

Fall 2006

## **Louisiana Survey 2006 (Fall)**

LSU Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs

# The Public Policy Research Lab

A Partnership of the Manship School of Mass Communication's  
Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs and the E.J. Ourso College of Business

## Fall 2006 Louisiana Survey



Sponsored by

The Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs  
Manship School of Mass Communication  
Louisiana State University

December 8, 2006

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## *I*NTRODUCTION

The mission of the Louisiana Survey is to establish benchmarks and assess progress and regressions in residents' assessments of state government services. It has been conducted annually since 2002. This year, we conducted two versions of the survey (spring and fall) as part of our continuing efforts to provide timely, relevant and nonpartisan public opinion data to policy-makers. In addition, we included an over-sample of the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Area to allow more statistically meaningful comparisons between the Baton Rouge area and the rest of the state.

Overall, the Fall 2006 Louisiana Survey includes 1,004 randomly selected Louisiana adults (18 and over) with an over-sample of 450 Baton Rouge area adults. All respondents in the survey were selected using random digit dialing with sampling information provided by Genesys Sampling Systems. To assure adequate representation of low income and minority populations, we over-sampled from prefixes with higher than average minority populations and lower than average median income. Final results were weighted to account for different probabilities of selection due to over-sampling, for higher levels of nonresponse among different segments of the population, and to adjust for post-hurricane population shifts. Notably we did not weight by race since it is the characteristic most likely to be affected by post-hurricane population shifts. To account for population shifts due to Hurricane Katrina, we rely on recently constructed population estimates in Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, and St. Bernard Parishes from the Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals and US Census Bureau ([www.popest.org](http://www.popest.org)). These estimates place the currently population of Orleans Parish at 187,525, and are the most comprehensive and current estimates available. The approximate margin of error for the overall survey is 3.1 percentage points and is 4.6 percentage points for the Baton Rouge area sample. Separate sample and post-stratification weights were constructed for the Baton Rouge area sample.

As part of an effort to assure that the Louisiana Survey fulfills its public service mission, input was solicited from a fifteen-member Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee provided invaluable insight into the design of the questionnaire and in identifying the issues that most needed to be addressed by the survey. While we are greatly indebted to them for their time and contributions, they bear no responsibility for any mistakes in the questionnaire, analysis, or interpretation presented in this report. Questions regarding the content of this report should be directed to Kirby Goidel, Director of the Louisiana Survey, Reilly Center for Media & Public Affairs, Manship School of Mass Communication, Louisiana State University, (225) 578-7588.

As a final note, we gratefully acknowledge the Irene W. & C. B. Pennington Foundation for their support of this project for their support of this project and for seeing the value of the Louisiana Survey to the local community.



## **Louisiana Survey Advisory Committee**

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## METHOD

The Public Policy Research Lab conducted the survey between October 12 and October 31, 2006. Calls were conducted from noon until 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 8 p.m. on Sunday. Telephone numbers were selected using random digit dialing. Numbers where callers received no answer were called 10 times before being removed from the pool of eligible numbers. When possible, a message was left briefly describing the survey along with a toll free number for the Public Policy Research Lab. Three attempts at refusal conversion were made no sooner than 72 hours after the initial refusal.

The statewide survey has a sampling error of  $\pm 3.1$  percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level. This means that if we replicated the survey twenty times, only once will the answers differ by more than 3.1 percent over the answers in this report. The margin of error will be larger for subgroups, including those respondents separated out as part of the Baton Rouge area over-sample. The approximate margin of error for the Baton Rouge area sample is  $\pm 4.6$  percentage points. Other types of errors can also affect survey results, including question wording, question order, and errors in the interviewing process. The response rate for the survey is 35 percent, meaning that 35 percent of calls to eligible households resulted in a completed interview. The cooperation rate is 46 percent, meaning that 46 percent of calls in which a potential respondent was contacted yielded a completed interview. Differences in response rates among different segments of the population may result in biased estimates of public opinion. To account for these differences, data are often weighted by demographic characteristics where sample estimates do not closely mirror census-based population estimates. The results presented in this report are weighted to provide the most accurate estimate of population preferences possible.

Throughout this report comparisons will be made to results from previous surveys, including:

- The 2003 Louisiana Survey
- The 2004 Louisiana Survey
- The 2005 Louisiana Survey
- The 2005 Post-Hurricane Community Audit
- The Spring 2006 Louisiana Survey
- The Fall 2006 Louisiana Survey

Where possible, we include all the relevant data from previous years to capitalize on the true value of the Louisiana Survey as a barometer of statewide public opinion. Results from previous versions of the Louisiana Survey will be noted by the year the survey was conducted, the 2005 Post-Hurricane Survey will be referred as the 2005 Hurricane Survey, and the 2006 surveys will be designated as either the spring or fall survey.

Table 1: Statewide and Baton Rouge Area Demographics in Final Weighted Samples

	<u>Statewide Sample</u> (N=1,004)	<u>Baton Rouge Area</u> <u>Sample (N=450)</u>
<b><u>Gender</u></b>		
Male	47.4	47.8
Female	52.6	52.2
<b><u>Race</u></b>		
White	68.4	64.8
Hispanic	0.9	0.9
African-American	26.6	31.9
Asian	0.8	0.3
Other	3.4	2.1
<b><u>Age</u></b>		
18-24	15.0	14.8
25-34	14.4	17.6
35-44	18.4	22.1
45-54	20.8	18.2
55-64	13.3	12.5
65 and over	18.2	14.7
<b><u>Education</u></b>		
Less than HS	19.8	17.4
HS	31.3	30.2
Some College	25.2	26.9
College	15.9	17.0
Graduate Degree	7.7	8.5
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Under 20,000	21.0	24.1
20,000-49,999	41.9	40.2
50,000-99,999	27.5	29.4
100,000 or more	9.6	6.3

## SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDINGS

*A New Normal for Public Opinion?* Amidst the backdrop of the rebuilding process, Louisiana public opinion shows some signs of returning to normal. Not a pre-Katrina normal, but a new normal reflecting the combination of an uneventful hurricane season, a slower than expected recovery process, and increased concern about crime, corruption, and the overall quality of life.

Perhaps nowhere is the change in public opinion more evident than on the right direction question. Since the Spring 2006 Louisiana Survey conducted this past April, there has been a 9-point increase in the number of people who say Louisiana is heading in the right direction and a corresponding 13-point drop in the number who say the state is heading in the wrong direction.

Taken out of context, such a finding might appear to reflect positively on the current state of affairs, but one must bear in mind that even with increased perceptions that the state is heading in the right direction, these numbers continue to lag behind pre-hurricane levels. The number of people saying Louisiana is heading in the right direction remains 9 points lower than the 2005 Louisiana Survey conducted before hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The broader implication is that the increase primarily reflects a relatively calm hurricane season as several other indicators present a more troubling portrait of the public opinion landscape.

*The Re-Emergence of Pre-Katrina Concerns:* Further evidence of a return to normal can be found in responses to the most important problems confronting the state. Rebuilding – which dominated public concern during the Spring 2006 survey – has receded in importance while education, the environment, and crime have increased in importance. The percent of respondents saying that rebuilding is one of the three most important issues confronting the state has declined by 32 points, the percent citing it as the most important issue has declined by 26 points. Other issues have increased in importance:

- Education has increased 10 points from 38 to 48 percent
- Health care has increased 8 points from 15 to 23 percent
- Crime has increased 17 points from 11 to 28 percent
- The environment has increased 8 points from 5 to 13 percent

There is good news and bad news in this finding: A return to other concerns is a reflection of a more stable political and economic environment, but it also means that other pressing concerns may lessen some of the urgency needed to successfully rebuild the state. Such a finding raises a question as to whether public attention to the demands of rebuilding is adequate. As a parallel finding, the further one moves from the New Orleans area, the less likely respondents were to identify rebuilding as one of the most important issues facing the state. Nearly 2 in 3 New Orleans area residents cited rebuilding as one of their most pressing concerns compared to only 14 percent in North Louisiana.

*Disconcerting Trends: Crime, Corruption, and Quality of Life:* Despite stronger numbers on the right direction question, more disconcerting trends are also evident. The percent of Louisianans citing crime as one of three most important problems increased by 17 points from 11 percent to 28 percent, while the percent identifying crime as the most important problem increased from 4 percent to 11 percent. Perhaps even more telling, the percent of Louisianans believing the state had become less safe increased from 42 percent in the spring to 61 percent in the current survey. Overall, concern about crime equals or surpasses what it was in 2003 when the Baton Rouge serial killer was still at large.

Perceptions of Corruption: In the spring, we noted a troubling increase in perceptions of corruption. The results from the current survey reflect a continuation of the trend. Since the 2005 hurricanes, the percent of Louisiana residents saying the state has become more corrupt increased by 9 points in the spring 2006 survey and by an additional 5 points in the current survey. If there is a silver lining, it is that perceptions have not yet returned to 2003 levels. Still there can be little doubt that public concern about corruption is on the rise.

Quality of Life: Slightly less dramatic, but no less troubling, is the percent of respondents grading Louisiana an “A” or “B” as a place to live has declined by 4 points over the past 6 months. This is in addition to an 8-point decline noted in the spring survey, and reflects a potentially disturbing trend. Moreover, where the movement in the spring survey reflected a movement of respondents from the “B” to the “C” category, the results reported in the current survey reflect a 4-point decline in the percent of respondents giving the state an “A” as a place to live and a corresponding 4-point increase in the number giving the state a “D” as a place to live.

*Baton Rouge Versus the Rest of the State:* As part of the Fall 2006 Louisiana survey, we included an over-sample of 450 Baton Rouge area residents, allowing us to make more statistically meaningful comparisons between Baton Rouge and the rest of the state. The most notable differences can be summarized as follows.

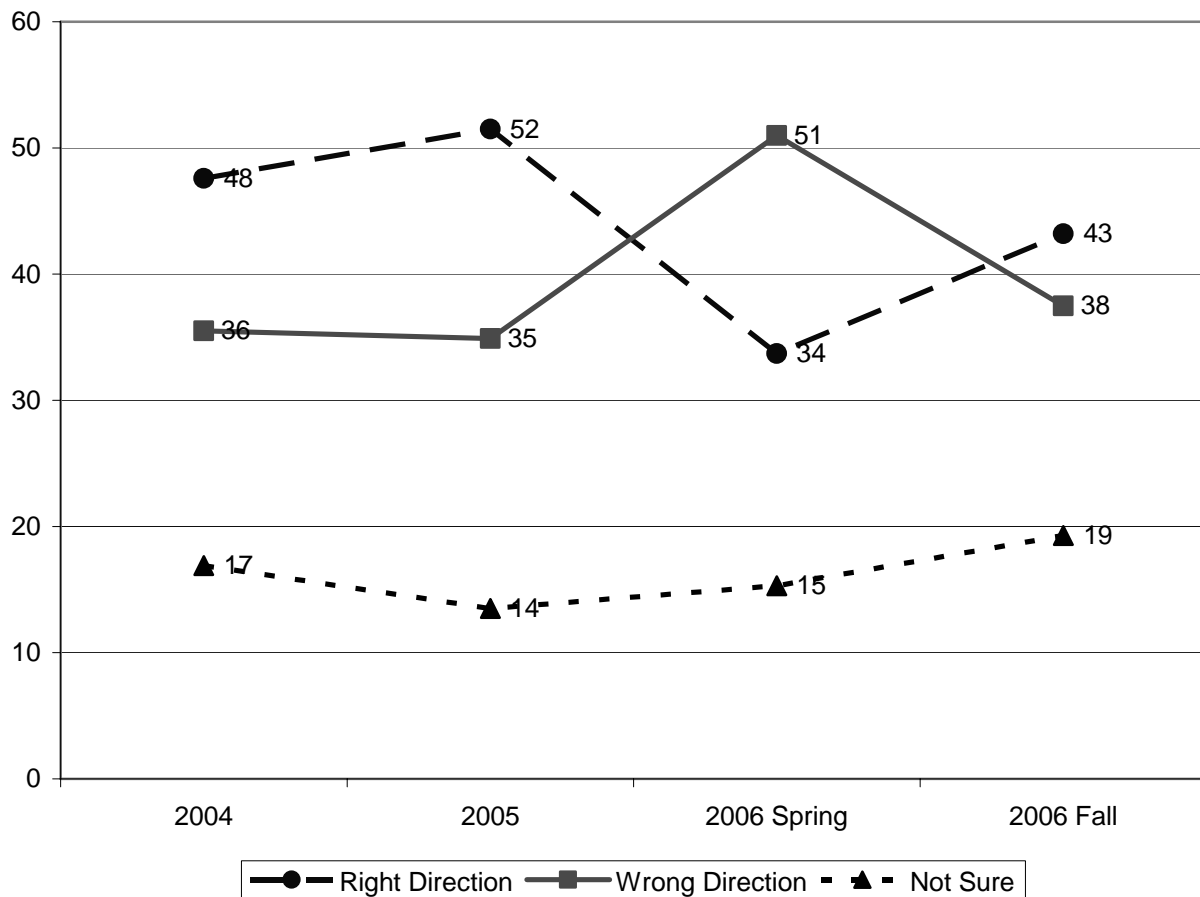
Education: Baton Rouge area residents express greater concern about education and evaluate the public schools more negatively than residents in other areas of the state: 56 percent of Baton Rouge area residents identified education as one of three most important problems confronting the state compared to 48 percent statewide, and 36 percent of Baton Rouge area residents identified education as the most important problem compared to 24 percent statewide. Baton Rouge area residents were also more negative in their evaluations of the public schools generally and the schools in their local community. Fifty-five percent of Baton Rouge area residents gave the public schools a “D” or an “F” compared to 44 percent statewide. When grading the schools in their local community, 40 percent of Baton Rouge area residents gave schools in their local community a “D” or “F” compared to 32 percent statewide.

