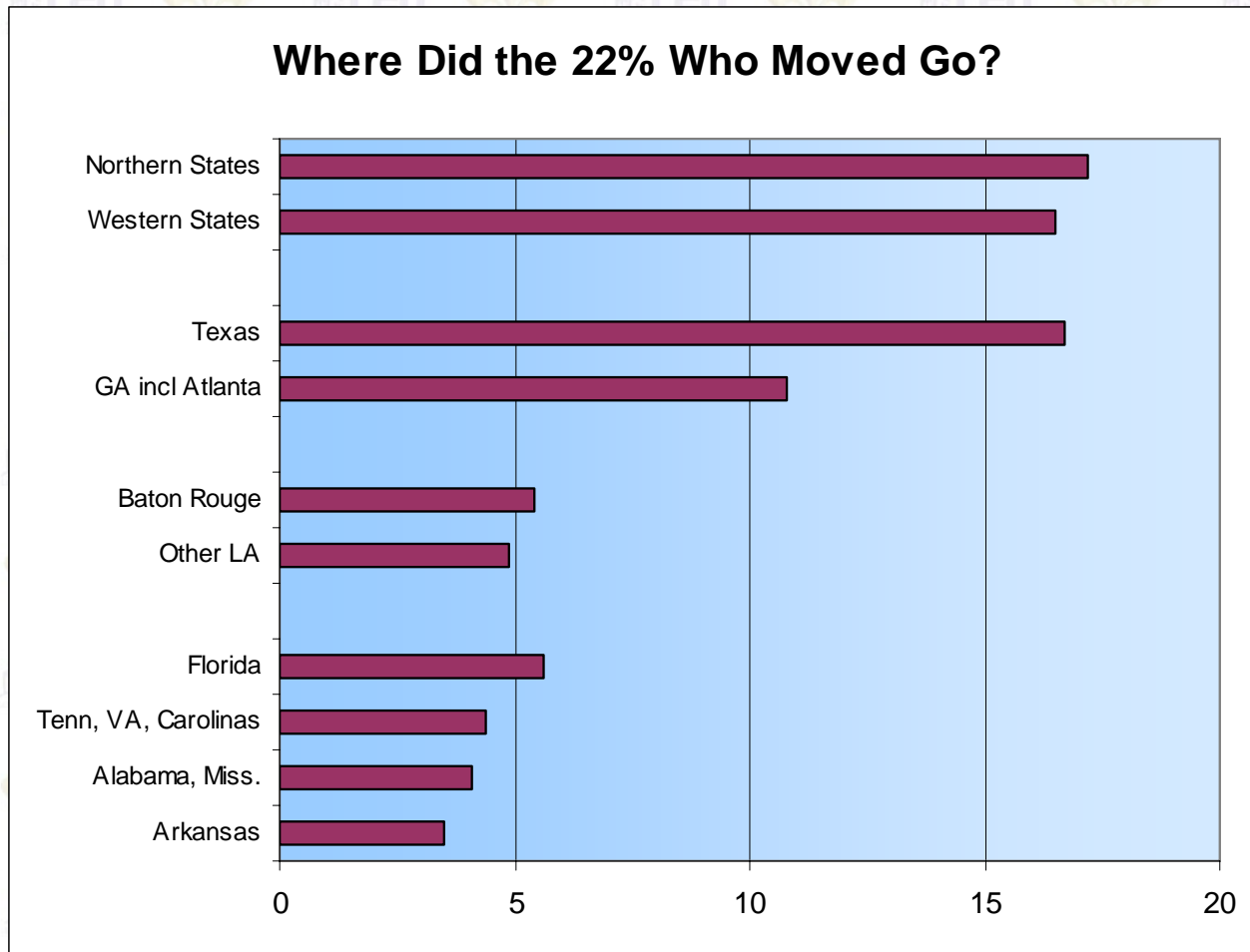
Frederick Weil, LSU

www.fweil.com

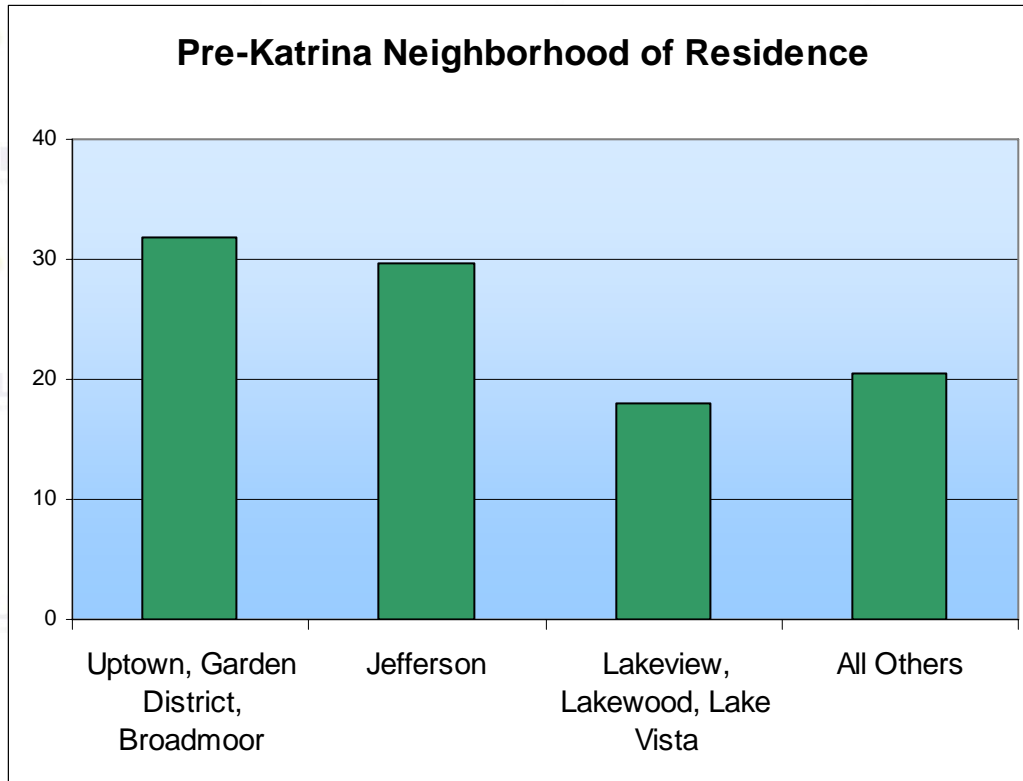
Almost 80% of Jewish Community members have come back to New Orleans



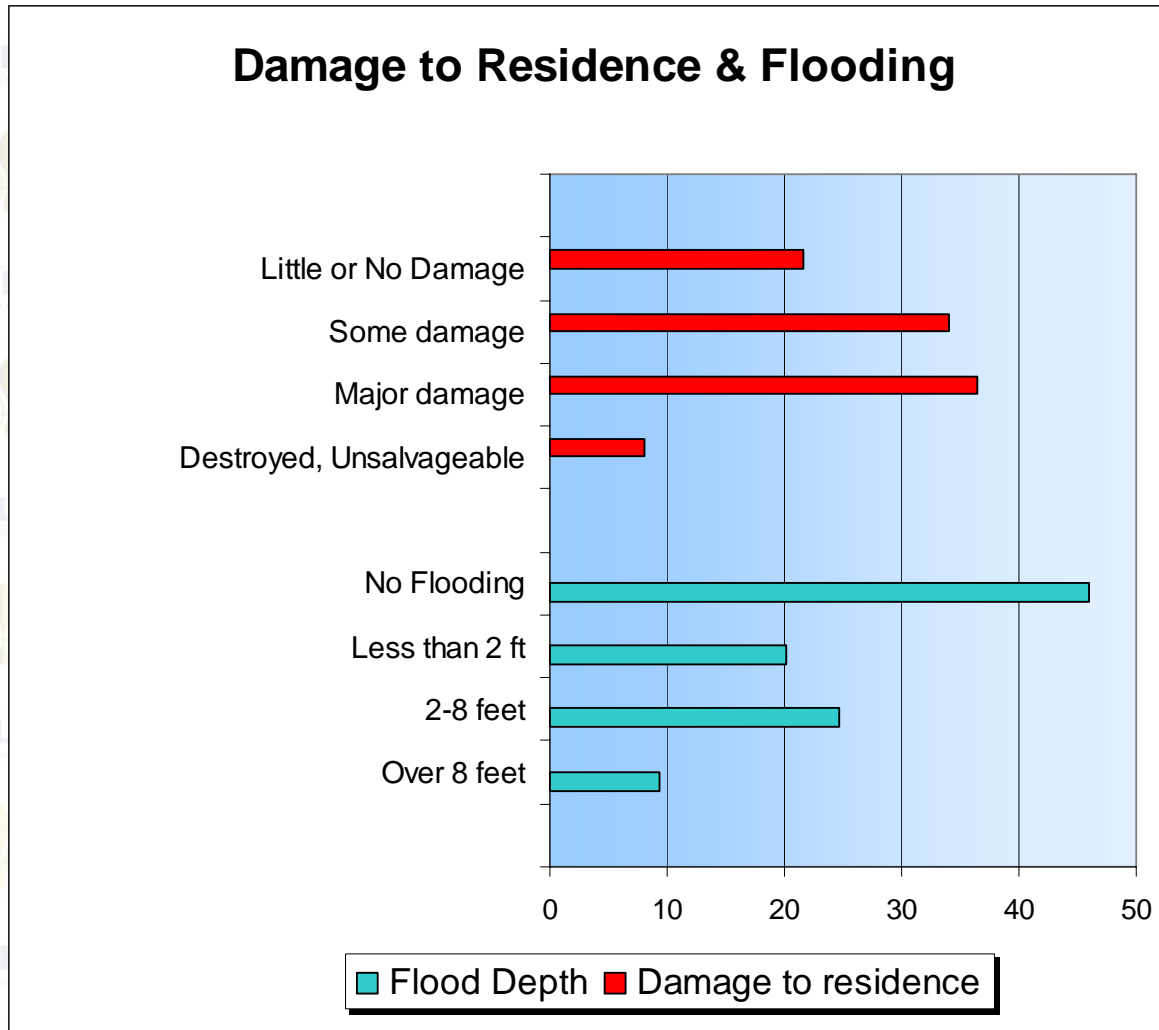
Where did the 20-something percent of people who moved go?



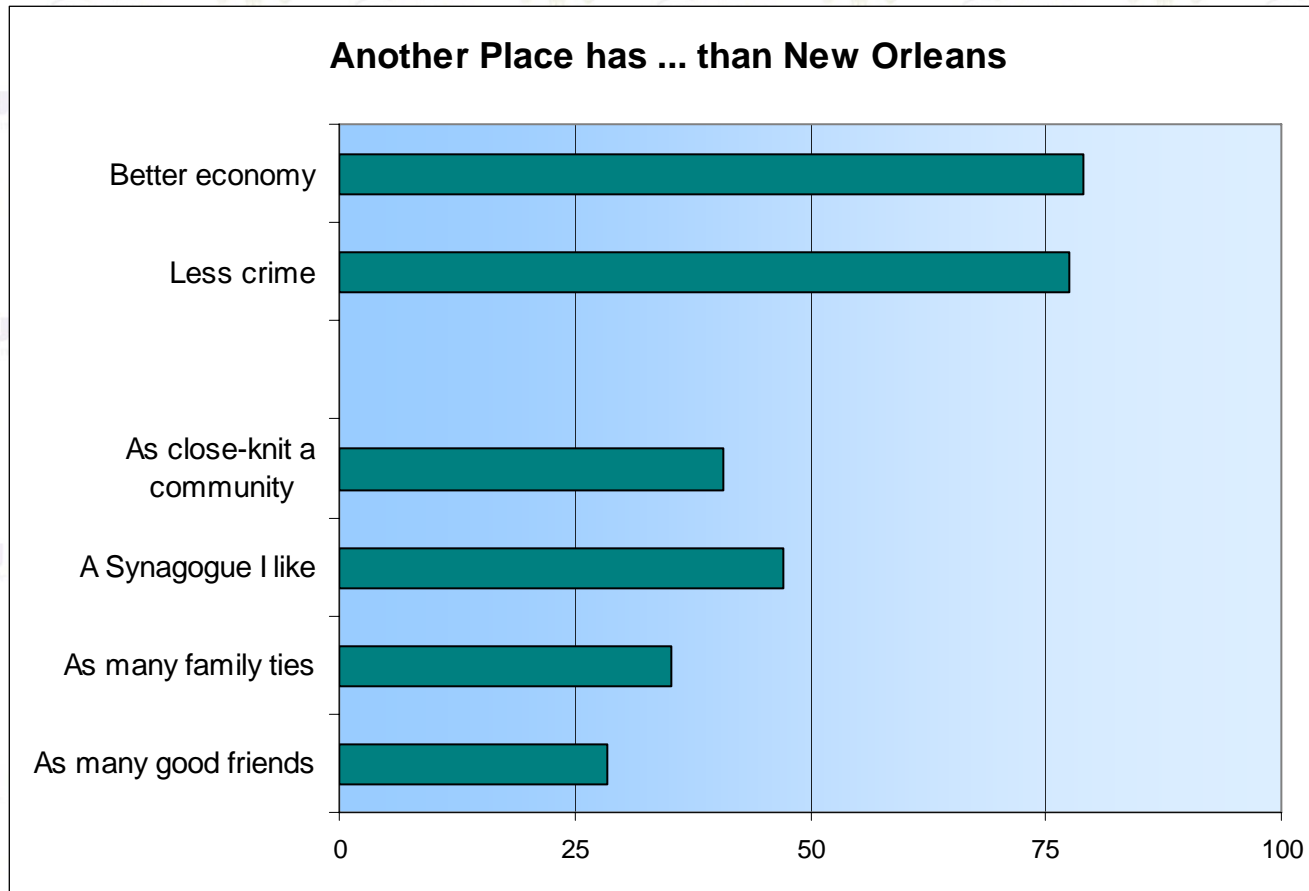
Where did members of the Jewish Community live before the storm?



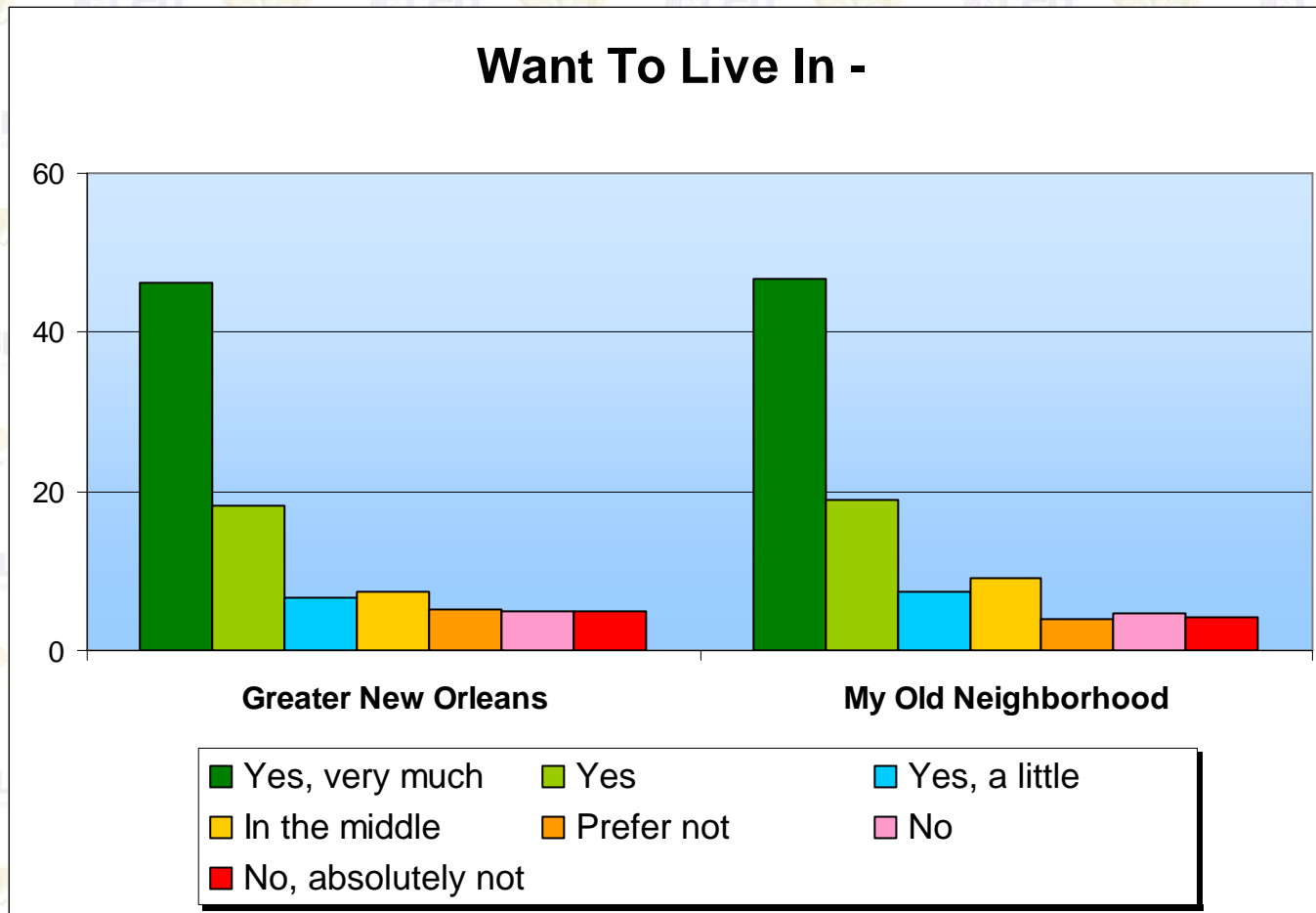
Most people experienced at least some damage, and had at least some flooding.



