

2006 Public Opinion Survey

Conducted by MultiQuest INC for the

Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse

For Greater New Orleans

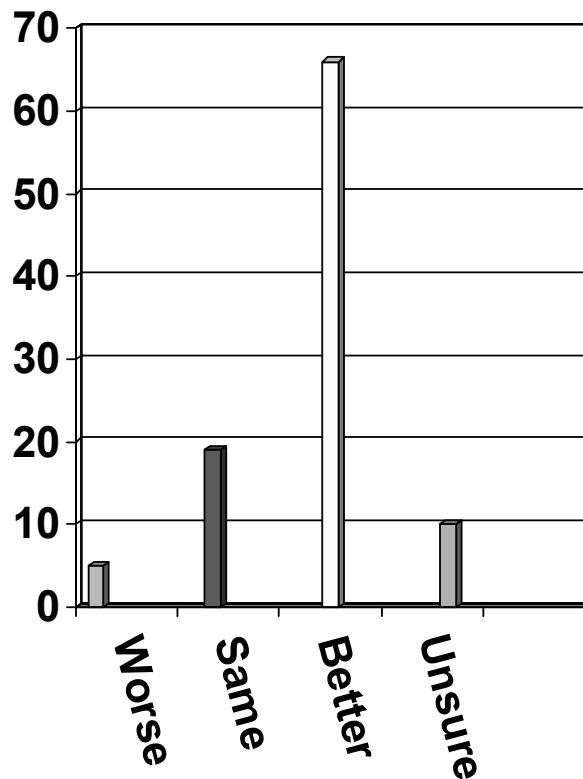
& the Louisiana Highway Safety

Commission

Methodology

- Total of 603 persons from Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, and St. Tammany Parishes were used.
- Because of the impact of Hurricane Katrina, survey samples were redesigned to reflect the current residency of the five parishes.
- Survey conducted March 25 – April 15, 2006
- Standard error factor of plus/minus 4%.

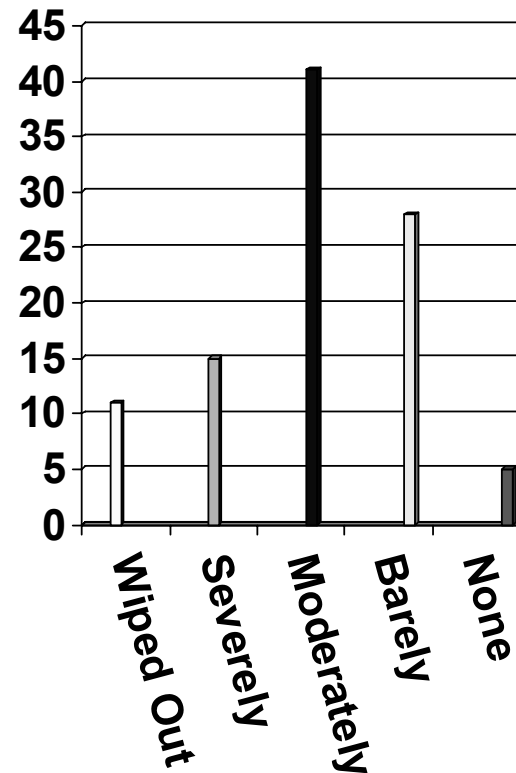
Will the efforts to rebuild in the aftermath of Katrina make our community a better place to live?



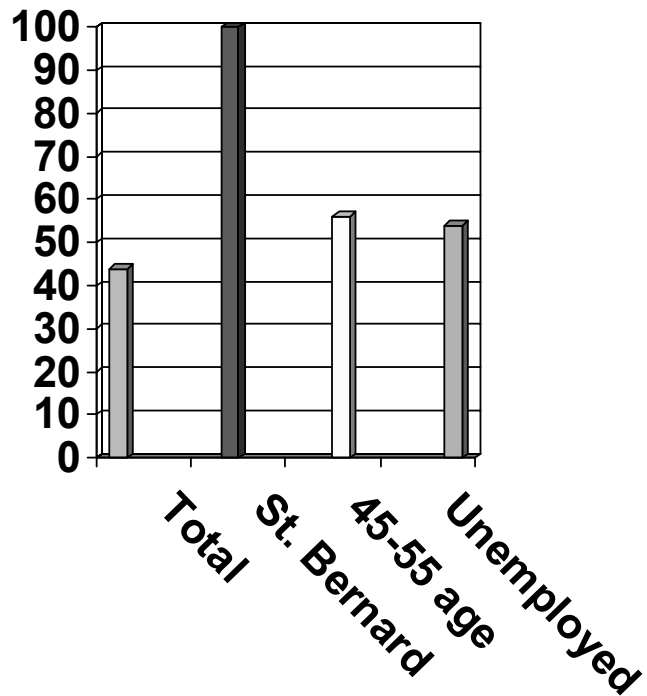
- Two-thirds felt our community would be better.
- One in five said about the same.
- Only 5% thought things would end up worse.
- Most optimistic (Orleans – 71%). Least optimistic (St. Bernard – 44%).

