

Hurricane Katrina Evacuees In Texas: *A Comprehensive Needs Assessment*

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Hurricane Katrina in August 2005 resulted in what the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) describes as *“the largest relocation in American history.”*

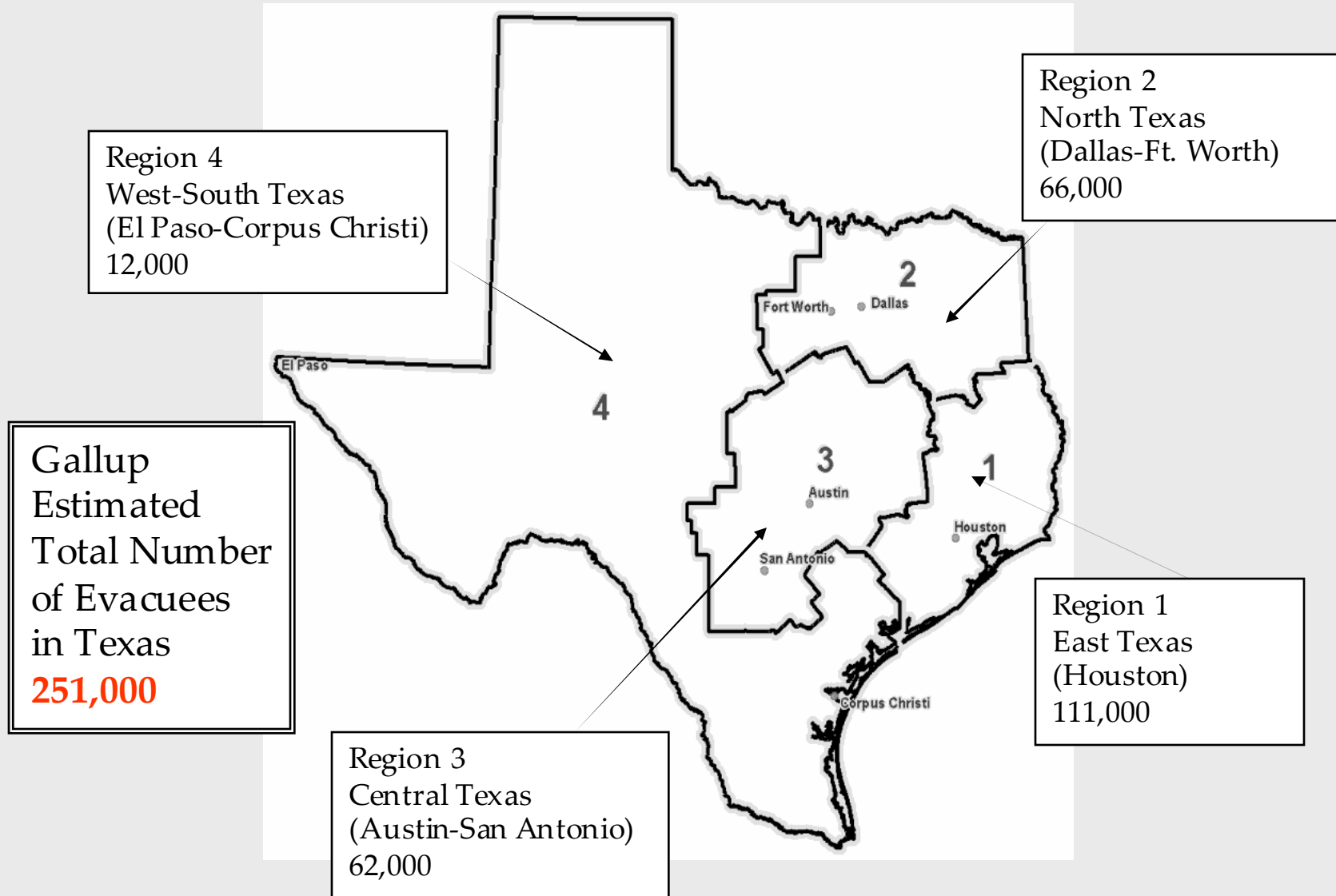
- Katrina displaced over one million people.
- Many of the displaced who left Louisiana came to Texas.
- To better serve the evacuees and to assist with financial planning, Texas contracted with The Gallup Organization to survey this population.

Introduction, Cont.

Survey Methods

- The target population for the survey was all evacuees of Hurricane Katrina who resided in Texas in May and June of 2006.
- Evacuees were identified from households registered with FEMA.
- Gallup designed the survey to provide robust estimates statewide and for four regions.

Estimated Number of Evacuees in Texas May/June 2006



- Gallup completed telephone interviews with 6,415 evacuee households.
- Evacuees were surveyed about their:
 - housing situation
 - employment status
 - health status
 - health insurance, Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
 - health and human service need and utilization
 - demographic characteristics
- Questions covered evacuees’ past, current, and future expected health and human service needs.