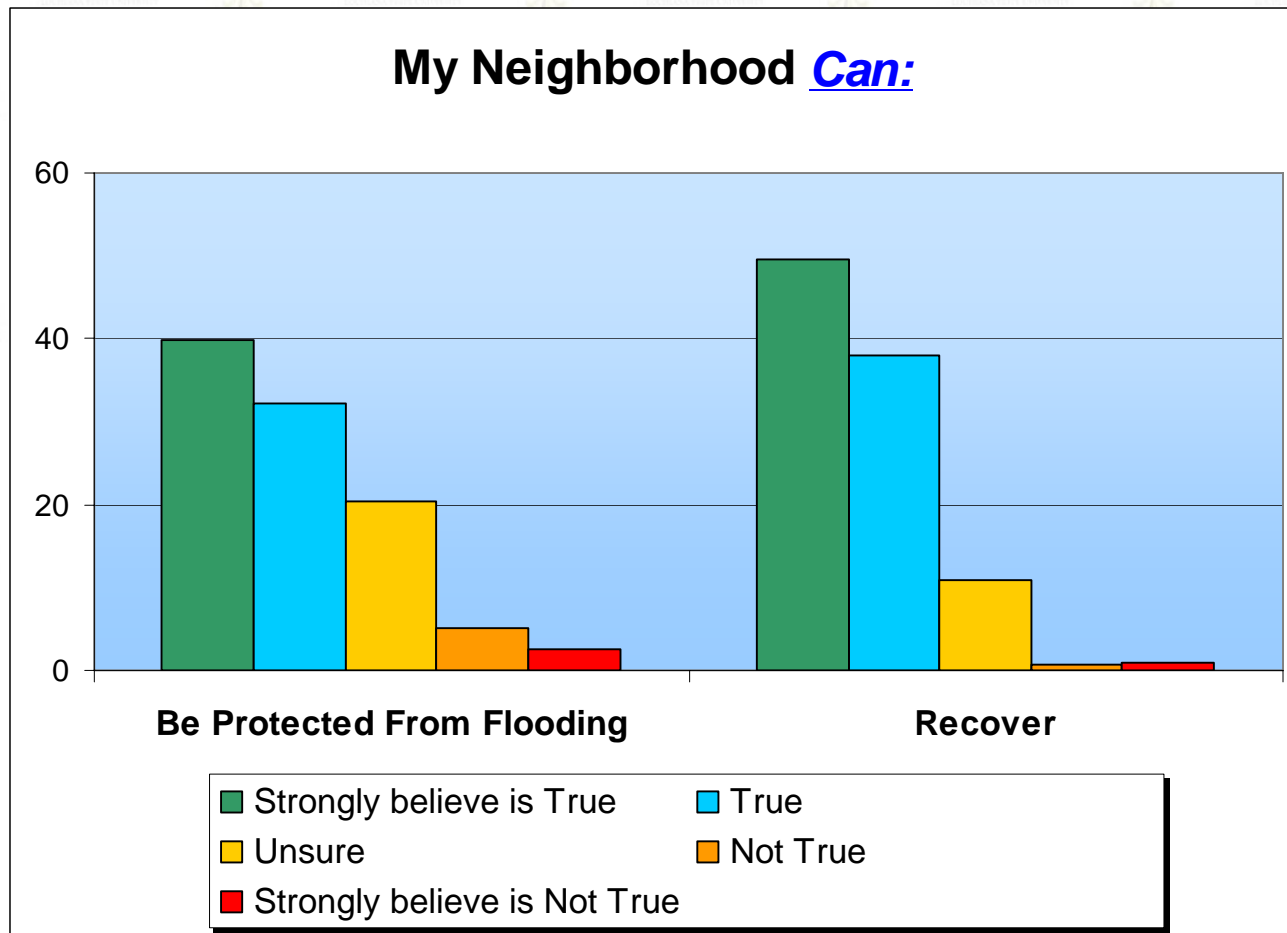
Yet, while they are not satisfied with New Orleans' economy and crime rate, they doubt that they could find another community they like as well.



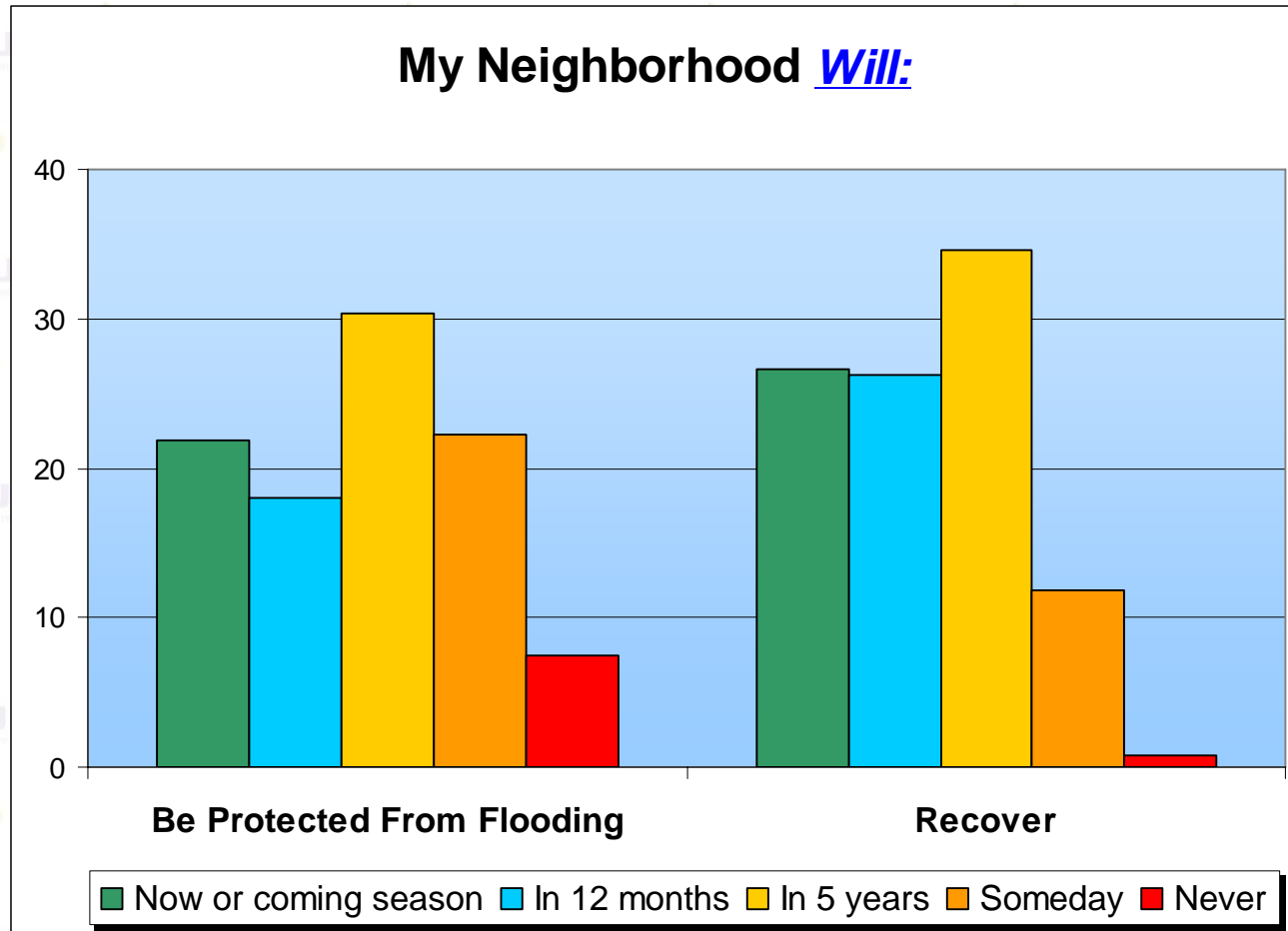
The vast majority of people *want* to come back to live in Greater New Orleans.



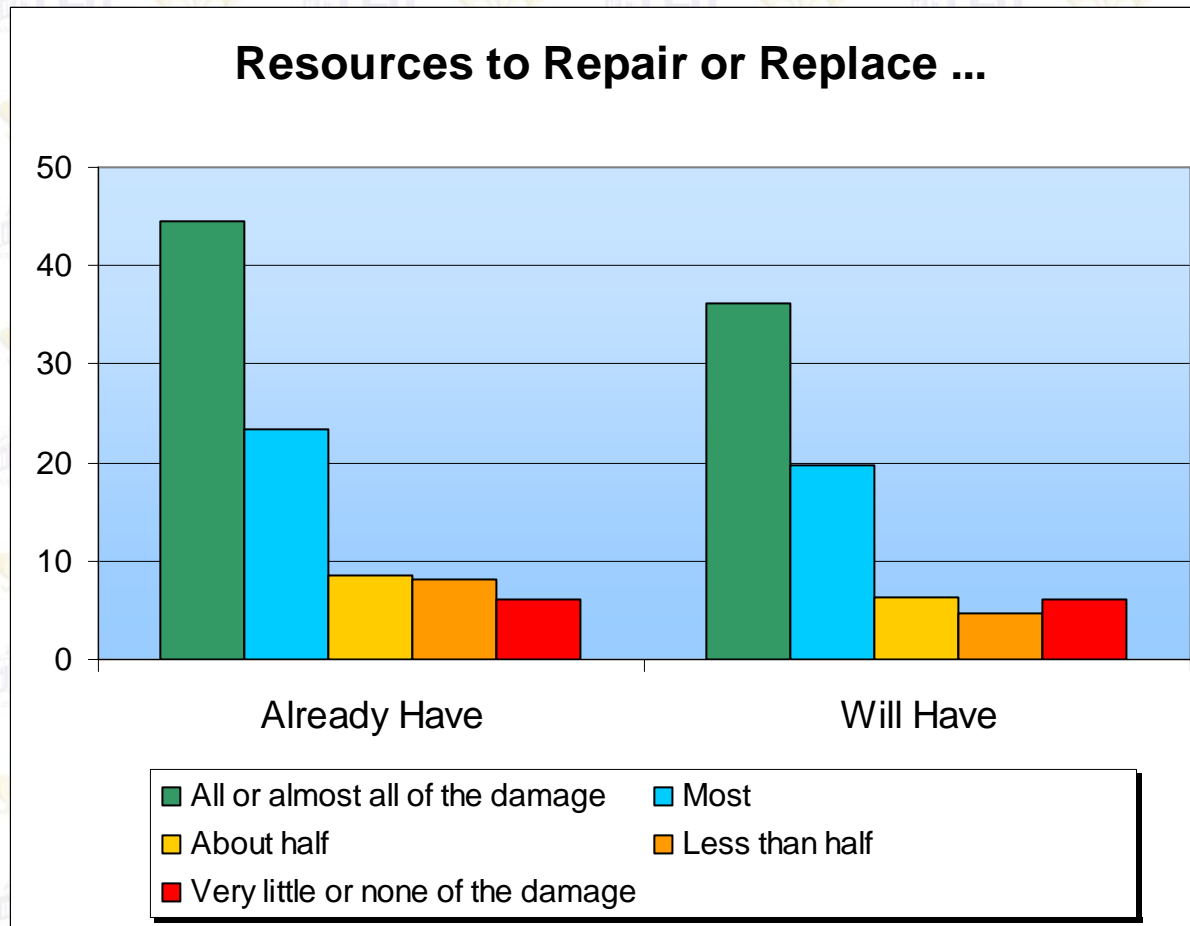
And they are optimistic that their neighborhood *can be* protected from flooding and will recover.



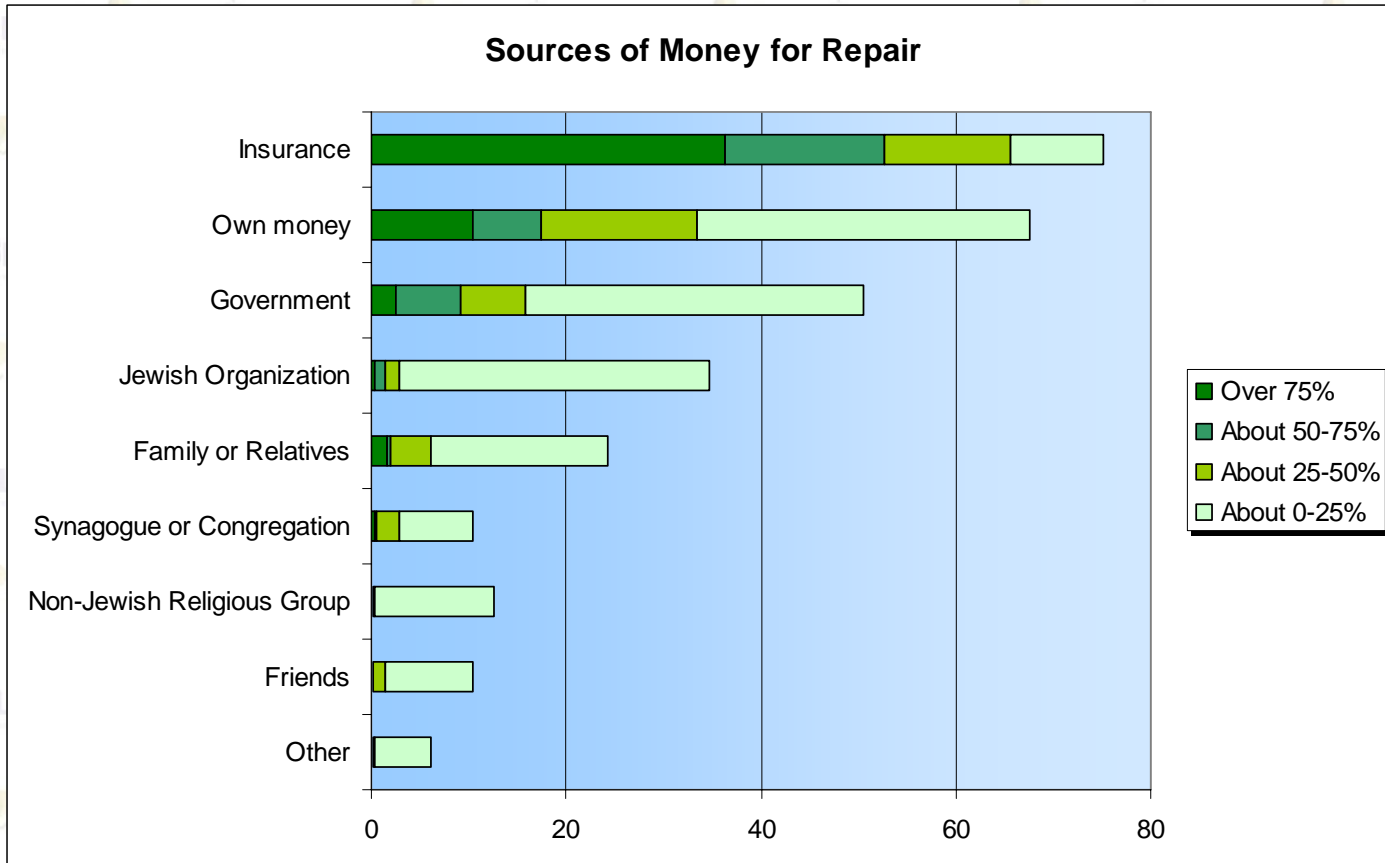
People understand that recovery and protection will take time, but most people think it will happen within the coming five years.



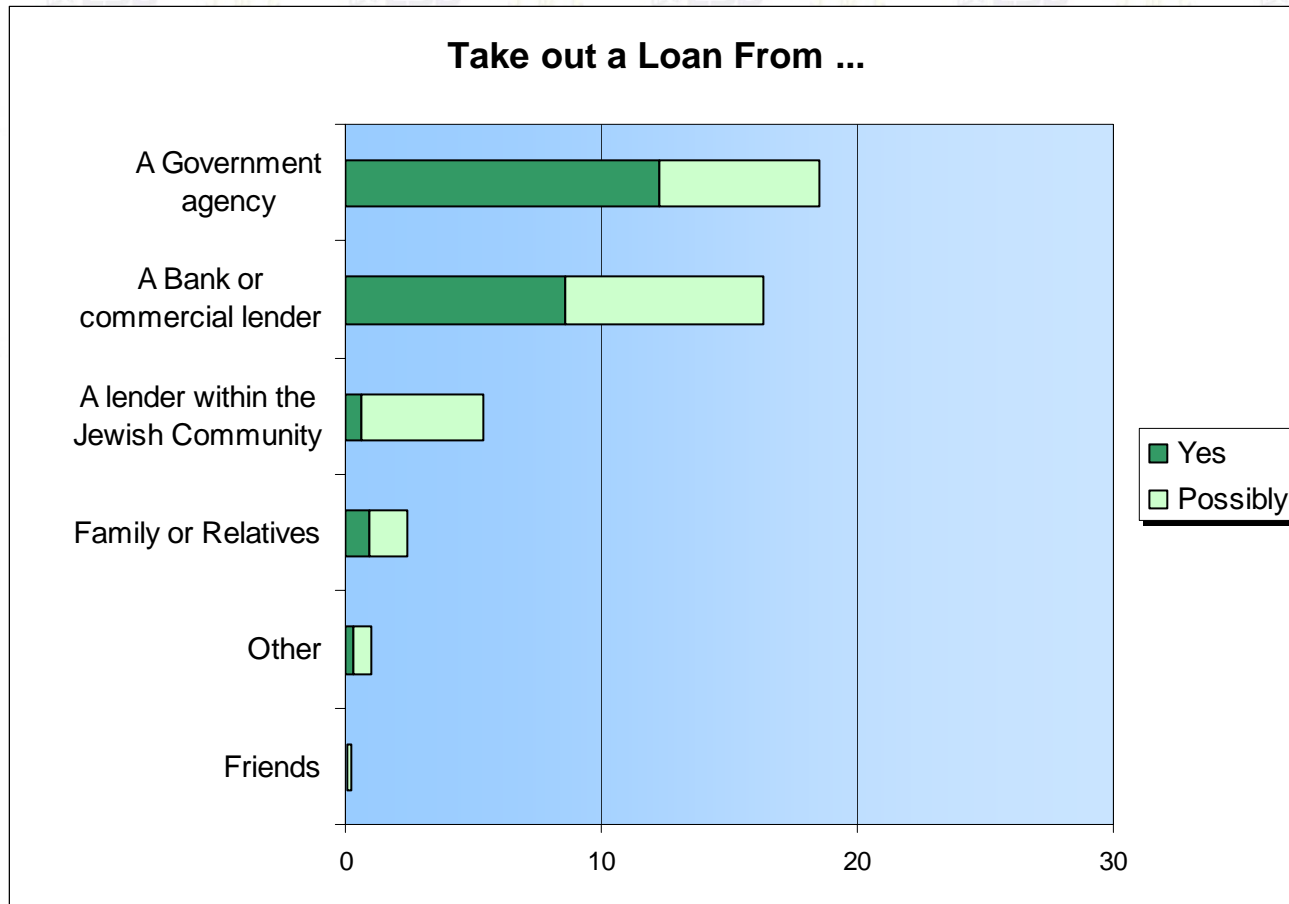
Most people already have the resources to repair or replace most of the damage, or believe they soon will.



