

# KARHE REGISTRY

HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA  
HOUSING EXPOSURES REGISTRY

## HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE STUDY?

Many local community organizations, private businesses, churches and other religious institutions, as well as community leaders in your neighborhood are working with KARHE to share information about the Study.

You may also visit our website at

[www.KARHEregistry.org](http://www.KARHEregistry.org),

or speak with a KARHE team member by calling our toll-free telephone number at

1-xxx-xxx-xxxx.



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[www.KARHE.org](http://www.KARHE.org)

2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011



# EVALUATING LONG-TERM HEALTH EFFECTS OF HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA



**H**urricanes Katrina and Rita hit the Gulf Coast more than five years ago, yet the region is still experiencing many of the effects of the storms. As a result of the Storms, many families were displaced and moved into Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-supplied trailers. Since that time, residents have expressed concerns about the air quality and the potential health effects associated with exposure to formaldehyde and other chemicals, as a result of having stayed in the trailers.





## WHAT IS THE HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA HOUSING EXPOSURES (KARHE) REGISTRY?

The KARHE is a Registry of individuals who stayed in FEMA-supplied trailers after the Storms. Those who enroll will be asked to take part in a 40-minute telephone survey about their health. The KARHE will allow researchers and the communities involved to understand the possible impact of exposure to chemicals on Gulf Coast residents who stayed in the trailers.

Even if you have been healthy since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, it is important for you to take part. In order to have a full and accurate picture of any long-term effects related to exposure to chemicals from living or staying in FEMA-supplied trailers, people who have been healthy as well as those who have been ill are strongly encouraged to take part in KARHE.

The KARHE is the first step in creating a Registry of all individuals who stayed in a FEMA-supplied trailer as a result of the Hurricanes. During this first part of the Study, we will enroll up to 5,000 eligible individuals in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and Alabama. Because many people left the area in the years after the Storms, this first part of the Study will help us determine if enough eligible people can be found and if they are willing to participate in the KARHE. If this first part of the Study is successful, a full-study can then be done for which many more people will be enrolled.

## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE REGISTRY AND HOW WILL IT BE USED?

We do not know if there are any long-term health effects on those who stayed in FEMA-supplied trailers. The KARHE was created to understand the possible health effects related to having stayed in the trailers. By enrolling, you play an important part in helping us understand the full impact associated with possible exposures to formaldehyde and other toxic substances among people who resided in the trailers.

## WHO ARE THE SPONSORS?

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is a federal public health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ATSDR serves the public by using the best science, taking responsive public health actions, and providing trusted health information to prevent harmful exposures and diseases related to toxic substances. It accomplishes this by performing a variety of functions, including conducting health surveillance and creating registries like KARHE, to determine the effect on public health of hazardous substances in the environment.

KARHE is being conducted by RTI International (RTI), a non-profit research organization and leader in children's health research. RTI International, a non-profit research firm, will conduct telephone surveys for the KARHE.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

KARHE is being conducted by Research Triangle Institute (RTI), a nonprofit research organization and leader in children's health research.

RTI International will be calling individuals to request participation in the KARHE. If you are eligible and agree to enroll, an interviewer will ask you a series of questions over the phone. The interview takes about 40 minutes. Some of the questions will include:

- Example 1
- Example 2
- Example 3
- Example 4

## WILL MY INFORMATION BE KEPT PRIVATE?

Yes. All information you provide will be kept private. The KARHE will not share your personal information with anyone outside of the Study. All published information about KARHE will be in summary form only.

Those who lived in trailers are strongly encouraged to enroll.

# WHERE WERE YOU?



2005

**August 29, 2005**—Hurricane Katrina makes landfall near Buras-Triumph, Louisiana, with 125 mph winds, as a strong Category 3 storm. The levees begin to fail, with 28 reported levee failures in the first 24 hours. Nearly every levee in metro New Orleans is breached as Hurricane Katrina passes just east of the city limits. The major levee breaches, which include the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal, the London Avenue Canal, and Industrial Canal, leave approximately 80% of the city flooded.

2006

**July 1, 2006**—New population estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau population show a decline of 219,563 or 4.87% of the state of Louisiana's pre-Katrina population.

**August 2006**—HBO releases "*When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts*," a four-hour documentary by director, Spike Lee, that chronicles the events leading up to Katrina, as well as its immediate aftermath.

2007

"Forever New Orleans" campaign is launched by the city's Convention and Visitors Bureau.

**August, 2007**—New Orleans officials break ground on a memorial honoring the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

2008

Barack Obama becomes the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States.

2009

**June 2009**—27 of 39 hospitals in New Orleans have reopened.

2010

**February 7, 2010**—New Orleans Saints win the Superbowl!

**March 30, 2010**—260 families are still living in FEMA-provided trailers in Louisiana and Mississippi.

**August 2010**—Director Spike Lee releases a sequel documentary, "*If God Is Willing and Da Creek Don't Rise*," to mark the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Katrina's arrival and the status of New Orleans and the Gulf region five years after the storm.