Key Findings

1. Most of the evacuees living in Texas were very low income.

Finding 1: Evacuees were very low income

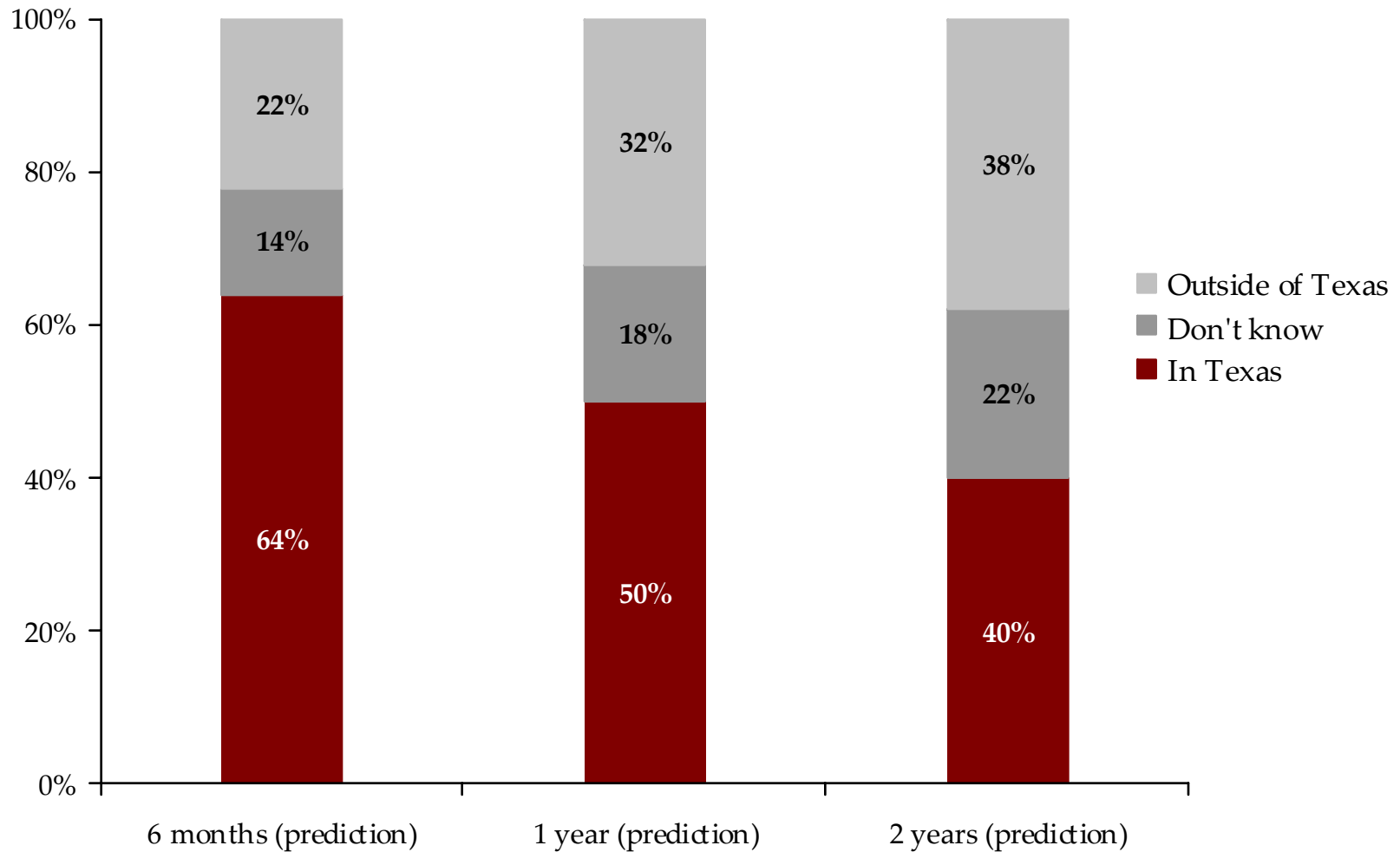
- The survey results indicated that the evacuees were largely:
 - Low income: pre-hurricane, 61% of the evacuee households earned less than \$20,000/year
 - Young: 63% were 18 to 44 years old
 - African American: 81%
 - Female: 60%
 - Living in households with children: 54%

Key Findings

1. Most of the evacuees living in Texas were very low income.
2. **A significant number of evacuees expected to stay in Texas.**

