



### Welcome to the Homeowner Survey!

The goal of this study is to learn about your experiences with property insurance and information you have received about your home's risks from hazards, disasters, and other emergencies that might affect your home.

All of your responses will be kept completely confidential, meaning that your name will be separated from your answers and only your answers will be reported together with everyone else's as a group. You can skip any questions you don't want to answer, and you can choose to discontinue the survey at any time. Your refusal to participate will not affect you in any negative way. Everyone who works on this study, including staff at the Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center (formerly the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center) and the Urban Institute, has signed a Pledge of Confidentiality requiring them not to tell anyone outside the research team anything you tell us. All of your responses will be kept completely private. Your name will be separated from your answers, and your answers will be reported together with everyone else's as a group.

To take this survey, you must be a **homeowner living in a home in the greater New Orleans area**. Please answer the questions on the next page to determine if you are eligible to participate in the survey. As a token of our appreciation, eligible survey participants will receive a no-fee **\$50 Amazon gift card** after you complete the survey.

### Do you wish to participate in the survey? (Please check one.)

- $\Box$  Yes  $\rightarrow$  If yes, please go to the "Eligibility Questions" on the next page.
- □ No → If no, we are sorry that you do not wish to participate in this survey. Please return the survey booklet in the provided pre-stamped envelope. Thank you.

For questions or concerns, please contact the survey hotline at: (504) 670-9318 or email homesurvey@urban.org.

<SURVEY CODE: XXXXXX>

<NAME OR CURRENT HOMEOWNER > <ADDRESS> <CITY, LA, ZIP CODE > This page is intentionally left blank.

### **Eligibility Questions**

We need to ask a few questions to ensure that you are eligible to take the survey. Please answer "Yes" or "No" for each question with a " $\checkmark$ " in the box supplied.

- A. Do you live in one of the following Parishes: Jefferson, Orleans, St. Tammany, St. John Baptist, St. Charles, St. **Bernard**, Plaquemines?
  - □ Yes
  - No → STOP П
- B. Is this home occupied by the owners?
  - Yes, it is owner-occupied (or it will be shortly)
  - $\square$  No, it is renter-occupied  $\rightarrow$  stop
- C. Are you the homeowner?
  - Yes
  - No

What is the name and phone number of a household member who owns this home that we can contact to give this survey to someone eligible?

- Name . Phone Number
- D. Did you acquire this home in 2008 or later?
  - П Yes
  - No -> STOP
- E. Do you live in one of the following types of homes: single family detached or attached house, a unit in a double or duplex, a unit in a multi-family building? (Answer "No" if you live in a cooperative building, a mobile home, a manufactured home, a HUD-Code home, a house boat, an RV, or other mobile residence.)
  - Yes No → STOP
- F. Are you age 18 or older?
  - □ Yes

Thank you for answering the eligibility questions. If you answered "Yes" to all of the eligibility questions, please continue to the instructions below.

If you answered "No" to any of the eligibility questions A through F, you are not eligible to take the survey. Please stop answering questions and return the survey in the pre-stamped envelope we provided.

Through this survey of eligible participants, we hope to revise home insurance standards and help leaders better communicate about risk to make it easier for homeowners to protect their homes and property.

### Instructions

You are eligible to take the survey and receive the \$50 gift card after completion. Because the survey asks for details about your home insurance policy, we strongly encourage you to have your policy available (if you have one) for reference as you answer the questions about your coverage. This will reduce the time needed to complete the survey significantly. Please answer all questions with a " </ " if there is a box supplied. For questions where each part asks "Yes" or "No," please check "Yes" or "No" for each.

Please provide a preferred email address that researchers may use to clarify any answers to the survey.

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Section 1. Homeownership and the Home

We want to know about your current home and how you selected it.

