

Enduring Disasters: Puerto Rico, Three Years After Hurricane María



Issued September 2020

INTRODUCTION

Puerto Rico has suffered the compounded effects of multiple disasters over the last three years: the devastating impacts of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017, recurrent seismic activity in the southwest region, including a magnitude 6.4 earthquake on January 7, 2020, the current COVID-19 pandemic; all underscored by a crushing debt crisis and a federally-mandated austerity regime since 2016. Multiple natural disasters have exacerbated vulnerability and poverty, and public energy, telecommunications, water, health, and transportation systems have greatly deteriorated and become even more vulnerable, causing systematic failures in social safety nets.

Recent disasters have revealed serious vulnerabilities in Puerto Rico's preparedness and the lack of suitable and accessible mechanisms to support adequate local community engagement. The devastation caused by recent disasters have also opened a window of opportunity not just for recovery from the catastrophe but also for building a more resilient infrastructure. The history of how Puerto Rico takes advantage of this window of opportunity brought about by catastrophic events is being written in an unfolding present.

It is imperative that the rebuilding of Puerto Rico be undertaken, encouraged, and embraced by a wide range of civic sector actors including businesses, cooperatives, nonprofit organizations, municipalities, religious and educational institutions, both in Puerto Rico and the United States. It is precisely these stakeholders, in conjunction with decision-makers, who can stimulate participation, transparency, equity, and accountability; all elements of good government.

In this report, we mark three years since the hurricanes struck Puerto Rico by looking at salient events over the past year to gain a broader understanding of the political and social landscape that impacts rebuilding efforts.

While Puerto Rico bore the overwhelming brunt of the cyclone, its impact was also felt in places in the United States in which Puerto Ricans have settled. With increase mobility of people across countries, however, a weather

event that takes place in the Caribbean affects communities not just there, but also far and away. One such place was Holyoke, in western Massachusetts. In *Anticipated Vulnerabilities: Displacement and Migration in the Age of Climate Change*, a report jointly produced by Centro and El Instituto: the Institute of Latina/o, Caribbean, and Latin American Studies (University of Connecticut-Storrs), we document the experiences of those displaced to the United States by the hurricane, the relatives who provided them with safe haven in the United States, and the civic and government sectors that supported both groups in Holyoke in the weeks, months, and now years since the storm hit.

We next take an in-depth look at the massive and continuing post-Maria exodus and the impact of the evacuees on stateside Puerto Rican communities. The recent migration of Puerto Ricans from the island has come to increase the number of Puerto Ricans in the United States overall. Given the importance that population size and growth have in the social and political discourse in the United States, this increase will contribute to make Puerto Ricans more visible politically, socially, culturally and economically.

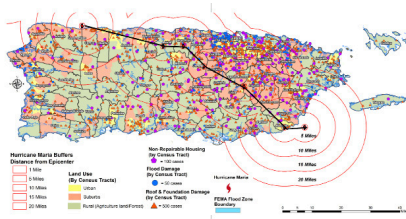
Hurricanes Irma and Maria may have brought destruction and devastation, but they also brought opportunities for the building of a stronger Puerto Rico and Diaspora. These opportunities take the form of: the collective efforts that resulted initially in rescue and relief responses to the hurricanes' destruction and have since then evolved into recovery and reconstruction initiatives; the need for mitigation and preparedness at the local level; and funding opportunities, mostly from the federal government, to rebuild critical infrastructure and capacity-building. Challenges will arise from the enormity of the reconstruction task at hand; the competing demands for limited resources; and the willingness of diverse fields of stakeholders to come together to tackle the tasks at hand. Success will come from meeting the challenges taking advantage of existing opportunities. Centro remains a willing convener of those collective efforts and initiatives.

TIMELINE

The following timeline collects the pertinent headlines and news stories related to Puerto Rico over the past two years in regards to the events following Hurricane Maria's destruction. While the story the year succeeding Maria primarily focused on recovery efforts and death toll count, a shift has occurred within the consecutive year in which headlines detailed the delay of disaster relief funding and corruption within the government of Puerto Rico. Insufficient funding and fraud charges from the governor's top officials involving millions of dollars have left the island in a position where rebuilding may be delayed in the foreseeable future.

9/6/2017

Hurricane Irma passes north of Puerto Rico, causing significant damage to the island's electricity. Heavy rainfall led to rivers reaching flood stage and six landslides. The hurricane attributed to approximately \$759.4 million in damages and four fatalities, and Gov. Ricardo Rosselló declared Vieques and Culebrato be disaster areas.



12/20/2017

Ninety days after Hurricane Maria, more than 9,600 disaster victims were temporarily housed in Puerto Rico and across 38 states through the Transitional Sheltering Program (TSA), which allowed residents of Puerto Rico displaced by Hurricanes Irma & Maria to be granted access to temporary housing across the states. Earlier in the month, a new report suggested the death toll to be closer to 1,000 persons.



6/29/2018

FEMA, HUD and PR Department of Housing issue a report on housing damage titled "Housing Damage Assessment and Recovery Strategies Report." The report classifies the ten most impacted communities by the total number of damaged housing units as San Juan, Bayamon, Caguas, Ponce, Toa Baja, Carolina, Arecibo, Humacao, Canovanas, and Guaynabo. However, when considering the number of damaged housing units within a specific market, the 10 most impacted areas are found to be smaller communities such as Culebra, Vieques, Comerio, Canovanas, Guayama, Toa Alta, Utuado, and Cayey.

2017



2018



2018

9/20/2017

Hurricane Maria made landfall at 6:15AM as a Category 4, with sustained winds blowing at 145mph and peaking at 155mph as it made landfall. The north-west trajectory of the storm assured that the entire island would be affected. Heavy rainfall occurred throughout the territory, peaking at 37.9 inches in Caguas, according to the National Weather Service. Maria has been the worst storm to hit Puerto Rico since San Felipe Segundo in 1928.