Finding 2: Evacuees expected to stay in Texas

Respondents' Expected Future Housing Location

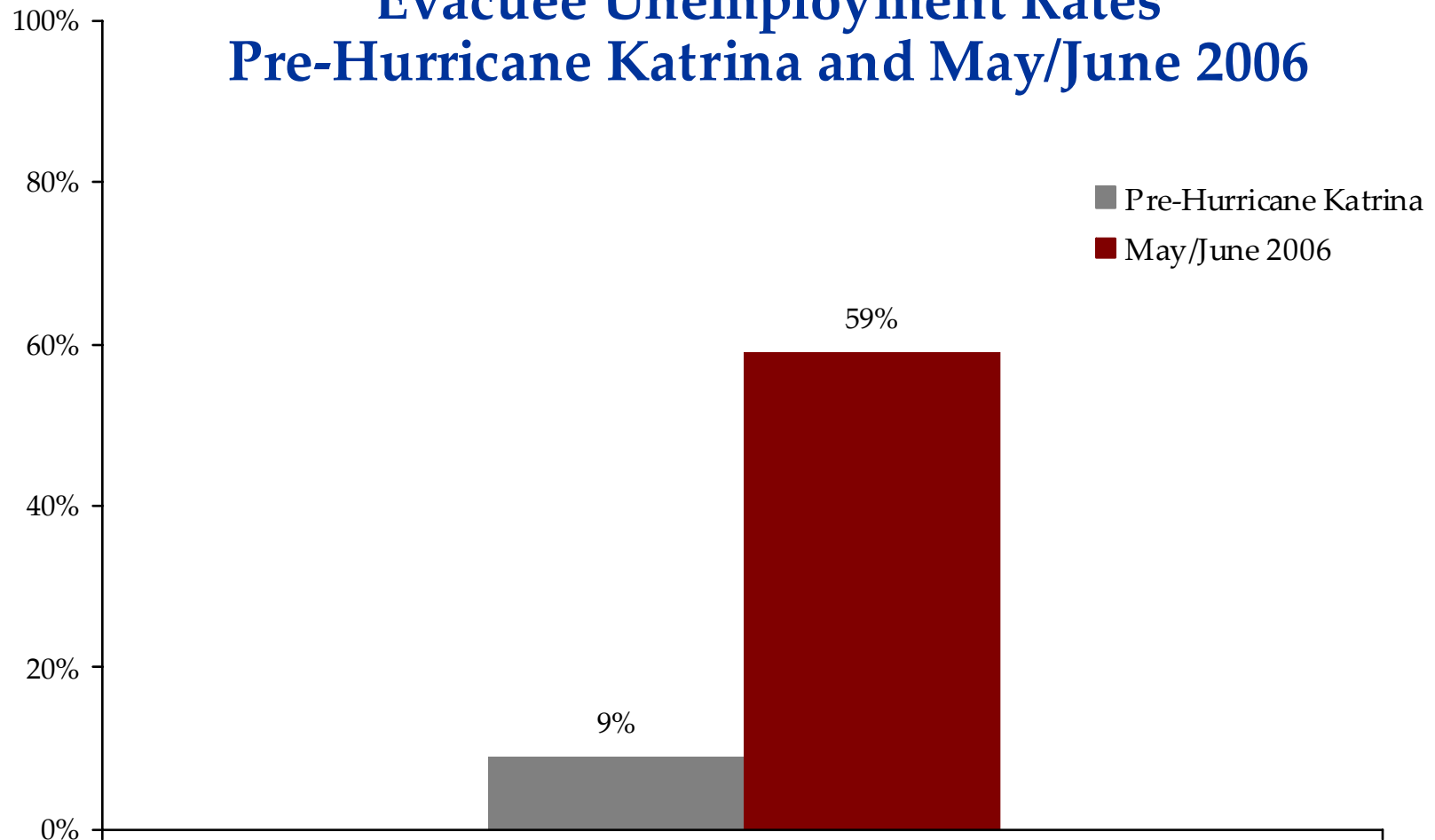


Key Findings

1. Most of the evacuees living in Texas were very low income.
2. A significant number of evacuees expected to stay in Texas.
3. **The evacuees demonstrated significant employment, housing, and health needs.**

