

Topline

***Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria: The Public's
Knowledge and Views of Its Impact and the Response***

October 2017

METHODOLOGY

To better understand the public's awareness of the damage to Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria and their assessment of the federal government's response, the Kaiser Family Foundation fielded several questions on the SSRS Omnibus Survey. These questions were designed and analyzed by public opinion researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF). The SSRS Omnibus survey was conducted October 4-8, 2017, among a nationally representative random digit dial telephone sample of 1,008 adults ages 18 and older, living in the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii (note: persons without a telephone could not be included in the random selection process). Computer-assisted telephone interviews conducted by landline (306) and cell phone (702, including 520 who had no landline telephone) were carried out in English and Spanish by SSRS of Media, PA. Both the random digit dial landline and cell phone samples were provided by Marketing Systems Group (MSG). For the landline sample, respondents were selected by asking for the youngest adult male or female currently at home based on a random rotation. If no one of that gender was available, interviewers asked to speak with the youngest adult of the opposite gender. For the cell phone sample, interviews were conducted with the adult who answered the phone. KFF paid for all costs associated with fielding the questions about Puerto Rico on the SSRS Omnibus Survey.

Different research clients purchase space on the omnibus survey and therefore this topline does not include additional questions that preceded or followed the questions shown here. The survey included four questions about the U.S. economy at the top of the questionnaire, and then questions about the following topics were asked on a random rotation along with the Puerto Rico questions: LGBTQ rights (3 questions), Household products (17 questions), financial security (7 questions), current events (not including hurricanes or Puerto Rico, 9 questions), and Halloween (4 questions).

The combined landline and cell phone sample was weighted to balance the sample demographics to match estimates for the national population using data from the Census Bureau's 2017 March supplement of the Current Population Survey (CPS) on sex, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, nativity (for Hispanics only), marital status, and region along with data from the 2010 Census on population density. The sample was also weighted to match current patterns of telephone use using data from the July-December 2016 National Health Interview Survey. The weight takes into account the fact that respondents with both a landline and cell phone have a higher probability of selection in the combined sample and also adjusts for the household size for the landline sample. All statistical tests of significance account for the effect of weighting.

The margin of sampling error including the design effect for the full sample is plus or minus 4 percentage points. Numbers of respondents and margins of sampling error for key subgroups are shown in the table below. For results based on other subgroups, the margin of sampling error may be higher. Sample sizes and margins of sampling error for other subgroups are available by request. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll. Kaiser Family Foundation public opinion and survey research is a charter member of the [Transparency Initiative of the American Association for Public Opinion Research](#).

Group	N (unweighted)	M.O.S.E.
Total	1,008	±4 percentage points
Party Identification		
Democrats	306	±7 percentage points
Republicans	238	±8 percentage points
Independents	406	±6 percentage points

Notes for reading the topline:

- Percentages may not always add up to 100 percent due to rounding.
- Values less than 0.5 percent are indicated by an asterisk (*).
- Questions are presented in the order asked; question numbers may not be sequential.

Moving on to another topic...

RICO1. As far as you know, are most residents of Puerto Rico U.S. citizens, or not?

	10/8
Yes, U.S. citizen	76
No, not U.S. citizen	17
Don't know	7
Refused	-

RICO2. How much have you heard about the damage Hurricane Maria caused in the U.S. Territory of Puerto Rico? (READ LIST)

	10/8
A lot/Some (NET)	89
A lot	73
Some	15
A little/None at all (NET)	11
A little	8
None at all	3
Don't know	1
Refused	-

RICO3. As far as you know, how severe was the damage to Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria? Was it (READ LIST)?