The Economy: The Baton Rouge area may be more concerned about education, but they are decidedly more positive about their personal finances and the state economy. Thirty-three percent of Baton Rouge area residents say their personal finances have improved from last year compared to 23 percent statewide, while 32 percent say the state economy has improved compared to 23 percent statewide.



## FULL REPORT

### Direction of the State, 2004-2006



### Hurricane Recovery and Perceptions of the Direction of the State

Since April of this year, there has been a dramatic – 9 point - improvement in the percent of respondents believing the state is moving in the right direction and an even larger decline in the percent saying the state is moving in the wrong direction. This is to be expected given the relatively calm 2006 hurricane season and indicates that public opinion has settled into post-hurricane expectations regarding the direction of the state. Considered relative to pre-hurricane opinion, the percent saying the state is moving in the right direction remains 5 points behind the 2004 numbers and 9 points behind the pre-hurricane 2005 numbers. Despite this dramatic improvement, the right direction numbers are still not particularly good and indicate concern about the future.

*Demographic Differences:* One of the notable findings from the spring 2006 survey was that – unlike in previous surveys - there were few demographic differences on the right direction question. Among the results of the Fall 2006 survey is that many demographic differences reemerge but mostly reflect heightened uncertainty about the direction of the state. For example, men were more likely than women to say the state is heading in the wrong direction (40 percent of men compared to 36 percent of women). The difference reflects a higher proportion of women saying

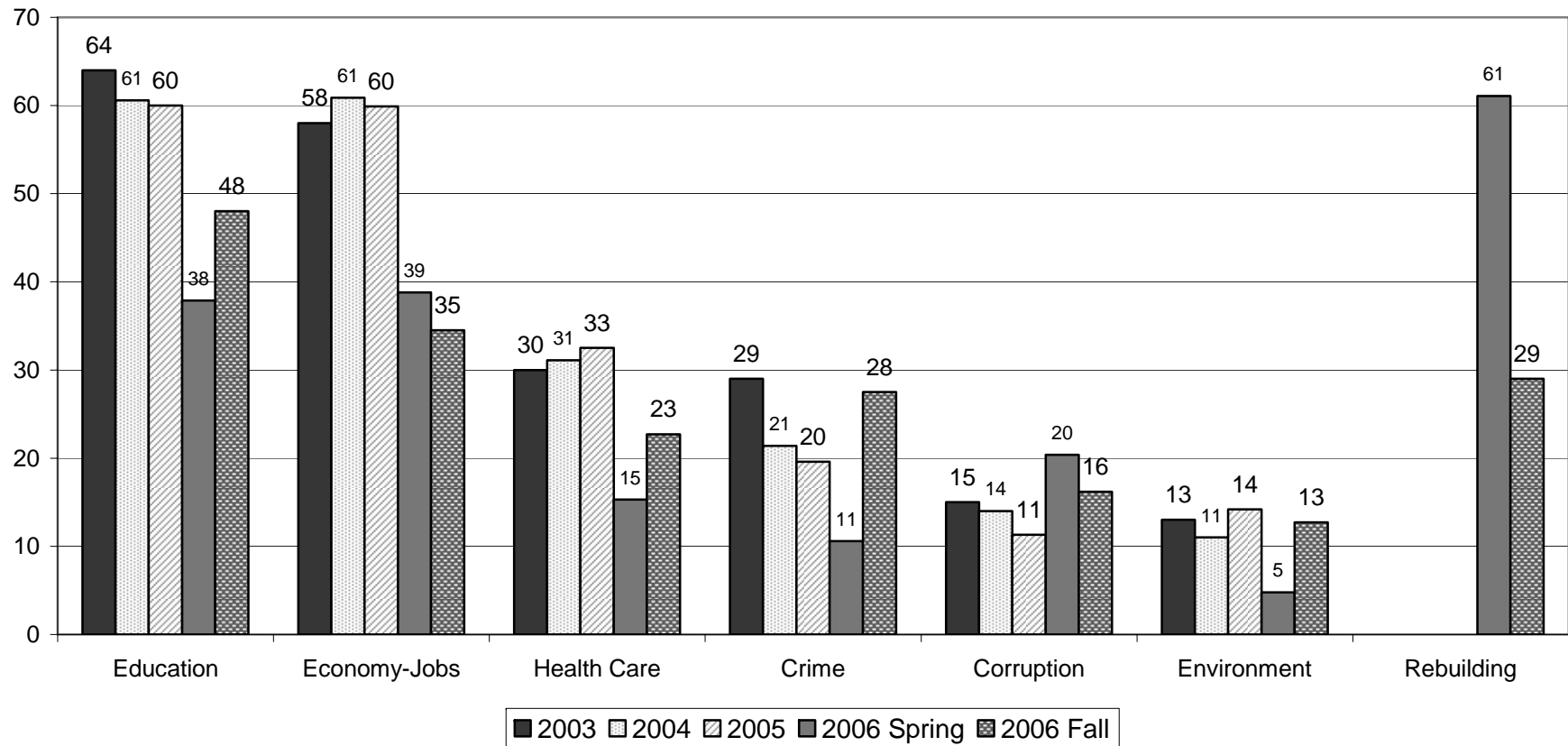
they don't know if the state is heading in the right or wrong direction (22 percent of women compared to 16 percent of men).

The most notable differences along these lines are for less educated and lower income respondents:

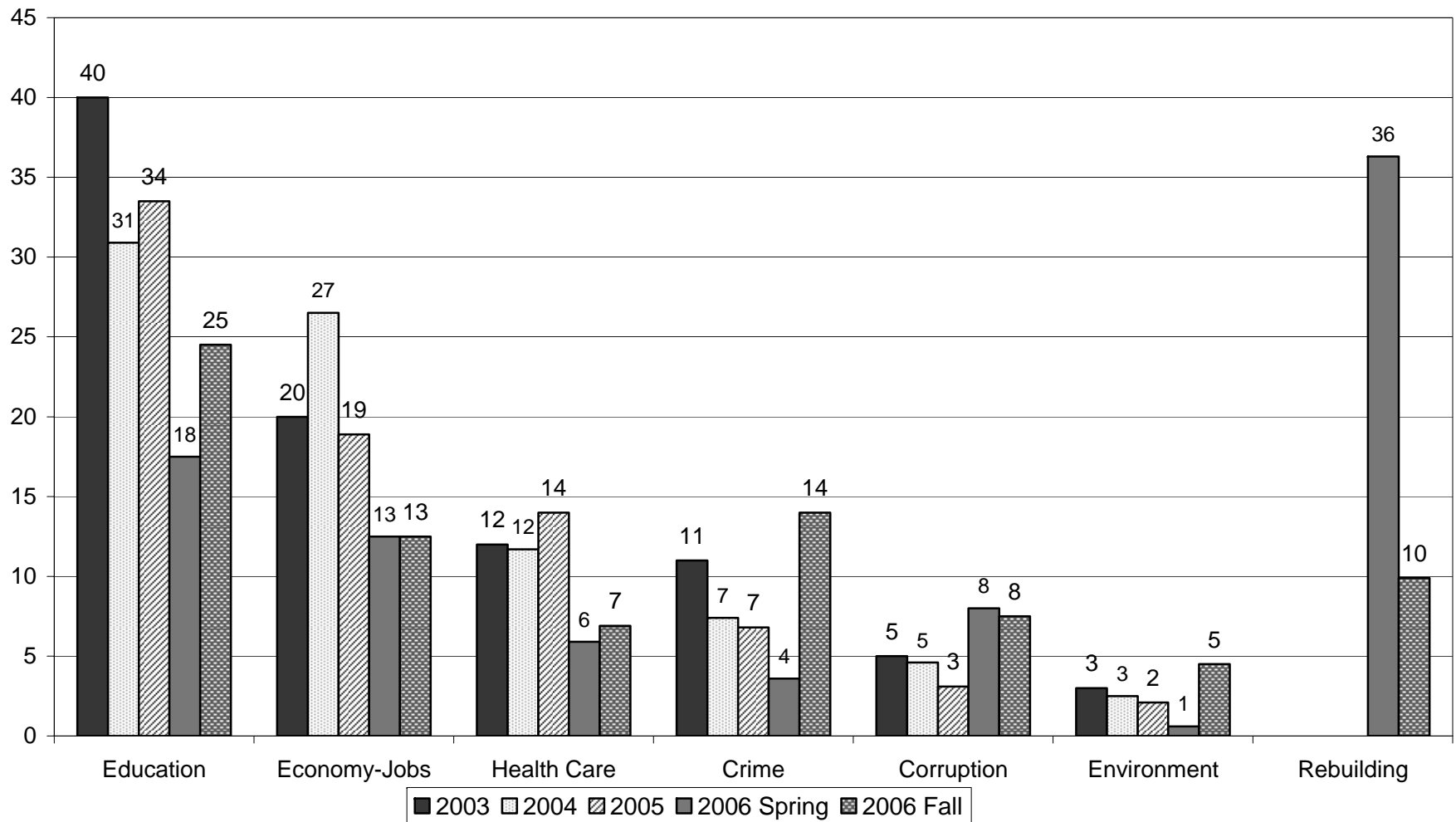
- A third of respondents (34 percent) making less than \$10,000 said they didn't know whether the state is heading in the right or wrong direction compared to 15 percent of respondents making \$75,000 percent of more.
- Similarly, a third (34 percent) of respondents with less than a high school education said they didn't know about the direction of the state compared to just 12 percent of respondents with a college degree.
- Perhaps surprisingly, Orleans area residents were least likely to say the state is heading in the wrong direction but were most likely to say they were unsure or didn't know. Over a third (35 percent) of Orleans area residents said they didn't know if the state is moving in the right or wrong direction.
- In terms of age, the 35-44 age group was most negative in their assessments of the direction of the state with 51 percent saying the state is heading in the wrong direction, while younger respondents (18-24) were most positive with 58 percent saying the state is heading in the right direction.

*The Baton Rouge Sample:* Baton Rouge was at once more positive and more negative than the rest of the state. How can this be? When asked about the direction of the state, fewer Baton Rouge Area residents said they did not know or were unsure: 45 percent of Baton Rouge Area residents said the state is moving in the right direction, 40 percent said the state is moving in the wrong direction, and 15 percent were said they did not know or were unsure.

**Top Three Most Important Problems, 2003-2006**



The Most Important Problem, 2003-2006



## Most Important Problem

When it comes to identifying the most important problem, the state appears to have returned to pre-hurricane concerns – education, the economy, and health care – with one notable exception: There has been a substantial increase in the percent of respondents identifying crime as the most important problem facing the state.

Since April of this year, the percent of respondents identifying crime as one of three most important problems increased by 17 percentage points from 11 percent in the Spring to 28 percent in the Fall. The percent identifying crime as the most important problem increased from 4 percent to 14 percent. This brings public concern about crime to levels not seen since 2003 when the Baton Rouge serial killer was still at large, and likely reflects increased coverage of crime related issues (particularly in New Orleans) in recent months.