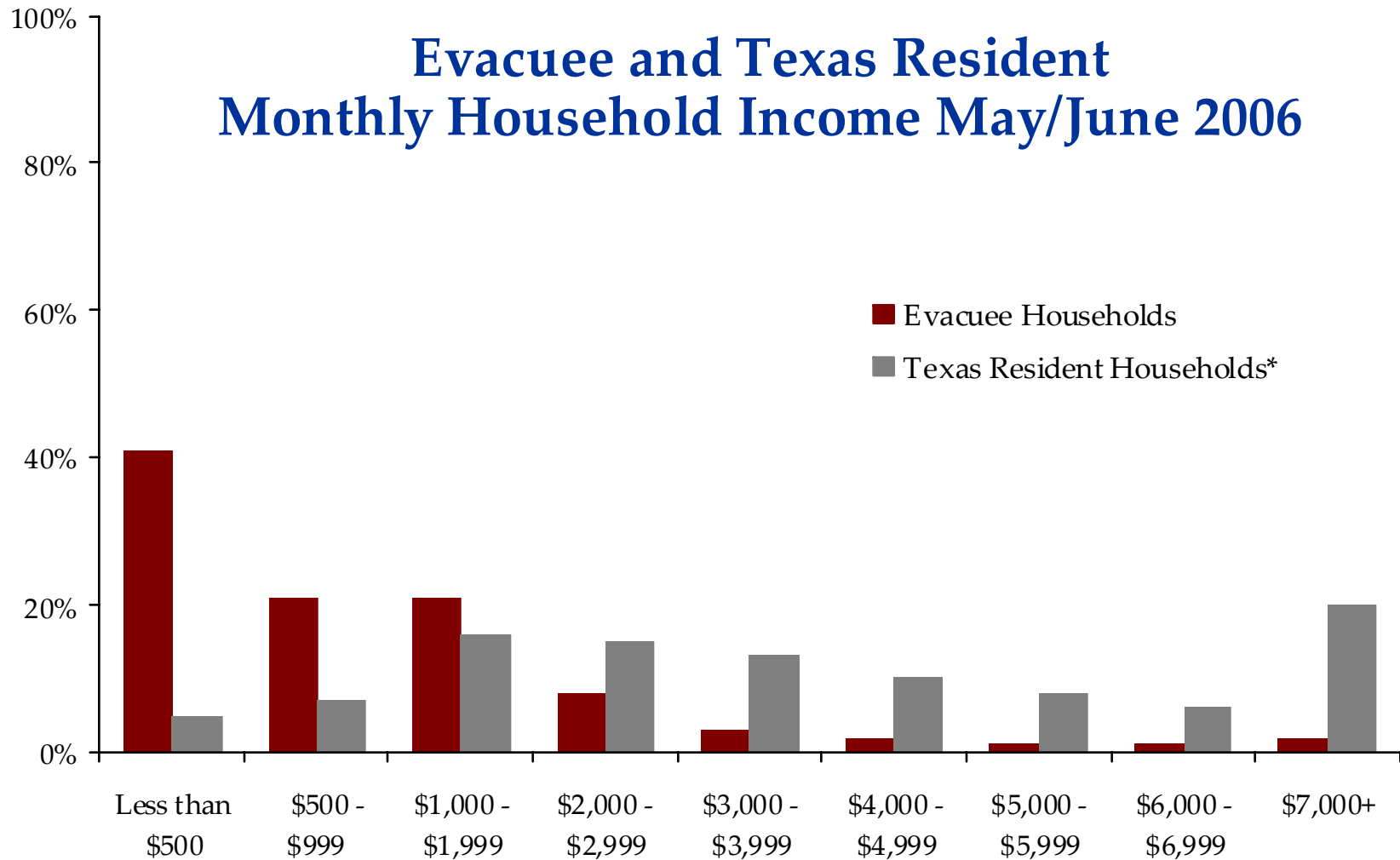
Finding 3: Employment, housing, and health needs

**Evacuee Unemployment Rates
Pre-Hurricane Katrina and May/June 2006**



Finding 3: Employment, housing, and health needs

Evacuee and Texas Resident Monthly Household Income May/June 2006



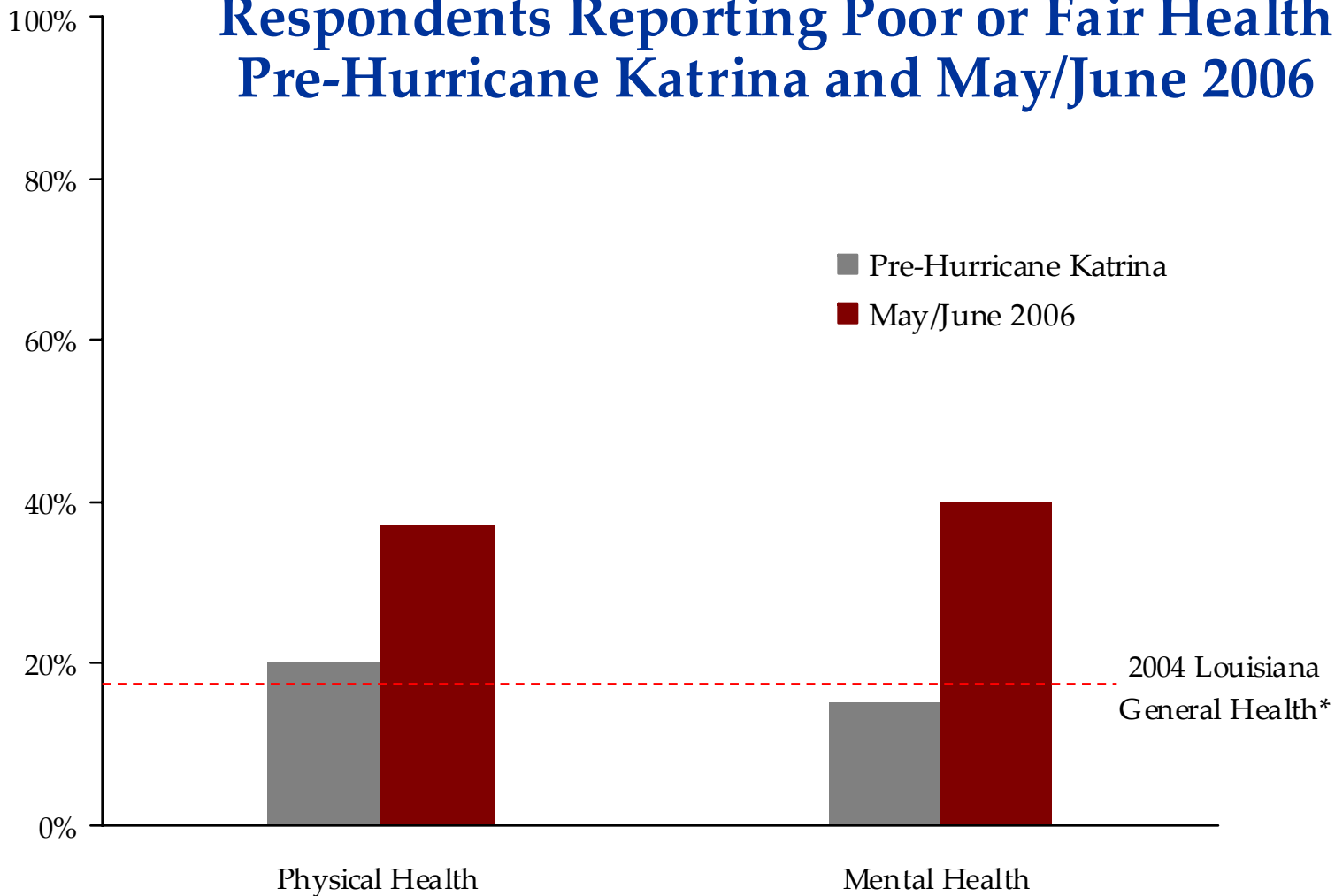
*From U.S. Census Bureau
2004 American Community Survey (ACS) for Texas

