

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 has 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

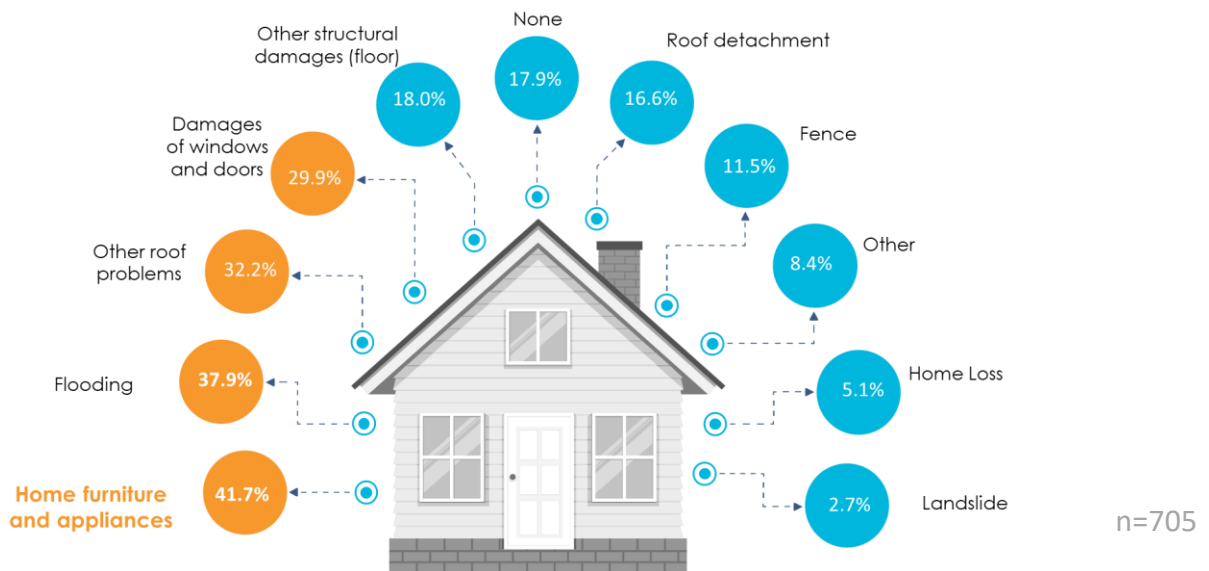
Margin of error for the total sample: $\pm 3.7\%$ at a confidence level of 95%.

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



8.1%

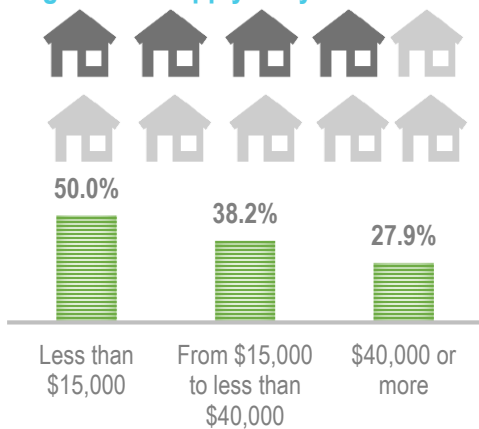
of children at some point were separated from the other households members because of Hurricane María

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

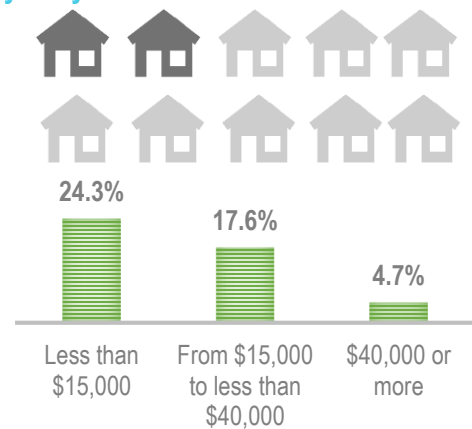
SITUATIONS FACED AS A RESULT OF THE HURRICANE	Less than \$15,000	From \$15,000 to less than \$40,000	\$40,000 or more	Total sample
Loss of clothing and personal belongings	47.1%	24.0%	14.0%	35.9%
Loss of income at home	32.7%	31.9%	32.6%	30.9%
Reduction of working hours	21.9%	24.5%	23.3%	21.7%
Loss of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

n=705

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

	Less than \$15,000	From \$15,000 to less than \$40,000	\$40,000 or more	Total
Worse	32.5%	32.8%	9.3%	30.6%
Same	53.2%	59.3%	72.1%	56.6%
Better	13.7%	7.4%	18.6%	11.8%

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...

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

Note: The percentage includes those that answers "All the times", "Most times" and "Sometimes".



30.5%

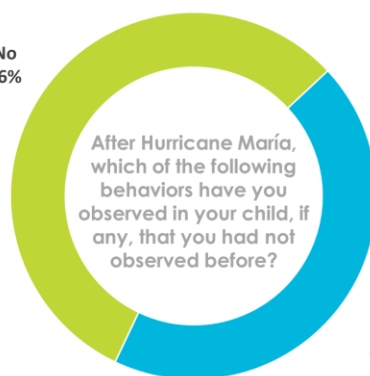
thinks that it would be very likely or likely to move because of Hurricane María. Of those, 5 out of every 10, are considering moving to the USA.