How was your family and home impacted?

- Overall, one in four (26%) said they were severely impacted to wiped out.
- 41% had moderate impact
- Total: at least 67% had at least moderate damage.
- St. Bernard (100) and Orleans (21) had the highest “wiped out” impact.
- Blacks and Hispanics had the highest proportion of “wiped out” category.
- Total indicating some degree of damage: 94%.

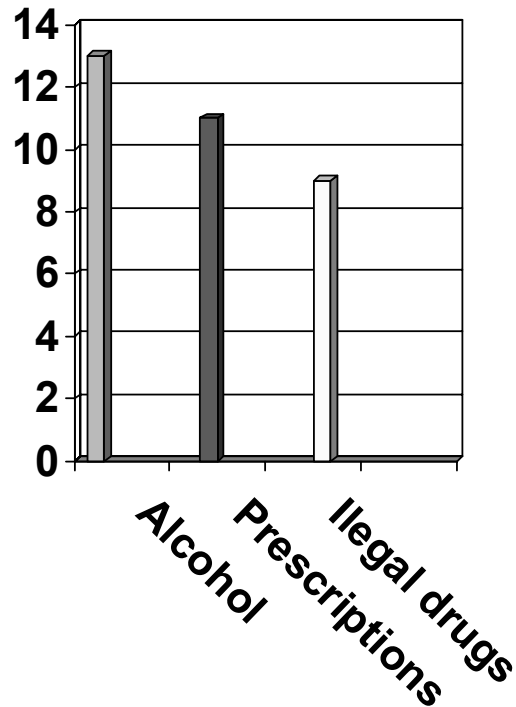


Have you noticed specific continuing mental or emotional health problems in your family due to Katrina aftermath?



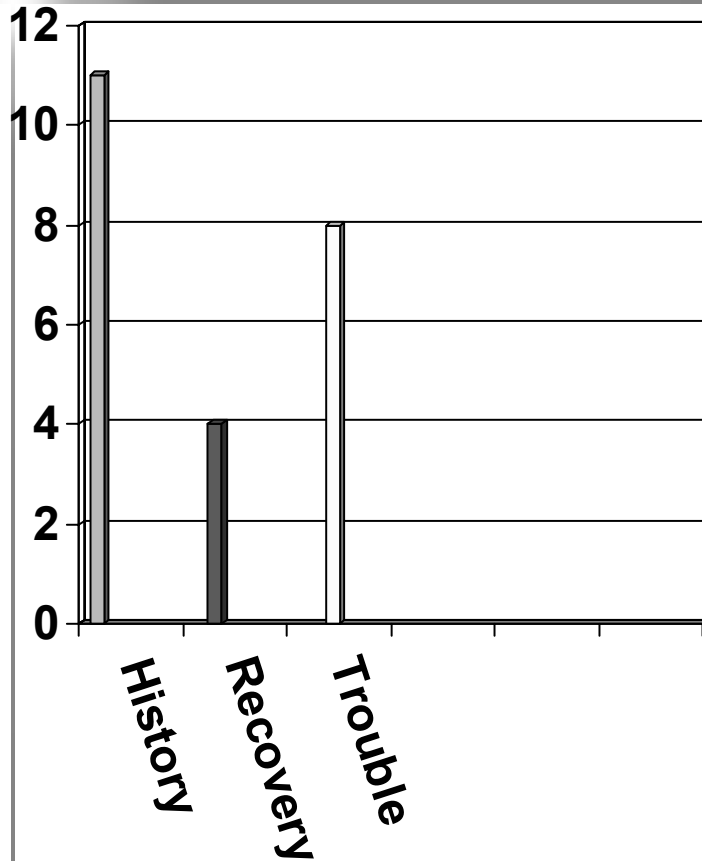
- Close to half (45%) of all respondents could identify someone in their family who has developed emotional/mental health problems.
- Though response in St. Bernard was low, 100% said yes to this.
- Ages 45-55 highest at 56%
- Unemployed – 54%.

