What Does Public Health Mean

- Improving overall health and quality of life: 58% (2008), 30% (1996)
- Don’t know: 17% (2008), 33% (1996)
- Government health care and welfare programs: 17% (2008), 36% (1996)
- Other: 8% (2008), 1% (1996)

Proportion of Americans Who Ever Had Contact with Their State or Local Health Department

% saying

Yes: 31%

No: 68%

Live in community damaged by hurricane last three years

Harvard School of Public Health *Project on the Public and Biological Security*, May 27-June 23, 2008.
## Evacuation for Hurricanes

### Evacuation Compliance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Would not evacuate 2008&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would not evacuate 2007&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home is well-built/will be safe at home</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Think roads will be too crowded</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Think evacuating would be dangerous</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worried possessions would be stolen/damaged</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would not want to leave pet</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>1</sup> Harvard School of Public Health *Project on the Public and Biological Security*, May 27-June 23, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> Harvard School of Public Health *Project on the Public and Biological Security*, June 18-July 10, 2007.
Evacuation for Hurricanes, Among Those Affected by Hurricane Katrina

**Evacuation Compliance**

- Would not evacuate if told to do so: 23%

**Evacuation Challenges**

- Have not lined up the help you need to evacuate\(^1\): 46%
- Do not know place to take pet\(^2\): 25%

\(^1\)Among those who intend to evacuate and require help to do so (20%)

\(^2\)Among those who have pets (51%)

Problems Experienced in Last Major Hurricane

*Among those whose communities had been damaged in a major hurricane in last three years*

- Had problems getting gas to evacuate: 35%
- Didn’t have enough money: 20%
- Suffered from heat exhaustion: 19%
- Didn’t have enough fresh water: 14%
- Didn’t have enough food: 12%
- Didn’t have the prescription drugs or medicine you needed: 10%

(8% either of these)

- Had problems caring for disabled/chronically ill/elderly member of household: 8%
- Had problems because they were disabled/chronically ill: 6%
- Needed medical care & could not get it: 5%
- Were injured: 5%
- Threatened by violence: 3%

Concerns about conditions in an evacuation center or shelter

% saying very/somewhat worried

- Overall, about conditions and safety: 61%
- Conditions unsanitary: 68%
- Exposed to sick people: 62%

Challenges Facing Families with a Chronic Illness or Disability Who Need Help in Evacuating

**Hurricane Preparedness**

- Not prepared at all for major hurricane in next 6 months: 17% (Chronic Illness), 9% (Other Respondents)
- Do not have help needed to evacuate: 43% (Chronic Illness), NA (Other Respondents)
- Would go to evacuation shelter if had to evacuate: 22% (Chronic Illness), 10% (Other Respondents)

**Worries about Problems During Major Hurricane**

- Would need medical care and not be able to get it: 50% (Chronic Illness), 28% (Other Respondents)
- Would suffer from heat exhaustion: 45% (Chronic Illness), 23% (Other Respondents)
- Wouldn’t have enough fresh water: 41% (Chronic Illness), 27% (Other Respondents)
- Wouldn’t have the prescription drugs or medicine you need: 41% (Chronic Illness), 19% (Other Respondents)

Residents of Mobile Homes

- Would Not Evacuate: 17%
- Think home could survive category 3 hurricane: 23%
- Not prepared at all for a major hurricane: 17%

Amount of time you think perishable food like meat/milk in your refrigerator remains safe to eat in a power outage (USDA recommends 4 hours maximum)

- A few hours: 20%
- One day: 36%
- Two days or more: 41%