- 1. Is this the first home you have ever owned?
  - □ Yes
  - □ No

#### 2. How did you acquire this home?

- Purchased with a primary mortgage only
- Purchased with a primary and secondary mortgage, including a "soft secondary"
- Purchased without a mortgage or in cash
- Inherited it
  - a. Did your inherited home come with debt? → [Answer and Go to Q5]
    - □ Yes •

🗆 No

#### b. How much was the debt?

- Less than \$1,000
- □ \$1,000 to \$2,999
- □ \$3,000 to \$4,999
- □ \$5,000 to \$9,999
- □ \$10,000 to \$ 19,999
- □ \$20,000 or more

### 3. What was the purchase price of your home? (Exclude any amount needed for renovations.)

- □ Less than \$50,000
- □ \$50,000 to \$99,999
- □ \$100,000 to \$149,999
- □ \$150,000 to \$199,999
- □ \$200,000 to \$249,999
- □ \$250,000 to \$299,999
- □ \$300,000 to \$349,999
- □ \$350,000 or more

### 4. What was the down payment that you put on your home, if any?

- □ 0%
- □ 0.1% to 4.9%
- □ 5% to 9.9%
- □ 10% to 14.9%
- □ 15% to 19.9%
- □ 20% or more

5. To what degree were any of the following reasons you chose this home?

	Not a reason	Minor reason	Major reason
Location			
Size			
Move-in ready			
Quality of Construction			
Height above the ground			
To own or invest in property			
Price			
Previous home was damaged in a hazard event, disaster, or			
accident			
Other (specify)			

# 6. To what degree were any of the following reasons you chose this location?

	Not a reason	Minor reason	Major reason
Proximity to job			
Proximity to family or friends			
Proximity to schools			
Look, design, or amenities of neighborhood Proximity to a body of water,			
recreational space, or natural amenities or space			
Out of a flood zone			
Level of crime or violence			
Affordability			
Other (specify)			

### 7. To what extent did you consider risk of floods or hurricanes when choosing your home?

- □ Not at all
- □ Not too much
- □ Some extent
- □ A great extent
- 8. If new flood, hurricane, or other risk information emerged about your home, how likely would you be to move?
  - Very unlikely
  - □ Somewhat unlikely
  - D Neither likely nor unlikely
  - Somewhat likely
  - Very likely

### **Section 2. Risk Information and Perception**

We want to know about the information given to you when purchasing or acquiring your home.

#### 9. When you acquired your home, were you informed about any of the following conditions associated Yes No with it? Previous flooding, water intrusion or accumulation, or drainage problem..... П Previous hurricane, wind, or hail storm damage..... П Previous fire damage..... Location of the home within or out of a flood zone..... Location of the home within an area at risk of hazards other than flood..... Any repairs made to the home due to hazard damage or risk..... The seller's or previous owner's flood insurance certificate..... The home's flood elevation certificate..... П П Government assistance or private programs for disaster repairs that may have ongoing contractual requirements or assessments on the home..... 10. To what extent did you rely on these sources for information about your home's risks? Not at A great all extent 2 3 4 1

Documentation from the seller or seller's rep Property Disclosure Statement			 	
Troperty Disclosure Statement	•••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••			
Verbally from a real estate agent or other pro	perty representative			
Verbally from the seller or previous owner				
Verbally from neighbors or neighborhood rep Online real estate sites such as Zillow, Trulia,				
Multiple Listing Service City, parish, or state documents such as histor				
zoning maps				
Inspection report or verbally from the inspect	tor during home purchase			
Other (specify)				

### **11.** Based on the information about the risks to your home prior to acquiring it, what actions did you take to reduce the risk, if any?

- □ None, there were no risks
- □ None, I acquired the home regardless of its risks and made no improvements
- □ I required the seller or previous owner to make repairs before I acquired it
- □ I negotiated a reduced price
- □ I made improvements myself
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

### 12. Before acquiring this home, did you decide not to purchase another home because of a hazard risk?

- I Yes
- □ No

We want to know about your general experience with risks from hazards, disasters, emergencies and related natural events in the past, and your understanding of risks in the future. We use the term "hazard" to refer to all of these events in the following questions except where noted.

