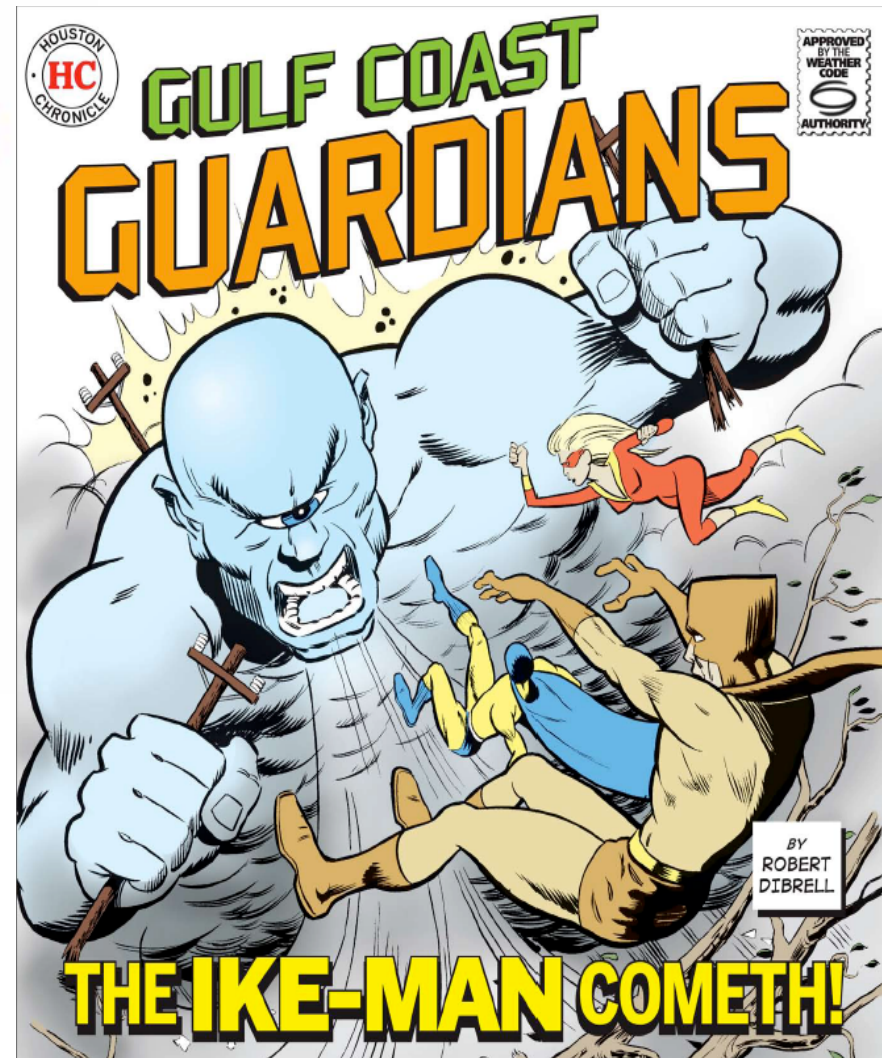


Gender and Social Capital: Examining Social Networks Post-disaster

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<http://www.chron.com/hurricane/ike/>