10/20/2017

One month after Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico, 83% of residents and businesses were without electricity. Bloomberg Politics reports that one-in-three residents lacked running water; only half of the island's cellular towers worked. The official death toll was 49, while 76 people were still missing.



1/25/2018

According to several reports, 3,894 survivors remained in Puerto Rico and across 42 states via the TSA program. This was a 40% decrease in enrollment from the December 20 report. A subsequent report by the New York Times stated that 1,500 survivors resided in Florida, as well as more than 800 in Puerto Rico.

2/1/2018

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded \$1.5 billion to attend the reconstruction of damaged housing and local businesses in Puerto Rico. Less than two weeks later, nearly 200 households were informed that their eligibility for the TSA program had expired.

5/15/2018

FEMA reported a total of 357,492 damaged homes caused by Hurricane Maria; overall about 23% of the island's housing stock was affected.

8/14/2018

The government-owned electric power company in Puerto Rico announces that it officially restored power to the entire island - almost a year after the power grid was severely impacted by Hurricane Maria.

8/28/2018

Puerto Rico's governor updated the island's official death toll for victims of Hurricane Maria on Tuesday, hours after independent researchers from George Washington University released a study estimating the hurricane caused 2,975 deaths in the six months following the storm.

SEPTEMBER 2018

Centro releases "Puerto Rican Exodus: One Year Since Hurricane Maria," a report highlighting the relocation of nearly 160,000 Puerto Rican residents to the United States.



TIMELINE

9/20/2018

One year after Hurricane Maria, the incident remains the worst natural disaster to hit Puerto Rico. Only 855 schools opened. The second-largest blackout in history. The largest disaster in medical response emissions and third-costliest storm in U.S. history.

11/23/2018

According to the Fourth National Climate Assessment, nearly 8,000 of Puerto Rico's structures near low-lying areas are at risk by an increase in sea level of 1.6 feet.

11/26/2018

According to the New York Times, majority of the \$1 billion FEMA originally allocated for emergency repairs to homes in Puerto Rico damaged by Hurricane Maria is instead going to contractors charging steep markups and overhead.

1/14/19

FOMBPR, the federal control board that oversees Puerto Rico's finances, asked a court to invalidate over \$6 billion worth of debt. FOMBPR stated the debt, including all general obligation bonds issued in 2012 and 2014, were in clear violation of debt limits established by the Constitution of Puerto Rico. The money went towards financing deficit spending as opposed to being used to balance budget requirements.

1/30/19

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton announced dozens of projects intended to help Puerto Rico along with several other Caribbean islands as affected by Hurricane Maria as part of a two-day conference in the Island organized by The Clinton Foundation.

2/21/2019

Businesses in Puerto Rico opened at a much faster rate than closing several months after Hurricane Maria, as according to a University of Puerto Rico study. The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, a dataset on entrepreneurship, showed that entrepreneurial activity was on the rise from 2017 to 2018.

2/28/2019

The fiscal board which controls spending in Puerto Rico funded Gov. Ricardo Rosselló \$1.5 million to downsize the backlog in the island's morgue.

4/7/2019

The New York Times reports that the sole hospital in the island of Vieques still remains closed and deteriorated as a result of Hurricane Maria eighteen months after. Residents are forced to travel eight miles to the main island to receive treatments.

> 2018 > 2019 > 2019

12/19/2018

House lawmakers introduced a new bill intended to strengthen reporting requirements after an influential consultant was found to have an undisclosed stake in Puerto Rico's debt. This came after concern of the possibility of self-dealing and other hidden conflicts in Puerto Rico's \$123 billion bankruptcy.

1/11/2019

Reports that President Donald Trump could use \$2.5 billion set aside to finance reconstruction projects in the island to pay for a U.S.-Mexico border wall broke, leading to major backlash from several Puerto Rican officials.

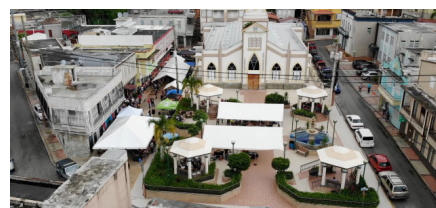


2/5/2019

U.S. District Judge Gustavo Gelpí censured the federal government for unconstitutionally discriminating against Puerto Ricans, violating their equal protection rights by withholding disability benefits owed to residing Puerto Ricans in the mainland.

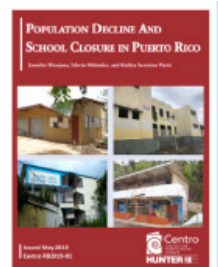
2/13/2019

Puerto Rico and three other United States territories were added to a money laundering blacklist. The blacklist will require European banks to apply further inspection to transactions within these areas. Puerto Rico was added to the blacklist along with North Korea, Libya and Yemen as locations where drug dealers, terrorists, and corrupt dictators can launder their profits.



MAY 2019

Centro releases their "Population Decline and School Closure in Puerto Rico" report, highlighting the massive slump the Island faced as a consequence of the hurricane.



5/2/2019

Dozens of banks and financial firms were sued by the government oversight board leading Puerto Rico through its \$123 billion debt crisis, who stated that \$9 billion in debt relief aid was issued illegally and Puerto Rico should not have to repay.

5/14/2019

A report states the island has received only \$12.6 billion in disaster relief funds, contradicting statements from President Donald Trump that \$91 billion was given to Puerto Rico.

TIMELINE

7/4/2019

A NBC News congressional report states Puerto Rico may not be able to care for all its veterans if another disaster strikes the island.