Rebuilding and recovery remain an important issue as 29 percent of respondents identified rebuilding as one of three most important issues and 10 percent identified it as the most important problem confronting the state. As in the Spring 2006 survey, we would note that many of the other issues included in the survey (education, the economy, crime, and health care) are laden with implications for the rebuilding and recovery process, so it would be mistake to read the drop in concern as a lack of concern for rebuilding. Even so, it is equally clear that other issues – education, the economy, health care, and crime – have reemerged and will increasingly challenge rebuilding for public attention.

Education reemerged as the state's most important issue with 48 percent of respondents identifying education as one of the three most important issues confronting the state and 25 percent identifying education as the most important issue.

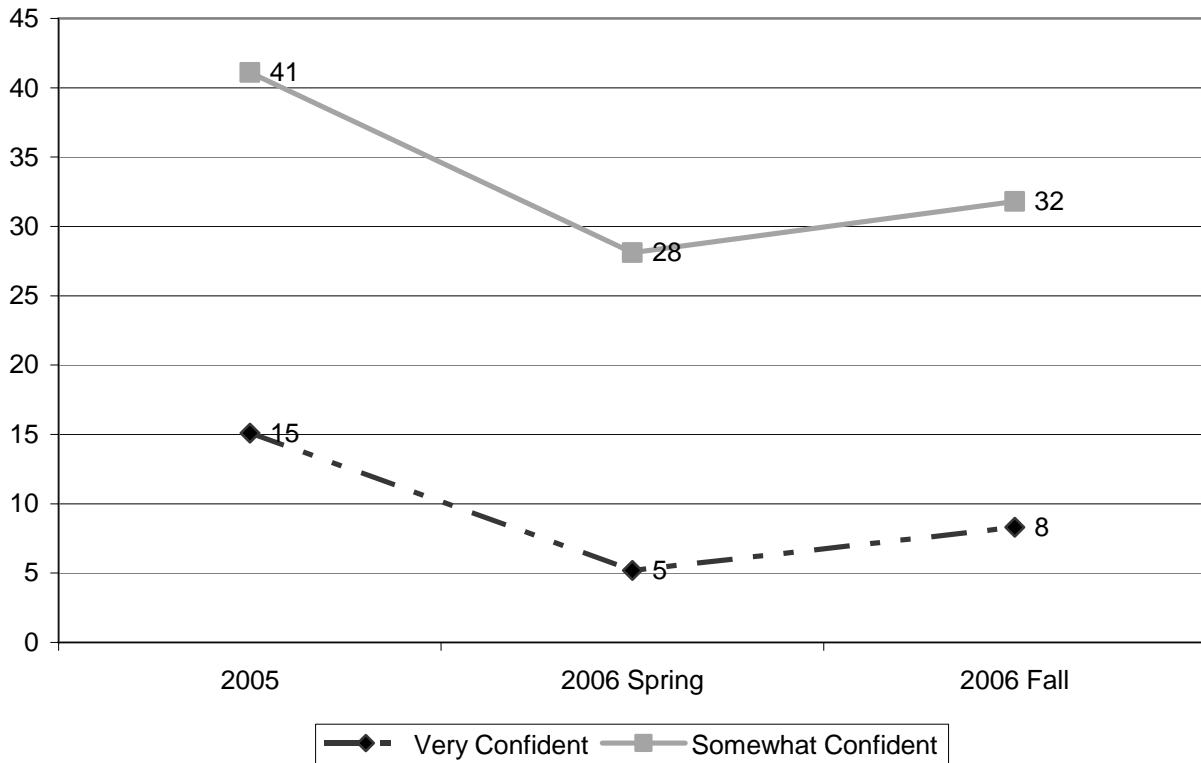
- **Education:** White, better educated, higher income, and middle-aged respondents were all more likely to identify education as one of three most important problems. These differences are outlined below:
  - 51 percent of whites compared to 41 percent of nonwhites identified education as one of three most important problems;
  - 23 percent of respondents making less than \$10,000 compared to 58 percent of respondents making more than \$75,000 identified education as one of three top problems;
  - 24 percent of respondents with less than a high school education compared to 63 percent of respondents with a college degree identified education as one of the top three problems.
- **Economy:** Minorities, higher income, better educated, middle-aged, and North Louisiana residents were more likely to identify the economy as one of the top three problems confronting the state.
  - 47 percent of minorities compared 29 percent of whites identified the economy as top problem;
  - 21 percent of respondents making less than \$10,000 compared to 37 percent making \$75,000 or more identified the economy as a top problem;
  - 26 percent of respondents with less than a high school education compared to 44 percent of college educated respondents identified the economy as a top problem;
  - 51 percent of respondents in the 35-44 age group compared to 35 percent of 18-24 year olds and 28 percent of those 65 and over identified the economy as one of their top three concerns.

- *Crime*: Minority, higher income, and Orleans area residents were most likely to identify crime as one of the top problems confronting the state, including:
  - 38 percent of minorities compared to 24 percent of whites;
  - 24 percent of those making less than \$10,000 compared to 36 making \$75,000 or more;
  - 46 percent of New Orleans area residents compared to only 10 percent in Southwestern Louisiana.
- *Rebuilding*: Males and New Orleans area residents were more likely to identify rebuilding as a top problem.
  - 35 percent of men compared to 27 percent of women identifying rebuilding as a top problem;
  - Nearly 2 in 3 Orleans residents (65 percent) compared to 38 percent in the Orleans suburbs, and only 14 percent in North Louisiana identified rebuilding as one of the state's most pressing problems. Notably, the further one is from the New Orleans, the less likely a respondent was to identify rebuilding as one of the state's most important problems.

*The Baton Rouge Sample*: How do the priorities of Baton Rouge area residents compare to the rest of the state? The most notable difference is the importance Baton Rouge area residents give to education. When asked to identify their top three concerns 56 percent of Baton Rouge area residents selected education compared to 48 percent statewide. Similarly, education was the top priority of 36 percent of Baton Rouge area residents compared to 24 percent statewide.

Baton Rouge area residents were also more like to cite corruption as one of three top concerns, and were less likely to cite the economy as the most important problem confronting the state. Twenty-one percent of Baton Rouge area residents cited corruption as one of three top concerns compared to 16 percent statewide, while 11 percent identified corruption as the most important problem compared to 8 percent statewide. Baton Rouge area residents were fairly similar to the rest of the state in identifying the economy as one of the three most important problems – 32 percent of Baton Rouge area residents compared 35 percent of respondents statewide identified the economy as one of three most important problems – but were less likely to select the economy as the state's most important problem. Only 6 percent of Baton Rouge residents identified the economy as the most important problem compared to 13 percent statewide.

### Confidence State Government Will Address Most Important Problem



### Confidence State Will Address Most Important Problem

In the Spring 2006 survey, we noted a significant decline in public confidence that state officials would effectively address their self-identified most important problem. Confidence has improved slightly over the past year, but continues to lag behind pre-hurricane levels. In the Fall 2006 survey, 40 percent of respondents said they were very confident (8 percent) or somewhat confident (32 percent) that state government would effectively address their self-identified most important problem compared to 33 percent in the Spring 2006 survey. By comparison, in the 2005 pre-hurricane survey, 56 percent said they were very or somewhat confident their self-identified most important problem would get addressed.

- Males and white respondents expressed the least confidence. Thirty-six percent of males compared to 44 percent of women said they were confident the most important problem would get addressed.
- Among African Americans, 48 percent said they were very or somewhat confident the most important problem would be effectively addressed compared to 37 percent of whites.

Table 2: Confidence State Officials Will Effectively Address the Most Important Problem by Issue Area

Issue Area	Confidence (Percent Very Confident)
Education	37.7 (3.3)*
Economic Issues	43.8 (9.3)
Health Care	32.6 (5.7)*
Crime	43.2 (8.8)
Corruption	27.4 (1.9)*
Environment	46.8 (7.0)
Rebuilding	46.0 (4.6)*

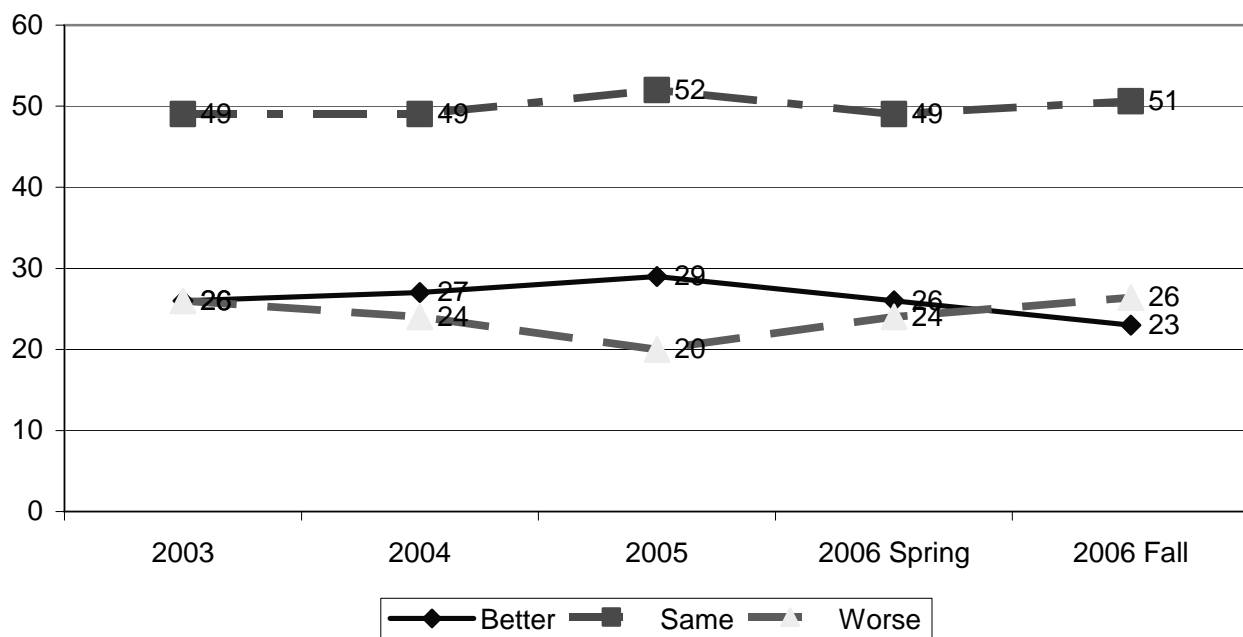
\* indicates the difference between a specific issue area and confidence in other issue areas is statistically significant at the .05 level or below.

As has been the case in previous surveys, we see different levels of confidence depending on the issue selected. Respondents are least confident that corruption, health care, and education will be effectively addressed. Only 2 percent said they were very confident corruption would be addressed, and only 3 percent were very confident education would be addressed. They were somewhat more confident that rebuilding will be addressed though notably only 5 percent said they were very confident rebuilding would be addressed. Perhaps surprisingly, respondents were most confident the environment and the economy would be addressed, presumably because respondents are thinking of the environment in terms of coastal restoration and recognize the continuing priority state officials have been giving to economic development.

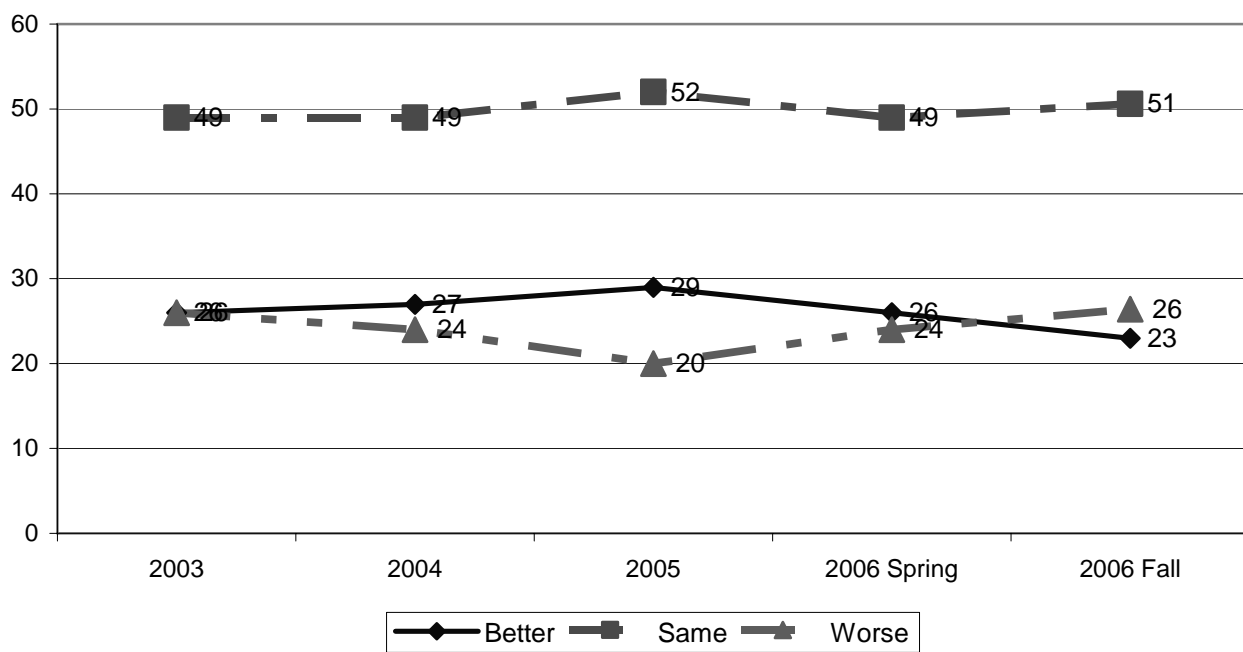
*The Baton Rouge Sample:* Baton Rouge area respondents express less confidence that state officials will effectively address the most important problem. Thirty-three percent of Baton Rouge area residents compared to 40 percent of statewide respondents said they were very or somewhat confident the most important problem would be effectively addressed. Twenty-nine percent of Baton Rouge area residents said they were not at all confident the most important problem would be effectively addressed compared to 23 percent of respondents statewide.