13. As you think about your lifetime, have community-wide hazards affected you?

- Yes
- No

#### 14. Are any of the following statements true about your experience with hazards?

in <i>The unit of the following statements that about your experience with hazards</i> .		
	Yes	No
You or a family member's property was damaged		
You or a family member was physically injured or died		
You or a family member suffered mental or emotional trauma		
Property of a friend, neighbor, or coworker you know personally was damaged		
A friend, neighbor, or coworker you know personally was physically injured or died		
A friend, neighbor, or coworker you know personally suffered mental or emotional trauma		
You or a family member suffered loss of employment or income		

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#### 15. Do you currently rely on any of the following sources for information regarding the potential risks to your home from future hazards?

to your home from future hazards?	Yes	No
Local or national media		
The internet		
Friends, family members, neighbors, or coworkers		
Local government sources, including from parish meetings or town halls		
State or national government sources, including FEMA/NFIP maps or reports		
Local non-profits, disaster service providers (like the Red Cross), community groups, or churches		
Private insurance company		
Real estate agents		
Lenders		
Home inspector		
Local schools or universities		
Other (specify)		

#### 16. To what extent do you currently think about risk of floods or hurricanes to your home?

- □ Not at all
- □ Not too much
- □ Some extent
- □ A great extent

#### 17. How likely do you think it is that in the next 10 years there will be a flood that will cause...

	Unlikely 1	2	3	4	Likely 5
Major damage to your home or your family's home?					
Major damage to property in your neighborhood?					
Injury or death to you or your family members?					
Injury or death to people in your neighborhood?					
Disruption to your job that prevents you from working?					
Disruption of electrical, telephone, and other basic services?					

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- 18. How likely do you think it is that a major natural hazard event or disaster will occur in your community <u>in your lifetime</u>?
  - Very unlikely
  - Somewhat unlikely
  - D Neither likely nor unlikely
  - Somewhat likely
  - Very likely

- 19. Do you believe that climate change may be influencing the timing and severity of natural hazards?
  - □ Yes
  - 🗆 No
  - Maybe or unsure

### Section 3. Home and Hazard Insurance

We want to know about your homeowners insurance and all other property insurance policies and coverage related to your home. We recommend that you have a copy of your insurance policy documents and coverage statements (if you have insurance).

- 20. Was any form of property insurance required by your mortgage lenders or other institutions when you purchased your home?
  - I Yes
  - □ No $\rightarrow$  [Go to Q22]
  - □ Not applicable, I don't have a mortgage  $\rightarrow$  [Go to Q22]
- 21. Which types of insurance were required by your mortgage lenders or other institutions when vou purchased the home? Yes No Standard homeowners insurance..... Supplemental flood insurance either from the National Flood Insurance Program or another insurance provider..... Supplemental wind or hail insurance from the Louisiana Citizens Property Insurance Corporation...... П Supplemental wind or hail insurance from another insurance provider..... П Any other supplemental insurance (specify)\_

### 22. Do you currently have <u>any</u> insurance to protect your home or the contents within it?

- Yes
- $\square \quad N_0 \rightarrow [Go to Q45]$

### 23. Do you currently have any of these insurance types?

	Yes	No
Standard homeowners insurance		
Supplemental wind or hail insurance from the Louisiana Citizens Property Insurance Corporation		
Supplemental wind or hail insurance from another insurance provider		
Any other supplemental insurance (specify)		
Supplemental flood insurance from the National Flood Insurance Program		
Supplemental flood insurance from another insurance provider		

→ If you answer "No" to <u>both</u> questions in the box, please answer Q24. Otherwise, go to Q25.

24. If you do not have flood insurance from any source, what are the reasons			
for not having it?	Not a reason	Minor reason	Major reason
My property is not in a flood zone			
I cannot afford it			
l assume my other insurance will cover damages			
I have the resources to cover losses or damages on my own			
I expect to get government financial assistance in the event of a flood			
I expect to get charitable financial assistance in the event of a flood			
I expect my family and friends to assist me financially in the event of a flood			
Other (specify)	п	П	П

#### 25. Which of these best describes your regular homeowners insurance policy?

- Protects the structure of the home only
- Protects both the structure of the home and the property within it
- Protects the property within the home only

#### 26. Which of these best describes the perils or losses covered under your regular homeowners insurance policy?

- □ Basic perils or losses only
- □ All perils or losses aside from listed exclusions
- □ Special insurance for old houses

#### 27. Across all of your insurance policies together, are losses from the following events covered?

	Yes	No
Fire		
Water damage due to internal home appliance or home plumbing malfunction		
Water damage due to external source, such as sewer backup		
Flood due to natural hazard event or disaster		
Hurricane or windstorm		
Hail		
Theft		
Ground sinking or shifting		

#### 28. What month and year did you get your current homeowners insurance policy?

(YYYY)(MM)

### 29. What month and year did you get your current flood insurance policy?

(YYYY)(MM)

We want to know about the costs of your property insurance.