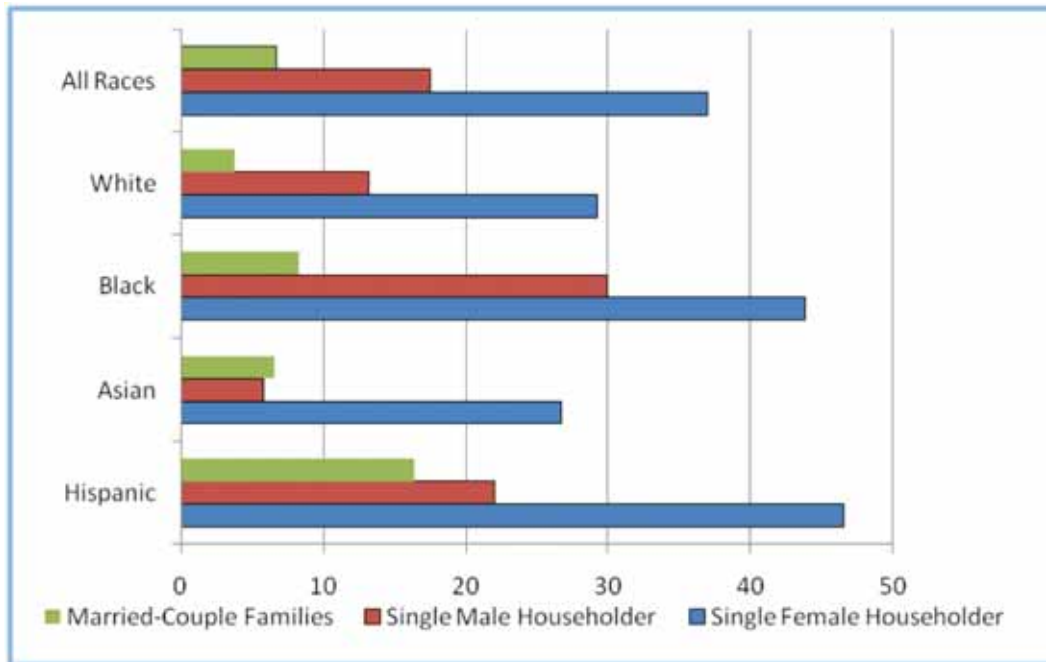


Brief Background

- **Social Capital: The investment and use of embedded resources in social relations for expected returns**
- **Social Networks: where social capital is created, held and accessed**
- **Significant for Vulnerability and Resilience**
- **Likely to be influenced by gender**

Gender

- Division of labor
- Care-giving roles
- Post-disaster
- Female-headed households and poverty



Percentage of Families Below Poverty Level by Race and Household Composition

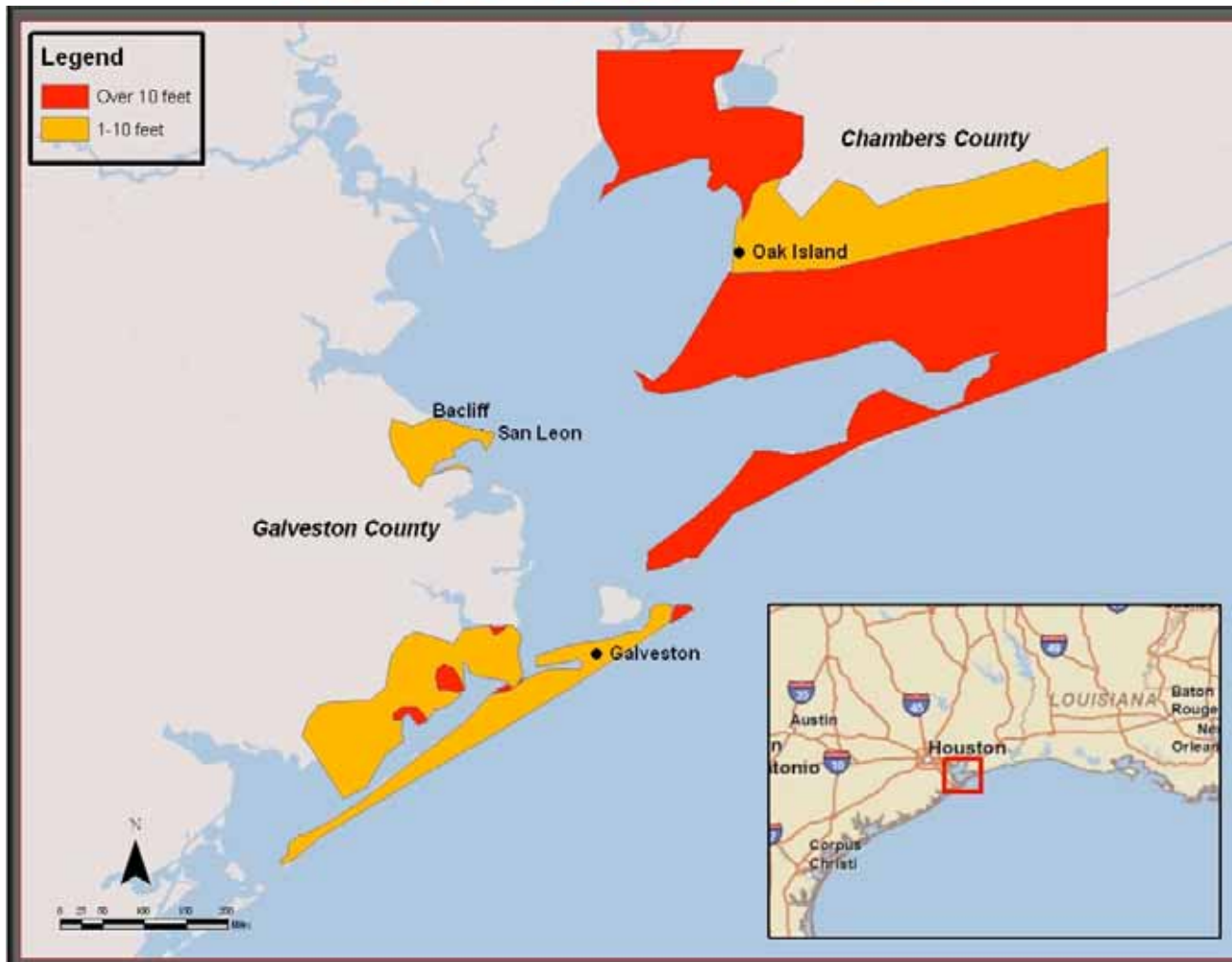
Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2007