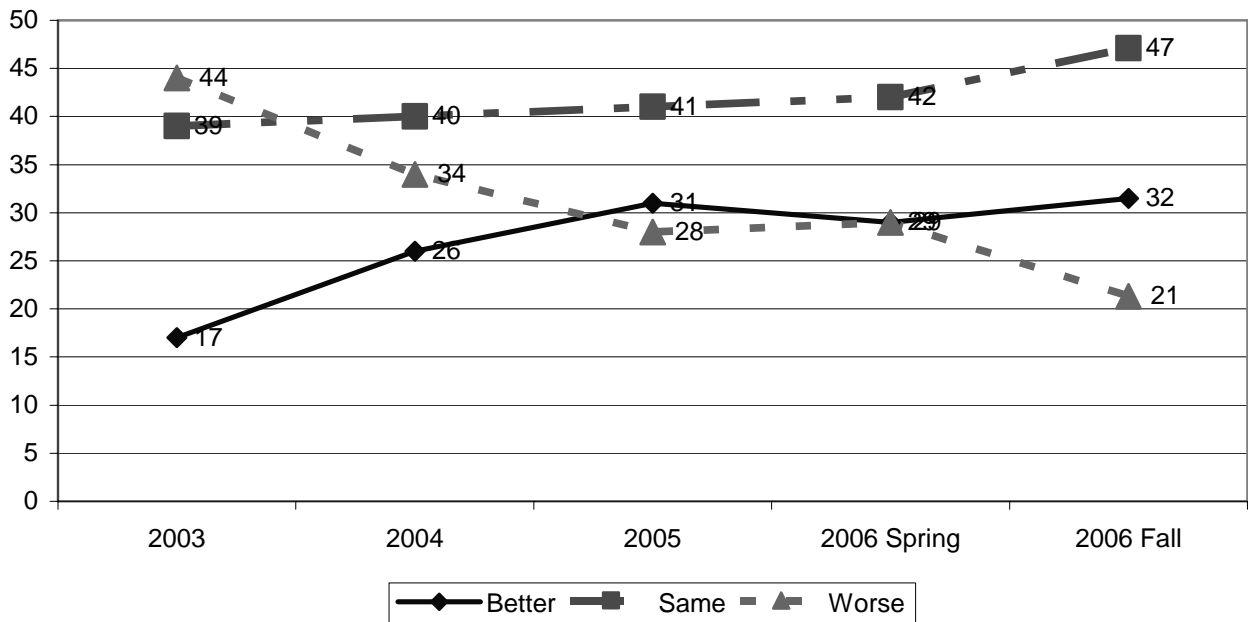
### Personal Finances



### State Business Conditions



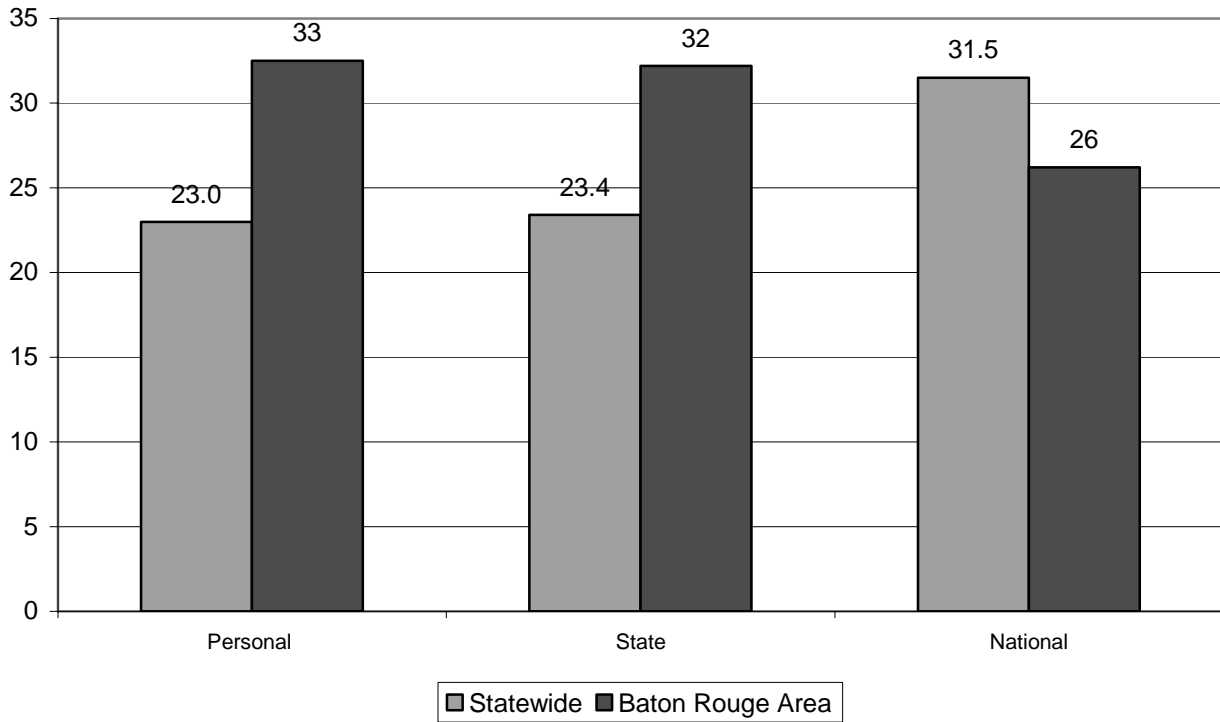
### National Business Conditions



### Economic Evaluations

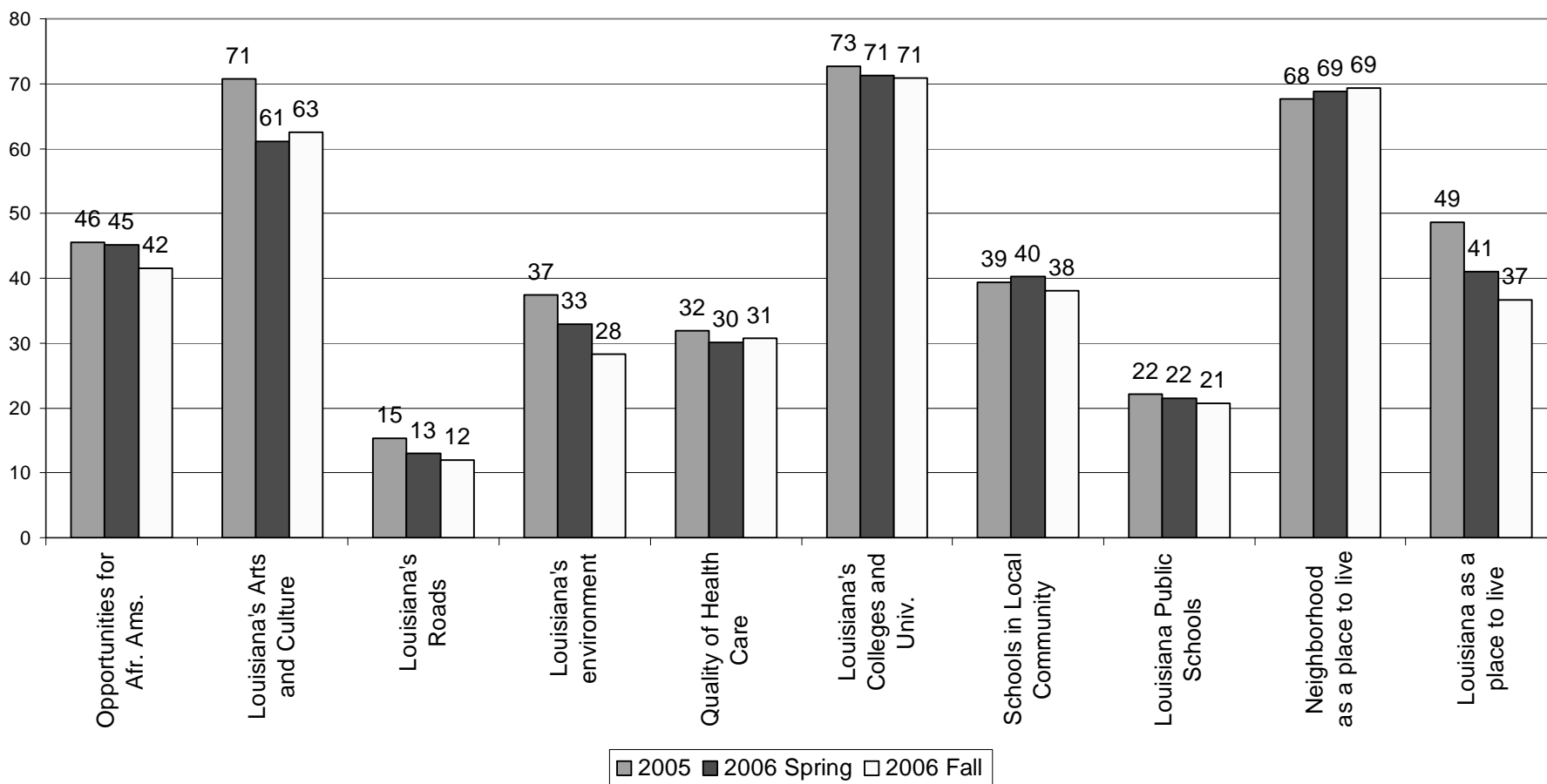
Looking at economic evaluations, we see little change from the Spring 2006 survey in terms of either personal finances or state business conditions. National business conditions see a substantial decline in the percent of respondents saying the economy has gotten worse, but most of the movement is not toward perceptions that the national economy is improving but rather that the national economy is staying the same.

### Comparison of Baton Rouge Area and State on Economic Evaluations



*The Baton Rouge Sample:* One of the more noted stories over the past year has been the thriving Baton Rouge economy. One expression of the region's economic strength can be found in public perceptions regarding personal finances and state business conditions. Put simply, Baton Rouge area residents are more likely than the rest of the state to say that their personal finances and state business conditions have improved over the past year – but are less likely to say the national economy has improved. Baton Rouge area residents were nearly 10 percentage points more positive in their assessment of their personal finances, and were 9 percentage points more positive in their assessment of state economic evaluations than respondents in the rest of the state.

Percent Giving a Grade "A" or "B"



## **Grading the State**

Each year, we ask respondents to grade Louisiana across various dimensions. For the most part, these grades have remained remarkably stable – even in the wake of last year’s hurricanes. Even so, there are a couple of notable changes and few smaller changes that bear watching in the future.