Housing Needs

- Although the initial housing crisis had subsided, ten months after Hurricane Katrina:
 - 12% of evacuee households still lived in temporary housing.
 - 54% of evacuee households, or approximately 135,000 evacuees, relied on housing subsidies, up from 18% pre-hurricane.

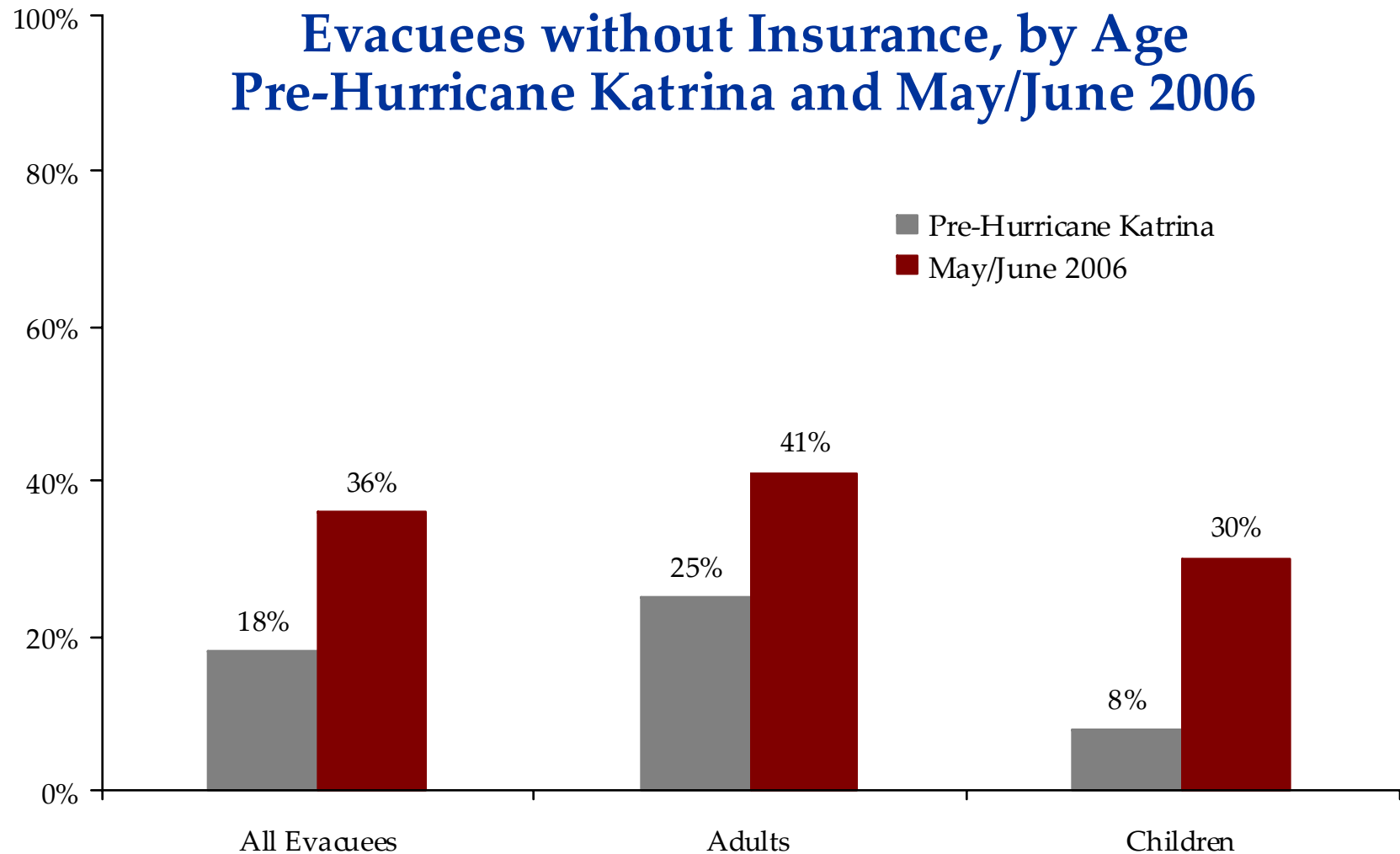
*Finding 3: Employment, housing, and
health needs*