	10/8
Very/Somewhat severe (NET)	97
Very severe	88
Somewhat severe	9
Not too/Not at all severe (NET)	1
Not too severe	1
Not at all severe	*
Don't know	1
Refused	*

RICO4. Do you think the federal government's response to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico has been (too slow), (too fast) or has it been about right? (rotate items in parentheses)

	10/8
Too slow	52
Too fast	3
About right	41
Don't know	4
Refused	*

RICO5. Do you think that most people in Puerto Rico affected by Hurricane Maria (are getting the help they need), or do you think that most people affected by the hurricane (are not yet getting the help they need)? (rotate items in parentheses)

	10/8
People are getting the help they need	32
People are NOT yet getting the help they need	62
Don't know	6
Refused	1

RICO6. Is the federal government (doing enough) or (not doing enough) to restore electricity and access to food and water in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria? (rotate items in parentheses)

	10/8
Doing enough	40
Not doing enough	52
Don't know	8
Refused	*

RICO7. Compared to their response to hurricanes that damaged parts of Florida and Texas, do you think President Trump and his administration have done (more), (less), or about the same to respond to the damage in Puerto Rico? (rotate items in parentheses)

	10/8
More	16
Less	44
About the same	36
Don't know	4
Refused	*

RICO8. Considering everything, which of the following do you think is MOST to blame for the problems restoring basic services in Puerto Rico after hurricane Maria? (READ LIST) [IF RESPONDENT SAYS "ALL ARE TO BLAME" OR "MORE THAN ONE" PROBE FIRST BY READING THE INTERVIEWER NOTE BEFORE ACCEPTING RESPONSE: If you had to choose, which would you say? (RE-READ LIST IF NECESSARY)] (rotate response options 1-3)

	10/8
A slow response by the federal government	44
Disorganization in the local Puerto Rican government	32
Lack of attention from the news media	10
More than one of these is to blame	3
None	3
Something else is most to blame	1
Don't know	6
Refused	*

RICO9. As you may know, Puerto Rico is a poor island with a large Hispanic population. Do you think the federal government's response to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico would be moving faster if it had been a wealthier place with fewer Hispanic people, or do you think ethnicity and poverty have not affected the recovery effort?

	10/8
Would be moving faster if it had been a wealthier place with fewer Hispanic people	46
Ethnicity and poverty have not affected the recovery effort	44
Don't know	9
Refused	1

Demographics

Z-1. Is your home owned or rented?

	10/8
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Owned	62
Rented	37
Don't know	1
Refused	1

Z-2. Are you...? (READ LIST)

	10/8
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Single, that is never married	23
Single, living with a partner	7
Married	52
Separated	2
Widowed	6
Divorced	9
Refused	2

Z-4. Employment status

	10/8
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Employed (NET)	57
Full-time	44
Part-time	13
Not employed (NET)	42
Retired	20
Homemaker	5
Student	4
Temporarily unemployed	8
Disabled/Handicapped	4
Other not employed	1
Refused	1

Z-6. Including yourself, how many people are there living in your household?

	10/8
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One	15
Two	35
Three	17
Four	13
Five	9
Six	7
Seven	1
Eight or more people	2
Refused	2

Z-6a. How many of these are adults, 18 or older?

	10/8
One	17
Two	51
Three	17
Four	8
Five	3
Six	1
Seven	*
Eight or more people	*
Refused	2

Z-6e. Are you the parent or guardian of a child under the age of 18 living in your household?

	10/8
Parent	26
Not a parent	74

Z-7. What is your age?

Z-7a. Could you please tell me if you are...?

	10/8
18-29	21
30-49	33
50-64	26
65+	20
Refused	*

Z-8. What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received? (DO NOT READ LIST) [INTERVIEWER NOTE: Enter code 3-HS grad if Respondent completed training that did NOT count toward a degree] [INTERVIEWER NOTE: Enter code 3-HS graduate if Respondent completed vocational, business, technical, or training courses after high school that did NOT count toward an associate degree from a college, community college or university (e.g., training for a certificate or an apprenticeship)]

	10/8
Less than high school (Grades 1-8 or no formal schooling)	4
High school incomplete (Grades 9-11 or Grade 12 with NO diploma)	7
High school graduate (Grade 12 with diploma or GED certificate)	28
Some college, no degree (includes community college)	17
Two year associate degree from a college or university	11
Four year college or university degree/Bachelor's degree (e.g., BS, BA, AB)	19
Some postgraduate or professional schooling, no postgraduate degree	*
Postgraduate or professional degree, including master's, doctorate, medical, or law degree (e.g., MA, MS, PhD, MD, JD)	12
Don't know	*
Refused	*