Research Questions

- 1) Does gender influence the exchange of information and favors within social networks in the **search for and acquisition of childcare**?
- 2) Does gender influence the exchange of information and favors within social networks in the **search for and acquisition of stable housing**?
- 3) Do social networks of **partnered and single parent households** differ in the exchange of information and favors in terms of searching for and acquiring childcare and stable housing?
 - Role of kin, friends and acquaintances
 - Spatiality of social networks

Hurricane Ike



September 13, 2008

Methods

- Hurricane Ike affected areas approx 21 weeks post-disaster
- 1 week of survey interviews
- Approx. 15-25 min
- FEMA temporary housing communities unavailable
- Multiple recruitment venues



Research Participants

N= 61

- Single mothers 51%
- Partnered mothers 26%
- Single fathers 7%
- Partnered fathers 16%

Race/Ethnicity

- White 22%
- Black 39%
- Latino 26%
- Vietnamese 8%
- Mixed 5%

Household Income

- Under \$20,000 62%
- \$20,000- 35,000 18%
- \$35,000- 45,000 10%
- \$45,000- 60,000 3%
- \$60,000- 85,000 0%
- Above \$85,000 7%

Analysis

Gender, Social Networks & Childcare

Information on Childcare:

- 100% fathers
 - 50% partnered mothers
 - 30% single mothers
- used social network

Childcare favors:

- Mothers have high amount of network support in childcare.
- Single mothers have greater frequency in both normal and emergency circumstances.

Childcare as a form of Network Support	
Single Mothers N= 31	45%
Partnered Mothers N= 16	44%
Single Fathers N= 4	25%
Partnered Fathers N= 10	30%

Chi square, single mothers, partnered mothers, all fathers $p= 0.0558$

Analysis

Gender, Social Networks & Childcare

Short notice or emergency childcare as a form of network support by percent frequency, grouped by household composition

	Single Mothers N= 27*	Partnered Mothers N= 14*	Single Fathers N=3*	Partnered Fathers N=9*
One Female Family Member	48%	86%	33%	44%
Two or More Female Family Members	30%	7%	33%	22%
Male Family Member	30%	21%	0%	22%
Friends	19%	29%	33%	44%

Analysis

Gender, Social Networks & Housing

Source of Information on Housing	Single Mothers N=31	Partnered Mothers N=16	Single Fathers N=4	Partnered Fathers N=10
Social Network	35%	27%	25%	30%
FEMA	39%	47%	75%	40%
Internet	29%	33%	25%	10%
Riding Around	19%	33%	0%	20%

- **Not a statistically significant difference between men and women**
- **Partnered mothers able to drive around**
- **Single mother report using social networks more often**
- **Diversity in single mothers' sources of network information**

Analysis

Gender, Social Networks & Housing

Use of social networks for temporary housing

Single Mothers N= 31	Partnered Mothers N= 16	Fathers N= 14
76%	86%	50%

Difference in Proportions, Fathers v. Mothers $p= 0.024$

Influence of children and childcare on housing search	Single Mothers N= 31	Partnered Mothers N= 16	Fathers N= 14
None/A little	52%	19%	36%
Quite a bit/Very much	32%	75%	50%

Difference in Proportions, "None/A little", Single v. Partnered Mothers $p= 0.007$