7/8/2019

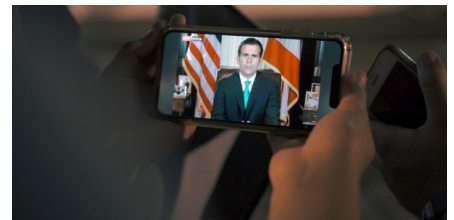
Eleven pages worth of screenshots of a group chat on the instant messaging service Telegram were leaked. This group chat involved Gov. Ricardo Rosselló and several members of his cabinet, campaign managers, and consultants including Secretary of State Luis G. Rivera Marín, the PROMESA board's governor representative Christian Sobrino, and Secretary to the Governor Ricardo Llerandi. The screenshots showed snippets of vulgar and crude comments made by members of the chat towards other established politicians and personalities. Llerandi confirmed the authenticity of the leaks the following day.

7/13/2019

The full 889-page conversation between Rosselló and the other members within this group chat was published by local news agency Centro de Periodismo Investigativo. The incident has seen several different labels, including, "Telegramgate," "RickyGate," and "RickyLeaks," by the community and bears striking similarities to last year's WhatsApp Gate - which also featured members of Rosselló's cabinet. Messages within the group chat were described by the public as obscene, homophobic, racist, sexist, and vulgar, with some messages having been aimed towards specific individuals and events. Comments ranged from poking fun towards communities affected by Hurricane Maria to insulting singer Ricky Martin and mayor of San Juan Carmen Yulín Cruz, and former New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito. Previously mentioned Marín and Sobrino resigned.

7/24/2019

Rumors spread as headlines across major news publications stated for the public to expect a resignation from Rosselló throughout various specific points in the day. While these rumors ultimately turned out to be false, news broke that three attorneys commissioned by Carlos Méndez Núñez, the president of Puerto Rico's House of Representatives, found five offenses that constitute the grounds for impeachment. Among these offenses include illegal misuse of public office for personal gain, embezzlement, negligence as pertaining to fulfilling the duties of public office and violations of the government ethics law. Rosselló took to Facebook later to officially announce his resignation through a pre-recorded message - stepping down from office on August 2nd, 2019 at 5 p.m. ET.



> 2019 > 2019 > 2019

7/10/2019

A 32-count indictment led to six people being arrested by the FBI, including two former high-ranking government officials, on charges of conspiracy and other crimes involving millions of dollars of education and Medicaid fundings.



7/22/2019

Hundreds of thousands of protesters shut down traffic and Puerto Rico Highway 18, also known as Expreso Las Américas. This protest, now dubbed the "March of the People," made history as the largest protest in the recent history of the island as five hundred thousand stood their ground against the rain. Earlier in the day, United States President Donald Trump slammed Ricardo Rosselló and other government leaders - including Mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz, accusing them of wasting billions of dollars of Hurricane Maria disaster relief aid. "The money is squandered and wasted and stolen," Trump told reporters. "Congress is not happy about it."



7/31/2019

Rosselló nominated a new secretary of state who could succeed him as governor: Pedro R. Pierluisi. An attorney and member of the United States House of Representatives, Pierluisi faced opposition from lawmakers within Puerto Rico's senate who aimed to block his confirmation for the position. The same day that Rosselló nominated Pierluisi, a new document with an additional 100 pages of the Telegram conversation was released by journalist Sandra Rodríguez Cotto.

8/2/2019

The House of Representatives confirmed Pierluisi as the Secretary of State for Puerto Rico, thus assuming governorship immediately after Rossello's resignation. He was sworn in as Governor of Puerto Rico at 5PM AST, immediately as soon as Rossello's incumbency ended - making Pierluisi the first unelected governor in seven decades. A press conference was held during a private ceremony by Pierluisi, who stated he will only remain in office if the Senate ratified him as governor - otherwise he would resign. Protests continued, shifting their aim to call for the resignation of Pierluisi.



8/5/2019

San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz and Senate President Thomas Rivera Schatz filed lawsuits to remove Pierluisi from his position and declare his appointment from Rossello unconstitutional due to the Senate having never confirmed his appointment. Just a day prior, the Senate of Puerto Rico filed a legal complaint to the Puerto Rico Supreme Court seeking injunction as, according to the Constitution of Puerto Rico, Pierluisi had to occupy the position of Secretary of State with the entire advice and consent of the island's legislative bodies before Rossello's resignation. Pierluisi refused to attend a Senate hearing meant to discuss his appointment as the island's secretary of state - prompting Rivera Schatz to go to court. The hearing was ultimately canceled by Rivera Schatz after hearing of Pierluisi's refusal to attend.

8/27/2019

Puerto Rico declared a state of emergency in anticipation of Tropical Storm Dorian, which was expected to make landfall later in the week.

8/28/2019

Then-Tropical Storm Dorian strengthened into a Category 1 Hurricane as it made its way through the Caribbean, moving at intense winds of up to 73mph and bringing about 4-6 inches of rainfall. Puerto Rico ultimately missed majority of the damage Dorian wrecked to other islands, sparing territories still recovering from Hurricane Maria. Cars, homes and gravestones in Humacao, an eastern-coast municipality of Puerto Rico, became halfway submerged after a river burst its banks as a result of Dorian. Thus far, one fatality is confirmed after Dorian swiped the island.



2019



2019



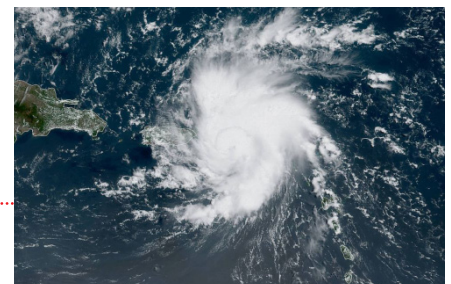
2019

8/4/2019

Centro releases the fourth season of "Puerto Rican Voices - TV Show". The great efforts of Puerto Ricans towards the reconstruction and rebuilding of Puerto Rico have not ceased. Two years since Hurricane Maria, there is still much work to be done. Puerto Rican Voices' fourth season—"Rebuild Puerto Rico"—shows these efforts to connect the Puerto Rican diaspora with organizations in Puerto Rico.