**Respondents Reporting Poor or Fair Health
Pre-Hurricane Katrina and May/June 2006**



*From Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

*Finding 3: Employment, housing, and
health needs*



Finding 3: Employment, housing, and health needs

Health Needs

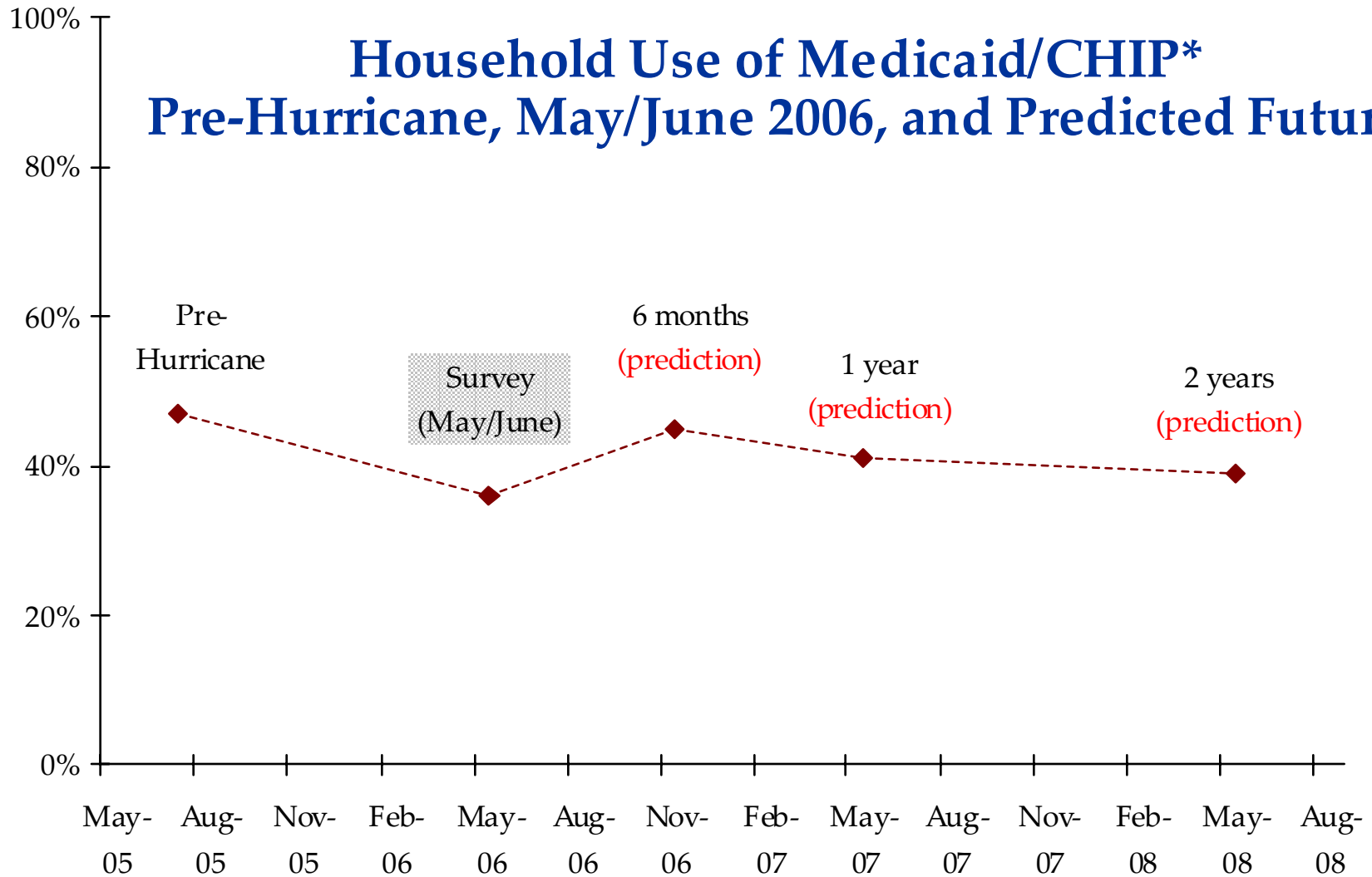
- Among those without health insurance:
 - 40% of the evacuee households delayed or avoided getting health care.
 - 32% had problems getting needed care.
 - 33% incurred major medical costs.