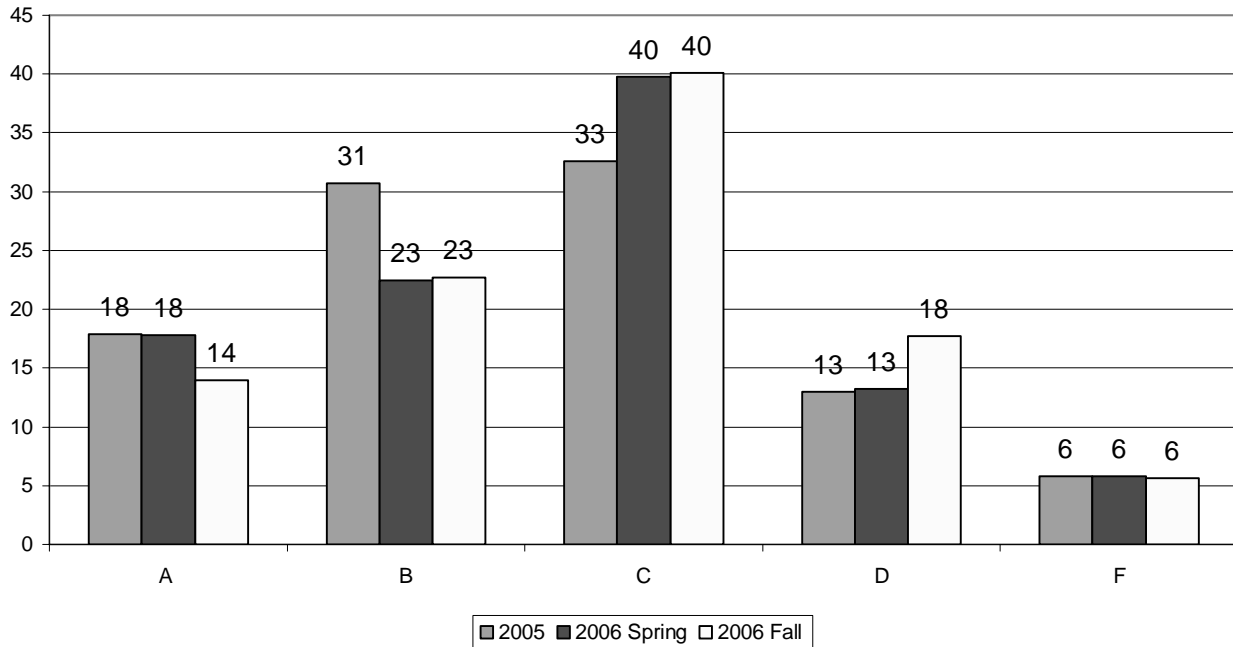
First - and most importantly - the percent of respondents grading the state an “A” or “B” as a place to live dropped 9 points in the aftermath of the 2005 hurricanes. Since the Spring 2006 survey, there has been an additional 4-point drop. The 9-point drop in the Spring 2006 survey reflected primarily on a decrease in the number of “B” grades – with most of the change captured in a corresponding increase in the number of “C” grades. The Fall 2006 survey witnesses a 4-point decline in the number of “A” grades and a 5-point increase in the number of “D” grades.

We also see a 5-point decline in evaluations of the environment from Spring 2006 to Fall 2006 that follows on the heels of corresponding 4-point decline in ratings for the environment from 2005 to the Spring 2006 survey. And, as a finding that bears watching, grades for opportunities available to minorities also declined by 3 points since the Spring 2006 survey.

*The Baton Rouge Sample:* As with the most important problem, the most significant differences in terms for Baton Rouge area residents emerge on questions involving education. Baton Rouge area residents were more likely to give the public schools a “D” or “F”. Fifty-five percent of Baton Rouge area residents gave the schools a “D” or “F” compared to 44 percent statewide. This carries over to schools in the local community: 40 percent of Baton Rouge area residents gave schools in their local community a “D” or “F” compared to 32 percent statewide.

## Louisiana as a Place to Live

### Louisiana as a Place to Live

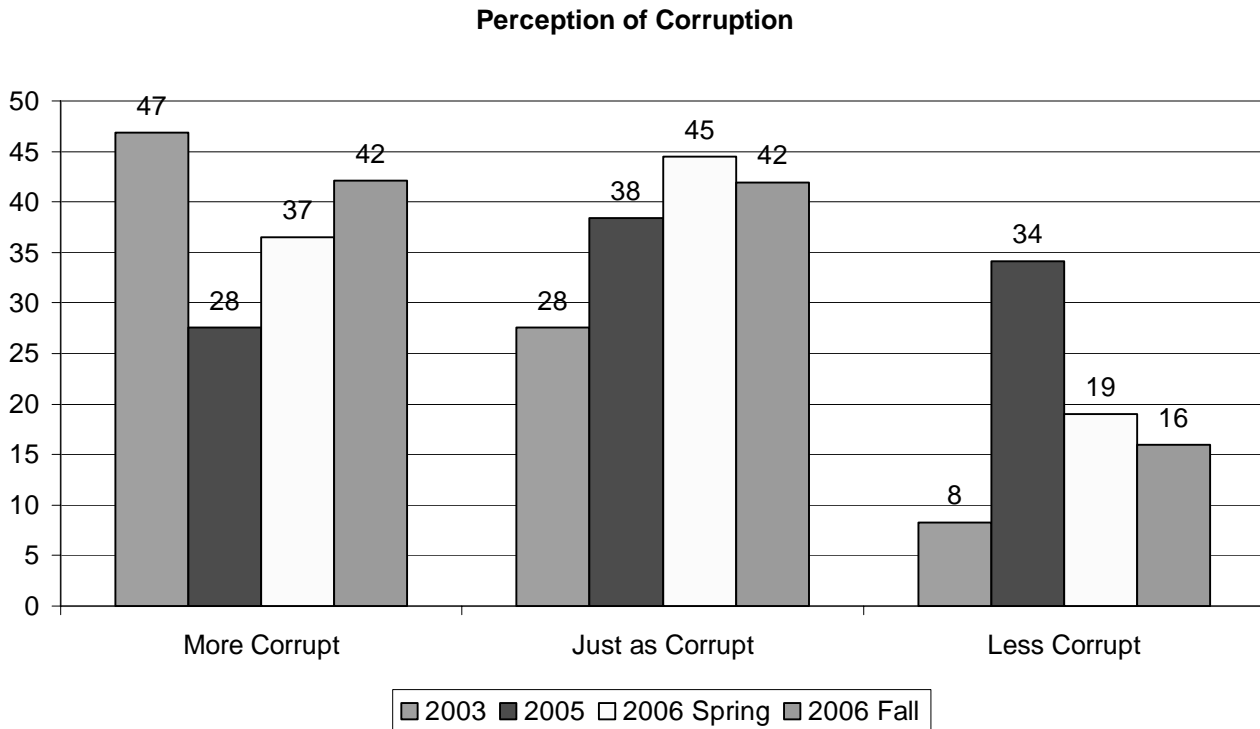


### Louisiana as a Place to Live

Since the spring survey there has been a 4-point overall drop in the number of people giving Louisiana an 'A' as a place to live. Likewise, there has been a 5-point rise in the amount of people who give Louisiana a 'D' grade as a place to live. This change represents an overall drop in Louisiana residents' perceptions that Louisiana is a good place to live.

- Females were more likely to give Louisiana an 'A' or 'B' than males (44 percent compared to 32 percent).
- Lower income respondents were more likely to give Louisiana a grade of an 'A' or 'B' than high income respondents. Of those who made less than \$10,000, 59 percent gave Louisiana an 'A' or 'B.' Of those who made more than \$75,000, only 35 percent gave Louisiana an 'A' or 'B.'
- Older people were more positive about Louisiana as a place to live than younger people. Of respondents over 65, 51 percent gave Louisiana an 'A' or 'B.' Of 18-24 year olds, only 27 percent gave Louisiana an 'A' or 'B.' And of 25-34 year olds, only 38 percent gave Louisiana an 'A' or 'B.'
- New Orleans area residents were least positive about the state while the Orleans suburban parishes were most positive. Of Orleans residents, only 26 percent gave the state an 'A' or 'B.' Residents in the Orleans suburban parishes, however, gave Louisiana an 'A' or 'B' 46 percent of the time.

## Perceptions of Corruption



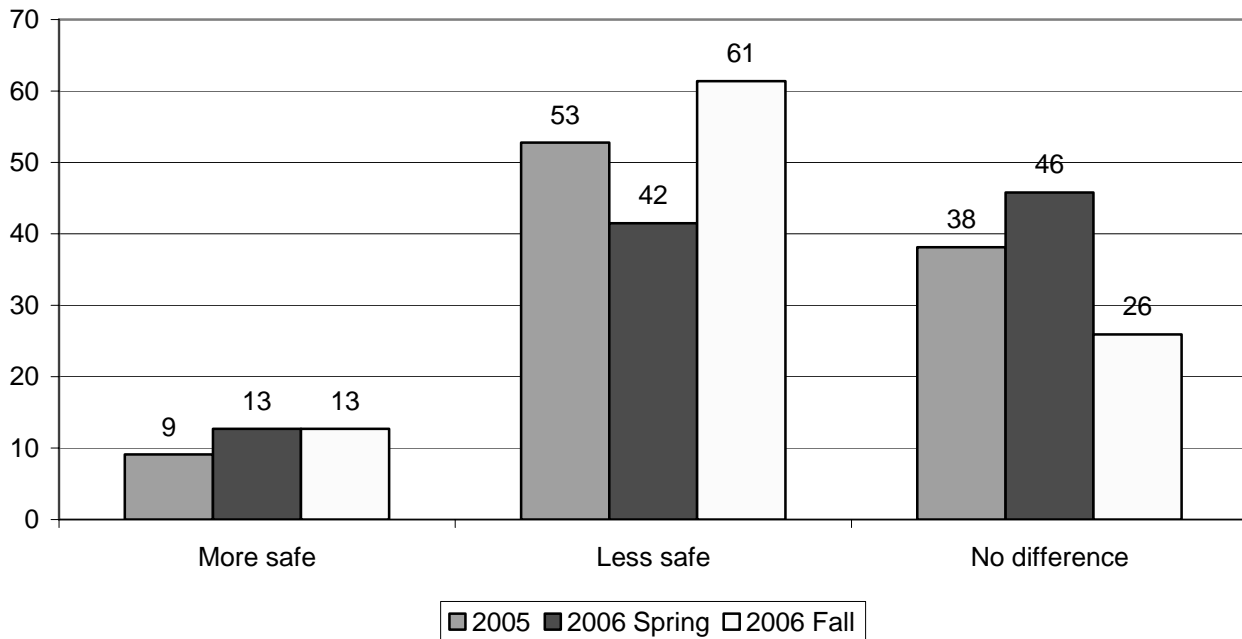
### Perception of Corruption

Of all respondents, 42 percent said that Louisiana was more corrupt than last year. This compares to 37 percent in the spring and 28 percent in 2005. The current perception, however, is still less than the 47 percent reported in 2003, the first year the question was asked. Sixteen percent of respondents said Louisiana was less corrupt this year compared with 19 percent in the spring and 34 percent in 2005. Overall, this shows that since Katrina and Rita, perceptions of corruption have increased substantially, but that before the hurricanes, Louisiana had been making progress in reducing these perceptions.

- Females were more likely than males to say Louisiana was more corrupt (50 percent to 33 percent). Males were most likely to say that Louisiana is just as corrupt as last year (48 percent to 37 percent) and more likely to say that Louisiana is less corrupt than last year (19 percent to 13 percent).
- Non-whites were much more likely to say that Louisiana is more corrupt than whites (53 percent to 37 percent). Whites were more likely than non-whites to say that Louisiana is just as corrupt as last year (45 percent to 35 percent).
- Lower income people were more likely than high income people to say that Louisiana is more corrupt than last year. Of those who make less than \$10,000 or between \$10,000 and \$19,999, 53 percent and 63 percent of respondents, respectively, say Louisiana is more corrupt. Of those who make over \$75,000 a year, only 22 percent say Louisiana is more corrupt. People with higher incomes are also more likely to say that Louisiana is just as corrupt (58 percent) or less corrupt (21 percent) than lower income respondents.

- Respondents with less than a high school education were much more likely than the college educated to say that there is more corruption than last year (54 percent to 28 percent). People with a college education were more likely to say Louisiana is less corrupt than those without a high school education (34 percent to 3 percent).