8/5/2019

The Trump administration placed new restrictions on billions of dollars in federal disaster aid for Puerto Rico. The decision imposed new safeguards on about \$8.3 billion in Housing and Urban Development disaster mitigation funding to Puerto Rico.



8/8/2019

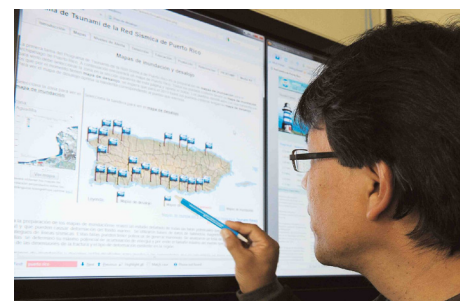
Puerto Rican Supreme Court justices overturned Pierluisi's appointment, kicking him out of office and leaving the island temporarily leaderless. Despite repeatedly stating her lack of desire for the job, Justice Secretary Wanda Vázquez was sworn in by the end of the day to fill in the position of governor of Puerto Rico.

12/28/2019 - 12/29/2019

On December 28, 2019, a 4.7 magnitude earthquake hits Puerto Rico southwest of Guánica and another 5.0 magnitude earthquake occurred on the following day, December 29, 2019.

8/11/2019

Wanda Vázquez announced she is suspending a pending \$450,000 contract that is part of the program to rebuild and strengthen the island's power grid.



1/6/2020 - 1/16/2020

With a start of a new year came many earthquakes along with it. On January 6, a 5.8 magnitude earthquake occurred once again in the south of Guánica. The following day, on January 7th, four earthquakes with a magnitude over 5.0 occurred in the southwest region of Puerto Rico. The first and most damaging earthquake had a magnitude of 6.4 earthquake occurred near Barrio Indios, Guayanilla followed by a 5.6 magnitude, 5.0 magnitude, and 5.6 magnitude. Three days later, on January 10th, another 5.2 magnitude earthquake occurred in southern Puerto Rico followed by four more earthquakes ranging from 5.2 magnitude to 6.0 up until January 16, 2020.



1/16/2020

A major disaster declaration (FEMA-4473-DR-PR) was approved by President Trump for Puerto Rico for earthquakes between the period of December 28th and continues to this day. Federal funding was available to Guánica, Guayanilla, Peñuelas, Ponce, Utuado, and Yauco.

1/18/2019

A FEMA warehouse with unused disaster relief aid was discovered in Ponce. Hours after the released viral footage of the unused disaster relief aid was discovered, the governor of Puerto Rico "fired the US territory's emergency management director and two high-ranking officials." The discovery of the unused disaster relief aid provoked angry residents to break into the facility and begin distributing it to people in need themselves."

1/27/2020 - 2/14/2020

On January 27, a second round of "opened schools" was announced and an additional 51 schools were added to the list of 177, with a grand total of 228 operating schools in Puerto Rico. At least 20% of the Island's schools were fully operational. By February 2, a third round of 'opened schools' was announced and an additional 103 schools were added to the list of 337, with a grand total of 440 schools operating in Puerto Rico. Within a week, a grand total of 627 schools were operating in Puerto Rico and by February 14th, at least 88% of the Island's schools were fully operating, at a grand total of 756 operational schools.



2020



2020



2020

1/7/2020

The Governor of Puerto Rico, Wanda Vázquez Garced, declared a state of emergency after a series of earthquakes killed at least one person, toppled buildings and knocked out power to nearly the entire island of more than 3 million people. (US News)

1/8/2020

At least 50 engineers began to inspect and evaluate school buildings for damage caused by the sequence of earthquakes.

1/13/2020

The number of refugees in Puerto Rico, due to the earthquakes, continues to rise and is now close to 5,000 as the authorities organize base camps to offer better care to citizens, many of whom evicted their homes due to the damage suffered.

1/17/2020

Based on the school inspections and evaluations of the severity of damage caused by the earthquakes, a total of 224 schools were eligible to operate in Puerto Rico.

1/22/2020

FEMA extended eligibility for Individual Assistance to Adjuntas, Cabo Rojo, Corozal, Jayuya, Lajas, Lares, Maricao, San German, San Sebastian, and Villalba.

1/24/2020

The Governor Wanda Vázquez announced the federal department of Education granted an extension for the use of funds for immediate aid for the recovery of schools to the Department of Education of Puerto Rico. This includes a total management of \$589 million of federal funds to be extended until August 2021.

2/6/2020

An additional 9 municipalities that were affected by the earthquakes in the southwest region have been designated as eligible for FEMA's Individual Assistance Program and they include: Arecibo, Ciales, Hormigueros, Juana Díaz, Las Marías, Mayagüez, Morovis, Orocovis and Sabana Grande under the January 16 presidential disaster declaration.

2/16/2020

House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD), chairwoman of the House Committee on Small Business Nydia M Velázquez, chairwoman of the House Oversight and Reform Committee Carolyn B. Maloney, and Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (all D-NY) visited Puerto Rico.

3/8/2020

Government activates protocol for suspected case of coronavirus in Puerto Rico.

3/16/2020

The Governor of Puerto Rico sets a curfew due to the Coronavirus. The Governor closes schools and non-essential businesses and orders the people of Puerto Rico to stay “at home 24/7.”

5/2/2020

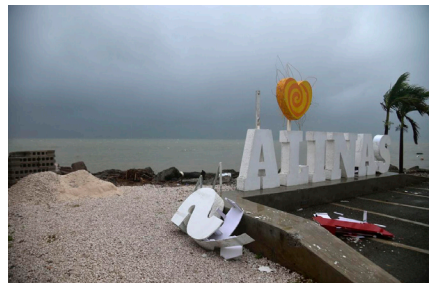
A 5.5 magnitude earthquake struck 4 miles from the south of Tallaboa, Puerto Rico.