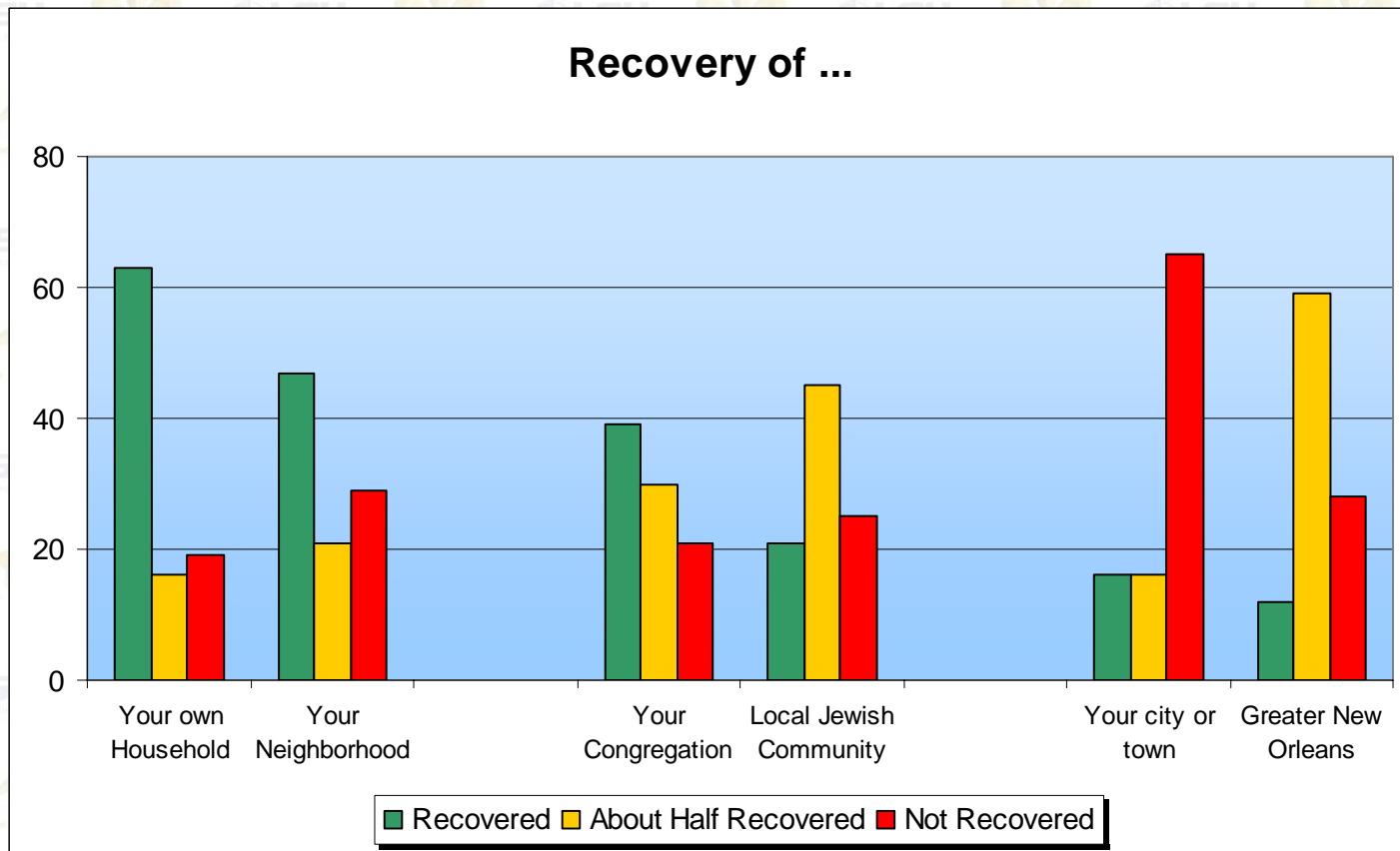
Most of the money for repair has come from insurance. People have also used their own money and received help from government programs. Close to half of community members received at least something from Jewish organizations. There are other, smaller sources.



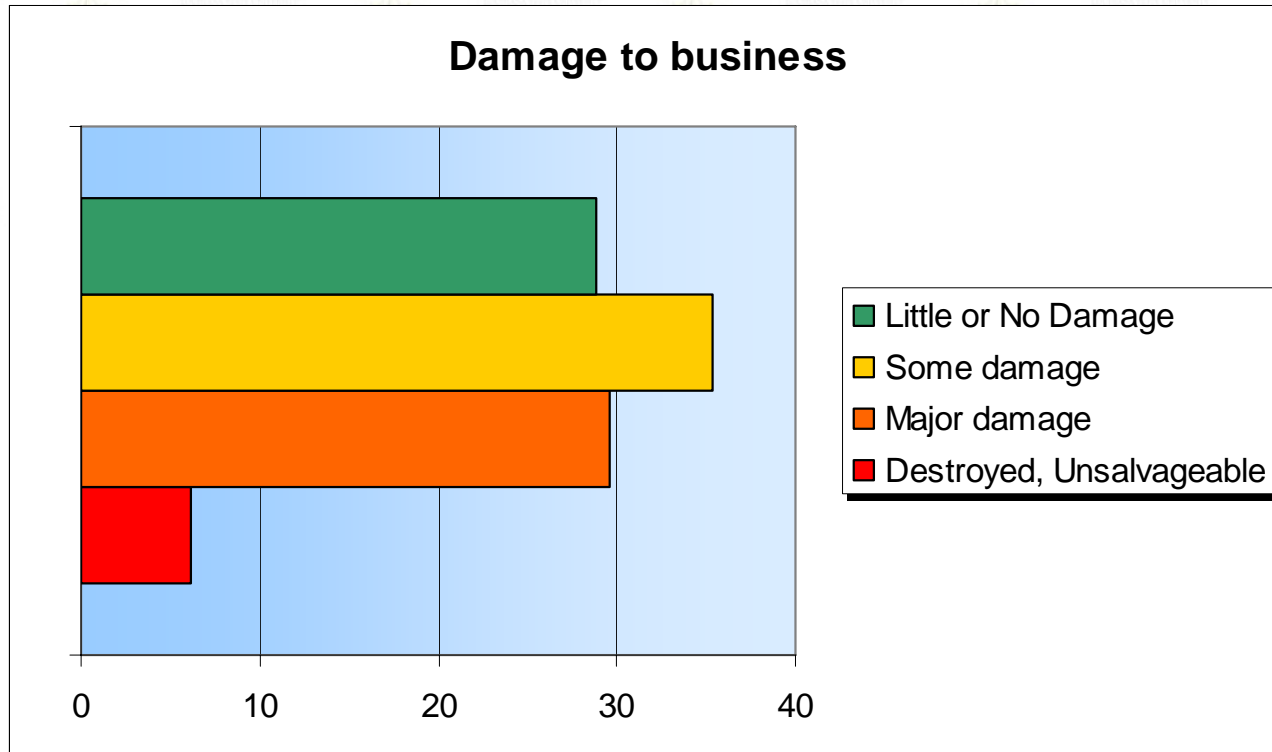
A moderate number of people plan to take out loans, mostly from a government agency or a commercial lender. About 5% are considering a loan from within the Jewish Community.



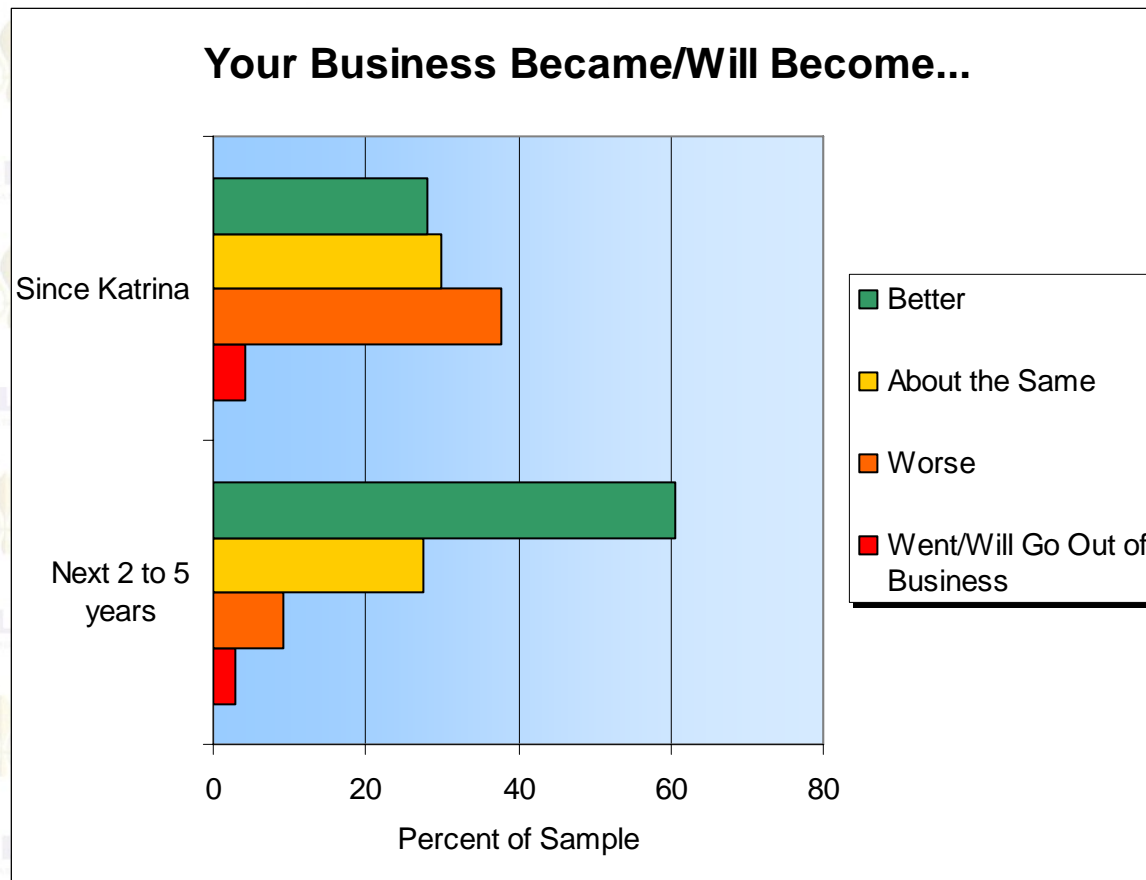
Most people feel their household has recovered and that their neighborhood is recovering. They see some progress in their congregation and in the Jewish community. They are much more worried about the city's recovery.



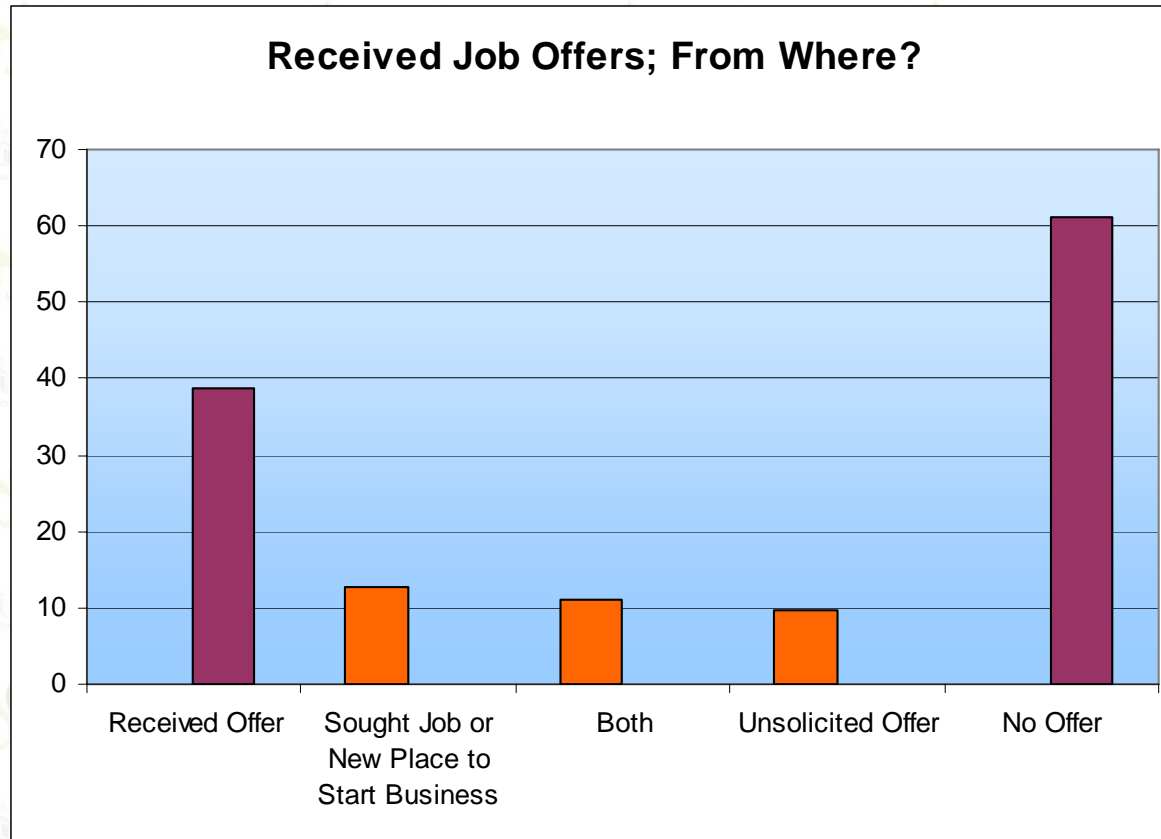
Most people also experienced at least some damage to their businesses; over a third, major damage or destruction.



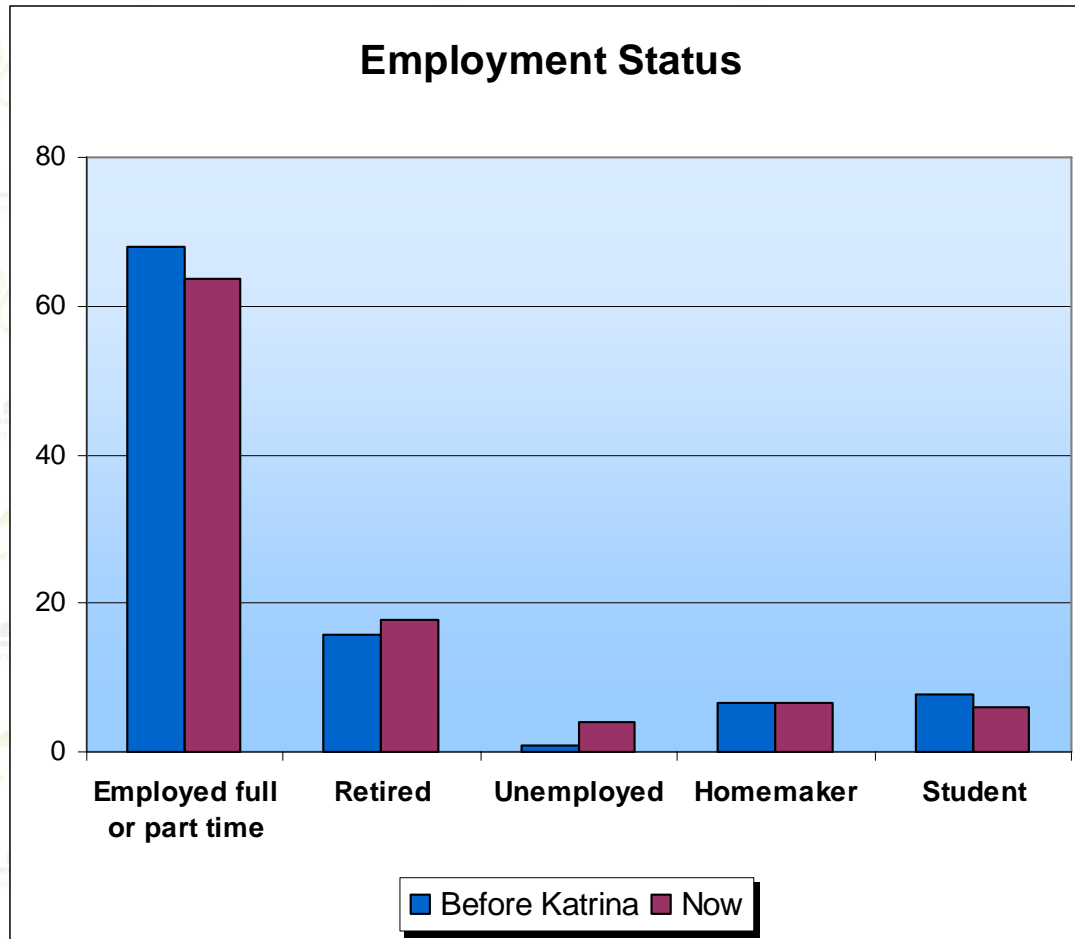
Yet while business has been challenging since the storm, a large majority of community members expect improvement in the next 2 to 5 years.



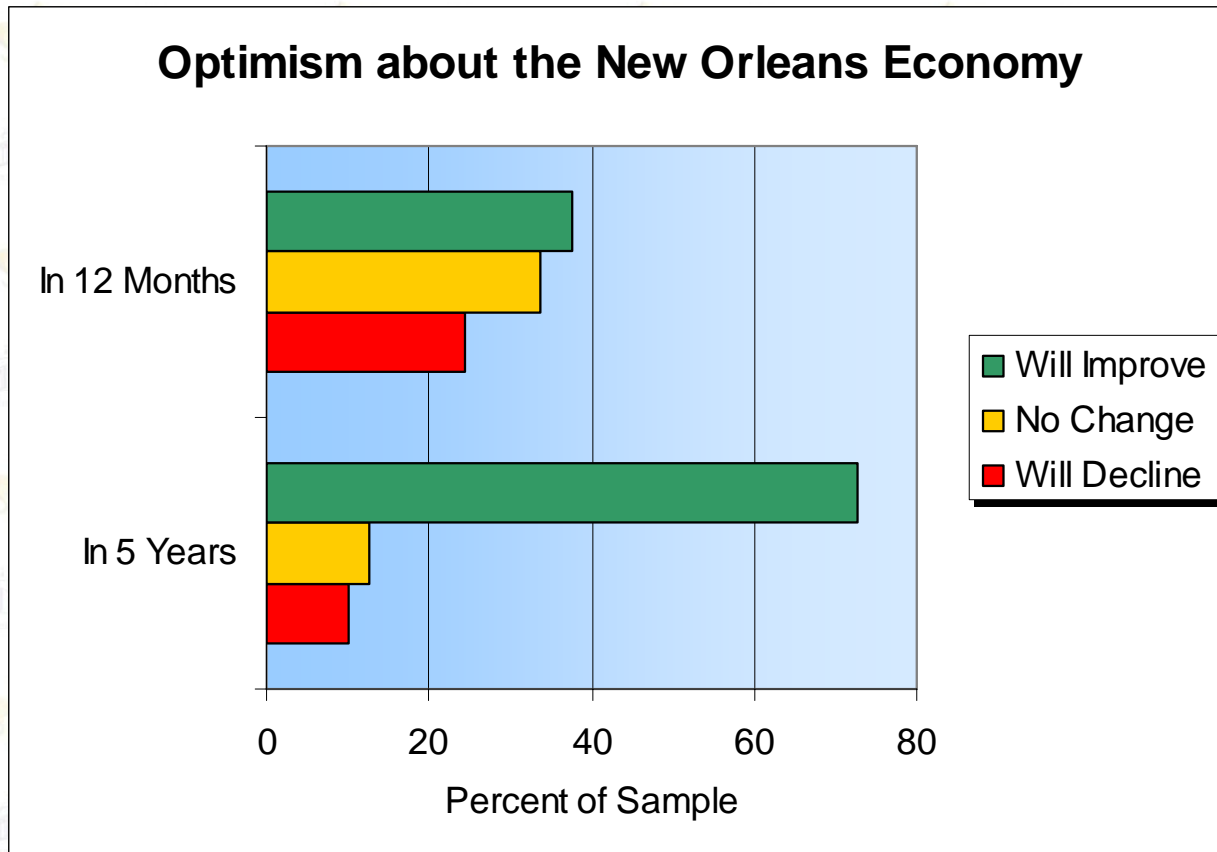
Almost 40% of Jewish community members received job offers from elsewhere. Clearly, not all of them accepted.