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

Behaviour observed in children after Hurricane María

No
56%



n=705

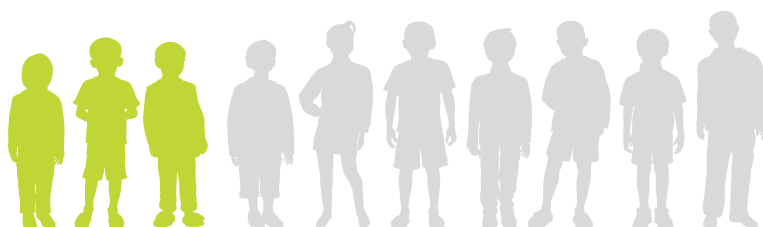
Yes
44%

Anxiety	23.3%
Fear	18.7%
Sadness, discouragement	16.0%
Disturbing memories related to the hurricane	15.2%
Nervousness	14.6%
Difficulty to concentrate	13.0%
Bad mood	11.5%
Excessive sense of alert	10.2%
Lack of enthusiasm	9.4%
Loss of appetite	6.4%
Insomnia	6.4%
Excessive tiredness	5.2%
Nightmares related to the hurricane	5.1%
Loss of interest in activities that were his/her preference	4.7%
Depression	4.3%
Distancing from people	4.3%
Other	0.6%
Use of drugs or alcohol for the first time	0.4%
Expressing suicide thoughts	0.4%
More frequent use of drugs or alcohol	0.1%

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.

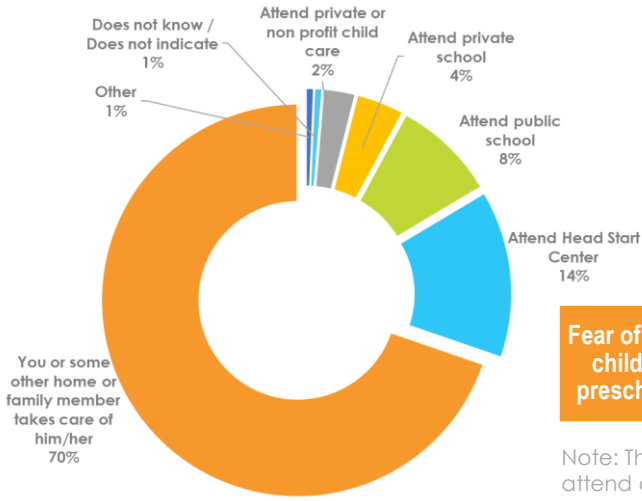


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To what extent the children's education in Puerto Rico has been impacted as a result of Hurricane María?

Children younger than 5

Type of child care that they attend



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Average number of days that children, 5 years or less, did not attend preschool

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

Fear of attending child care or preschool 6.5%

Concentration problems 2.2%

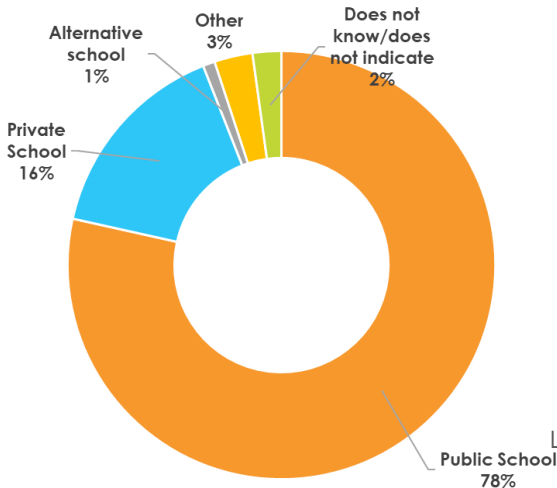
Lack of interest in attending child care or preschool 4.3%

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.

Children 5 to 17 years old

Type of school they attend



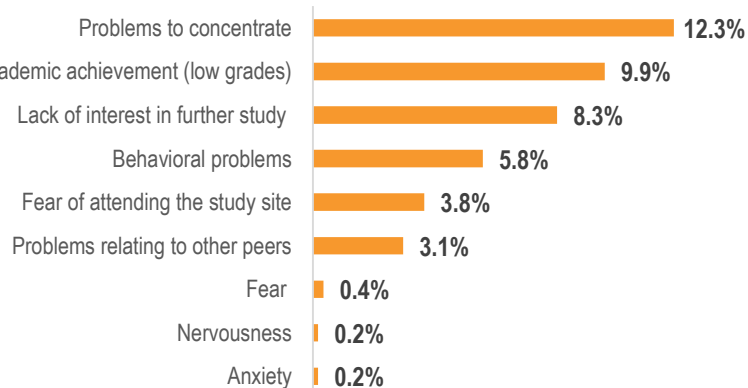
78

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

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



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