7/15/2020

As of July 15, 2020, travel to Puerto Rico is restricted. Visitors have to meet certain requirements to travel to Puerto Rico amid the coronavirus pandemic.

8/22/2020

As it passed through the island, Tropical Storm Laura caused an accumulation of rainfall of more than six inches in the Ciales area and a strong 75-mile-per-hour gust in Salinas, reported the National Meteorological Service.



9/16/2020

Rear Admiral Peter Brown, the representative of the White House for the reconstruction of Puerto Rico, returned to the Island to meet with Governor Wanda Vázquez Garced.

9/16/2020

Puerto Rico reported on that September 16 was its highest single-day death count—19 people—since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Another record set is the total number of deaths in one week: 70 people. Altogether, the island has reached 588 deaths among its confirmed 38,284 positive novel coronavirus cases so far.

9/18/2020

Trump Administration announces release of \$13 billion in withheld recovery aid to Puerto Rico.



7/26/2020

Thousands in Puerto Rico are still with-outhousing three years after Hurricane Maria tore through the US territory.

7/30/2020

Tropical Storm Isaias battered Puerto Rico as it continued on a forecast track toward the U.S. East Coast, unleashing small landslides and causing widespread flooding and power outages on an island still recovering from previous hurricanes and earthquakes.

9/9/2020

Puerto Rico continues to deal with the effects nearly three years later after Hurricane Maria destructively passed through. Day-long power outages still happen from time to time, especially in rural areas. Some homes still have tarps instead of roofs. Collapsed utility poles and uprooted trees are common.

9/9/2020

George Washington University will deepen its study on the 2,975 deaths caused by Hurricane María in Puerto Rico.

9/16/2020

Three years after Hurricane Maria, of the \$20 billion allocated to HUD’s Community Development Fund, only \$96 million have been spent or outlayed (actual disbursements).

POST HURRICANE MARIA EXODUS: THREE YEARS AFTER

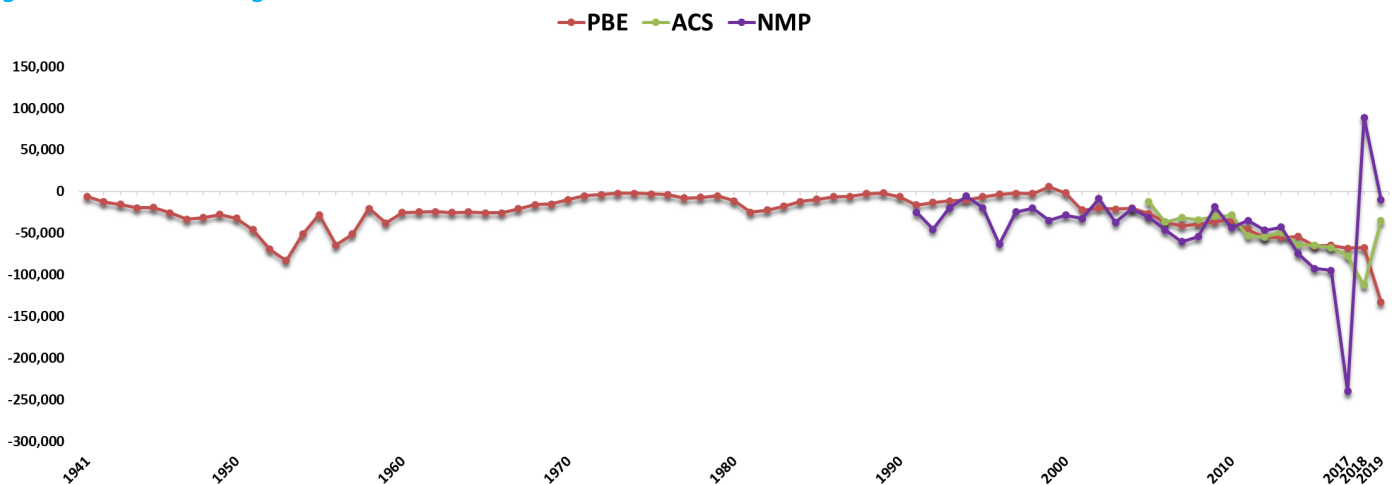
According to the recently released 2019 American Community Survey (1-year estimates), a total of 66,021 residents relocated to the U.S. mainland and 31,144 returned to Puerto Rico for a net migration of 34,877 people. By comparison, in 2018, the year after Hurricane Maria made landfall on the island, 133,451 residents of the island relocated to the United States and 20,900 returned to Puerto Rico for a net migration of 112,551. Taken together, the post Hurricane Maria exodus represents one of the most significant movements of Puerto Ricans to the U.S. mainland in the island's history in terms of both volume and duration. What is most significant about the 2019 data from the 2019 American Community Survey (1-year estimates) is that migration numbers were lower than 'pre-Hurricane Maria' levels.

As we have learned during the post-Hurricane Maria period, measuring population movement in real time continues to be a major undertaking that presents various methodological challenges, especially after a natural disaster like Hurricane Maria. The need for migration estimates drew attention in states that experienced an influx of Hurricane Maria evacuees, which included both states of traditional Puerto Rican settlement as well as those in which Puerto Rican settlement are relatively recent.

According to the 2019 U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates, the island's population declined by 4%, from 3.3 million in 2017 to 3.1 million in 2019. The absolute population decline reported by U.S. Census Bureau was 129,848 in Puerto Rico immediately following the storm—a number that mirrors net migration that year. In addition, since Hurricane Maria, migration among families with children intensified. The exodus of younger populations has shifted the island's demographic structure to be more skewed toward the elderly. Population decline in Puerto Rico has led to a series of social, economic, and demographic impacts, such as increasing the vacancy housing units, lower growth rates in child population, and school closures throughout the Island.