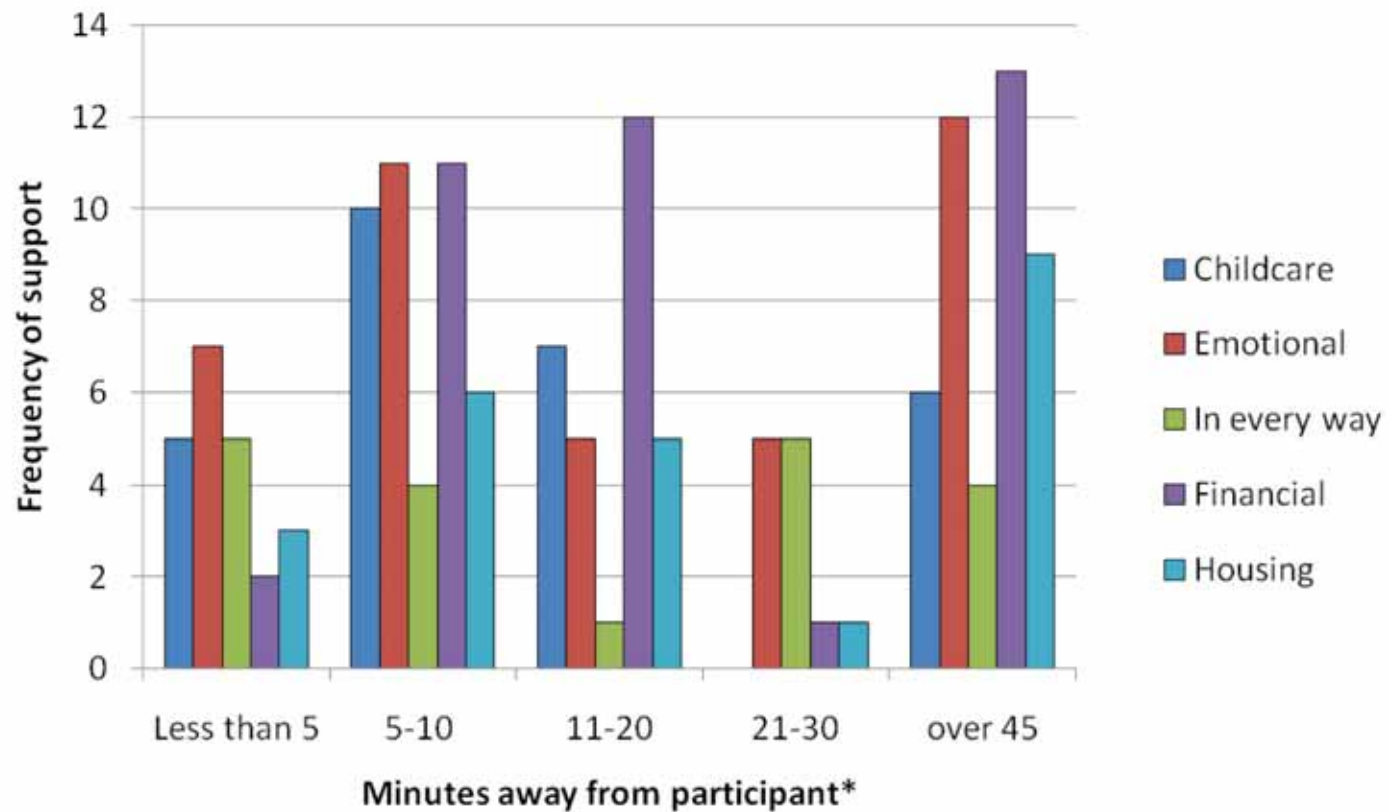
Analysis

Role of kin, friends and acquaintances

- Fathers were more likely to report not having supportive friends or family (57%)
- Kin networks twice as likely to be supportive of favors concerning the participants' children and provide financial support.
- Mothers were the most supportive, followed by sisters
- Friends were emotionally supportive and more likely to be characterized as supportive "in every way."

Analysis

Spatiality of Social Network Support



* There were no responses of network support from within the 31-45 minute range.



Conclusions

- **The importance of gender**
 - **Differences between fathers and mothers**
 - **Sources of network support**
- **Differences between partnered versus single mothers**
- **Geography matters in the type of network support received**
- **Kin networks not universal, but important**
- **Lack of emergent networks**

Thank you! Questions?

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