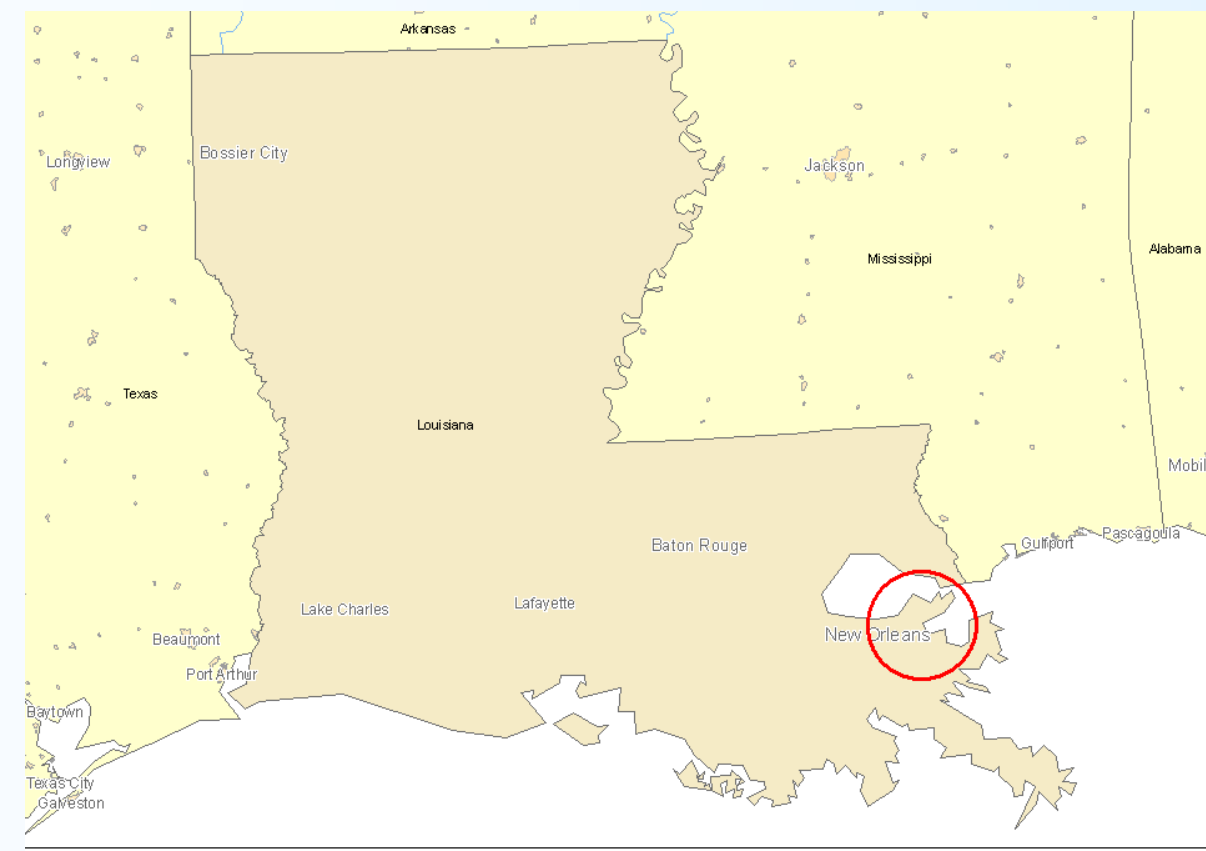


Hurricane Katrina and its impact on New Orleanians

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Introduction

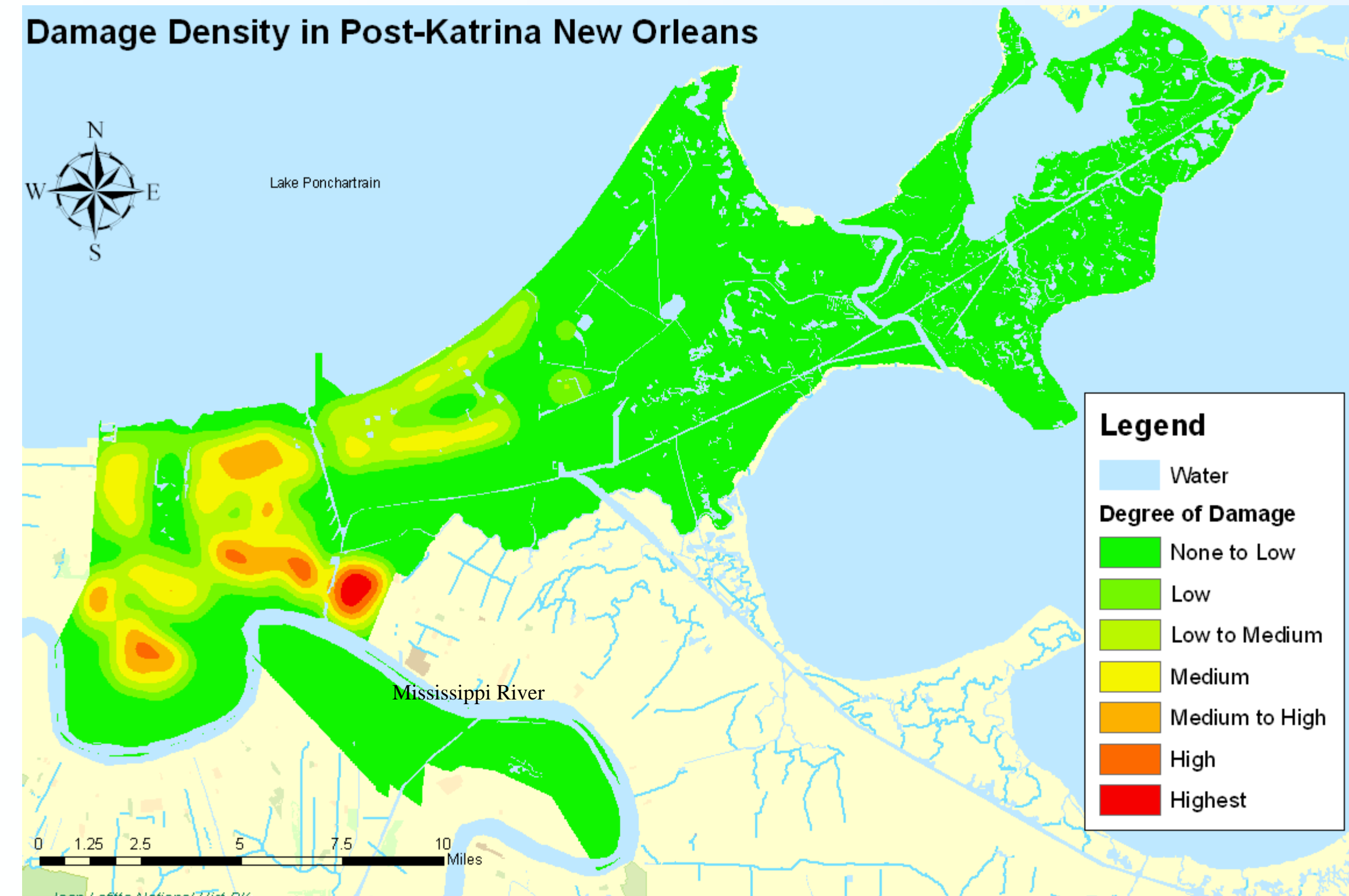
Who was affected by the flooding in post-Katrina New Orleans? Did some racial groups experience higher losses than others? Where low-income neighborhoods more affected than higher income neighborhoods? These are the answers sought by this analysis.



Methods

Data was collected from the City of New Orleans, the U.S. Census Bureau, FEMA, and ESRI. The City of New Orleans offered