Figure 1 illustrates the net migration estimates between 2005 and 2019 based on observable available data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates (1991 to 2019) and American Community Survey and the Puerto Rican Community Survey (2005 to 2019), U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics, from the Center for Disease Control's National Vital Statistics (1941-2018). This historical data illustrates the magnitude of the post economic crisis exodus in comparison to the Great Migration period of the 1950s. In comparison, the New Millennium migration is already deeper and more prolonged than any period in Puerto Rico's post-war history. And, it is likely to continue until job creation and the Puerto Rico economy turns around.

Figure 1. Estimated Migration Flows from Puerto Rico to the U.S., 1941-2019



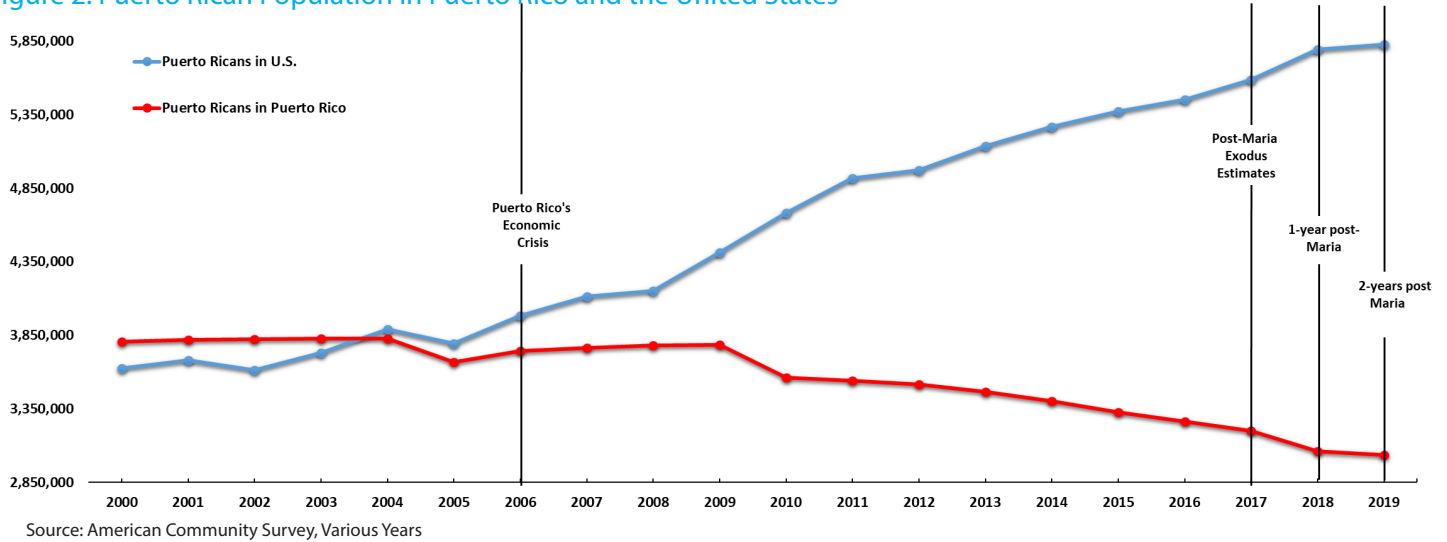
Source: 1941-2018 Department of Health and U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates; 1991-2019 U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics; 2005 and 2019 American Community Survey. PBE: Population Balance Equation- using data from the Puerto Rico Department of Health and the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates. NMP: Net Movement of Passengers, using data from the U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics. ACS: Data from the American Community Survey of the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

However, these methods and data are not readily conducive to estimate Puerto Rican migration in the short-term.

this graphic that long-term migration trends are expected to continue the trajectory of the 'economic crisis period.'

Figure 2 offers a birds' eye view of population trends: Puerto Rico's population continues to decline, even if slightly, while Puerto Ricans in the U.S. continue to grow. Since Hurricane Maria struck the island, a massive out-migration in a short-period of time occurred. However, it is clear from

Figure 2. Puerto Rican Population in Puerto Rico and the United States



Impact on Stateside Puerto Rican Communities

The Puerto Rican population in the U.S. grew by 37,000 people between 2018 and 2019; a modest rate of 0.6 percent growth in a one-year span. This population rate is nevertheless twice that of the U.S. population as a whole (0.3%), albeit half the rate of growth of the Hispanic population as a whole (1.3%). The rate of growth of the Puerto Rican population in the United States is similar to that of the non-Hispanic black population (0.7%), but much faster than the rate of growth of the non-Hispanic white population, which continues to decline (-0.1%). These figures keep track with long-term population trends in the country (see table 1). The growth of

the Puerto Rican population in the United States is also faster than the growth rate in Puerto Rico, which did not change appreciably (about 1,400 fewer residents) between 2018 (3,064,018) and 2019 (3,038,919). In fact, 2019 may be the year in which the population loss trend Puerto Rico has been experiencing for more than a decade stabilizes or reverses. Results from the 2020 census will serve to confirm this observation. According to the most recent 2019 American Community Survey (1-year estimates), the Puerto Rican population grew modestly, 37,000 people to 5.8 million, a growth rate of 0.6 percent between 2018 and 2019. Migration from the island, along with natural growth of the population in the United States (greater

Table 1. United States Population & Puerto Rico by Major Ethnic Groups, 2017-2019

	2017	2018	2019	Absolute Change	Percent Change
Total Population	325,719,178	327,167,439	328,239,523	1,072,084	0.30%
Non-Hispanic White	197,285,202	197,033,939	196,789,401	-244,538	-0.10%
Non-Hispanic Black	40,129,593	40,305,870	40,596,040	290,170	0.70%
Hispanic or Latino (does not include Puerto Ricans)	53,257,470	53,972,178	54,653,040	680,862	1.30%
Puerto Ricans in US	5,588,664	5,791,453	5,828,706	37,253	0.60%
Puerto Rico (Puerto Ricans only)	3,201,679	3,064,018	3,038,919	-25,099	-0.80%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 - 2019 American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.

birth than deaths), is a contributing factor to the stateside Puerto Rican population growth in 2019.

