

**STATEWIDE POLL SHOWS MANY FLORIDIANS ARE STILL NOT PREPARED  
FOR HURRICANE SEASON**

***Economic downturn impacts hurricane preparedness: 7% have considered  
dropping their insurance***

Miami, June 16, 2010 – The Metropolitan Center, an applied research institute at Florida International University released a poll today that shows the level of preparedness of Florida residents. More than a third of Floridians (43.1%) feel somewhat or extremely vulnerable to damage from a hurricane, tornado or flooding. Less than half (48.1%) indicated their home is already prepared and could be secured within a few hours.

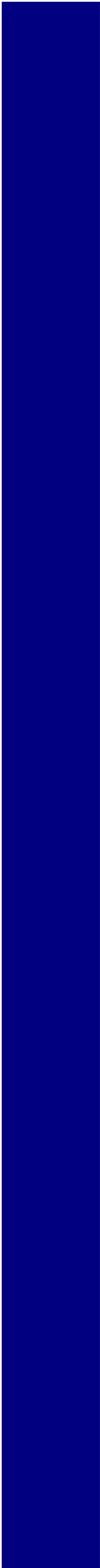
When asked to assess their household preparation most Floridians (85.9%) considered it adequate. However, a quarter of Florida's residents did not have food supplies or water in stock at the beginning of the hurricane season. Only 56.1% had either shutters or plywood to use as window coverings. Moreover, 11.1% indicated they had not made any preparations yet.

The poll also found that the level of preparedness has been affected by difficult economic conditions. For every one in four respondents (25.2%) the economic downturn has had some impact on their preparations. Moreover, 6.9% were considering dropping their insurance.

The poll also found that:

- ◆ Almost a quarter of Floridians (22.3%) do not have a plan for what to do if a serious hurricane threatened their home.
- ◆ The majority (78.5%) are planning to buy more supplies.
- ◆ A significant percentage (21.2%) do not know whether their home is located in a hurricane evacuation zone and 14.2% indicated they would probably never evacuate.
- ◆ Almost one in three (29.8%) consider it very or somewhat likely they would rely on emergency supplies provided by government or charitable organizations.
- ◆ Less than half of Floridians (46.1%) trust in FEMA's ability to respond efficiently to hurricane threats, while 34.1% are undecided. However, 66.6% believe the state and local government are capable of responding efficiently.

The statewide survey was conducted May 19 – June 8, 2010, with 804 Florida residents and has a +/- 3% margin of error. Respondents of the poll included 89.8% owners and 10.2% renters. In terms of race and ethnicity, 74.4% were non-Hispanic Whites, 7.5% non-Hispanic Blacks, and 16.0% Hispanics, regardless of race.



The Florida International University Metropolitan Center is based in Miami, Florida. The Center conducts studies and delivers information and expertise to decision makers, community leaders and citizens as they seek to forge solutions to urban problems. For more information on the Metropolitan Center, contact Dr. Dario Moreno or Dr. Maria Ilcheva at (305) 349-1251.

*Forging solutions through research and training.*