

**Resiliency through the lens of *displacement*
vulnerability
& *long-term recovery***

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... without a more complete understanding of recovery and reconstruction, key dimensions of resiliency will remain missing. Indeed without sufficient data on short and long-term recovery with respect to households, housing, businesses and other components of our communities, developing and validating models of community resilience or assessing the effectiveness of recovery policy and planning will remain elaborate conjectures (Peacock et al., 2008, 11).

- Major gaps in scholarship and research pointed out by Mileti (1999, 310) .. “the needs of groups that suffer from lingering and/or late-blooming effects of disasters”
- Long-term recovery issues as least studied and documented (Peacock et al.,2008, 10)

Since *Katrina*, displaced populations have become an important subset of these “groups” and “issues”

**.. a closer look the “displaced persons”
population subset**

Displacement is both an outcome and cause of vulnerability

- Outcome:
 - Socially vulnerable households (e.g. income , educational attainment, employment status etc.) are most at risk to long-term displacement
- Cause:
 - Displacement is manifested overtly (absence of families; lack of school functions etc.) and impacts community quality of life.
 - Loss of livelihoods for example make individuals and communities more vulnerable to other hazards and other social and economic stressors

Additional stressors during long-term recovery

- Individual and households: (in)ability to access assets and tap into social capital during long-term recovery efforts
- Communities:
 - restoration of functioning infrastructure including schools
 - return of a critical mass of residents
 - Social services
 - Medical services
 - Ecosystem services (e.g. clean drinking water)
 - sufficient housing repairs and replacements to accommodate returnees
 - resurgence in school enrollments
 - business recovery and continuity

The sliding social class: the ignored “population”

- We also need to pay attention to pockets of residents who quickly shift from “ok” status to being vulnerable during long-term recovery and displacement.

Critical gaps in knowledge

Operating assumptions: TRUE? FALSE? or IT DEPENDS

- More resilient communities will potentially have lower numbers of households that are displaced for longer periods of time compared to their less resilient counterparts.
- Determinants of households' vulnerability to long-term displacement are well known --- we can differentiate between factors that can be influenced by households versus those that can be influenced by planning and policy interventions.
- Well-designed policies undergirded by strong political institutions at local and state levels can increase resiliency and lead to lower levels of potential displacement

Implications for units of analysis and data collection, aggregation, disaggregation .. .unclear

- individuals
- households
- “communities”
- regions
- businesses
- governments : local, State, Federal
- institutions
- agents/agencies of policy formulation

“Thematic” (untapped) links to other domains

“... Cumulative shocks and stresses propels a region and its people to increasing criticality” (Folke et al, 2005)

- Thresholds/tipping points/ criticality
- interdependence
- compounding and cumulative vulnerability
- differential
- adaptive capacity

... we use the same terms, but what do we really mean?

A long view-- toward a “resilient” scholarship

- What is the required knowledge base and skill-set for scholars and practitioners?
- Can these domains of concern form the core knowledge set?

.. for later discussion