By States

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2019, Florida had the largest concentration of Puerto Ricans in the United States (1,190,981), followed by New York (1,096,823), Pennsylvania (493,255), New Jersey (455,615), Massachusetts (340,893), Connecticut (302,027), Texas (239,157), California (226,314), Illinois (207,109), and Ohio (130,700) in 2019. As shown in table 4, New York (+26,752), Texas (+24,392), Pennsylvania (+15,943), and Massachusetts (+11,180) showed the largest increase between 2018 and 2019. While Connecticut (+4,021), Florida (+3,454), and Illinois (+566) showed modest growth. On the other hand, New Jersey showed the largest Puerto Rican population loss, from 488,181 in 2018 to 455,615 in 2019, a -7 percent change or 32,566 fewer Puerto Rican residents in the Garden State. California (-6,404) and Ohio (-424) also showed Puerto Rican population decline from 2018 to 2019 (see table 2).

More than half of the growth of the Puerto Rican population in the U.S. in 2018 was attributed to the massive exodus of after Hurricane Maria. However, the 2019 American Community Survey reports that 66,021 migrants from Puerto Rico relocated throughout the U.S. and 31,144 returned to Puerto Rico for a net emigration of 34,877 people. This is lower compared to 2018, whereby migration from Puerto Rico was 133,451 and 20,900 returned to Puerto Rico with a net migration of 112,551. In part, significant reverse migration and outmigration are explained by labor market conditions in Puerto Rico relative to the United States. In addition, in other jurisdiction devastated by natural disasters return migration to the affected areas is observed in following years as the local economy recovers.

As shown in table 3, at least 71% of migrants from Puerto Rico relocated to the top 10 states that already contained the most

Puerto Ricans in the U.S., which include both states of traditional and areas of relatively, more recent settlement. The remaining 29% of migrants from the island dispersed throughout the U.S. As shown in table 4, Florida (14,657) followed by Texas (9,352), Connecticut (4,280), Pennsylvania (4,028), Massachusetts (3,043), New Jersey (3,036), Ohio (2,695), North Carolina (1,986), Georgia (1,906), and Virginia (1,896) are among the top 10 states to receive the most migrants from Puerto Rico in 2019.

In conclusion, three years since Hurricane Maria swept through Puerto Rico, the post-Hurricane Maria exodus continues to change the prevailing narrative of the Puerto Rican migration. For the island, the migration exodus reinforces a pattern of depopulation that has induced austerity and the decline in government services and employment, the closing of schools, increased poverty among the most disadvantaged such as families with children and the elderly, among other unfolding consequences of sudden population losses. Those that relocate have the challenge of finding jobs, housing, medical services, and schools. This recent exodus represents one of the most significant historical movements of Puerto Ricans to the U.S. in terms of both volume and duration. The 2019 data suggest that the post Hurricane Maria exodus is slowing down. Yet, we will have to wait for the 2020 data to ascertain whether the earthquakes and the pandemic are inducing further depopulation of the island.

Table 2. Puerto Rican Population by States, 2018-2019

	2018	2019	Change	Percent Change (%)
Florida	1,187,437	1,190,891	3,454	0%
New York	1,070,071	1,096,823	26,752	3%
Pennsylvania	477,312	493,255	15,943	3%
New Jersey	488,181	455,615	-32,566	-7%
Massachusetts	329,713	340,893	11,180	3%
Connecticut	298,006	302,027	4,021	1%
Texas	214,765	239,157	24,392	11%
California	226,738	226,314	-424	0%
Illinois	206,543	207,109	566	0%
Ohio	137,104	130,700	-6,404	-5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 - 2019 American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.

Table 3. Migration from Puerto Rico to the Top 10 States, 2019

	Migration from Puerto Rico	Percent (%)
United States	66,021	100%
Top 10 States	46,879	71%
Florida	14,657	22%
Texas	9,352	14%
Connecticut	4,280	6%
Pennsylvania	4,028	6%
Massachusetts	3,043	5%
New Jersey	3,036	5%
Ohio	2,695	4%
North Carolina	1,986	3%
Georgia	1,906	3%
Virginia	1,896	3%
Other States	19,142	29%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 - 2019 American Community Survey, 1-year estimates.

EARTHQUAKE & PANDEMIC WEBINARS

Centro remains a willing convener of those collective efforts and initiatives that served first to provide relief in response to the destruction wrought by hurricanes Irma and María, and then for the recovery and reconstruction of the island. As a result, Centro created a Rebuild Puerto Rico Initiative. The initiative strives to support long-term economic recovery in Puerto Rico and assist with the rebuilding efforts post-hurricane Maria. The Rebuild Puerto Rico initiative is in keeping with Centro's main role to provide information and analysis to community leadership and the general public regarding this crucial juncture affecting nearly nine million Puerto Ricans, both on the island and in the United States.

But the catastrophe caused by hurricanes Irma and Maria has been compounded by additional natural disasters—the earthquake swarms—and the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. Correspondingly, the Rebuild Puerto Rico Initiative Centro extended its efforts to attend to these new life-threatening challenges. As a result, during 2020, Centro has organized major events in Puerto Rico and online oriented to the capacity-building of leaders and communities and facilitating alliances and cooperation among sector leaders.

Capacity-Building Webinars:

Two webinars titled, *Actualización fondos de mitigación de desastres en Puerto Rico, cartas de intención de María y temblores 2020*, were held in February. Grants, Fundraising, and Disaster Management Consultant, Dr. Rafael Torrech San Inocencio informed participants on the application process for requesting U.S. government mitigation funds related to the earthquakes in Puerto Rico. Dr. Torrech also shared an instructional video and made available a valuable toolkit with a manual, letter templates, and supporting materials available to all participants and the public in general, in an effort to diversify the pool of applicants that vie for governmental resources to fund their operations. Nonprofit and public organizations and municipalities benefited from the information, insights and strategies provided. The equivalent of \$513 millions of dollars in letters of intent were submitted.