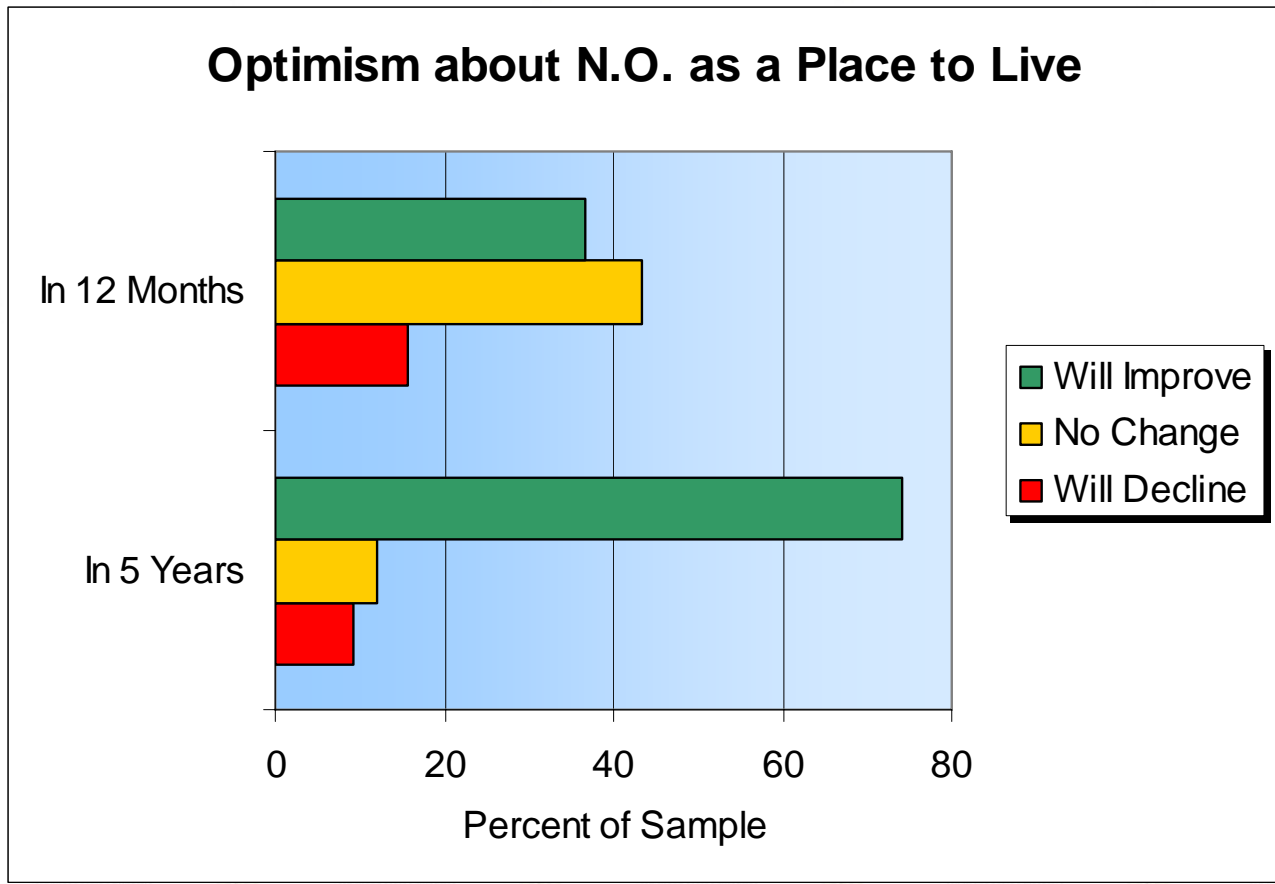
Nor did many people in the Jewish community retire or become unemployed since the storm.



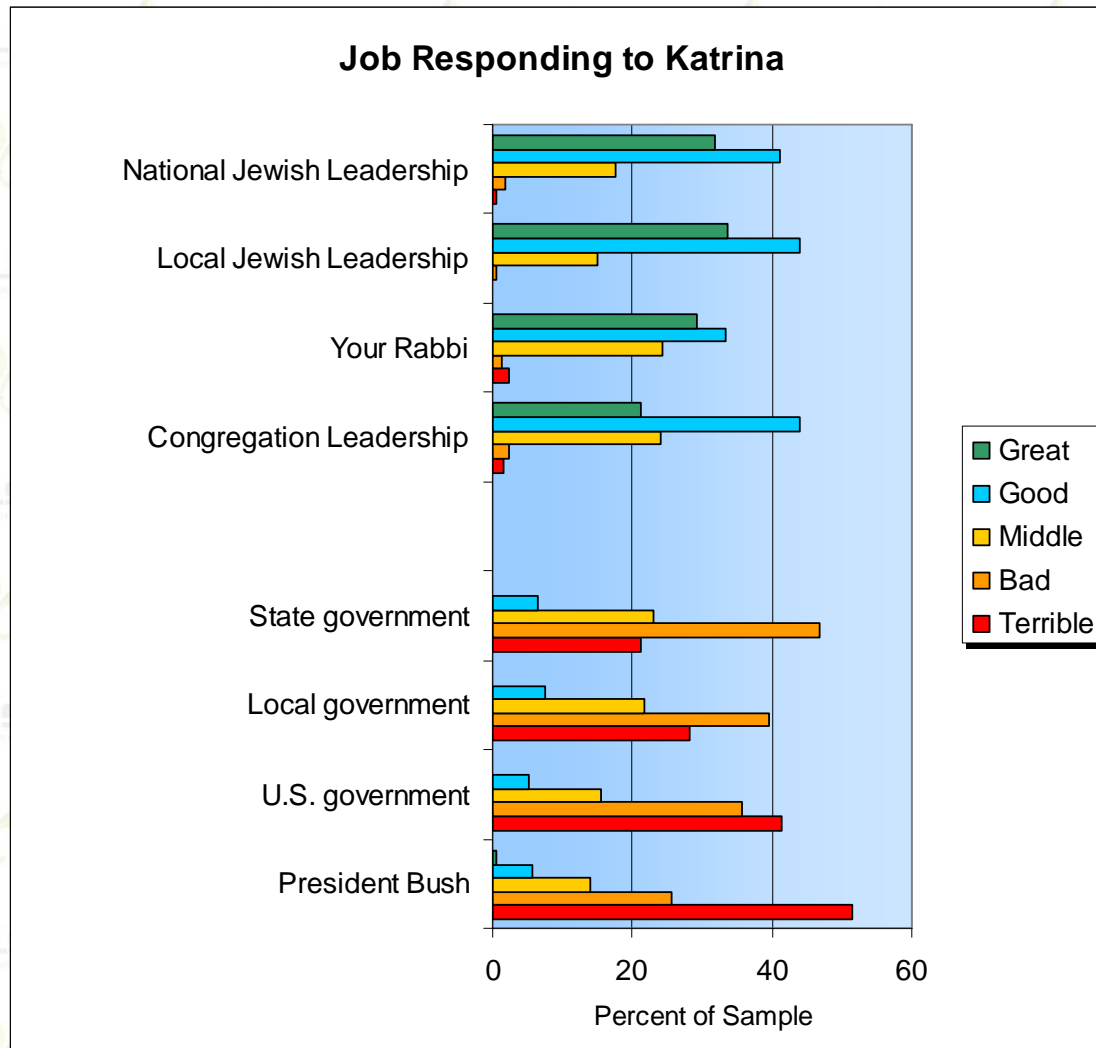
People are optimistic about New Orleans' economic outlook.



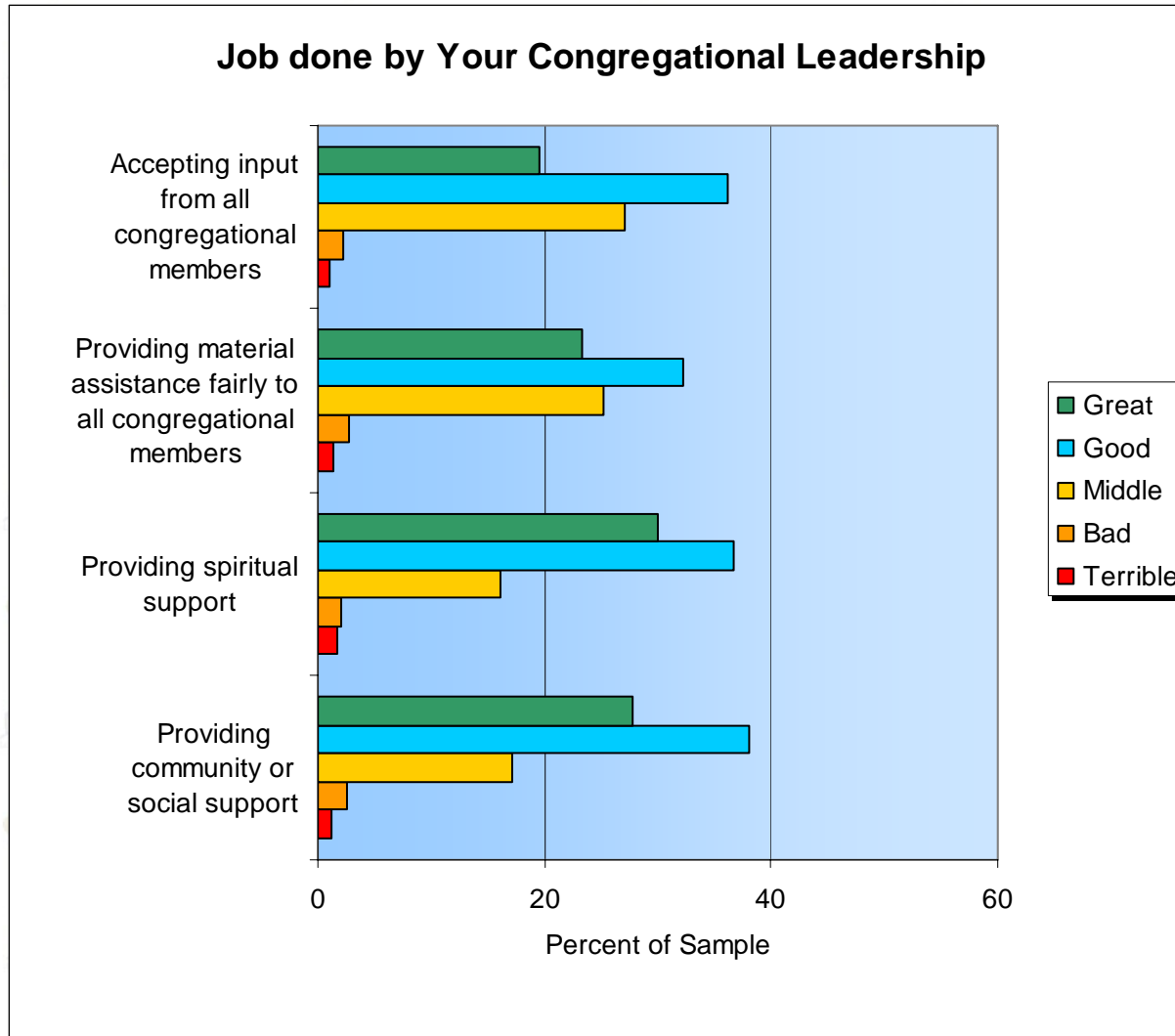
They also believe that New Orleans will get better as a place to live in the short and near term.



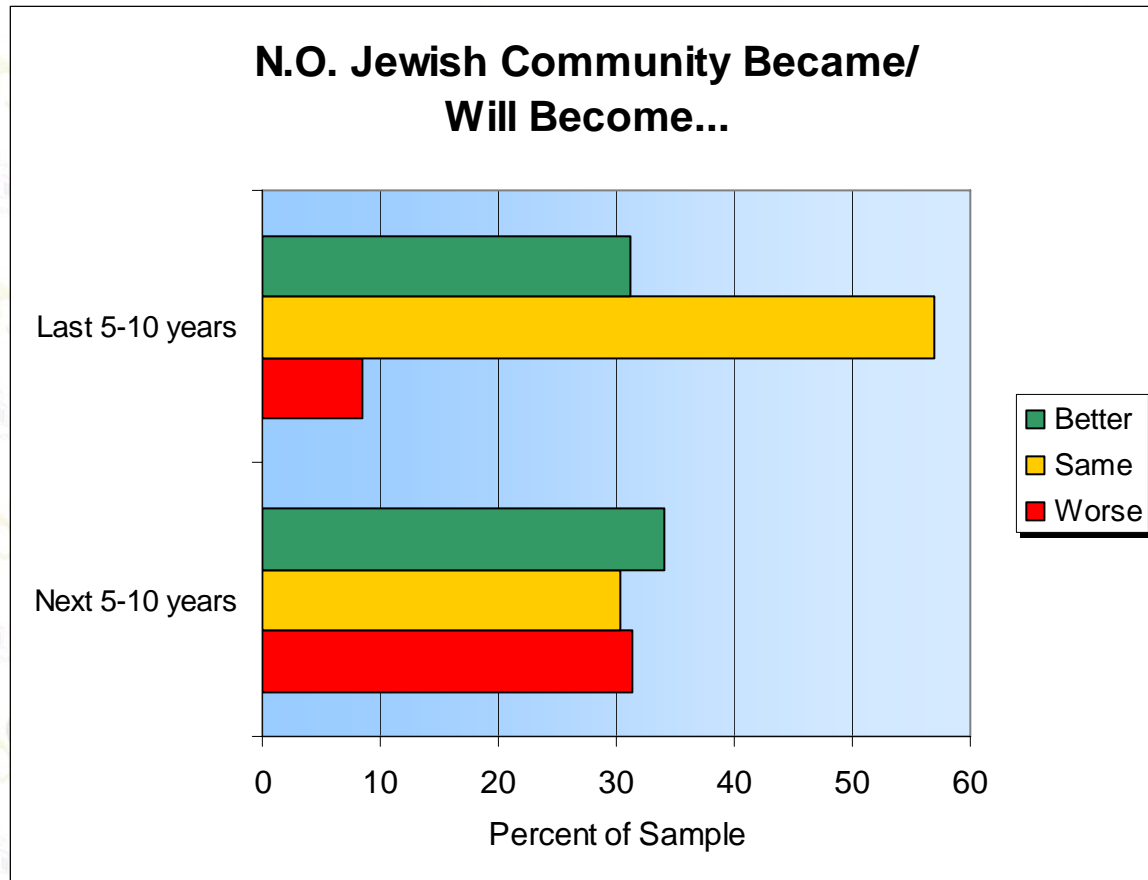
Community members feel their leaders did a very good job responding to the Hurricane and its aftermath ... but that government leaders did not.



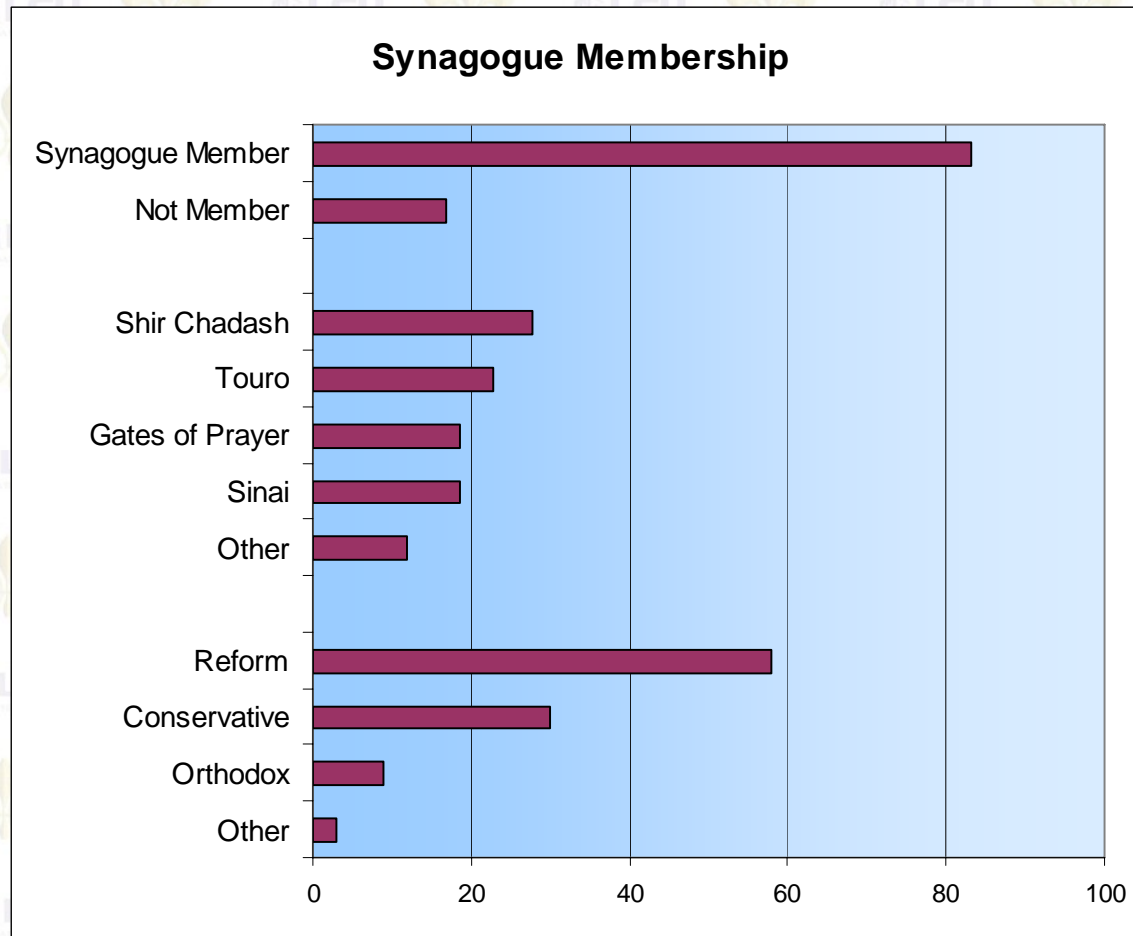
They are also happy with their Congregational Leadership.