#### 30. What is the amount you pay for:

a. Your annual homeowners insurance premium only? Indicate zero if you do not have a policy. \$

b. Your annual flood insurance premium only? Indicate zero if you do not have a policy. \$

- 31. Has the cost of your homeowners insurance premium changed since you've had the policy?
  - □ Increased cost
  - Decreased cost
  - No change
- 32. Has the coverage of your homeowners insurance changed since you've had the policy?
  - Expanded coverage
  - Reduced coverage
  - No change
- 33. For all the property insurance policies you have, what is the highest value deductible among all your deductibles? \$\_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Has this deductible changed since you've had your homeowners insurance policy?
    - It has increased even though the coverage is the same
    - It has increased and the coverage expanded
    - □ It has decreased even though the coverage is the same
    - It has decreased and the coverage decreased
    - No change
- 34. Have you done anything to your house to receive a discount on your homeowners or your flood policy?
  - I Yes
  - 🗆 No
- 35. For all the property insurance policies you have, how and what is the highest coverage limit specified that your policies provide in the event of a loss or damage? (Answer only one.)
  - If the coverage limit is a percentage of the home value, what is the percent of the home value? \_\_\_\_\_%
  - If the coverage limit is a percentage of the replacement or repair costs only, what is the percent of the costs? \_\_\_\_\_%
  - If the coverage limit is a specified dollar value, what is the value of the highest coverage limit?

## We want to know about your experience with insurance claims.

- 36. Have you made any claims on any of your insurance policies in the past 10 years?
  - □ Yes □ No ·
    - a. How many claims have you filed in the past 10 years?
      - □ 1 claim
      - □ 2 to 3 claims
      - □ 4 to 6 claims
      - □ 7 or more claims

# In answering the next set of questions about your claims, refer to the <u>most significant</u> claim you have ever filed in your <u>lifetime</u>.

### 37. What was the cause of the loss or damage related to the claim?

- □ Fire from an external source outside of the home
- □ Fire from an accident or malfunction within the home
- Water damage from an outside flood
- Water damage from internal plumbing or mechanical malfunction
- Roof or exterior wall structural damage from a storm
- □ Theft
- Combination of causes
- □ I have never filed a claim  $\rightarrow$  [Go to Q42]
- □ Other (specify) \_
- 38. What month and year was the claim filed?

- 39. What was the outcome of the claim?
  - □ Paid in full (100%)
  - □ Mostly paid (66-99%)
  - □ Partially paid (35-65%)
  - □ Minimally paid (1-34%)
  - □ Denied

(MM)

- □ Other (specify)
- Not applicable. The claim is still being processed.

### 40. How many months did it take for the insurance provider to process your claim?

- □ Less than 1 month
- □ 1 to 2 months
- □ 3 to 5 months
- □ 6 to 12 months
- More than 12 months
- □ Not applicable. The claim is still being processed.

(YYYY)

41.	How would you rate your satisfaction with the claims
	process overall?

- Very satisfied
- Fairly satisfied
- Neutral
- Fairly dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- 42. Since you've acquired your current home, have you ever chosen not to file a claim even though you experienced damage or loss that was covered by your insurance policy?
  - I Yes
  - □ No  $\rightarrow$  [Go to Q44]

### 43. To what degree were any of the following reasons you chose not to file a claim?

,	Not a reason	Minor reason	Major reason
The loss was less than my	_	_	_
deductible			
I was concerned that my			
premium would increase			
The claims process was too			
burdensome			
I was concerned I would lose			
my coverage			
The amount of the claim wasn't worth it			
The insurance or claims			
representative discouraged me			
from filing			
My policy didn't cover the			
damage or event			
Other (specify)			

### 44. Overall, how satisfied are you with the homeowners insurance company that you now have for this home?

- Very satisfied
- Fairly satisfied
- Neutral
- Fairly dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

#### 45. How often do you shop for homeowners insurance?

- $\hfill\square$  More than once a year
- Yearly
- □ Every few years
- □ Rarely
- Not since I took out my first policy
- □ Never

46. For the <u>most recent</u> time you shopped for homeowners insurance, regardless of whether you purchased it, what were the reasons you decided to shop?