Key Findings

1. Most of the evacuees living in Texas were very low income.
2. A significant number of evacuees expected to stay in Texas.
3. The evacuees demonstrated significant employment, housing, and health needs.
4. **The evacuees' utilization of some state benefits was lower than anticipated.**

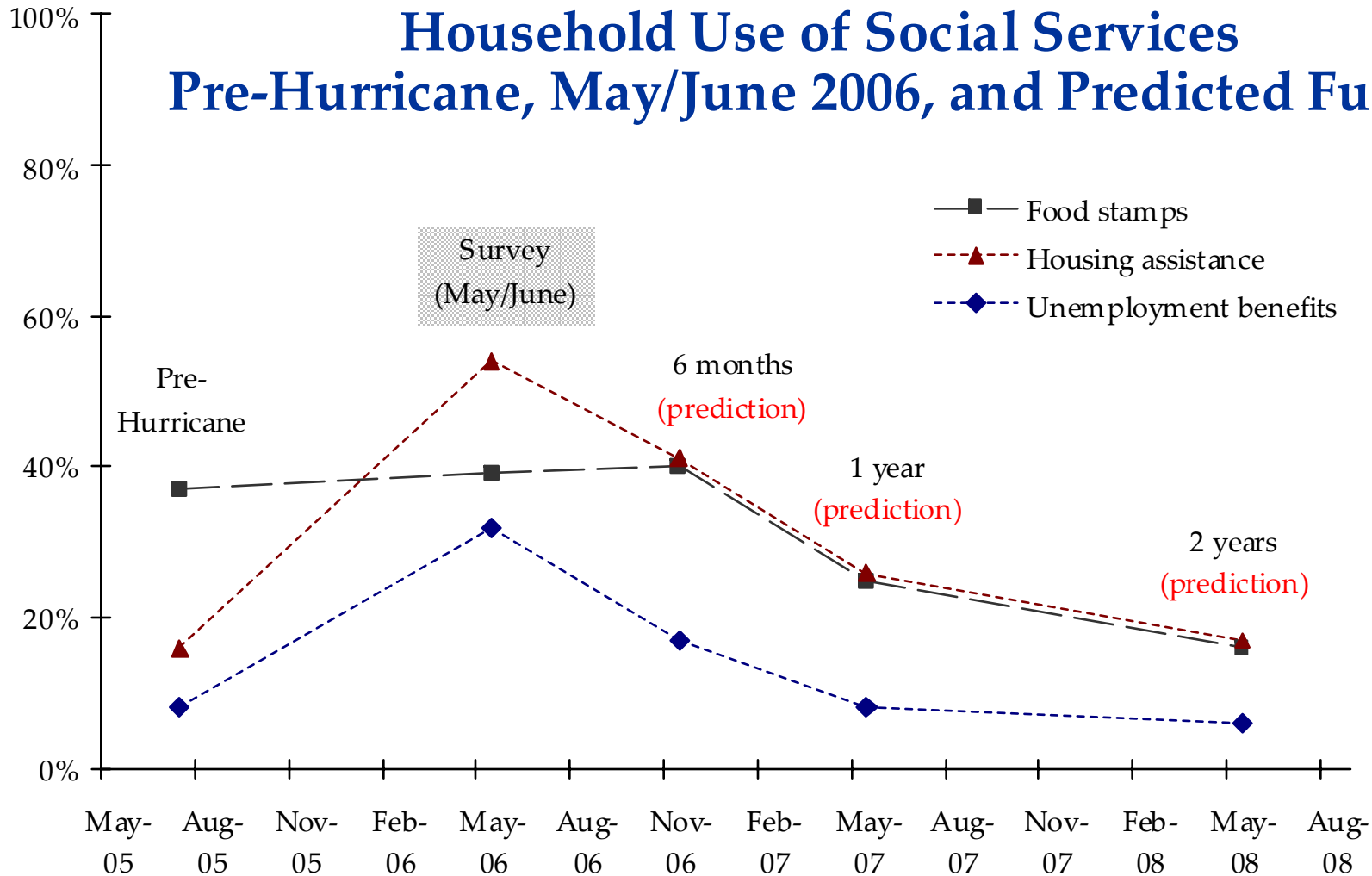
Utilization of Social Services

- Texas received a waiver from the Centers for Medicaid Services to provide immediate Medicaid coverage to evacuees.
- Eligible evacuees included:
 - Parents
 - Pregnant women
 - Children under age 19
 - Individuals with disabilities
 - Low income Medicare recipients
 - Some individuals in need of long-term care

