



## Infographic

# After the Storm: To Stay or Leave?

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The American Action Forum released an infographic that illustrates how population trends were impacted in regions overwhelmingly impacted by the three costliest hurricanes in American history. This data suggests that hurricanes disrupt population trends, and in some cases, can cause out-migration. In the wake of the recent hurricanes, states should be prepared for the potential influx of individuals moving from areas impacted by these hurricanes.

[Read the entire analysis here.](#)

# AFTER THE STORM TO STAY OR LEAVE?

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, affected residents face the choice to either stay or leave. A close examination indicates disruptions in populations after a hurricane, with some areas experiencing rapid decline.



## HURRICANE IKE

2008 Category 2 \$30 Bil

### POPULATION STATUS

Galveston County

**-1,200**

In 2009, the population declined at a greater rate than before.

Orange County

**-1,000**

This decrease came after two years of significant population growth.

**53,000**

Workers Unemployed

**18,000**

Businesses Damaged

Bridge City & Orange City  
These cities suffered the greatest damage in Orange County.

## HURRICANE SANDY

2012 Category 3 \$65 Bil

### POPULATION STATUS ( NJ & NY suffered the greatest damage )

New Jersey

Ocean County

The population rate decelerated from 2011 to 2013.

Monmouth County

The population declined at a greater rate between 2011 to 2012.

New York

Population growth slightly decreased.

Hurricane Sandy had a greater impact on suburban populations than metropolitan.

## HURRICANE KATRINA

2005 Category 4 \$125 Bil

### POPULATION STATUS

Louisiana

**-300,000**

This decrease came after years of population growth.

New Orleans

Most of Louisiana's population loss came from New Orleans, likely due to its high poverty rate ( 30% ).

Mississippi

Population growth slightly decreased from 2005 to 2006.

Residents out-migrated from the Gulf to more inland areas within the state.

While hurricanes may not always cause out-migration, history has shown that states should be prepared for an influx on hurricane survivors looking to escape the wreckage.