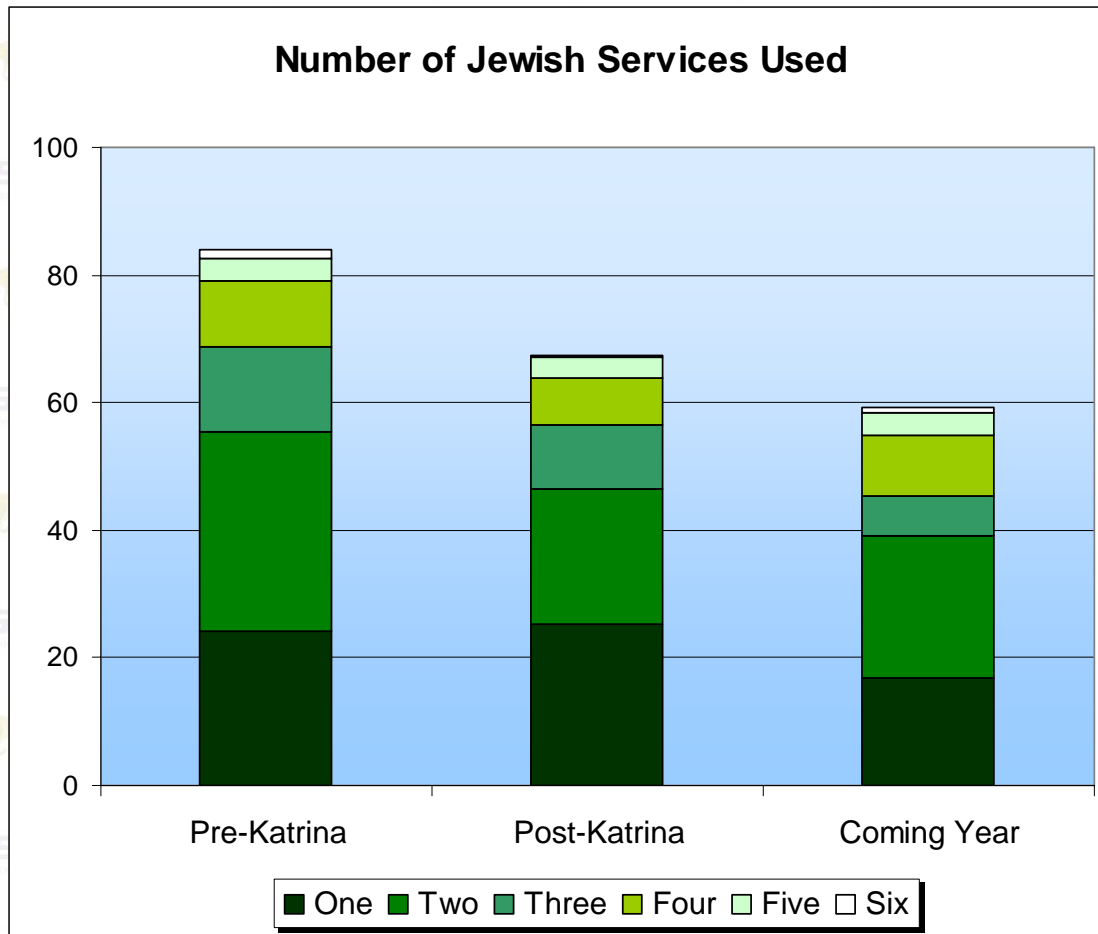
People are cautiously optimistic about how the Jewish community will develop over the next 5-10 years.



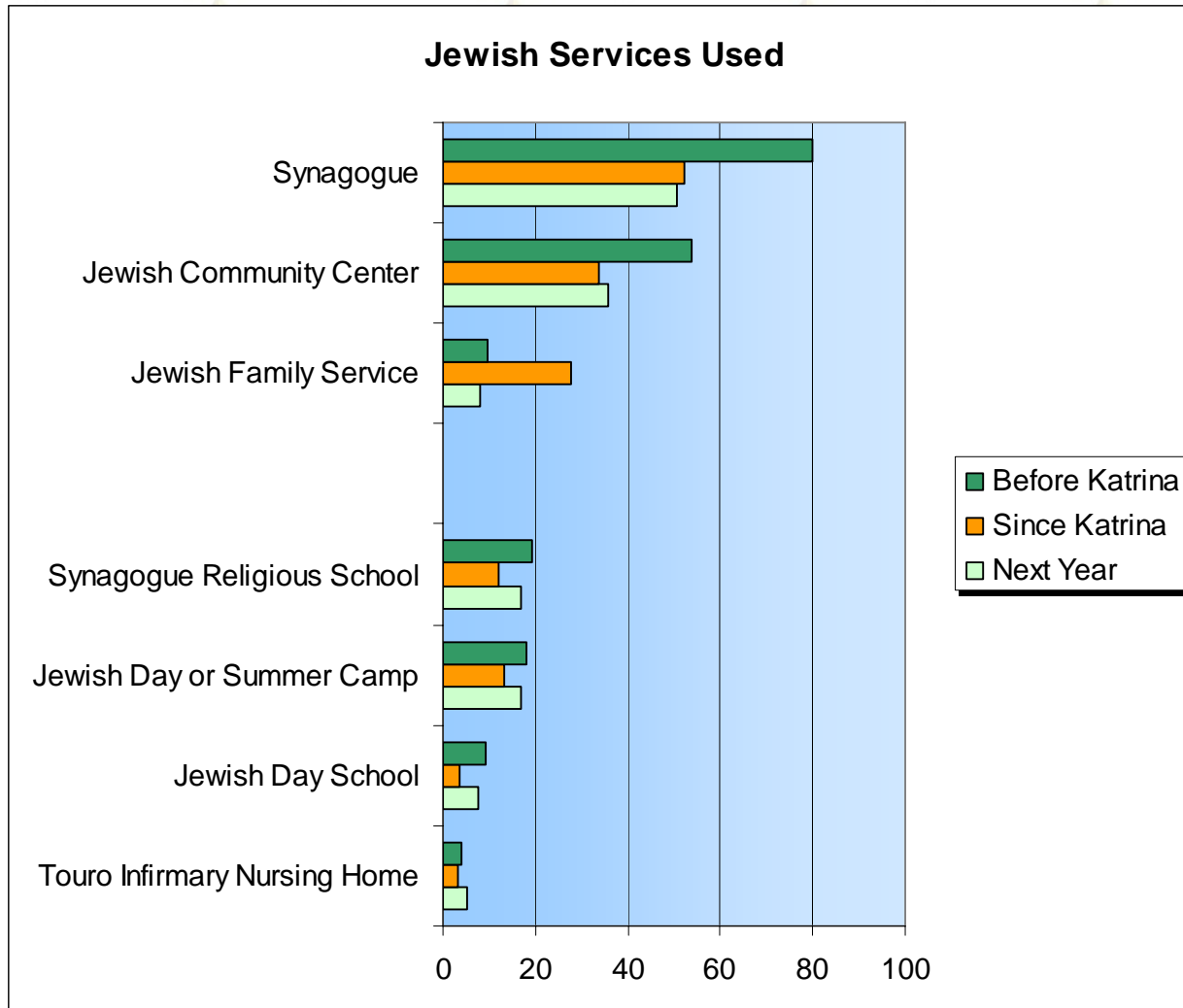
Most people in the sample are/were Synagogue members before or after the storm.



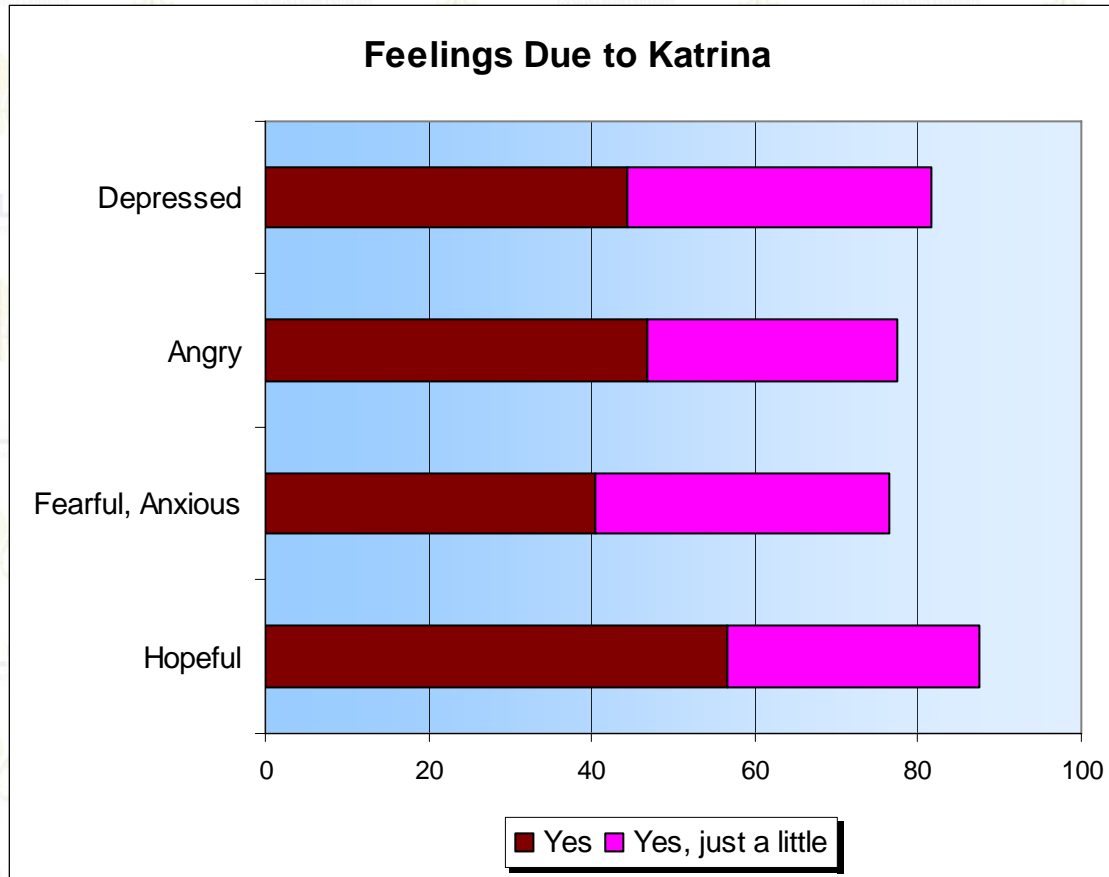
Use of Jewish Services declined after Katrina – presumably because some people moved away. But why do people predict a further decline for the coming year?



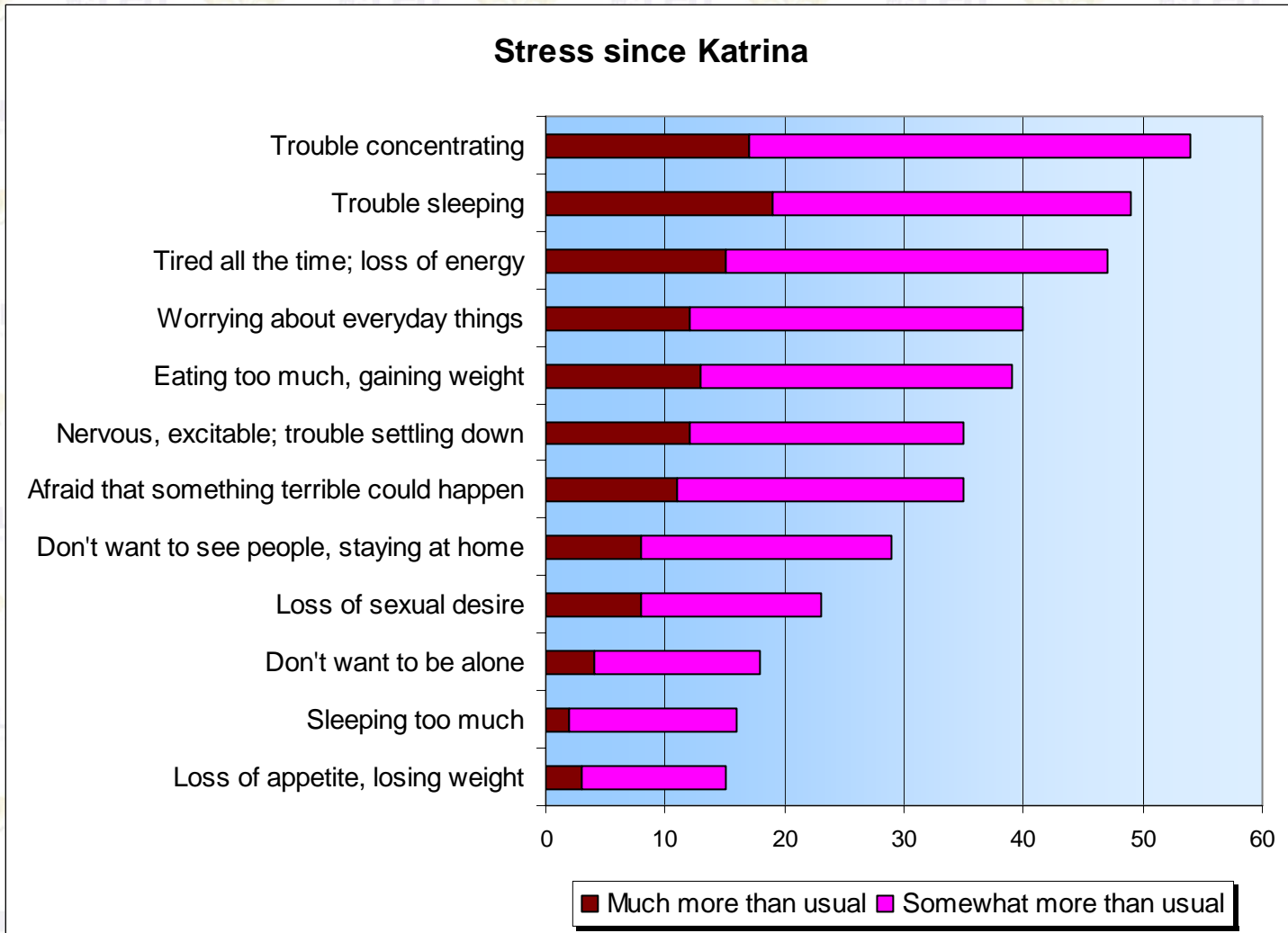
Probably because they used the Jewish Family Service after the storm, but predict they won't continue to need it as recovery proceeds.



People have strong feelings about the hurricane.
They feel depressed, angry, and anxious.
But most of all they feel – Hopeful.



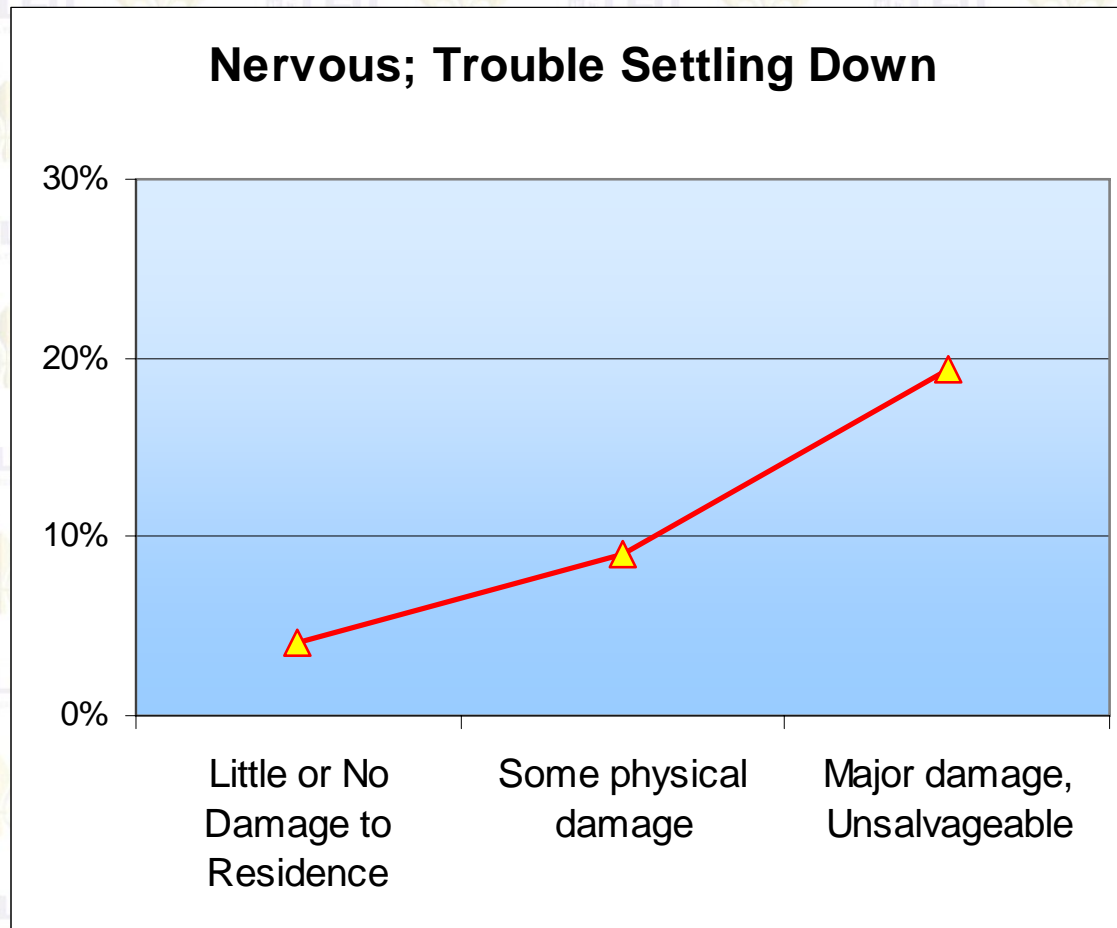
People have many physical symptoms of stress – especially, trouble concentrating or sleeping, loss of energy, worrying, and eating too much.