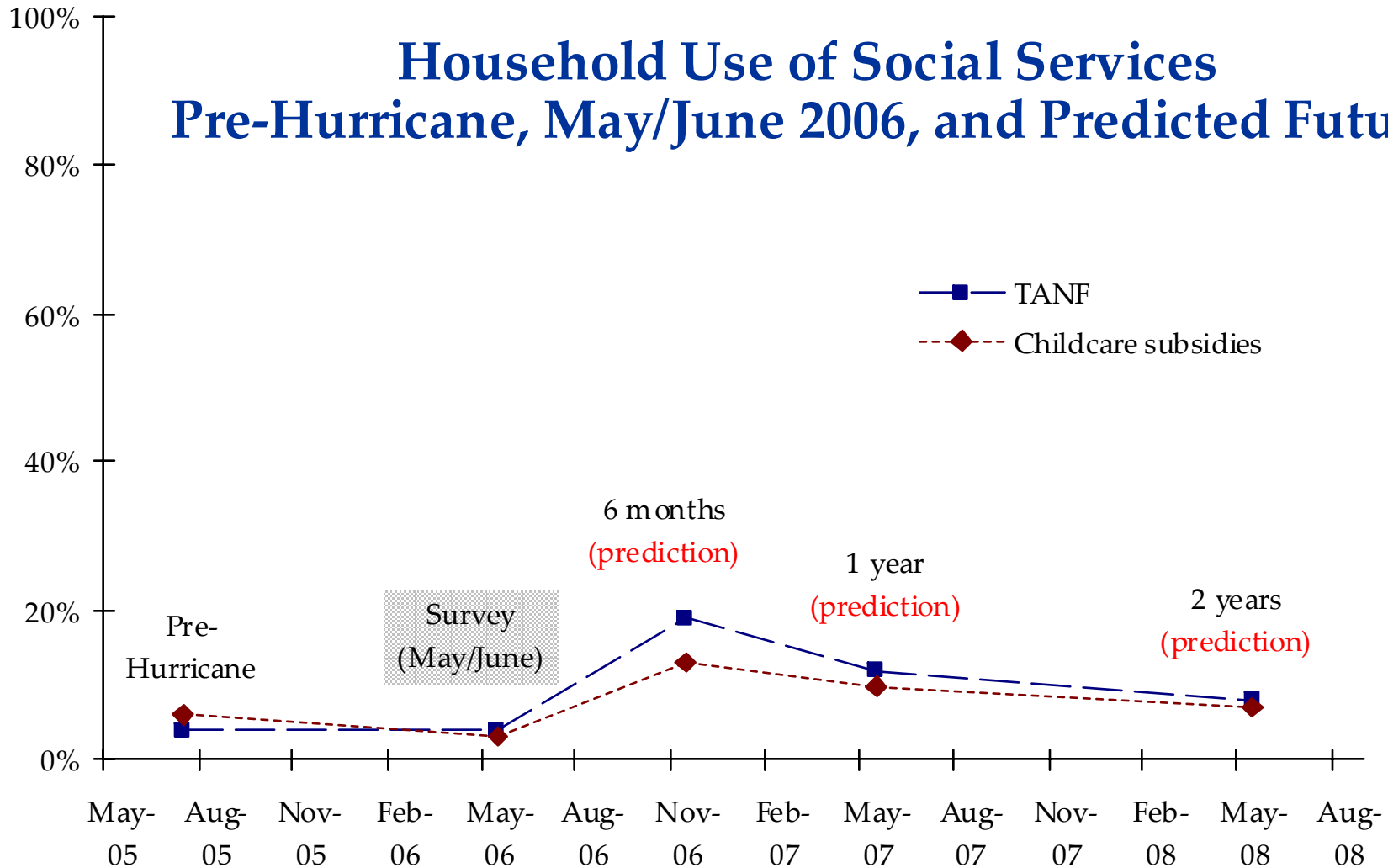


*Children's Health Insurance Program

Household Use of Social Services Pre-Hurricane, May/June 2006, and Predicted Future



Household Use of Social Services Pre-Hurricane, May/June 2006, and Predicted Future



- Why was there a gap between evacuees' needs and their service utilization?
 - Utilization of non-state health and human services
 - Prioritization of needs
 - Medicaid enrollment driven by use of services

- How has Texas Health and Human Services used the Hurricane Katrina survey data for planning purposes?
 - Allocated Title XX Block Grant funds
 - Adjusted Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP)
 - Provided information to local and other state government agencies

- Perception of Texas' Health and Human Services:
 - 60% of the survey respondents rated Texas' ability to respond to their needs as "excellent" or "very good."
- Outlook on the future:
 - Despite their significant challenges, 60% of the survey respondents reported they believe that life in the future will be better than before the hurricane.



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Cover photograph from:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS)
Environmental Visualization Program
Hurricane Katrina regional imagery, 2005.08.28 at 1515Z.
Centerpoint Latitude: 26:13:59N Longitude: 88:08:03W.

<http://www.nvpl.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/index.cgi?page=products&category=Year%202005%20Storm%20Events&event=Hurricane%20Katrina>