

Disaster Brief: SuperStorm Sandy

What happened?

- Hurricane Sandy hit New York City on October 29, 2012
- Resulted in 97 deaths in the New York Metropolitan area, 43 of which were in New York City

Who was impacted?

- Although all five boroughs experienced flooding, the worst was located in Staten Island, southern Brooklyn, and the lower third of Manhattan.
- Produced major power outages and severe flooding, including flooding of the MTA subway
- 800,000 New Yorkers lost electricity
- Tens of thousands of New Yorkers were displaced

How were immigrant groups or historically marginalized communities in the city impacted?

- Sandy was not experienced equally across all communities
- Over 400 public housing buildings—home to almost 80,000 residents—lost electricity, elevators, heat, and hot water
- Almost half of those who died due to Hurricane Sandy were over 65

What did survivors say?

- “The 19th floor, sometimes it has its advantages: you look out, in the night, it’s really pretty. But when you’re stuck up here for days and you just look outside and feel like a prisoner,” said then 18 year old Nilejawel Stora.
- “They wouldn’t help me, I have no papers,” said Juan Antonio Perez, an undocumented immigrant, in reference to a neighborhood food distribution center. Perez later walked to a FEMA center on Staten Island to inquire about post-Sandy construction and cleaning jobs. He was handed an Internet address. “I don’t have Internet,” he says. “I don’t even have a computer.”
- “We went outside and saw trees uprooted, like something out of a movie,” said Edith Harris, a 57-year-old single mother from Jamaica. “I thought it was a joke. We were not told to expect flooding. We did not realize what would happen, and when the water came in, up to the first floor, we did not know what organizations to reach out to for help.”

To read more about those impacted and listen to first-hand stories of survivors, visit the below resources:

- [News Articles](#)
- [Data & Reports](#)