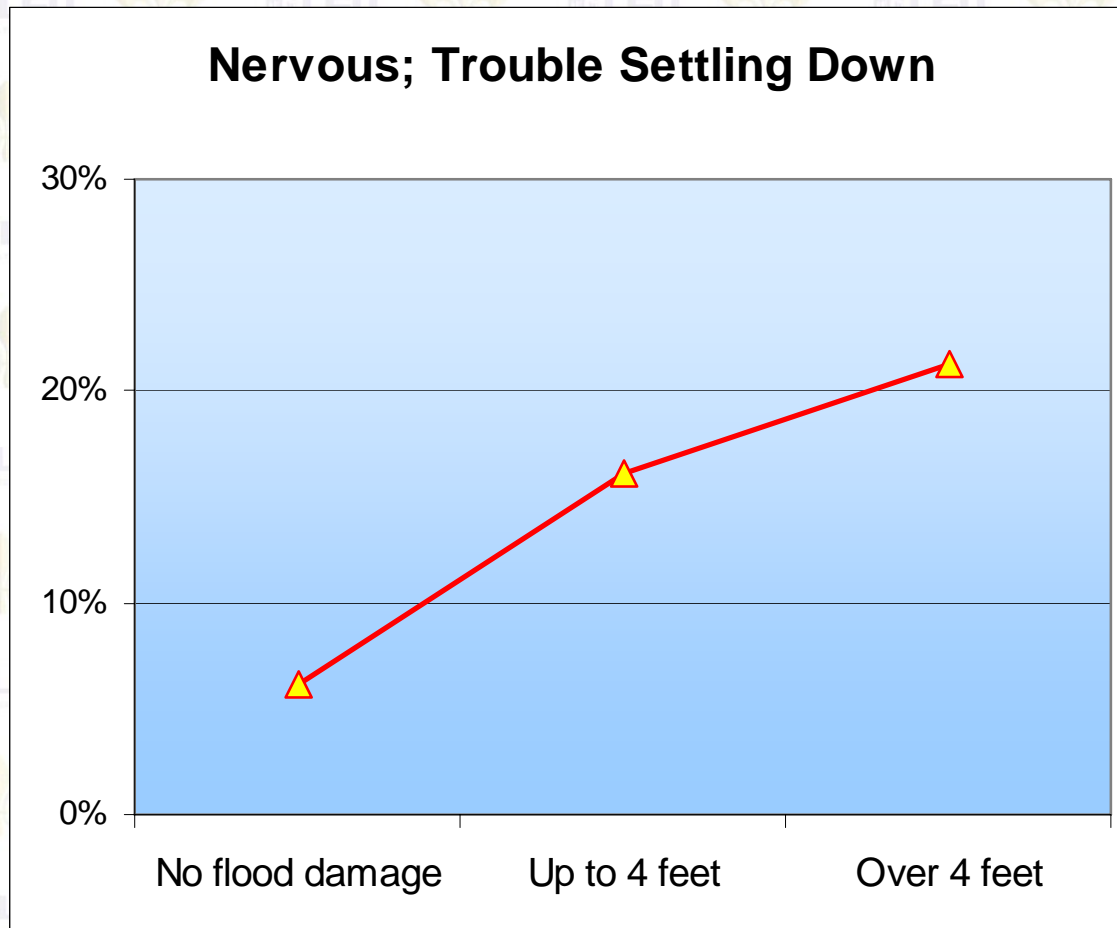
The background of the slide is a repeating pattern of the Louisiana State University (LSU) logo, which consists of a gold fleur-de-lis and the text 'LSU' in blue, with 'LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY' in smaller blue text below it.

What Effect did Storm Damage have on Stress?

People whose Houses were Damaged Suffer more Stress

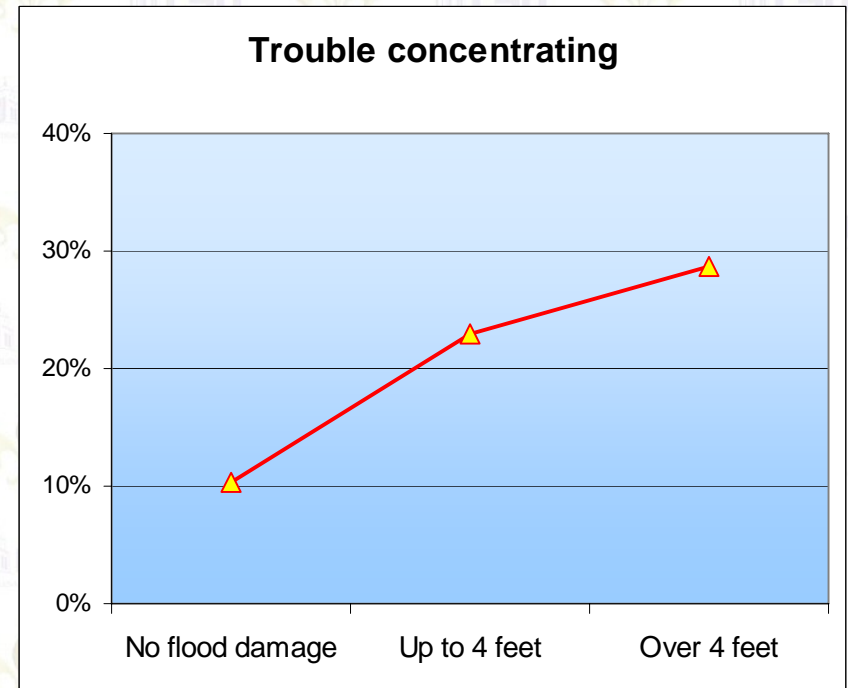
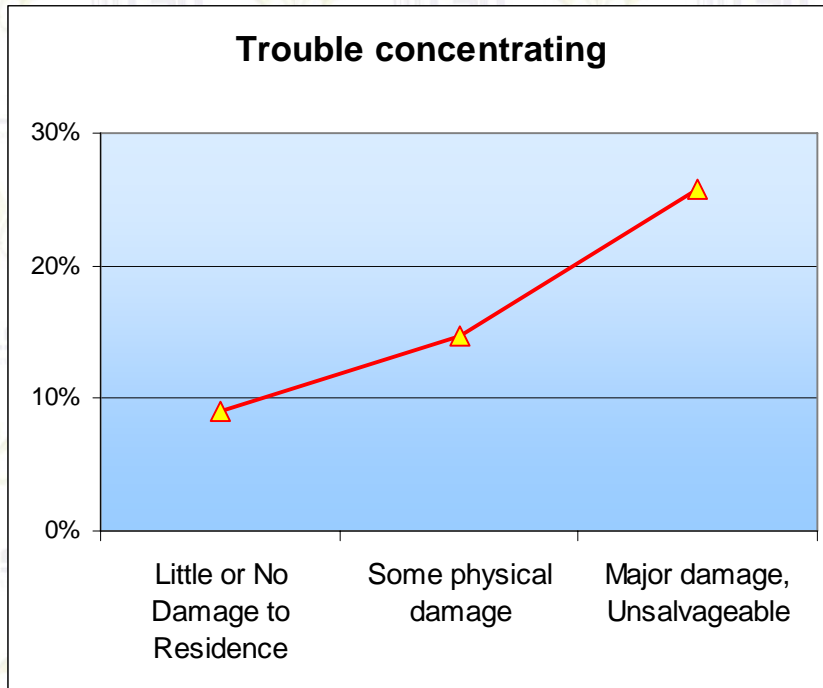


The Same is True for People Whose Houses were Flooded



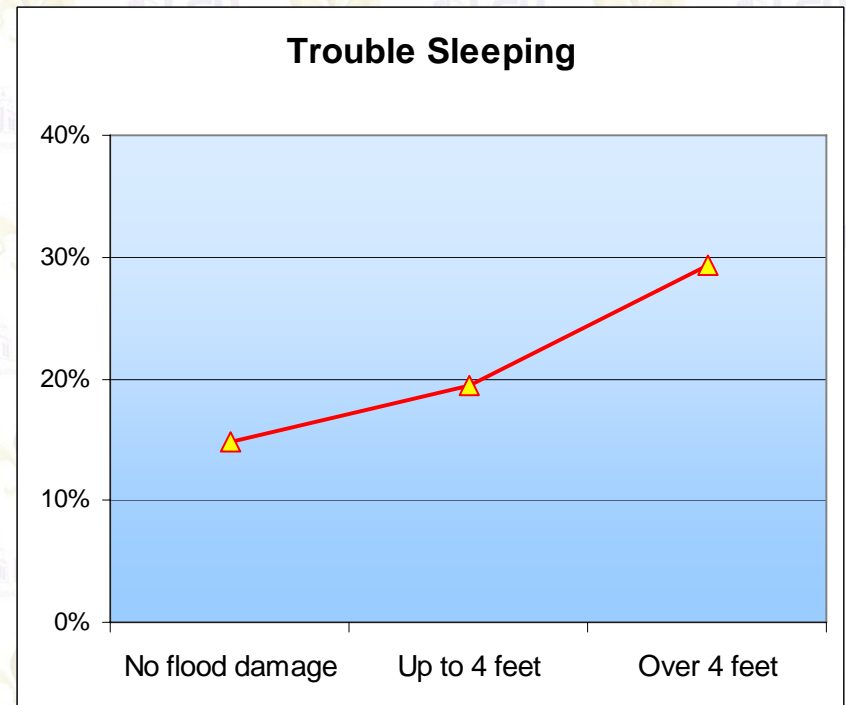
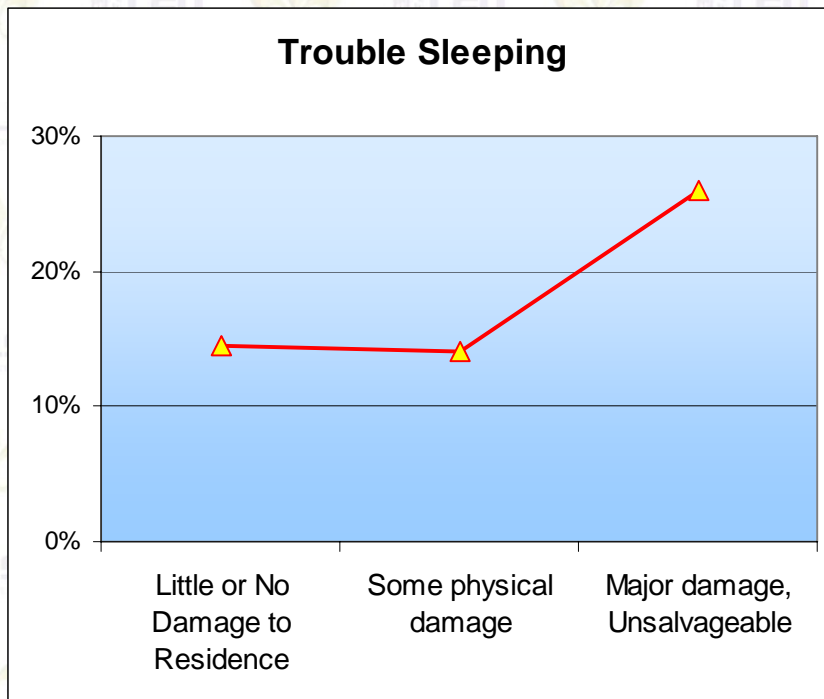
The Same Pattern is Repeated
for Different Symptoms of Stress:

Trouble concentrating



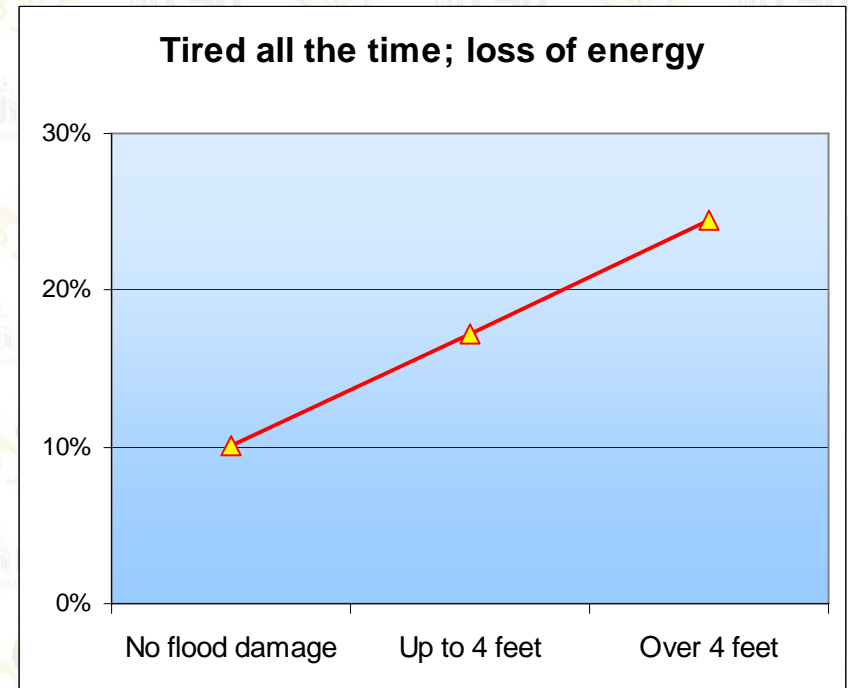
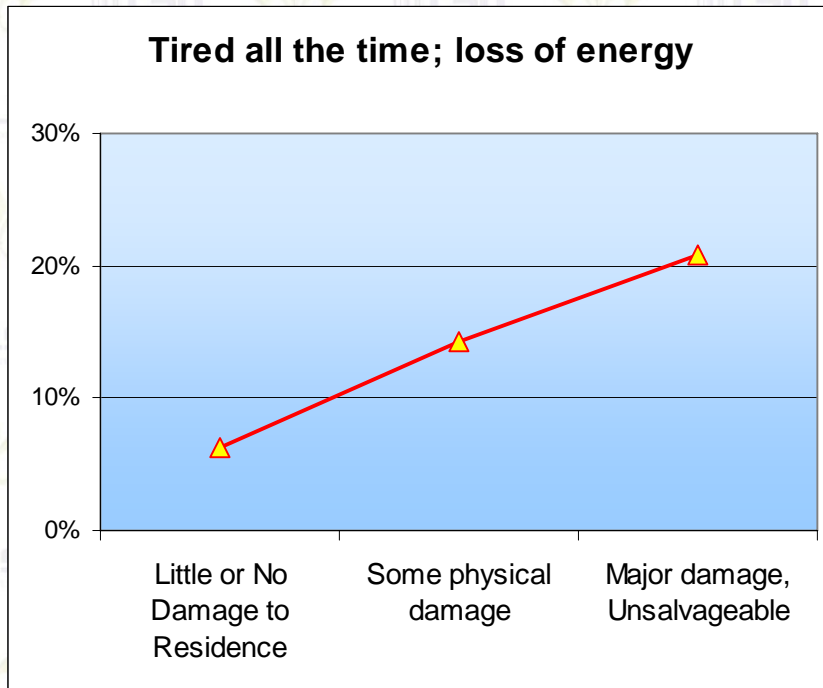
The Same Pattern is Repeated
for Different Symptoms of Stress:

Trouble Sleeping



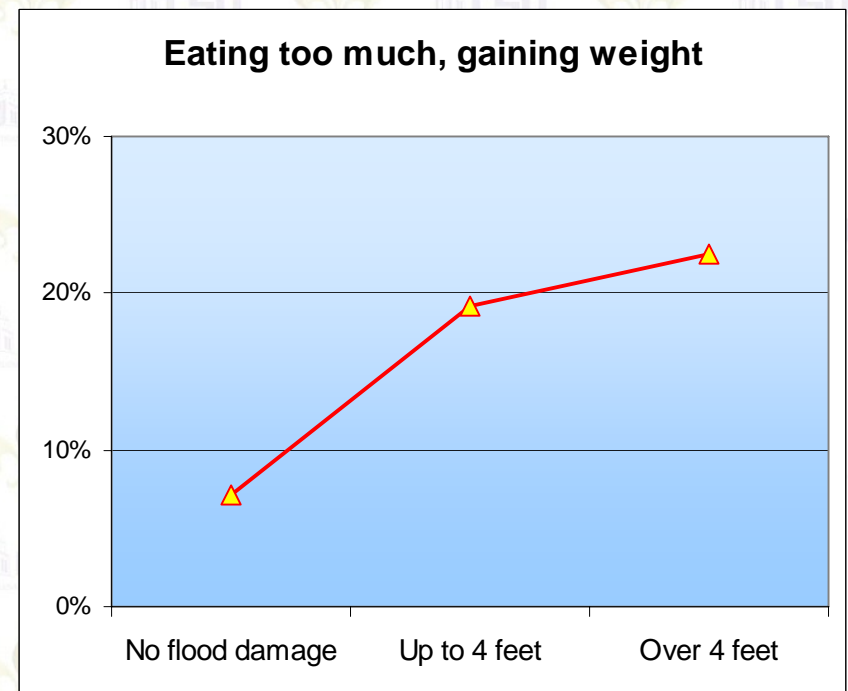
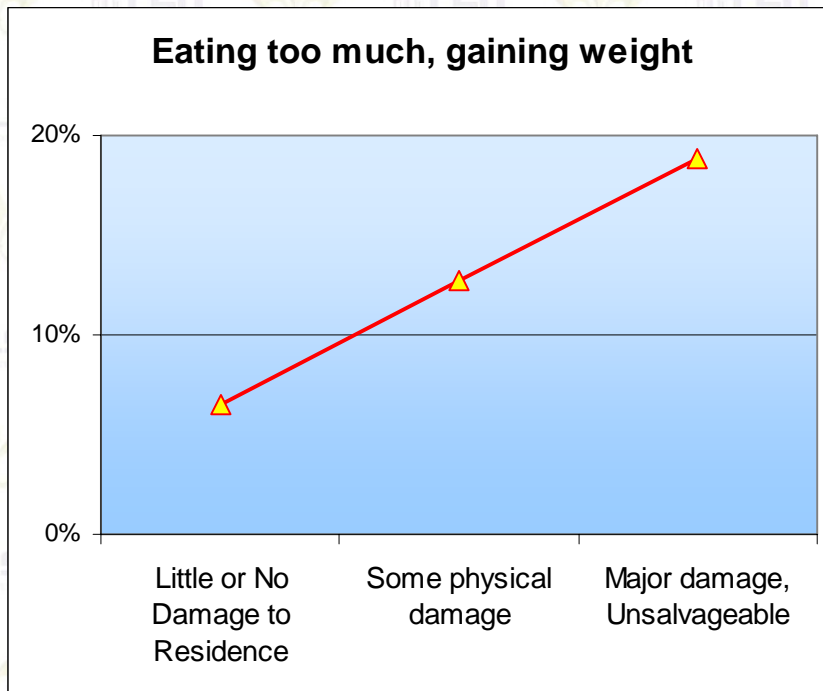
The Same Pattern is Repeated for Different Symptoms of Stress:

Tired all the time; loss of energy



The Same Pattern is Repeated
for Different Symptoms of Stress:

Eating too much, gaining weight

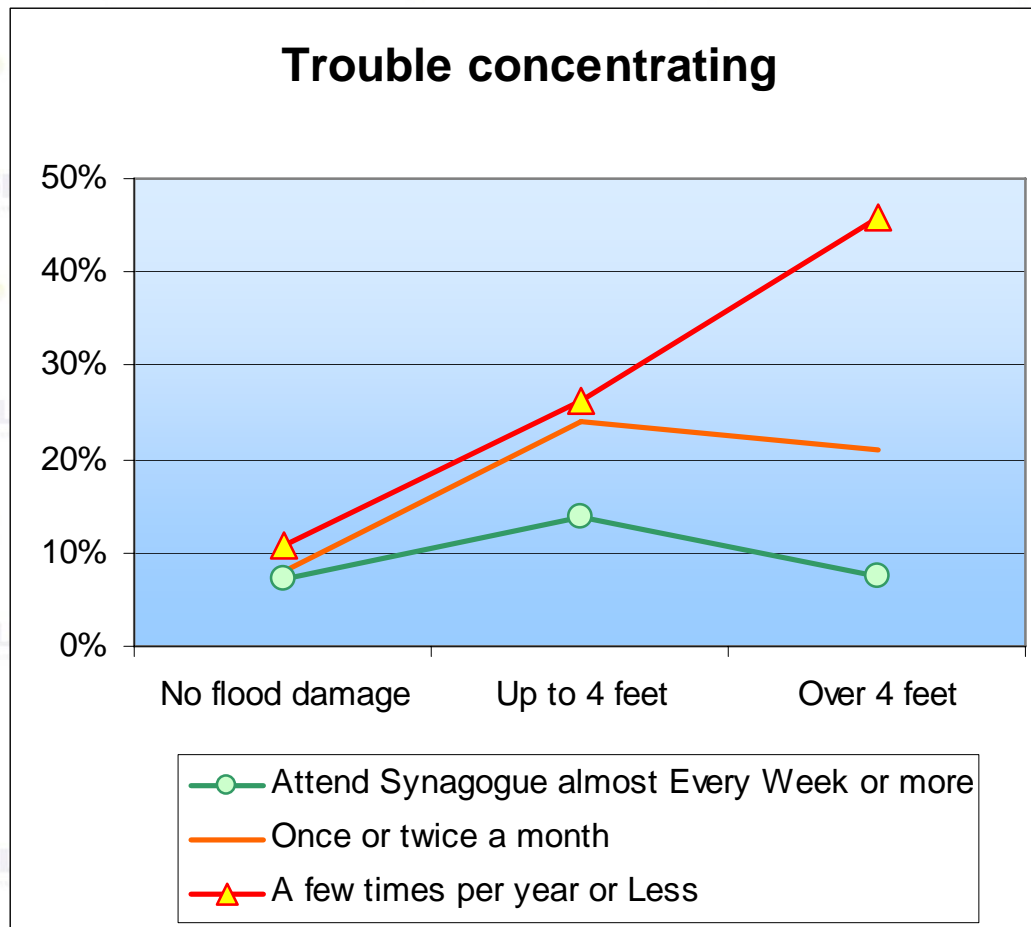


What might help?