### Perception of Public Safety



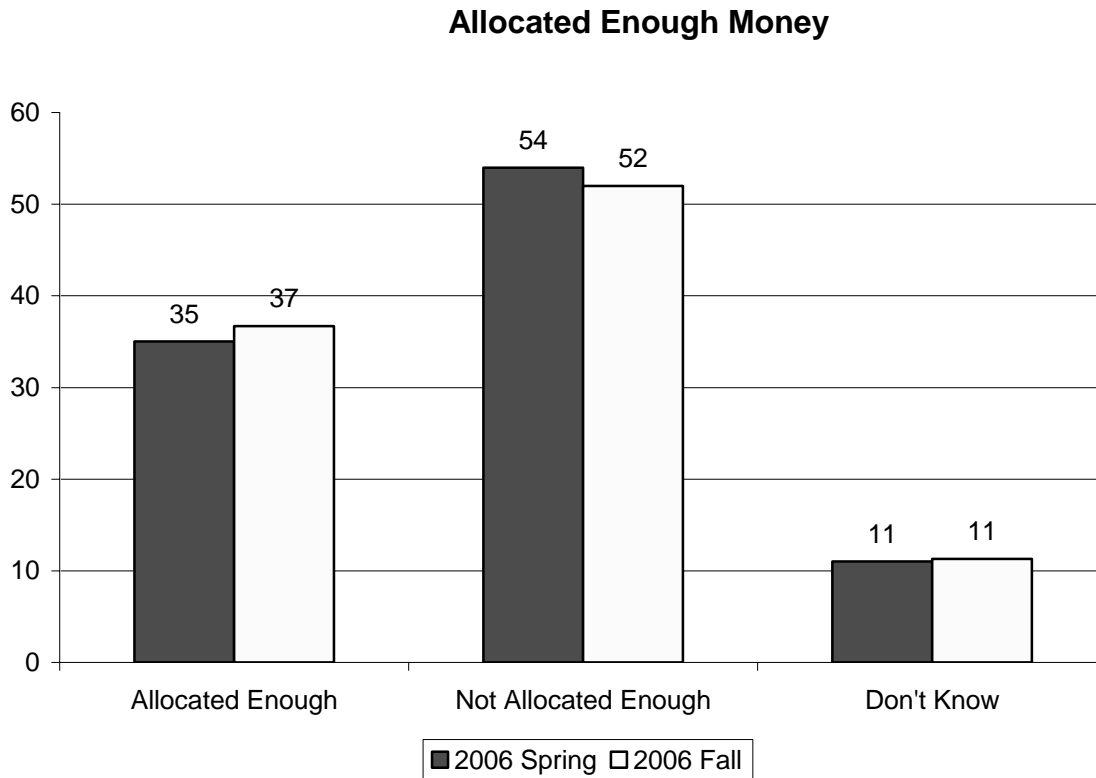
### Perception of Public Safety

Of all respondents, 13 percent said Louisiana is safer than last year, 61 percent said Louisiana is less safe, and 26 percent said there was no difference. The number who said Louisiana is safer is consistent with the spring 2006 survey and slightly higher than the 2005 survey. The real difference comes in the number who said the state is less safe. There was a 19 percentage point increase in the number of respondents who said the state is less safe this year than last and an 8 percentage point increase over the pre-hurricane results of 2005.

- Males were slightly more likely than females to say Louisiana is more safe (14 percent to 12 percent), but were much less likely to say Louisiana is less safe (56 percent to 66 percent).
- People with low incomes are more likely to say Louisiana is less safe than last year. Seventy-two percent of people making under \$10,000 said Louisiana is less safe compared to 57 percent of those making over \$75,000.
- Respondents 18-24 are more likely to say the state is safer than last year (22 percent) relative to people over 65 (7 percent). Seventy-three percent of those over 65 think the state is less safe compared with 55 percent of those 18-24.
- People in North Louisiana feel the safest: 19 percent of North Louisiana residents think the state is safer than last year, while 54 percent think the state is less safe. Compare this to the



Orleans area where only 1 percent says the state is safer and 62 percent say the state is less safe.

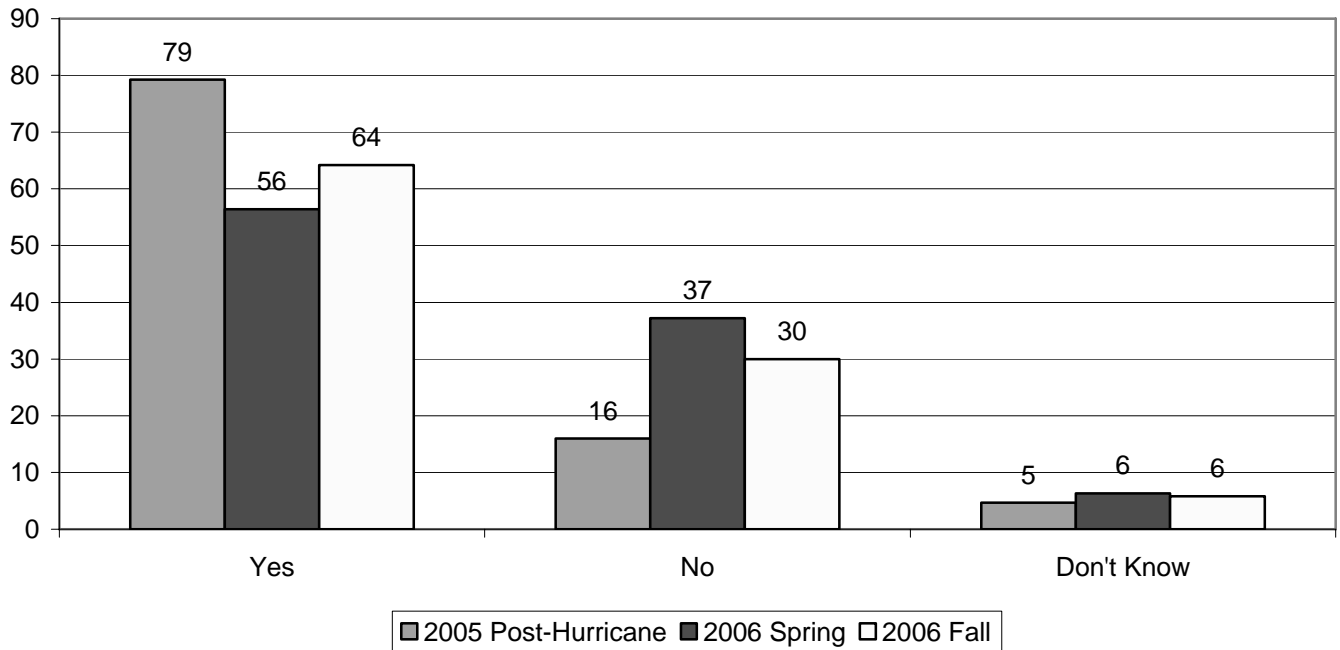


### **Has Federal Government Allocated Enough Money?**

There has been little change since the spring survey in terms of perceptions of whether the federal government has allocated enough money for rebuilding. In the spring, 54 percent said the federal government had allocated enough compared to 52 percent in the fall.

- 44 percent of men thought the federal government had not allocated enough compared to 60 percent of women.
- Non-whites were more likely than whites to think the federal government had not allocated enough (61 percent compared to 47 percent).
- People making under \$10,000 were more likely than those who made over \$75,000 to say the federal government has not allocated enough (70 percent compared to 48 percent).
- People in the suburban Orleans area were most likely to think that the federal government has not allocated enough money to recovery (68 percent compared to 52 percent statewide).

### Allocate to Areas Not Directly Affected by the Hurricanes

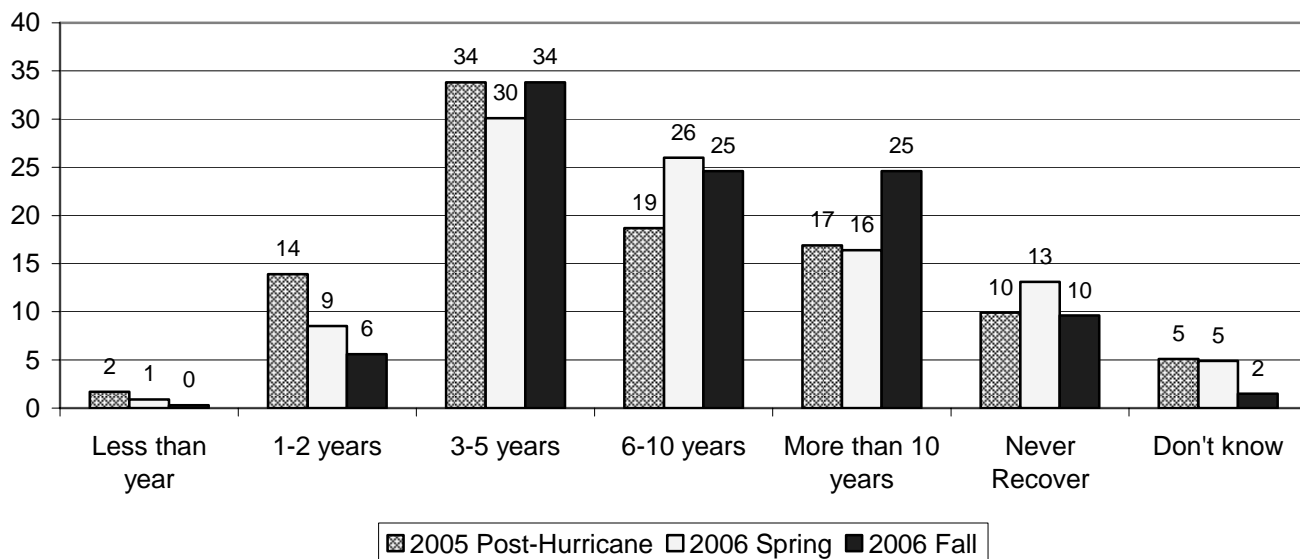


#### Allocate to Areas not directly affected?

Since the spring 2006 survey there has been a significant increase in the number of people who think that the state should spend money in areas not directly affected by the hurricanes, though the numbers are still significantly below the results in the 2005 post-hurricane survey. Sixty-four percent of respondents in the current survey say money should be allocated to areas not directly affected compared to 56 percent in the spring survey and 79 percent in the 2005 post-hurricane survey.

- Non-whites were more likely than whites to think money should be spent in non-rebuilding area (70 percent to 61 percent).
- Those who make over \$75,000 are most likely to want to see money spent in non-rebuilding areas (7 percent). Those who make less than \$10,000 are least likely to think that money should be spent in non-rebuilding areas (58 percent).
- People with a college education are more likely than people without a high school education to think that money should be spent in non-rebuilding areas (71 percent compared to 51 percent).
- Baton Rouge area and North Louisiana residents are most likely to think that money should be spent in non-rebuilding areas (69 percent in each region, respectively) while Southwestern Louisiana was least likely (53 percent).

## How Long Will It Take Louisiana to Recover?

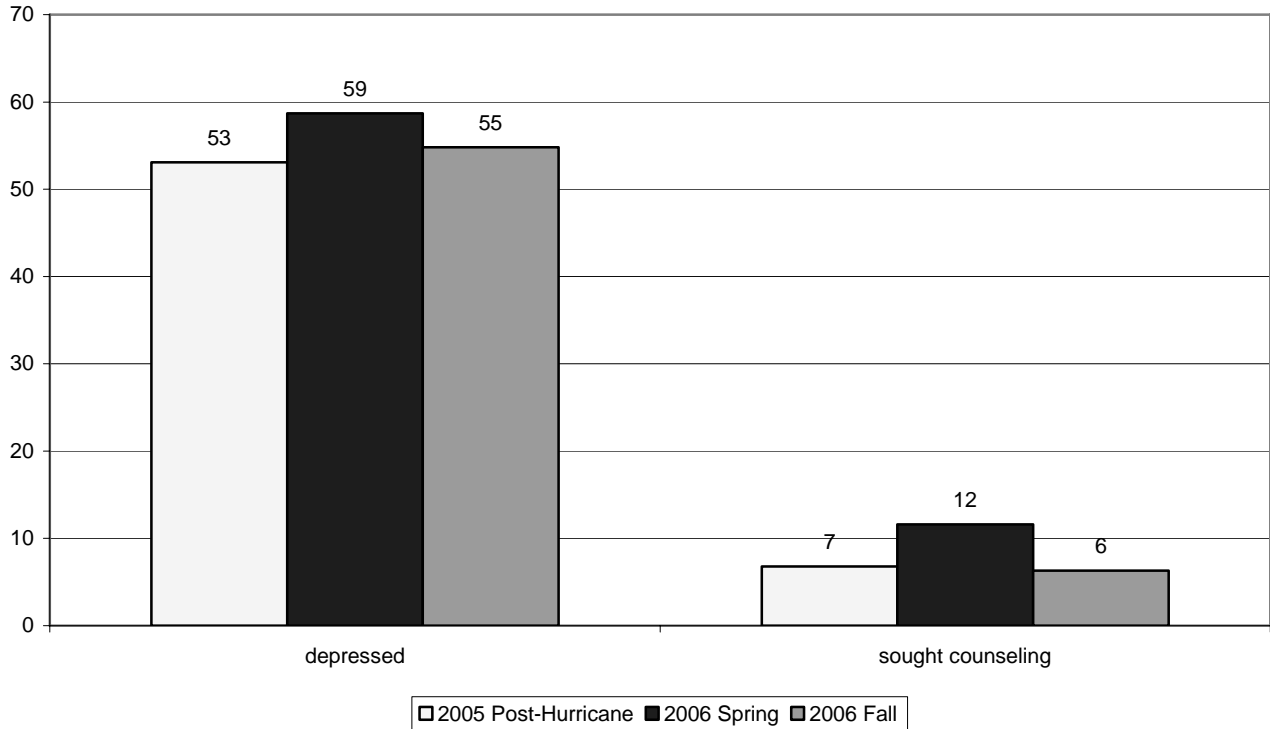


### Recovery Time

Since the spring 2006 survey, Louisiana residents have realized that recovery will take longer than initially thought, but at the same time they are slightly more confident that recovery will eventually happen. In the initial post-hurricane survey 14 percent of respondents thought recovery would take only 1-2 years. In the current survey, 6 percent said the recovery would occur within 1-2 years. People's expectations have become more long term. The number of people who think recovery will take 3-5 years has increased by 4 percentage points from 30 percent in the spring to 34 percent in the fall. The number of people who think recovery will take more than 10 years increased 9 percentage points from 16 percent in the spring to 25 percent in the fall. The percent of people, however, who say Louisiana will never recovery has dropped 3 percentage points from 13 percent in the spring to 10 percent in the fall.