Changes Post-Katrina in alcohol and other drug use.



- 13% (about one in seven) said they have experienced an increase in alcohol use.
- 11% (one in nine) said they had experienced an increase in prescription drug use.
- 9% said a family member had experienced an increase in their illegal drug use.
- Highest rates were in Orleans parish, those under 35, and most affluent.

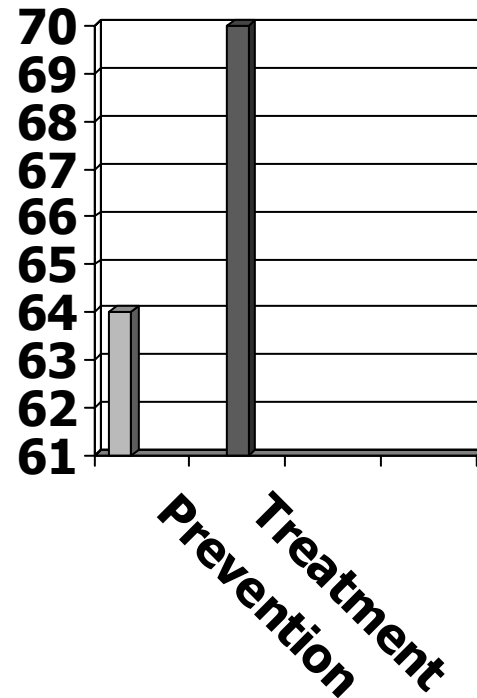
Impact of alcohol / drug problems in the family.



- One in nine families currently identifies someone with an alcohol or drug problem
- 4% have someone in recovery currently
- Currently 10% (of the total) say they are having difficulty finding places for help

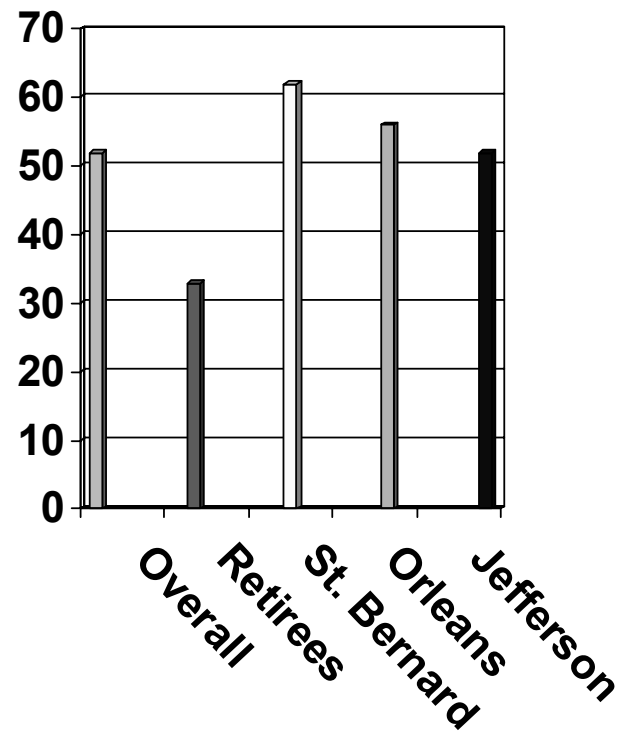
How important is it that a priority be placed on alcohol – drug abuse problems in our Post-Katrina world?