Z-9. Is your total annual household income from all sources, and before taxes...? (READ LIST)

	10/8
\$50,000 and under (NET)	52
Less than \$15,000	13
\$15,000 but less than \$25,000	11
\$25,000 but less than \$30,000	9
\$30,000 but less than \$40,000	10
\$40,000 but less than \$50,000	7
Less than \$50,000 (Unspecified)	2
\$50,000 to \$100,000 (NET)	21
\$50,000 but less than \$75,000	10
\$75,000 but less than \$100,000	10
\$50,000 but less than \$100,000 (Unspecified)	1
\$100,000+ (NET)	18
Over \$100,000 (Unspecified)	1
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	9
\$150,000 to under \$200,000	3
\$200,000 to under \$250,000	2
\$250,000 or more	2
Don't know	2
Refused	7

Z-11. Do you consider yourself white, black or African American, Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, mixed race or some other race? (ENTER ONE ONLY) (IF RESPONDENT SAYS HISPANIC ASK: Do you consider yourself a white Hispanic or a black Hispanic?) [INTERVIEWER NOTE: CODE AS WHITE (1) OR BLACK (2). IF RESPONDENTS REFUSED TO PICK WHITE OR BLACK HISPANIC, RECORD HISPANIC AS "OTHER," If "other" say: "I'm not referring to your nationality. I just want to know if you consider yourself white or black." If respondent won't pick one, then enter code for "OTHER"]

	10/8
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White, Non-Hispanic	63
Black, Non-Hispanic	11
Hispanic	16
Other Race	8
Refused	2

Z-11a. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as...? (INTERVIEWER NOTE: If respondent gives answer such as: "conservative, liberal, vote for best man" Probe: Would that be Republican, Democrat, or independent?) (rotate response options 1 and 2)

	10/8
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A Republican	21
A Democrat	29
An independent	43
Other	*
Don't know	3
Refused	3

D3. Generally speaking, would you describe your political views as...? (READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY) (rotate response options 1-5 / 5-1)

	10/8
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Conservative (NET)	38
Very conservative	14
Somewhat conservative	24
Moderate	27
Liberal (NET)	30
Somewhat liberal	20
Very liberal	11
Don't know	3
Refused	2

Z-11b. Are you registered to vote at your present address, or not?

	10/8
Yes	76
No	24
Don't know	1
Refused	*

C-3a. How many telephone numbers does your household have that I could have reached you on? Not extensions, but different telephone numbers, not counting cell phones?

	10/8
0	2
1	84
2	8
3	2
4	1
5	1
6	*
Refused	1

RELIG What is your present religion, if any? Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox such as Greek or Russian Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, atheist, agnostic, something else, or nothing in particular?

	10/8
Baptist	6
Catholic/Roman Catholic	20
Evangelical	*
Jehovah's Witness	*
Jewish/Judaism	2
Lutheran	1
Mormon/Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	3
Muslim/Islamic	1
Orthodox (Eastern, Greek, Russian, Armenian, etc)	*
Pentecostal (Assemblies of God, Four Square Gospel)	1
Presbyterian	*
Protestant	15
Seventh Day Adventist	*
Unitarian/Universalist	*
Buddhist	1
Hindu	*
Christian (Just Christian)	10
Non-denominational or Independent Church	1
Episcopalian or Anglican	*
Methodist	2
Church of Christ, or Disciples of Christ (Christian Church)	1
Church of God	-
Congregational or United Church of Christ	-
Holiness (Nazarenes, Wesleyan Church, Salvation Army)	*
Reformed (Reformed Church in America, Christian Reformed)	-
Atheist	4
Agnostic	3
Other	1
No Religion/None	25
Don't know	1
Refused	1

Sex of Respondent

	10/8
Male	49
Female	51



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