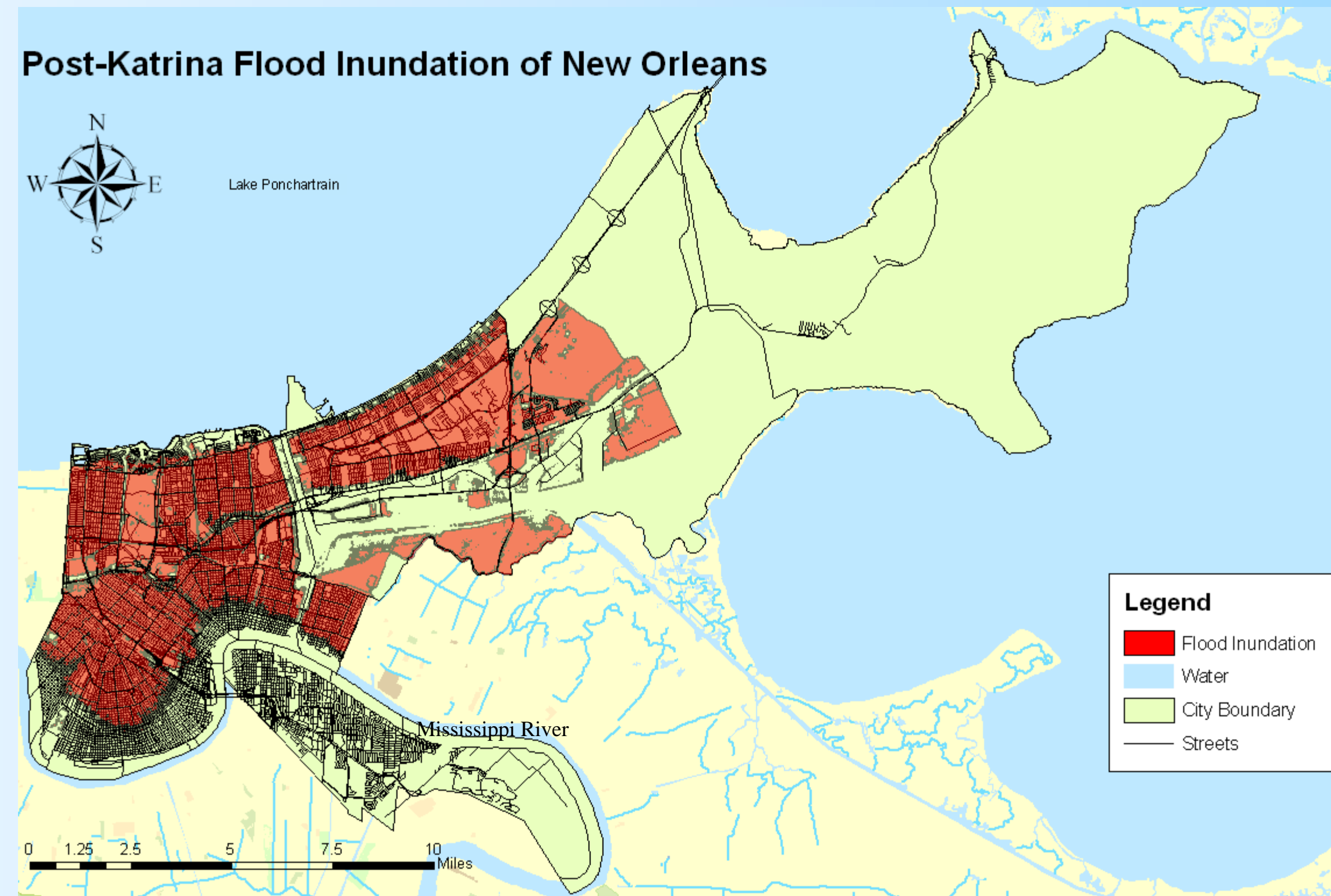
Damage Density in Post-Katrina New Orleans



damage assessment data by address that is a continually updated tabular database; this data was used to geocode degrees of damage onto a street shape file. The flood inundation map displays the extent of the flood, while the density grid demonstrates in greater detail the hardest hit areas of the city. The demographic statistics by census tract for inside and outside the inundated areas were compiled and visualized on the chart to better investigate the affected populations.