- 64% considered prevention to be extremely to very important.
- 70% said treatment is extremely to very important.
- Prevention #s highest among those under 25 and treatment highest among middle ages, higher incomes and African Americans

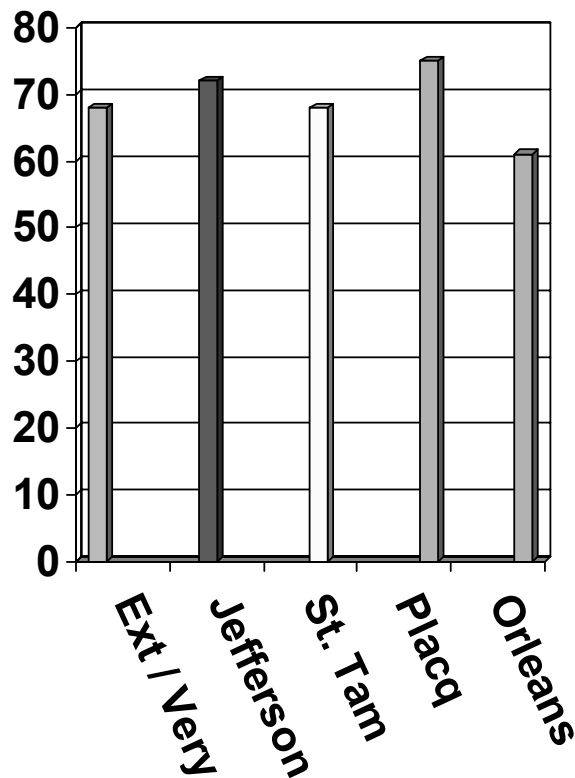


Would you support or oppose education or treatment alternatives to jail for DWI offenders?

- 51% favor this kind of alternative to jail.
- Highest: St. Bernard at 62%.
- Only one in three retirees support this.



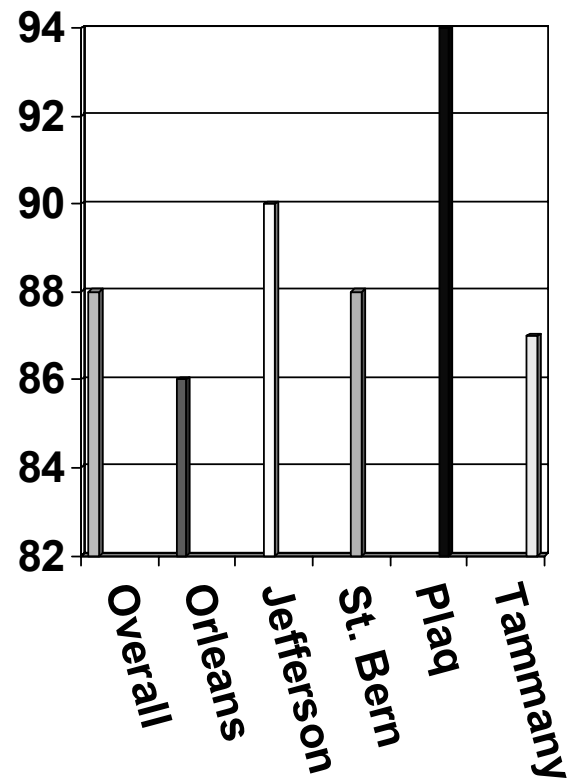
In these post-Katrina days, how serious do you think underage drinking is?



- Still a major problem (68% labeled it extremely to very serious)
- Plaquemines scored highest (75%), with Jefferson a close 2nd at 72%.
- 45-55 age group had highest score of 71%

Favor or oppose requiring all passengers to wear seatbelts?

- Across the board agreement in all demographic groups.
- Even to fining those caught without use – overall support was 74%



Some Conclusions

- Respondents notice that Post – Katrina, emotional and mental health issues have increased in their homes.
- Alcohol and drug use is up measurably.
- And across the board underage drinking is still considered a major problem at a time when our area struggles to recover.
- Despite these responses, most hold out hope that our area will recover and be a better place to live.
- An added note: CADA staff has been conducting onsite crisis outreach into our most affected areas since October 2005. We consistently see evidence of frustration, anger and depression among returnees to their homes. Research clearly shows that these reactions, typical for the level of trauma our area has experienced, easily turns into self-destructive behaviors and local reports of increases in suicides and attempts, domestic violence and divorce, as well as alcohol and other drug use and abuse bear this out.
- We are on the leading edge of an emotional and psychological tsunami that threatens the health and recovery of our community.