	Yes	No
To get a better price		
To better satisfy my coverage needs		
Required to purchase new insurance		
I was dropped by my existing insurer		
Poor claim service from my existing insurer		
I prefer another insurance company over my existing insurer		
Not applicable. I have never shopped for homeowners insurance	п	п
	Ц	Ц
Other (specify)		

### 47. Have you ever been denied homeowners insurance coverage?

- □ Yes

#### 48. Have you ever had a homeowners policy canceled?

- □ Yes
- □ No

### Section 4. Risk Action

### We want to know if you have taken any steps or done anything to your property in preparation for future hazards.

#### 49. Which of the following do you have available or on hand in case of an immediate hazard event or emergency? Yes No A generator to provide electricity..... Enough non-perishable food to feed yourself and your household for at least three days ..... At least three gallons, or 24 bottles, of water for each person in your household..... П Necessary emergency supplies together and readily available to take with you if you have to evacuate your home..... Important documents together and readily available to take with you if you have to evacuate your home..... Evacuation plan or family meeting points..... Other (specify) 50. Have you done any of the following to your home? Yes No

Elevated your entire home	
Strengthened the home's roof, including wind bracing, strengthening connections to supporting walls, attaching a roof deck, or rebuilding roof with stronger covering materials	
Strengthened the home's foundations, including strengthening the connections to supported walls	
Retrofitted your basement or first floor with water barriers, flood-proofing, or other secondary	
water barrier	
Installed storm shutters or other protections for window, door, and skylight openings	
Installed backwater valves or other improvement to water and storm water connections	
Installed earthen berms around your entire home	
Moved equipment, such as the water heater, to a higher location or protected equipment by a	
floodwall	

### 51. Of all the adjustments you made to your home property, how much <u>did</u> you pay?

- □ \$0
- □ \$1 to \$2,499
- □ \$2,500 to \$4,999
- □ \$5,000 to \$9,999
- □ \$10,000 to \$19,999
- □ \$20,000 or more

### 52. How much <u>would you be able to</u> pay now in construction costs in order to significantly reduce your home's risk to hazards in the future?

- □ \$0
- □ \$1 to \$2,499
- □ \$2,500 to \$4,999
- □ \$5,000 to \$9,999
- □ \$10,000 to \$19,999
- □ \$20,000 or more

# 53. Are you aware of any of the following grants, loans, or other financial incentives available to you for your property? These may be from the federal, state, or local government or local nonprofits. If so, indicate if you are aware or have taken advantage of the incentive.

	l am not aware of this incentive	l am aware but have not applied	l received this incentive	l was denied
The Severe Repetitive Loss grant program (SRL)				
The Repetitive Flood Claims program (RFC)				
The Flood Mitigation Assistance program (FMA).				
The Pre-Disaster Mitigation program (PDM)				
The Louisiana State Sales and Exclusion Tax Credit for Storm Shutters				
Hurricane Preparedness Louisiana Sales Tax Holiday				
Insurance Premium Discounts				
Tax Deductions for Voluntary Retrofit				
Other parish or city program (specify)				
Other charity or nonprofit program				
(specify)				

### 54. If you did not take advantage of any programs but you were familiar with them, what was the <u>main</u> reason you did not?

- □ My home is not eligible to receive the incentives
- □ I cannot afford to implement the mitigation technologies
- □ I do not understand the incentive program
- □ I have not had time to apply for the incentive program
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_

## We want to know your perceptions of the various organizations or groups that may provide services related to your home and hazards.