- **Social support:**
 - Family support
 - Community support
 - Congregational support
 - Friends, neighbors
- **Beliefs and spiritualism**
- **Therapy**
- **Material support**

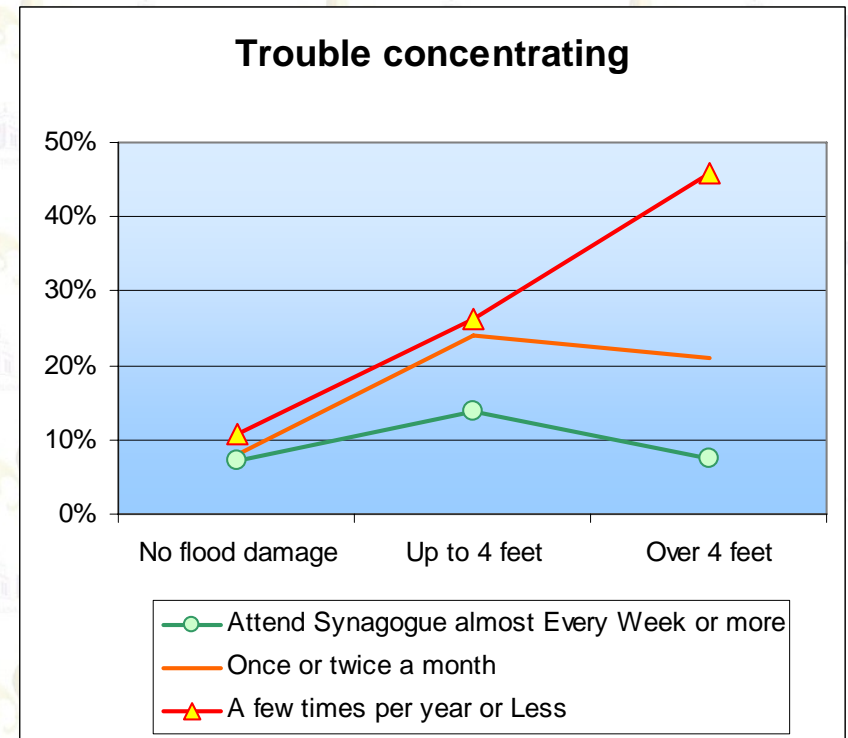
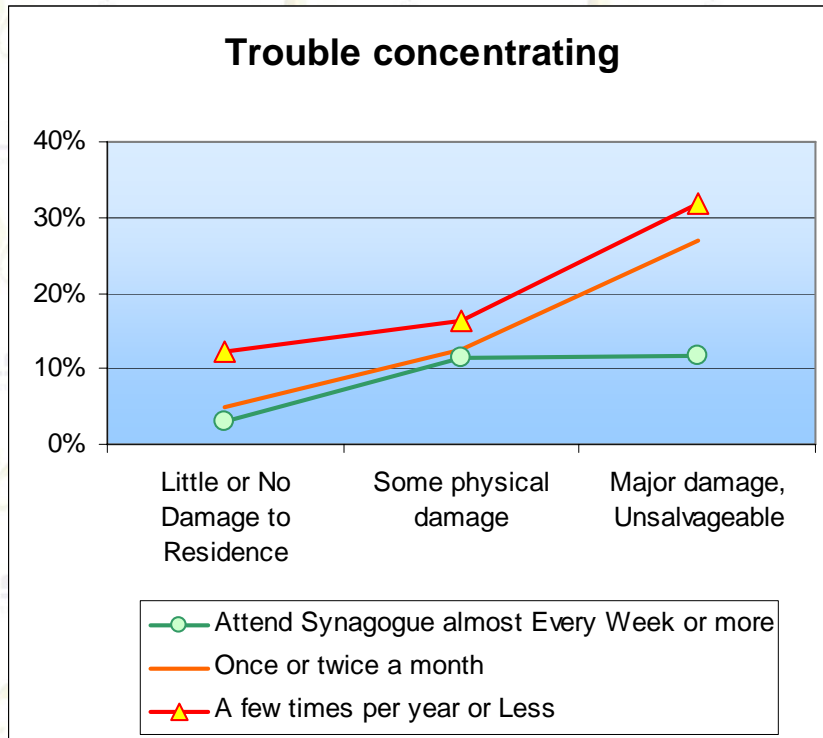
Going to Synagogue Reduces or Removes this Stress.

This is the only type of social support
we measured that consistently helps.



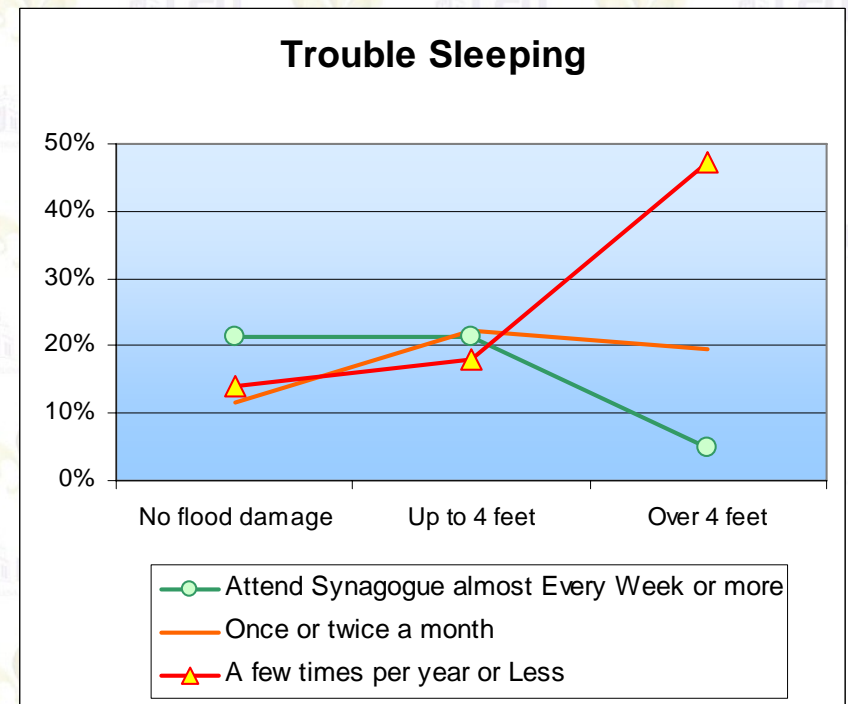
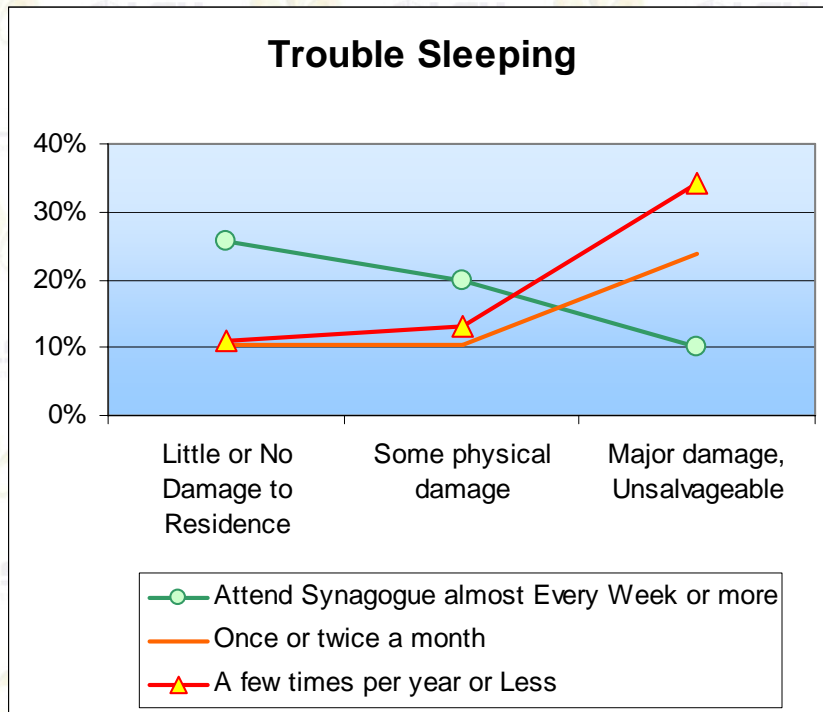
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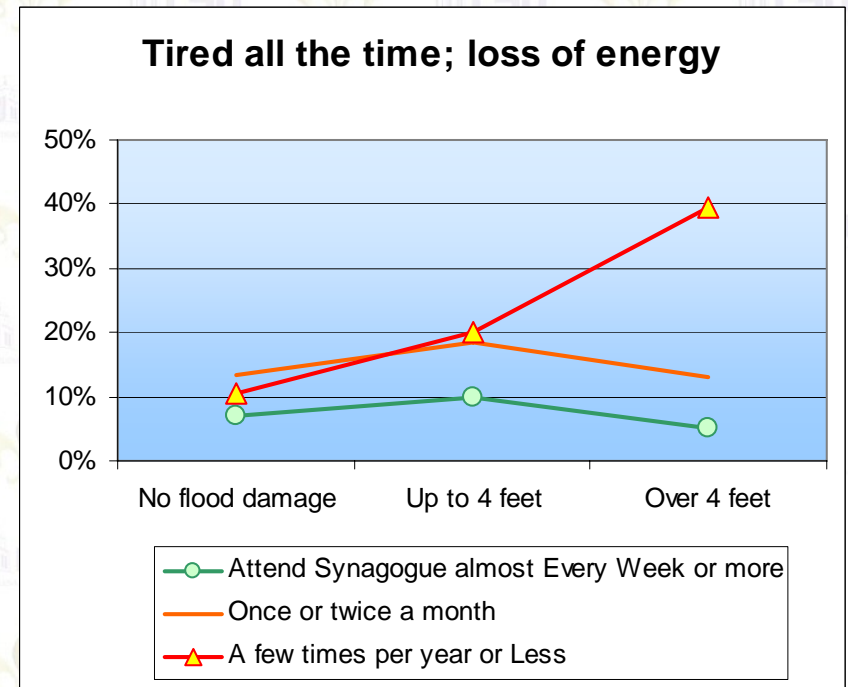
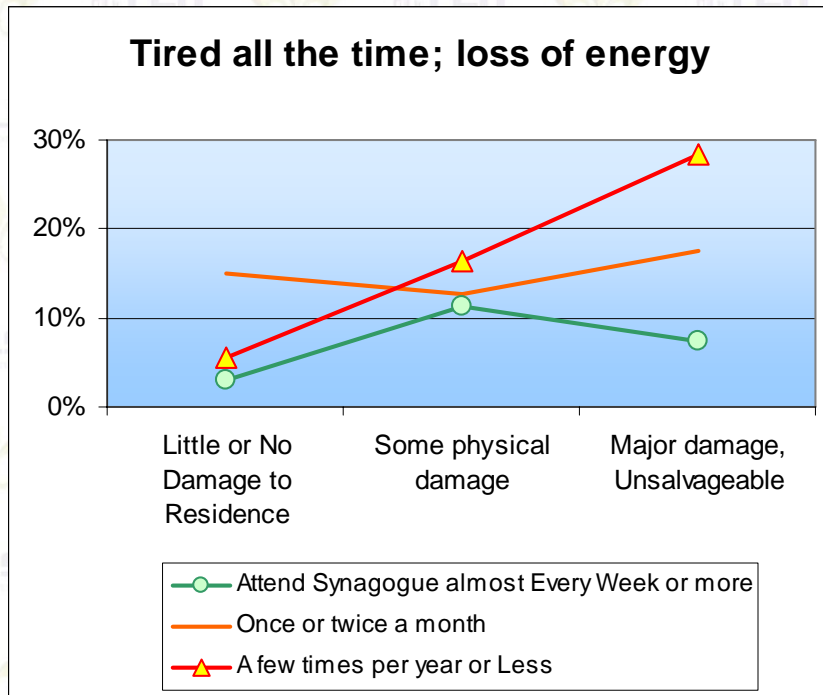
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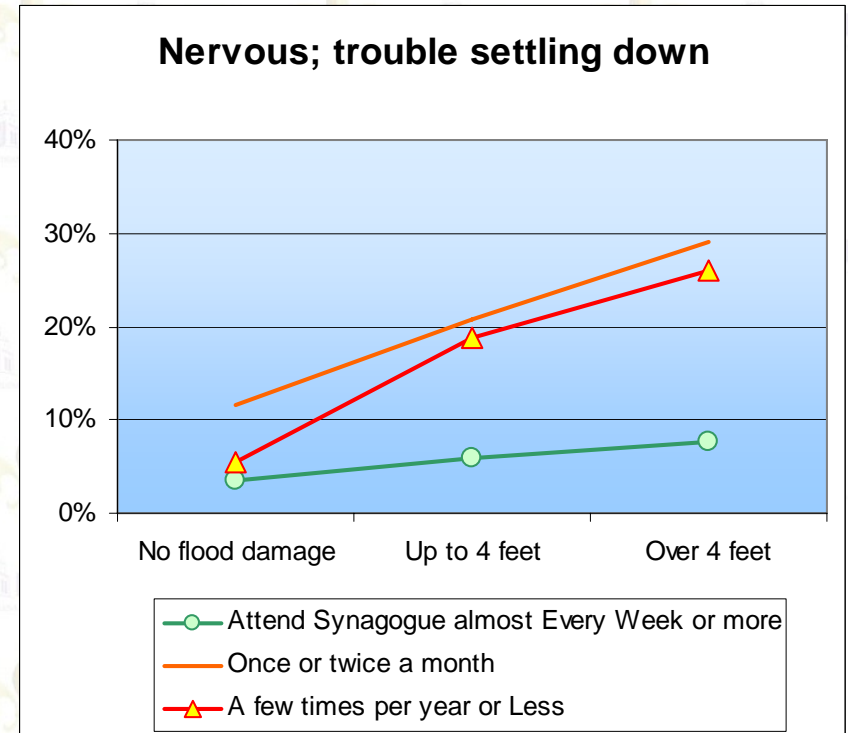
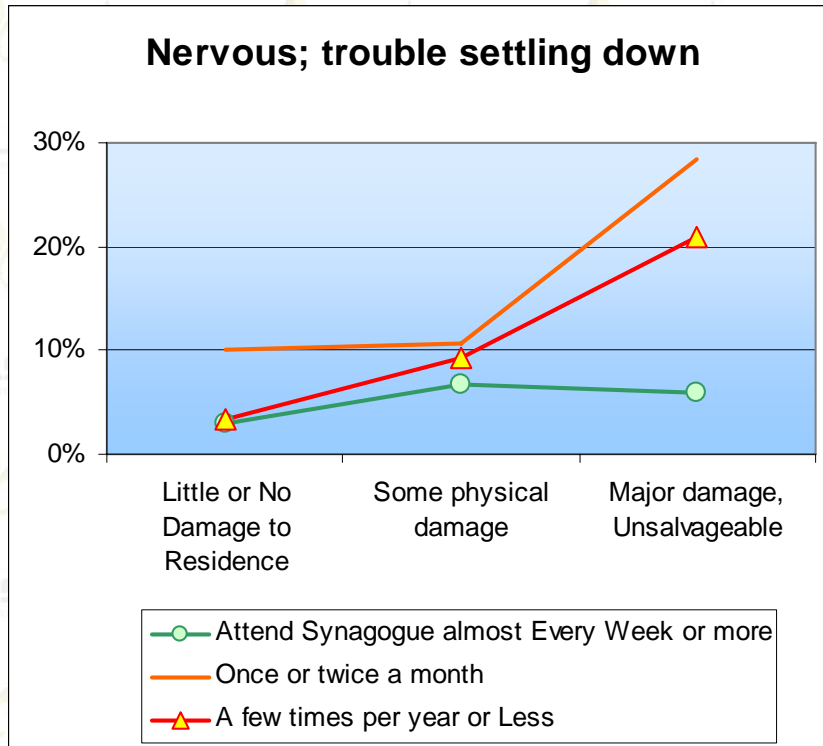
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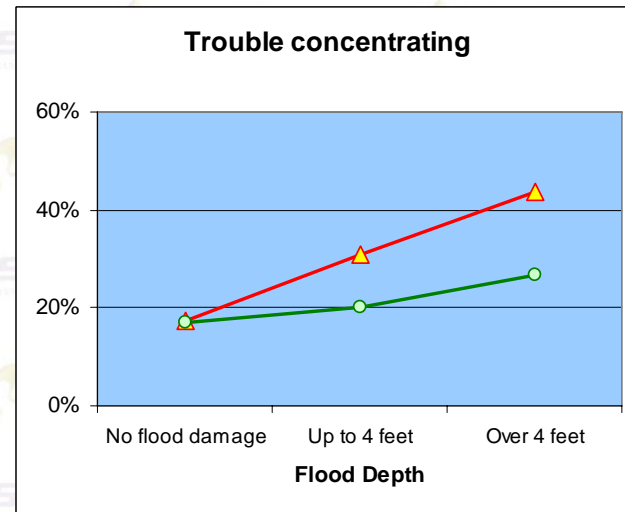
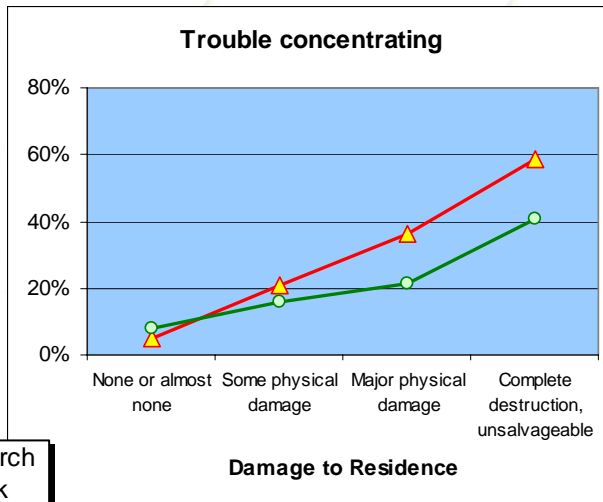