- Males generally think recovery will take longer than females.
- Whites generally think recovery will take longer than non-whites.
- Higher income respondents generally think recovery will take longer than low income respondents.
- More educated people generally think recovery will take longer than less educated people.
- Suburban New Orleans and Acadiana generally think recovery will be the fastest, while New Orleans area residents think recovery will take place the slowest.

### Felt Depressed and/or Sought Counseling Since Hurricanes



#### Felt Depressed

Since the spring 2006 survey, there has been a 5-point decline in the percent of people who felt depressed because of the 2005 hurricanes and a corresponding 6-point decline in the percent who say either they or a member of their family has sought counseling. Fifty-five percent of people say they have felt depressed compared to 59 percent in the spring and 53 percent in the post-hurricane survey. Six percent of people say either they or a member of their family has sought counseling compared to 12 percent in the spring and 7 percent shortly after the hurricane.

	Percent Accurate	Percent Fair	Percent Unable to Rate
Local Newspaper	79.3	64.5	13.5
Local Television	90.3	77.7	7.5
Network Television News	82.4	64.0	16.9
National Newspapers	74.9	55.8	58.4
National Political Blogs	55.1	51.8	78.7
Local Political Blogs	66.0	56.3	80.6

\* Percent accurate and percent fair are among those respondents able to rate each medium.

### **The Role of Blogs in State Politics**

Despite the growth of the Internet as a source political information, only 5 percent of Louisiana residents report that the Internet is their primary source of information of news about Louisiana politics and public affairs. Even so, 32 percent of Louisiana residents reported going on-line in the past week to get news about politics. Approximately 20 percent of all respondents and nearly two-thirds of those who went only to get political news said they went online to read a newspaper or political web log (or blog). As one would suspect, respondents who go to specific newspaper web sites or political blogs to get online news about politics are generally wealthier and better educated than the general public. For example, less than 5 percent of respondents who make less \$10,000 report going to an online newspaper or political blog for news compared to nearly 30 percent of respondents making \$75,000 or more. Similarly, 3 percent of respondents with less than a high school education get news online from a newspaper web site or political blog compared to 39 percent of respondents with a college education.

When asked to rate the accuracy and fairness of political blogs, alternative media continue to lag behind traditional media. First, only 1 in 5 Louisiana residents knew enough about political blogs to rate their accuracy or fairness. Second, blogs rate behind traditional media in terms of fairness and accuracy. Only 55 percent of respondents who knew enough to rate national political blogs said they were accurate, while 52 percent rated them as fair. Local political fare better than national blogs getting positive ratings for accuracy from 66 percent of respondent who knew enough to rate them, and 56 percent positive ratings for fairness. This suggests that local political blogs may benefit from the same advantages local news media have relative to national news media: The public expresses greater trust in the media in with which they are most familiar. Third, residents who go online for political news are less positive in their evaluations of traditional media, particularly of the national network news. For example, 27 percent of respondents who go online for news say the national network news is inaccurate compared to 15 percent of respondents who do not go online. More striking, 51 percent of online news consumers believe the national network news favors one side over the other compared to 32 percent of respondents who do not go online. Overall, this means the online news audience is better educated, higher income, and more distrustful of traditional media than the general population.

## Survey Topline

### 1) Q: Q1

To begin with, would you say things are generally going in the right direction, or do you think things are going in the wrong direction here in Louisiana?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
Right Direction	43.2	45.5
Wrong Direction	37.5	39.6
Don't Know	19.3	14.9

### 2) Q: Q2

What do you think are the THREE most important problems facing the state of Louisiana?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
Education	48.0	55.9
Economic Issues	34.5	31.8
Health Care	22.7	21.0
Taxes	4.2	7.1
Crime	27.5	26.8
Corruption/Government Waste	16.2	21.3
Environment	4.3	4.2
Coastal Erosion/Wetlands loss	8.4	9.0
Young people leaving the state	2.2	0.9
Roads and Highways	5.8	12.9
Quality of Life Issues	0.9	1.1
Rebuilding	30.3	26.5
Other	21.4	22.6
Don't Know	11.9	7.5

### 3) Q: Q3

Of these problems, which do you think is the SINGLE most important problem facing the state of Louisiana?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
Education	24.5	36.2
Economic Issues	12.5	6.9
Health Care	6.9	7.5
Taxes	0.2	0.1
Crime	14.0	9.6
Corruption/Government Waste	7.5	10.6
Environment	0.5	0.4
Coastal Erosion/Wetlands loss	4.0	5.6
Young people leaving the state	0.1	0.4
Roads and Highways	1.0	1.3
Quality of Life Issues	0.0	0.3
Rebuilding	9.9	6.8
Other	9.5	7.8
Don't Know	7.8	6.4

### 4) Q: Q4

How much confidence would you say you have in state government to effectively address this problem? Would you say you are very confident, somewhat confident, not very confident, or not at all confident?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
Very Confident	8.3	5.6
Somewhat Confident	31.8	27.3
Not Very Confident	37.0	38.1
Not at all Confident	23.1	28.9

5) Q: Q5

We are also interested in how people are getting along financially these days...would you say that you are better off financially, worse off, or about the same as you were a year ago?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
Better	23.0	32.5
Same	50.6	51.4
Worse	26.4	16.1

6) Q: Q6

What about business conditions in the state of Louisiana -- do you think that at the present time business conditions in Louisiana are better, worse, or about the same as they were a year ago?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
Better	23.4	32.2
Same	38.3	33.8
Worse	38.4	34.1

7) Q: Q7

And what about business conditions in the nation -- do you think that at the present time business conditions in the country as a whole are better, worse, or about the same as they were a year ago?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
Better	31.5	26.2
Same	47.1	45.1
Worse	21.3	28.7

8) Q: Q8

As you know students are often given grades A through F.

Please indicate what grade you would give each of the following items.

First, using the grading scale, how would you grade Louisiana as a place to live?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. A	14.0	12.3
2. B	22.7	25.4
3. C	40.1	35.7
4. D	17.7	18.0
5. F	5.6	8.6

9) Q: Q9

And how would grade your local neighborhood as a place to live?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. A	34.0	35.4
2. B	35.3	35.7
3. C	17.7	14.7
4. D	7.3	6.2
5. F	5.7	8.0

10) Q: Q10

How would you grade Louisiana's public schools?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. A	6.1	6.6
2. B	14.6	9.8
3. C	35.6	28.8
4. D	21.1	27.8
5. F	22.6	27.6

11) Q: Q11

And how would you grade the public schools in your local community?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. A	13.1	9.9
2. B	25.3	22.6
3. C	29.5	27.1
4. D	16.3	19.4
5. F	15.8	20.9

12) Q: Q12

How would you grade Louisiana's colleges and universities?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. A	19.2	20.9
2. B	51.7	54.1
3. C	25.3	20.6
4. D	3.0	3.1
5. F	0.9	1.3

13) Q: Q13

How would you grade the overall quality of health care in Louisiana?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. A	10.7	9.2
2. B	20.0	19.6
3. C	30.6	32.4
4. D	26.3	20.2
5. F	12.3	18.7

14) Q: Q14

How would you grade the overall quality of Louisiana's environment, including clean air and drinking water?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. A	4.8	6.6
2. B	23.5	27.4
3. C	39.8	35.1
4. D	22.2	20.9
5. F	9.8	10.0

15) Q: Q15

How would you grade Louisiana's arts and culture?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. A	24.4	20.3
2. B	38.2	39.9
3. C	27.3	24.1
4. D	6.1	8.9
5. F	4.1	6.9

16) Q: Q16

How would you grade Louisiana's roads and highways?



	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. A	1.0	1.3
2. B	11.0	12.8
3. C	24.3	31.9
4. D	34.2	30.8
5. F	29.5	23.2

17) Q:Q17

Finally, how would you grade Louisiana in terms of the opportunities available to African-Americans and other minorities?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. A	14.9	18.3
2. B	26.7	18.3
3. C	36.9	35.9
4. D	11.4	17.3
5. F	10.1	10.1

18) Q: Q18

Thinking now about corruption, would you say that Louisiana has become more corrupt or less corruption over the last several years, or would you say corruption hasn't changed much?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. More corrupt	42.1	43.2
2. Just as corrupt	41.9	39.1
3. Less corrupt	16.0	17.7

19) Q: Q19

And thinking about crime and public safety, would you say Louisiana has become more safe or less safe over the last several years?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. More Safe	12.7	11.3
2. Less Safe	61.4	63.3
3. No Difference	25.9	25.4

20) Q: Q20

Thinking now about last year's hurricanes - Katrina and Rita - Approximately how long do you think it will take Louisiana to recover from these hurricanes?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Less than 1 year	0.3	0.0
2. 1-2 years	5.6	10.8
3. 3-5 years	33.8	27.9
4. 6-10 years	24.6	29.7
5. More than 10 years	24.6	21.4
6. Louisiana will never recover	9.6	9.9
7. Don't Know/Not Sure	1.5	0.2

21) Q: Q21

Overall, do you think the federal government has allocated enough money to the state for rebuilding?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Allocated enough	36.7	39.1
2. Not allocated enough	52.0	51.7
3. Don't know/Not sure	11.3	9.2

22) Q: Q22

When it comes to allocating money for rebuilding, should additional resources go to areas not directly affected by the hurricanes but struggling with increased demands on existing infrastructure, such as roads, public schools, and other public facilities?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Yes	64.2	64.0
2. No	30.0	32.2
3. Don't Know	5.8	3.9

23) Q: Q23

Have you yourself felt depressed because of what's happened in areas affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Yes	54.8	46.1
2. No	45.2	53.9

24) Q: Q24

Have you or anyone in your immediate family sought counseling or other professional help for depression, anxiety, or stress caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Yes	6.3	12.1
2. No	93.7	87.9

25) Q: Q25

And how much attention do you pay to news specifically about the Louisiana Politics and Public affairs from television, newspapers, radio, or the internet?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. A Great Deal	37.5	38.6
2. Quite a Bit	21.0	21.2
3. Some	23.9	27.3
4. Very Little	13.8	11.2
5. None	3.8	1.7

26) Q: Q26

Do you get most of your news about Louisiana public affairs and politics from television, newspapers, radio, or the internet?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Television	68.2	68.9
2. Newspapers	19.5	17.5
3. Radio	4.5	2.8
4. Internet	5.0	7.1
5. Other	2.8	3.7

27) Q: Q27

In general, how would you rate the job YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER does covering Louisiana politics and public affairs?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Excellent	15.6	16.4
2. Good	41.6	44.9
3. Fair	28.5	28.4
4. Not very good	7.2	7.2
5. Poor	7.2	3.1

28) Q: Q28

How would you rate the job THE LOCAL TELEVISION NEWS PROGRAM YOU WATCH MOST does covering Louisiana politics and public affairs?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Excellent	17.9	16.1
2. Good	52.7	46.2
3. Fair	24.9	33.6
4. Not very good	2.8	3.1
5. Poor	1.7	1.0

