THE IMPACT OF HURRICANE MARIA ON CHILDREN IN PUERTO RICO

BACKGROUND
The Youth Development Institute commissioned Estudios Técnicos, Inc. (ETI) to collaborate in a Study about the impact of Hurricane María on Puerto Rico’s children. The study seek to answer three main questions:
1. To what extent has the economic situation of families with children in Puerto Rico been impacted as a result of Hurricane María?
2. To what extent has the health of children in Puerto Rico been impacted as a result of Hurricane María?
3. To what extent has children’s education in Puerto Rico has been impacted as a result of Hurricane María?

METHODOLOGY

**Type of survey**
Personal survey at home, to households with minors under 18 years old Island-wide.

**Sample**
Multistage probabilistic sample, stratified by region and income levels.
705 households
Margin of error for the total sample: ±3.7% at a confidence level of 95%.

**Method**
Interviews conducted by Estudios Técnicos Inc. fieldwork team., with CAPI systems, from July through September 2018.

RELEVANT FINDINGS

**DAMAGES**
82.1% of households faced some type of damage

- Home furniture and appliances: 41.7%
- Flooding: 37.9%
- Other roof problems: 32.2%
- Damages of windows and doors: 29.9%
- None: 17.9%
- Roof detachment: 16.6%
- Other structural damages (floor): 18.0%
- Fence: 11.5%
- Home Loss: 5.1%
- Landslide: 2.7%
- Other: 8.4%

**of children at some point were separated from the other households members because of Hurricane Maria**

8.1%
To what extent the families’ economic situation in Puerto Rico has been impacted as a result of Hurricane María?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITUATIONS FACED AS A RESULT OF THE HURRICANE</th>
<th>Less than $15,000</th>
<th>From $15,000 to less than $40,000</th>
<th>$40,000 or more</th>
<th>Total sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loss of clothing and personal belongings</td>
<td>47.1%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
<td>35.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of income at home</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
<td>31.9%</td>
<td>32.6%</td>
<td>30.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduction of working hours</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of employment</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of vehicle</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical damages or to the health of the family</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of a pet</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family separation because of migration</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death of a home member</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorce, separation or abandonment</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence situation at home</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

43.1% households confronted difficulties accessing food to supply daily meals

19.7% households confronted difficulties to supply daily meals to their children.

26.2% families that confronted a reduction in their income.

Socioeconomic condition of the households after Hurricane María

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Socioeconomic condition of the households after Hurricane María</th>
<th>Less than $15,000</th>
<th>From $15,000 to less than $40,000</th>
<th>$40,000 or more</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worse</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
<td>32.8%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>30.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Same</td>
<td>53.2%</td>
<td>59.3%</td>
<td>72.1%</td>
<td>56.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The basis of the results are based on the responses of the 705 participants of the sample. Tables and illustrations by income are constituted by the 589 persons that specified their income level.
Difficulties with payments after Hurricane María...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Less than $15,000</th>
<th>From $15,000 to less than $40,000</th>
<th>$40,000 or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Utilities (water and electricity)</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groceries</td>
<td>38.0%</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone or mobile phone service</td>
<td>31.9%</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation expenses</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing and personal belongings</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortgage or house rental</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School supplies</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicines</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical services</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and monthly payments for school or college</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child care</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The percentage includes those that answered “All the times”, “Most times” and “Sometimes”.

30.5% thinks that it would be very likely or likely to move because of Hurricane María. Of those, 5 out of every 10, are considering moving to the USA.

To what extent has the health of children in Puerto Rico has been impacted as a result of Hurricane María?

31.8% Households where at least one child has disabilities

Of those children who use medicines to treat their disabilities, almost 3 of every 10, faced difficulties accessing it, after the hurricane.

Note: The basis of the results are based on the responses of the 705 participants of the sample. Tables and illustrations by income are constituted by the 589 persons that specified their income level.
To what extent has children’s education in Puerto Rico been impacted as a result of Hurricane María?

### Children younger than 5

#### Type of child care that they attend

- **Attend private or non-profit child care**: 2%
- **Attend private school**: 4%
- **Attend public school**: 8%
- **Attend Head Start Center**: 14%
- **Does not know / Does not indicate**: 1%
- **Other**: 1%

#### Fear of attending child care or preschool (6.5%) Concentration problems (2.2%) Lack of interest in attending child care or preschool (4.3%) Trauma associated to the hurricane (2.2%)

Note: The numerical basis is the 46 homes with minors under age of five that attend a care institution.

7.2% of children under five years old have exhibited different behavior at the child care place, related to Hurricane María.

### Children 5 to 17 years old

#### Type of school they attend

- **Public School**: 78%
- **Private School**: 16%
- **Alternative school**: 1%
- **Other**: 3%
- **Does not know / Does not indicate**: 2%

#### Average number of days that children, 5-17 years old, did not attend an educational institution

- **92** days

28.2% percent of children were receiving special education services, before Hurricane María. Of those, 84.6% had an interruption in their services. 10.3% are still not receiving services.

23.0% of children from 5 to 17 years old have exhibited different behaviors regarding their educational institution, after Hurricane María.

#### Behavior observed in Children at school

- Problems to concentrate: 12.3%
- Low academic achievement (low grades): 9.9%
- Lack of interest in further study: 8.3%
- Behavioral problems: 5.8%
- Fear of attending the study site: 3.8%
- Problems relating to other peers: 3.1%
- Fear: 0.4%
- Nervousness: 0.2%
- Anxiety: 0.2%

Note: The numerical base is the 553 children from 5 to 17 years old.