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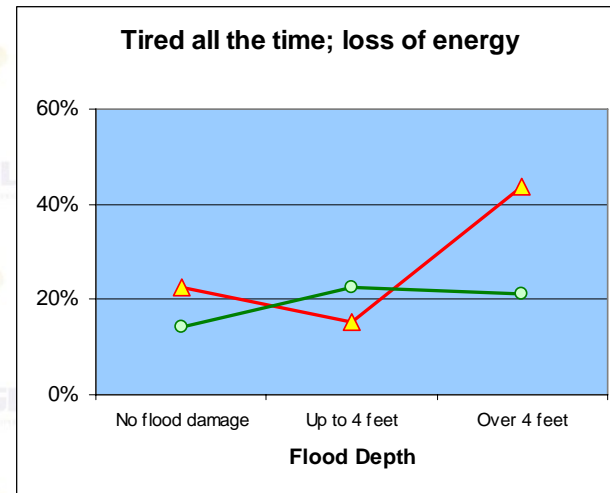
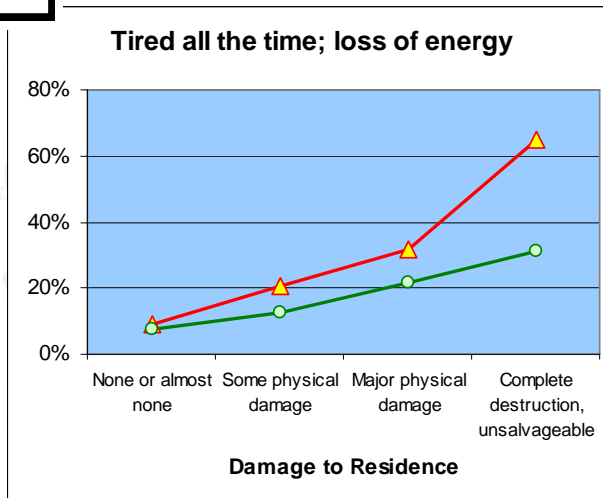
Nervous, excitable; trouble settling down



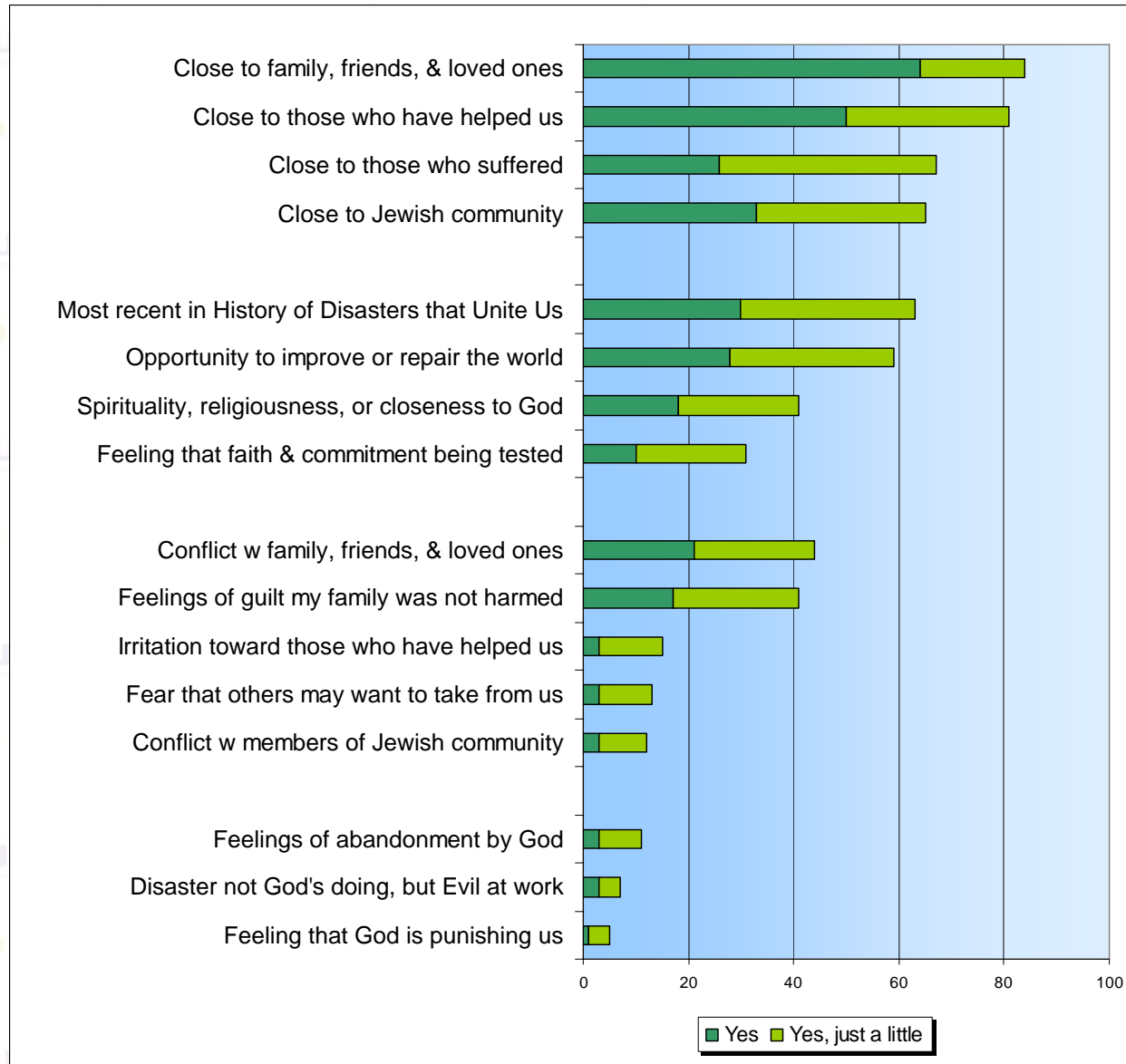
The same pattern also appears for Christians in Greater New Orleans



● Attend Church Every Week
▲ Less



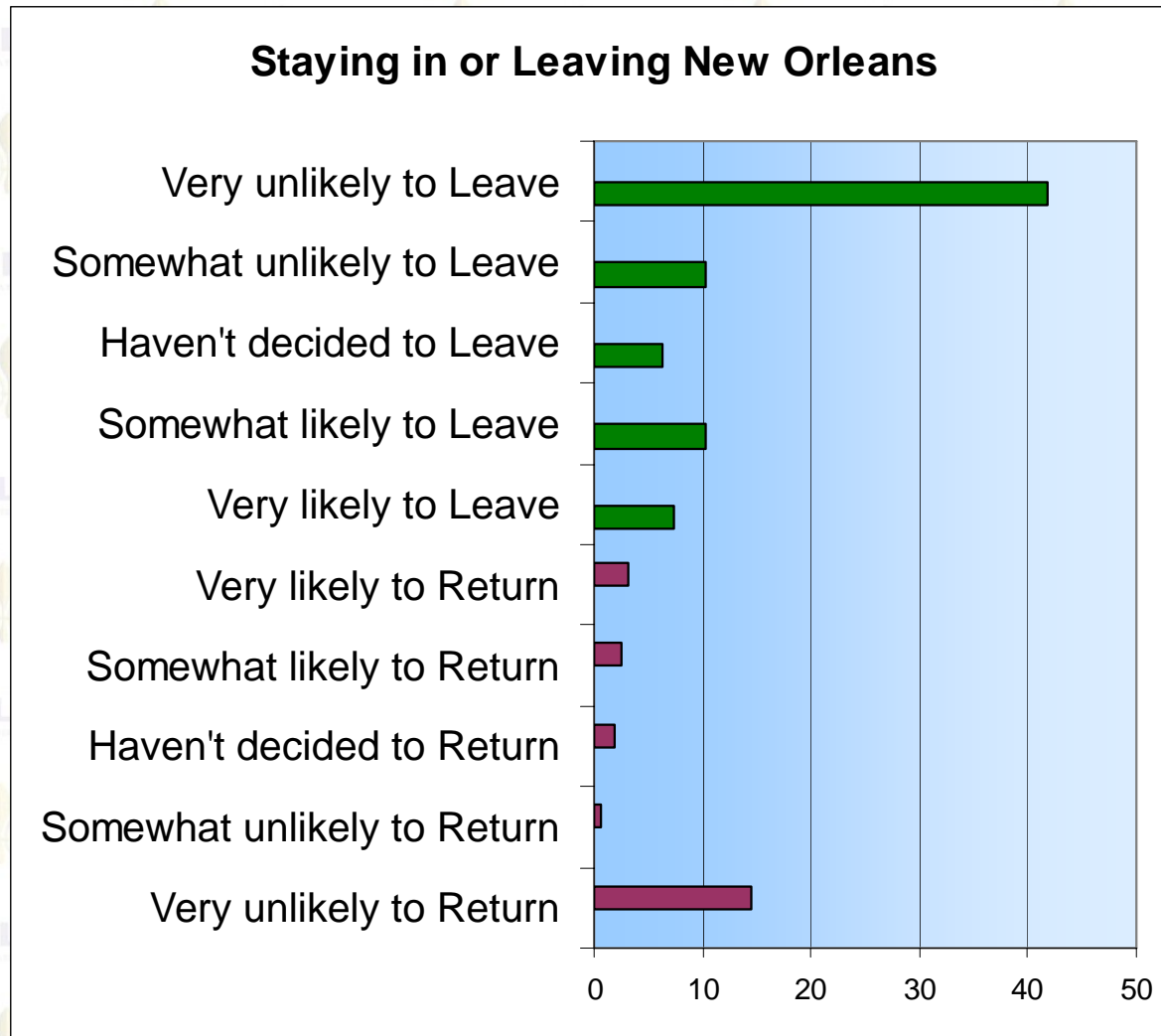
Summarizing people's feelings



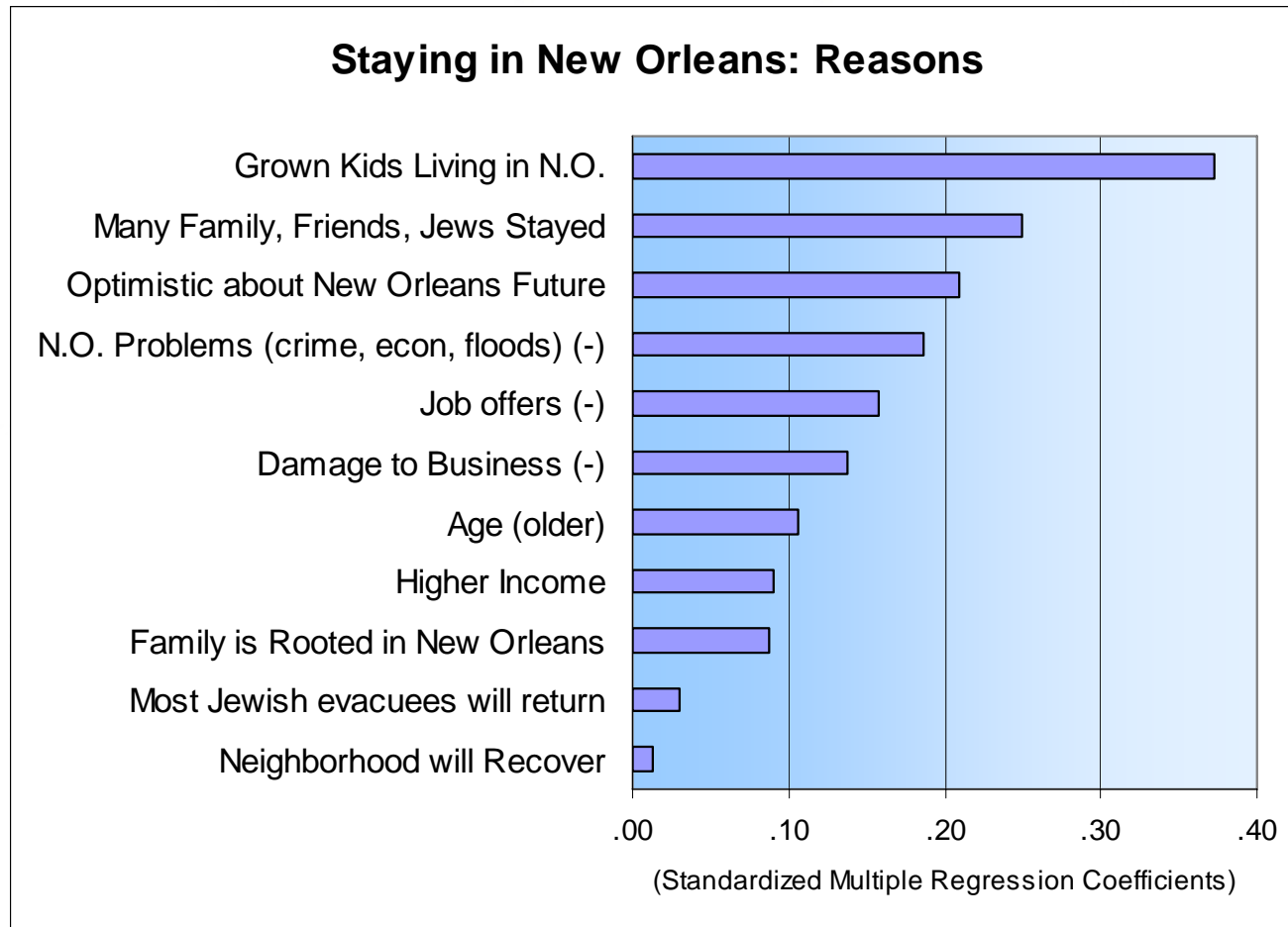
**Are some people still
thinking about coming back
... or leaving?**

**And what are the reasons
that people stayed or left?**

Most people are holding to their decision.
But a few might still change their minds.



The main reasons that people have stayed in New Orleans: **Family, Community, and Optimism.**

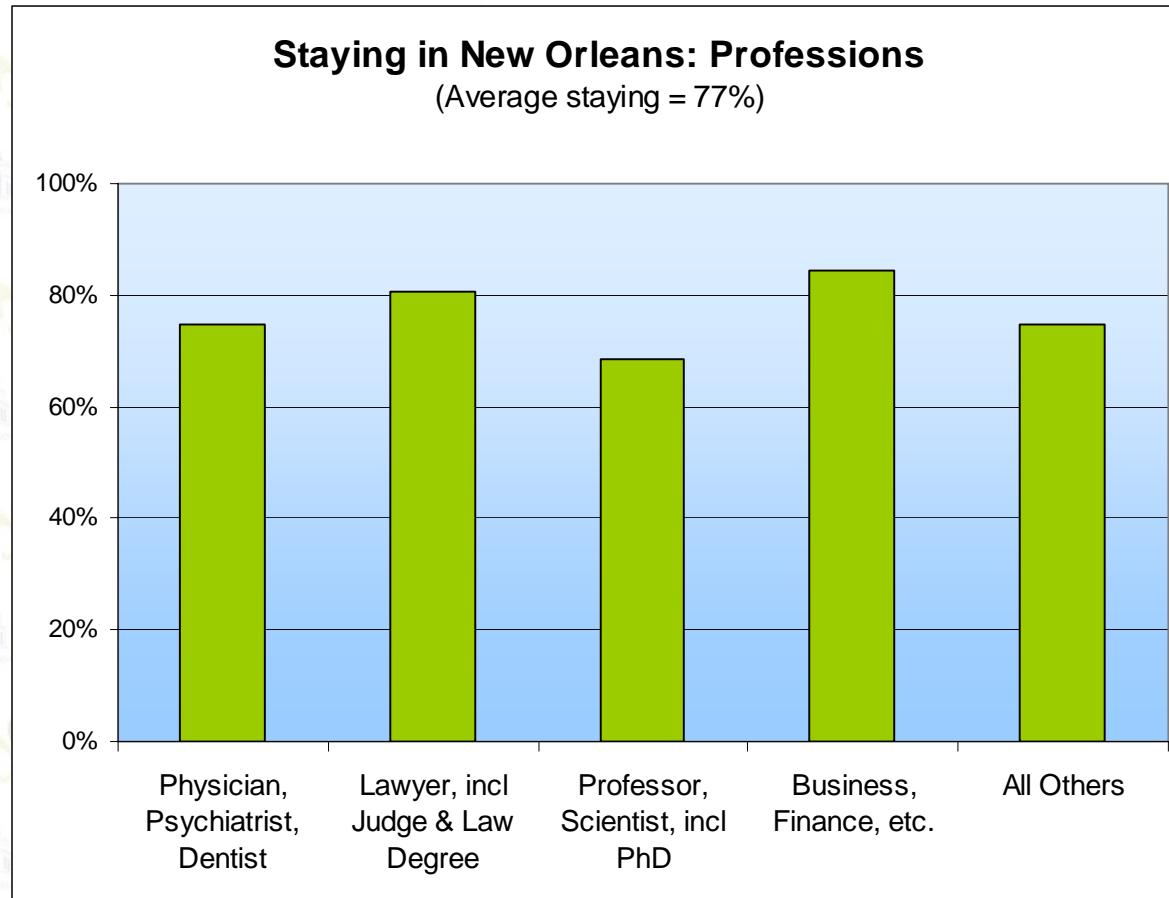


But are we threatened by a “Brain Drain?”

“New Orleans Threatened by 'Brain Drain,’”
Associated Press, December 15, 2006.

“...New Orleans is losing an alarming number of young professionals in Katrina's aftermath. Many doctors, lawyers, architects, engineers and other highly educated people are gone. Some left during the storm and never came back. Others came back, but soon gave up and moved out altogether. Whether a full-blown brain drain is under way is unclear. But some suspect so, and fear the exodus will only get worse.”

There is no “Brain-Drain” in the Jewish Community.
Professionals are returning in the same numbers
as other members of the Jewish Community.



Survey and Analysis

...and cartoons...

by

Rick Weil



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