29) Q:Q29

In the past week, how many days did you read a newspaper?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
0	18.0	22.4
1	8.8	11.1
2	8.0	11.6
3	12.5	12.3
4	3.8	5.0
5	8.6	5.1
6	2.4	1.5
7	37.9	30.9

30) Q:Q30

In the past week, how many days did you watch a local television news program?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
0	6.1	6.7
1	1.9	3.0
2	7.4	3.7
3	9.0	8.6
4	4.1	2.7
5	7.4	7.1
6	2.4	4.0
7	61.6	64.1

31) Q:Q31

In the past week, how many days did you watch a national network news program?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
0	13.1	17.4
1	8.9	9.3
2	12.4	7.8
3	13.1	10.0
4	4.7	3.7
5	7.2	6.5
6	1.5	1.6
7	38.9	43.7

32) Q:Q32

In the past week, how many days did you watch a news program on one of the cable news networks?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
0	27.2	32.0
1	5.0	3.7
2	9.8	8.2
3	8.2	5.6
4	2.8	2.8
5	5.2	9.0
6	1.1	0.2
7	40.7	38.5

33) Q:Q33

In the past week, how many days did you listen to a news program on radio?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
0	53.1	66.9
1	5.3	5.1
2	6.0	5.6
3	3.6	2.4
4	3.3	1.6
5	6.3	3.5
6	1.2	0.2
7	21.2	14.7

34) Q:Q34

In the past week, how many days did you watch the Daily Show or the Colbert Report on Comedy Central?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
0	80.5	84.4
1	6.0	3.3
2	4.6	5.1
3	1.3	0.5
4	1.2	2.2
5	1.2	1.0
6	1.6	0.0
7	3.7	3.6

35) Q:Q35

In the past week, how many days did you go on-line to get news about public affairs and politics?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
0	68.1	65.6
1	5.0	3.5
2	5.4	3.9
3	3.1	6.5
4	2.0	2.0
5	3.4	2.7
6	1.0	0.7
7	11.9	15.1

36) Q: Q36

Please tell me if you ever go online to do the following things

- \* Read the websites of national newspapers such as the New York Times, Washington Post, or Wall Street Journal
- \* Read the websites of local newspaper, such as 2TheAdvocate.Com or Nola.com.
- \* Read web logs or blogs devoted to national politics, such as the Daily Kos, (need some other examples) or InstaPundit
- \* Read web logs or blogs devoted specifically to Louisiana politics, such as thedeadpelican.com, Bayou Buzz, Politics LA or LaPolitics.com? [of the people who get online news]

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Yes	67.3	88.5
2. No	32.7	11.5

37) Q:Q37

When you read the newspaper, do you mostly read the paper version of the newspaper or do you read the paper online?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Read paper version	78.7	71.1
2. Read paper online	21.3	28.9

38) Q:Q38A

Now as I read through the following news sources please tell me whether you think they usually get the facts straight, or whether they are often inaccurate?

Local newspaper you are most familiar with

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Usually get facts straight	68.6	71.0
2. Often Inaccurate	17.9	17.9
3. Don't Know	13.5	11.1

39) Q:Q38B

Local television news you are most familiar with

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Usually get facts straight	83.7	81.2
2. Often Inaccurate	9.0	10.7
3. Don't Know	7.3	8.0

40) Q:Q38C

National Network News

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Usually get facts straight	68.4	66.2
2. Often Inaccurate	14.6	19.7
3. Don't Know	16.9	14.1

41) Q:Q38D

National Newspapers such as New York Times or Washington Post

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Usually get facts straight	30.5	28.6
2. Often Inaccurate	10.2	15.5
3. Don't Know	59.3	55.9

42) Q:Q38E

National political blogs, such as Daily Kos or InstaPundit

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Usually get facts straight	11.5	9.2
2. Often Inaccurate	9.4	8.9
3. Don't Know	79.1	81.8

43) Q:Q38F

Local Political, such as deadpelican.com and Bayou Buzz

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Usually get facts straight	12.7	12.8
2. Often Inaccurate	6.5	3.8
3. Don't Know	80.8	83.4

44) Q:Q39A

And please tell me whether you think each of the following news sources are generally fair to all sides, or whether you think they favor one side over another.

Local newspaper you are most familiar with

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Generally Fair to All Sides	56.1	51.9
2. Generally Favor One Side Over Another	30.9	37.0
3. Don't Know	13.0	11.1

45) Q:Q39B

Local television news you are most familiar with

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Generally Fair to All Sides	73.5	67.2
2. Generally Favor One Side Over Another	21.1	25.8
3. Don't Know	5.4	7.1

46) Q:Q39C

National Network News

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Generally Fair to All Sides	53.7	50.5
2. Generally Favor One Side Over Another	30.2	32.9
3. Don't Know	16.1	16.7

47) Q:Q39D

National Newspapers such as New York Times or Washington Post

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Generally Fair to All Sides	23.1	20.5
2. Generally Favor One Side Over Another	18.3	20.6
3. Don't Know	58.5	58.9

48) Q:Q39E

National political blogs, such as Daily Kos or InstaPundit

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Generally Fair to All Sides	11.6	6.9
2. Generally Favor One Side Over Another	10.8	12.8
3. Don't Know	77.6	80.3

49) Q:Q39F

Local Political, such as deadpelican.com and Bayou Buzz

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Generally Fair to All Sides	12.1	11.7
2. Generally Favor One Side Over Another	9.4	7.1
3. Don't Know	78.5	81.2

50) Q:Q40

Thinking now specifically about Louisiana State University, if you had to choose - do you think it would be better for the state if LSU had top rated athletic programs or top rated academic programs?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Top rated athletic programs	13.7	12.1
2. Top rated academic programs	78.9	84.4
3. Don't Know	7.4	3.5

51) Q: Q41

And why do you think it would be better for the state if LSU had top ranked athletic programs but not top rated academic programs.

[Open ended]

52) Q: Q42

T: 5 5

As I read through the following statements, please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, have no opinion, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the statements.

I am confident that politicians will do the right thing in their efforts to rebuild the areas affected by Katrina.

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Strongly Agree	12.9	7.2
2. Somewhat Agree	37.7	31.1
3. Have no opinion	5.7	6.9
4. Somewhat Disagree	22.2	37.3
5. Strongly Disagree	10.7	17.4

53) Q: Q43

People like me don't have any say about what the government does to rebuild the areas affected by Katrina.

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Strongly Agree	27.5	32.1
2. Somewhat Agree	33.9	34.2
3. Have no opinion	5.7	8.7
4. Somewhat Disagree	22.2	14.9
5. Strongly Disagree	10.7	10.1

54) Q: Q44

I consider myself well-qualified to participate in politics.

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Strongly Agree	21.3	21.9
2. Somewhat Agree	33.1	32.6
3. Have no opinion	5.9	7.4
4. Somewhat Disagree	22.3	26.9
5. Strongly Disagree	17.3	11.2

55) Q: Q45

I think that I am better informed about politics and government than most people.

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Strongly Agree	17.4	17.3
2. Somewhat Agree	34.1	41.1
3. Have no opinion	9.0	5.3
4. Somewhat Disagree	26.4	27.7
5. Strongly Disagree	13.1	8.6

56) Q: Q46

I feel that I have a pretty good understanding of the important political issues facing our country.

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Strongly Agree	30.8	27.8
2. Somewhat Agree	50.5	51.1
3. Have no opinion	4.6	7.0
4. Somewhat Disagree	10.1	11.3
5. Strongly Disagree	4.0	2.7

57) Q: Q47

Are you still living in the same address you did before the hurricanes?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Yes	86.4	86.3
2. No	13.6	13.7

58) Q: Q48

Did you move specifically because of the hurricanes? [of those no longer at same address]

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Yes	57.2	41.8
2. No	42.8	58.2

59) Q: Q49

Do you have any displaced family members or friends currently living in your home?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Yes	7.0	8.3
2. No	93.0	91.7

60) Q: Q50

Generally speaking do you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or what?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Democrat	43.1	42.2
2. Independent	19.5	21.0
3. Republican	28.9	25.4
4. Other	8.4	11.4

61) Q: Q51



When it comes to politics, do you consider yourself liberal, moderate, or conservative?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Liberal	17.5	13.9
2. Moderate	35.3	37.9
3. Conservative	47.2	48.1

62) Q: Q52

Are you currently registered to vote?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Yes	90.2	86.4
2. No	9.8	13.6

63) Q: Q53

And did you vote in the 2004 presidential election between George W. Bush, and John Kerry?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Yes	81.4	78.1
2. No	18.4	21.9

64) Q: Q54

Age

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. 18-24	15.0	14.8
2. 25-34	14.4	17.6
3. 35-44	18.4	22.1
4. 45-54	20.8	18.2
5. 55-64	13.3	12.5
6. 65 and over	18.2	14.7

65) Q: Q55

Which of the following categories best describes your level of education?  
Please stop me when I get to that category.

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Less than 9th grade	4.2	1.1
2. 9th through 11th grade	15.6	16.3
3. High school diploma	31.3	30.2
4. Some college or vocational school	25.2	26.9
5. A 4-year college degree	13.3	13.7
6. Some graduate work	2.6	3.3
7. Advanced degree	7.7	8.5

66) Q: Q56

Which of the following best describes you? Are you White, Hispanic, African-American, Asian, or something else?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. White	68.4	64.8
2. Hispanic	0.9	0.9
3. African-American	26.6	31.9
4. Asian	0.8	0.3
5. Other	3.4	2.1

67) Q: Q57

Is your religious preference Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, none, or something else?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Protestant	26.8	34.3
2. Catholic	33.4	27.1
3. Jewish	0.4	1.1
4. Muslim	0.0	0.4
5. Other	32.4	29.2
6. None	7.0	8.0

68) Q: Q58

Besides weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services? Would you say more than once a week, at least once a week, a few times a month, several times a year, once a year, or never?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. More than once a week	14.2	11.9
2. At least once a week	36.9	36.9
3. A few times a month	21.5	22.2
4. Several times a year	13.2	14.0
5. Once a year	3.5	3.7
6. Never	10.7	11.5

69) Q: Q59

How much guidance do you get from religion in your daily life - a great deal, quite a bit, some, not very much, or none at all?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. A great deal	46.7	44.1
2. Quite a bit	20.4	24.5
3. Some	20.8	19.4
4. Not Very Much	6.7	9.6
5. None at all	5.3	2.5

70) Q: Q60

Do you or does your family own your home, pay rent, or what?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Own home	81.7	78.1
2. Pay rent	16.3	19.5
3. Other	2.0	2.4

71) Q: Q61

Do you have any children in your house under the age of 18?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Yes	43.1	39.9
2. No	56.9	60.1

72) Q: Q62

How long have you lived in the community in which you currently reside?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Less than 1 year	8.0	10.8
2. 1-5 years	15.8	16.6
3. 6-10 years	12.8	19.0
4. 11-20 years	21.5	14.3
5. More than 20 years	41.8	39.3

73) Q: Q63

Are you currently single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Single	22.5	33.4
2. Married	58.6	47.2
3. Widowed	10.5	7.0
4. Divorced	6.5	8.9
5. Separated	1.8	3.4

74) Q: Q64

Are you currently employed full-time, employed part-time, retired, unemployed and looking for work, or not employed and not looking for work?

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Employed Full-time	46.1	52.7
2. Employed Part-time	10.2	11.0
3. Retired	21.6	14.9
4. Unemployed and looking for work	7.1	7.4
5. Not employed and not looking for work	10.1	9.0
6. On Disability [volunteered]	4.8	5.0

75) Q: Q65

We would like to know what your family income was last year before taxes. I will read several income categories. Please stop me when I get to the category that includes your family income. Your best guess is fine. [If they refuse to answer remind them that this confidential and we are only collecting this information for statistical purposes]

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Under \$10,000	7.7	9.5
2. \$10,000 - \$19,999	10.5	16.8
3. \$20,000 - \$29,999	10.2	8.0
4. \$30,000 - \$39,999	14.4	15.9
5. \$40,000 - \$49,999	8.5	6.9
6. \$50,000 - \$74,999	12.6	23.1
7. \$75,000 - \$99,999	21.1	9.7
8. \$100,000 or more	14.9	10.1

76) Q: Q66

Gender

	<u>LA %</u>	<u>BR %</u>
1. Male	47.4	47.8
2. Female	52.6	52.2