55. To what extent do you think that the following entities are responsible for <u>protecting</u> your property from a hazard?	Not at all 1	2	3	A great extent 4
Federal government				
State or local government				
Home insurance companies				
Friends, neighbors, or coworkers				
Yourself and your family members				
56. To what extent do you think that the following entities are responsible for helping your property <u>recover</u> from a hazard?	Not at all 1	2	3	A great extent 4
		2	3 □	extent
responsible for helping your property <u>recover</u> from a hazard?	all 1	_	_	extent 4
responsible for helping your property <u>recover</u> from a hazard? Federal government	all 1			extent 4
responsible for helping your property <u>recover</u> from a hazard? Federal government State or local government	all 1 □			extent 4 □
responsible for helping your property <u>recover</u> from a hazard? Federal government State or local government Home insurance companies	all 1 0			extent 4 □ □

## We want to know some basic information about you and your household.

#### 57. Please verify the address of your home:

- Street Address:
- City, State, ZIP Code:

#### 58. How do you describe your gender?

- Female
- D Male
- □ Other

### 59. Do you describe your ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino/a?

- ⊓ Yes

#### 60. How do you describe your race?

- □ White
- Black or African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- □ Asian
- Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- □ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_

#### 61. What is your age?

- □ 18 to 30
- □ 31 to 40
- □ 41 to 50
- □ 51 to 60
- □ 61 to 70
- Older than 70

### 62. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

- Less than a high school diploma
- □ High school graduate, GED, or equivalent
- □ Some college, no degree
- □ Associate's degree or technical certificate
- □ Four-year college graduate
- □ Some postgraduate school, no degree
- Master's degree, professional degree, or doctorate degree

### 63. What is your current employment status?

- □ Employed full-time
- □ Employed part-time
- Self-employed
- Unemployed and currently looking for work
- □ Unemployed and not currently looking for work
- □ Retired
- □ Stay-at-home caregiver
- □ Student
- □ Other (specify)

### 64. Please identify if any of the following apply to you or anyone in your household:

	Yes	No
Serious difficulty hearing		
Blind or serious difficulty seeing, even		
when wearing glasses		
Serious difficulty concentrating,		
remembering or making decisions		
because of a physical, mental, or		
emotional condition		
Serious difficulty walking or climbing		
stairs		
Difficulty bathing or dressing		
Difficulty doing errands alone, such as		
shopping, because of a physical, mental,		
or emotional condition		

- 65. What is your total household income? (In addition to income from employment, please include other sources.)
  - □ Less than \$30,000
  - □ \$30,000 to \$34,999
  - □ \$35,000 to \$39,999
  - □ \$40,000 to \$49,999
  - □ \$50,000 to \$59,999
  - □ \$60,000 to \$74,999
  - □ \$75,000 to \$84,999
  - □ \$85,000 to \$89,999
  - □ \$90,000 or more
- 66. Including yourself, how many people live in your household who are age 18 or older? Please include adult children. \_\_\_\_\_\_ people
- 67. How many people live in your household who are under age 18? \_\_\_\_\_ people
- 68. How many people live in your household who are age 65 or older? \_\_\_\_\_ people
- 69. To the best of your recollection, what was your credit score at the time you acquired your current insurance policy? \_\_\_\_\_\_points

Finally, we want to know how you accessed the insurance information you reported in this survey (if any).

70. Did you refer to your insurance policy to answer questions in this survey?

□ Yes · □ No

a. In what format did you access your insurance policy?		
	Yes	No
Paper copy		
Website		
Insurance company app on an electronic device		
Online chat with or email from your insurance company		
Phone call with your insurance company		
Other (specify)		

### The Survey is Complete!

Thank you for completing the survey! **Please return the survey in the pre-stamped envelope we provided.** As a token of our appreciation, you will receive a no-fee \$50 Amazon gift card. If you choose to receive your Amazon gift card in the mail, please allow extra time for delivery.

With what method do you prefer to receive your \$50 gift card?

- Email to the address specified at the beginning
- Email to an alternative email address
  - Email: \_\_\_\_\_
- Postal mail to the street address to which this survey was sent
- Postal mail to the street address specified in Section 5
- Postal mail to a different street address
  - Street Address:
  - City, State, ZIP Code:

For questions or concerns, please call our survey hotline at (504) 670-9318, or email homesurvey@urban.org.

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