Findings

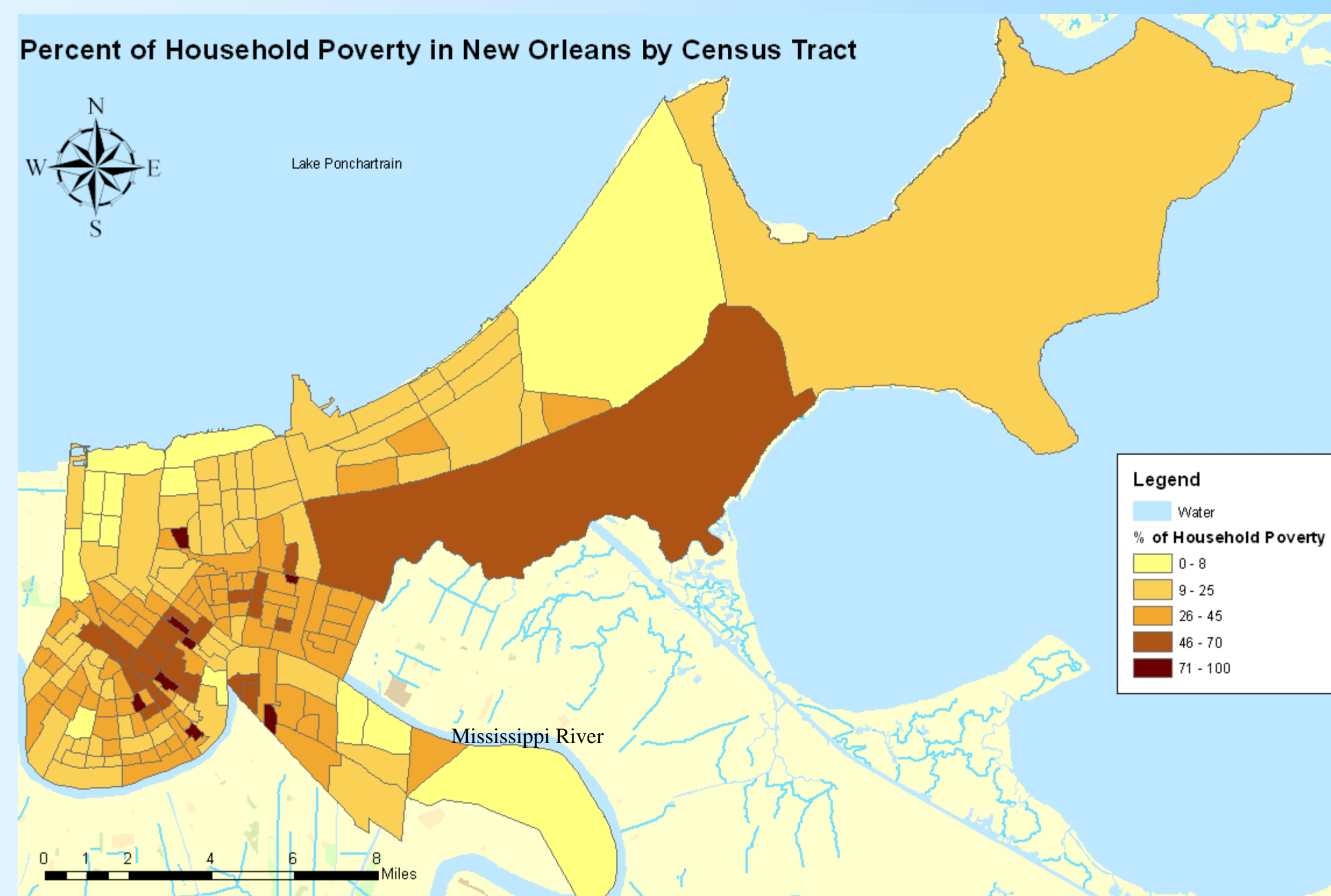
The findings display that there was damage in nearly every neighborhood in the City of New Orleans. While all demographic groups were affected in some way, the median income for those affected is nearly \$14,000 lower than the income of those not affected. Likewise, the largest group affected was African-



Americans, with nearly 250,000 people receiving damage to their households. The second closest group were whites, with nearly 65,000 suffering household damage. However, whites were also the only demographic group to have more people with undamaged property than damaged property. Other minority populations had more damaged than undamaged households within their demographic groups.

Conclusion

The research findings demonstrate that while nearly all racial groups and income varieties suffered some degree of household damage from Hurricane Katrina, the poorest and minority groups were the hardest hit. This fact displays possible challenges to the rebuilding process in New Orleans, indicating that many who were impacted may not have resources to rebuild their homes, and that the long-term effects of Hurricane Katrina have yet to be seen.



Household Damage by Demographic

	Undamaged	Damaged
Median Family Income	\$46,855.00	\$32,798.00
% Children Below Poverty	31.0%	41.0%
% Seniors Below Poverty	18.5%	24.0%
% Families Below Poverty	20.0%	27.0%
White	70,999	64,957
Black	71,355	254,592
Asian	3,096	7,876
Hawaiian	44	65
Other race	1,656	2,842
Multi-race	2,199	4,002
Hispanic	5,726	9,100
Under age 5	9,451	24,045
Age 65 +	19,011	37,642
Occupied by Renter	33,718	66,944
Occupied by Owner	30,135	57,454

Map Projection: Louisiana State Plane 1702 Feet
Sources:
The City of New Orleans, 2005
Streetmap USA, 1998
United States Census Bureau, 2000
Scale 1: 200,000

