

Environmental Injustice in the Hurricane Relief Process during Superstorm Sandy

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Superstorm Sandy

- 18th storm of 2012 hurricane season
- 1,000 miles in length across
 - 3 times the size of Hurricane Katrina
- Began in Caribbean around October 19th as 'tropical storm'
 - Labeled hurricane on October 24th
- Hit U.S on October 29th in New Jersey
 - 80mph winds
 - Full moon - tides 20% higher than normal
- 15 states
 - 8 million people without power

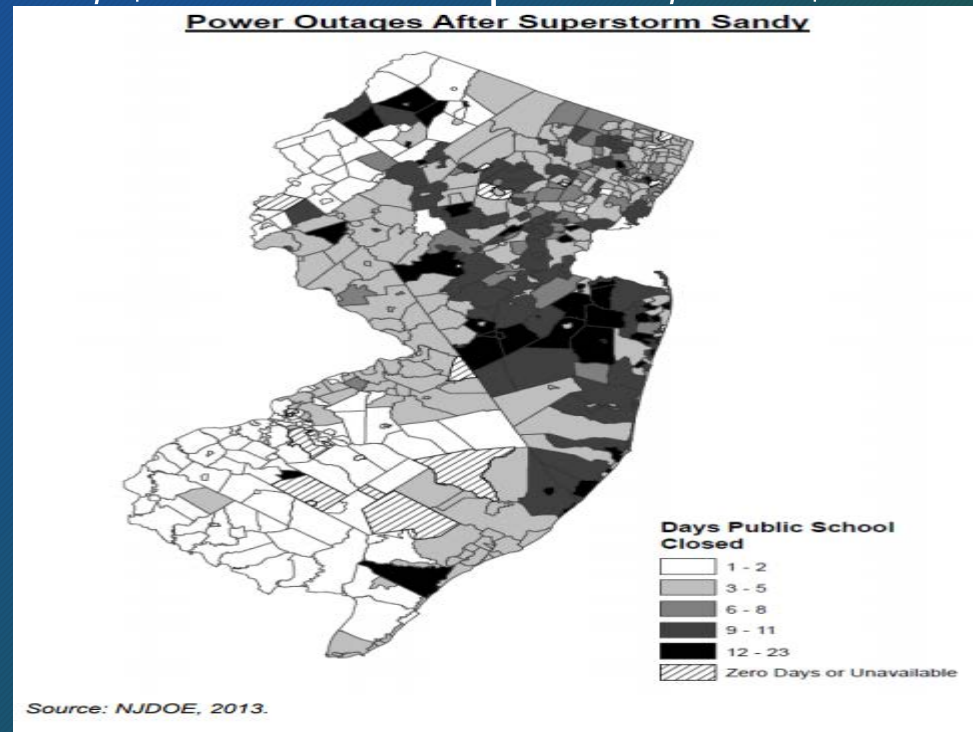
Effect on New York

- Storm tide of 14feet
 - Previous record was 10feet
- 17% of New York was flooded
- Exceeded inundation zone by 53%
 - Affected over 80,000 buildings, 300,000 homes, thousands of businesses
- 43 people killed
 - Infants and elderly most affected
- Lost over 29,000 jobs
- Relocate over 40,000 public housing peoples



Effect on New Jersey

- Total damages equal over \$37 billion
 - \$7.8 for residents, \$3.56 for businesses, \$2.2 for municipalities, and \$23.5 million for mitigation
- 12 people killed
- Lost over 8,000 jobs



Effect on New Jersey Continued

- Three years after there were still 39,000 low income people displaced
 - Relief dollars were not being distributed with no explanation why
- 40% of New Jersey homes hit were rented, yet these renters only received 25% of assistance given
- Assistant programs not readily available in other languages
- Fair Housing Center Claim

Why?

- Market Dynamics
 - Your ability to avoid is based on the financial situation you are in
 - Market is not supplying the resources to help
- Political Economy
 - Procedures not good enough
 - Unfairly set up/Institutional racism

What To Do

- Financial assets dedicated to this issue
 - FEMA
- Better infrastructure
- Planned public transportation evacuation
- Improve insurance plans
- Combat Climate Change
- Locally:
 - Elect public leaders who believe in same issues
 - Raise awareness for affected areas