



University of Southern Mississippi

Modeling Micro-Economic Resilience and Restoration after a Large-Scale Catastrophe: An Analysis of the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina



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Prevent, Protect, Respond, Recover

Homeland Security Challenge:

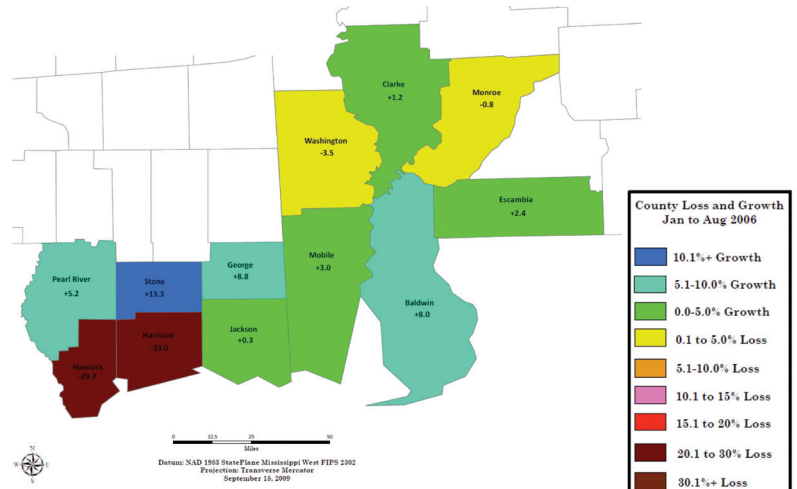
Large-scale disasters have numerous and lasting consequences for communities and populations. While preparation is an essential part of limiting the impact of these disasters, it is not possible to prevent every potential disaster or consequence. Therefore, evaluating methods to minimize disaster impact and to maximize response and recovery efforts are critical.

Research Project Solution:

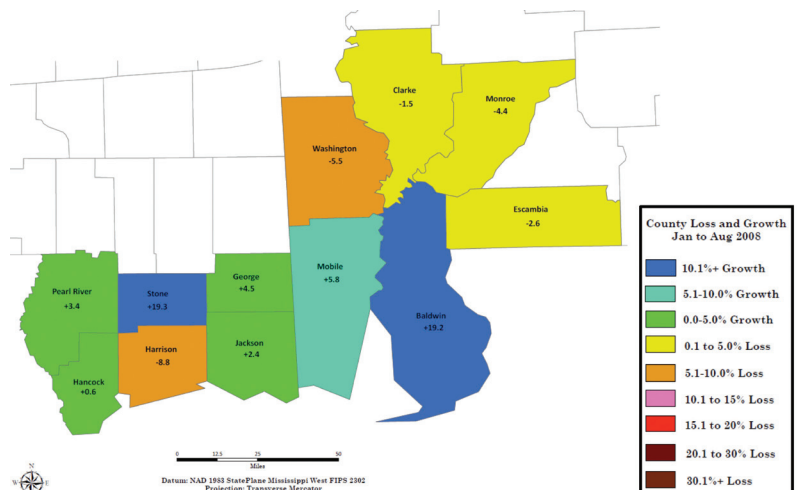
Examining a variety of economic and social data, this project assesses the effectiveness of disaster responses, and measures its contributions to the restoration of local communities and economies. Developing a quantitative model examining social and economic resilience (recovery) following a disaster, the project uses a variety of data, such as employment statistics, to analyze the results of disaster response. Specifically, this project analyzes the impact severity and resilience of 12 counties in Mississippi and Alabama along the Gulf Coast region that were heavily affected by Hurricane Katrina.

National Implications:

No part of the country is immune from the possibility of a disaster, natural or otherwise. While the impact from disasters cannot always be prevented, the methods of preparation and response can be continually examined and improved to minimize the consequences from these events. By analyzing the resilience of communities following the wake of Hurricane Katrina, this project aids in this objective by looking at the effectiveness of the distribution of resources following Hurricane Katrina. This assists local, state, and federal officials across the country in preparing effective disaster response programs. By examining the relative effectiveness of disaster response, the resulting information will assist officials in facilitating faster and more efficient disaster recovery efforts.



Mississippi and Alabama Gulf Coast Change in Service Sector Employment.



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