Meeting of CDCs from the U.S. and Puerto Rico: Centro convened more than 20 community development organizations from Puerto Rico and the U.S. in a dialogue to share best practices and explore opportunities to collaborate. Centro also organized visits of U.S. based CDCs to several municipalities and projects throughout Puerto Rico to learn about the challenges and successes local CDCs encounter.

Simposio sobre vivienda y desarrollo económico comunitario en Puerto Rico: One hundred participants gathered at Universidad Interamericana in San Juan to take part in a one-day symposium for sector professionals to learn about community development corporations, hear experiences from organizations working in the rebuilding of the Island and workshops on GIS data and how to access USDA rural development funds.

COVID-19 Webinar Series

This series of webinars focused on responses and interventions to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic in Puerto Rico. Centro's RebuildPR GIS platform gave access to COVID-19 data available on interactive maps that include, among other layers of information, the number of people infected with COVID-19, the location of hospitals and other medical facilities and relevant layers to the index of social vulnerability.

1. Elegibilidad para apoyo de FEMA durante la crisis del COVID-19. Webinar conducted by Dr. Rafael Torrech San Inocencio focused on available FEMA grants and assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. COVID-19, Respuestas e intervenciones de salubridad y reembolsos federales disponibles – Presentation and discussion of the health field's responses and interventions to COVID-19 in Puerto Rico. Update on the reimbursement process available through FEMA and the types of activities eligible for the Emergency Disaster funding
3. Oportunidades de financiamiento disponibles para organizaciones sin fines de lucro programas CDBG-DR y PPP – Discussion of funding opportunities available to nonprofits, from both the COVID Pandemic (PPP) and



Hurricane Maria Recovery Funds (CDBG-DR).

4. Fondos CARES Act para iniciativas en respuesta a COVID-19: CDBG-CV y USDA - The webinar presented the flexibility guidelines for the use of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds of the CARES Act used to support the response to coronavirus; and coronavirus response funds allocated to USDA-Rural Development. Also discussed were the USDA Food and Nutrition Service series of waivers to allow state and local governments to incentivize local supply chains to continue to supply food.

Centro's Rebuild Puerto Rico Initiative will continue to provide online capacity-building opportunities throughout the next academic year.

IMPACT OF DISASTER MIGRATION ON THE US/DIASPORA

The effects of hurricane Maria are still being felt in Puerto Rico as well as in Puerto Rican communities throughout the United States, three years after the storm devastated the island. While Puerto Rico bore the overwhelming brunt of the cyclone, its impact was also felt in places in the United States in which Puerto Ricans have settled. With increase mobility of people across countries, however, the effects of temporales are felt not only in the communities they directly hit, but also in communities to which residents of those communities turn seeking help. Hurricane Maria is an example of how a weather event that takes place in the Caribbean affects communities not just there, but also far and away. One such place was Holyoke, in western Massachusetts, one thousand miles away from the Caribbean.

The experiences of those displaced to the United States by the hurricane, the relatives who provided them with safe haven in the United States, and the civic and government sectors that supported both groups in Holyoke in the weeks, months, and now years since the storm hit, are collected in *Anticipated Vulnerabilities: Displacement and Migration in the Age of Climate Change*, a report jointly produced by Centro and El Instituto: the Institute of Latina/o, Caribbean, and Latin American Studies (University of Connecticut-Storrs).

Holyoke is a community with the largest concentration of Puerto Ricans in the United States; nearly half its population is of Puerto Rican origin or descent. It is also a community with great economic needs given by the fact that Puerto Ricans in New England generally, and Massachusetts specifically, have the highest rates of poverty and lowest house-

hold income in the country. Yet, in spite of great economic disadvantages, the Puerto Rican community in Holyoke rallied to respond, first, by providing material assistance to friends, family, and entire communities in Puerto Rico, and, then, by opening their homes to relatives and friends displaced in the aftermath of the storm.

One of the effects of the hurricane was the massive emigration from Puerto Rico. The three months following Maria's landfall saw an exodus of people from the island. Centro had calculated that from 104,000 to 121,000 people had left Puerto Rico between October 2017 and March 2018 (six months since the storm), and that for the period of October 2017 to September 2018 (twelve months since the storm) anywhere between 159,000 and 176,000 had left the island. Recently, the U.S. Census Bureau revised its estimates for emigration from Puerto Rico to show that 133,451 had moved to the United States during calendar year 2018. Participants in the Holyoke study confirmed these estimates, with the bulk of person displaced by the hurricane arriving in western Massachusetts between October and December 2017, and with a noticeable increase in returns to the island starting in January 2018.

As shown in table 4, the top three reasons for leaving Puerto Rico for Holyoke were: damaged or uninhabitable homes (25.6%); lack of steady income or employment (18.6%); and lack of food (18.6%).

The majority of displaced Puerto Ricans arriving to the City of Holyoke relied on kin networks, that is, family and friends who provided support in addressing their needs. Given the socio-economic standing of Puerto Ricans residing in Holyoke, we conclude that working-class and Puerto Ricans

Table 4. Top Reasons for Leaving Puerto Rico for Holyoke

After moving from Puerto Rico to Holyoke or elsewhere in Hampden County, what were your needs?	Freq.	Percent
Access to needed medical treatment	4	9.8
Access to needed medication	1	2.4
Furniture	1	2.4
Need housing	18	43.9
Not enough food for my family	3	7.3
Not enough income for my family's needs	4	9.8
Other	1	2.4
Rent/mortgage is too high for my income	2	4.9
Transportation	1	2.4
Unemployment	6	14.6
Total	41	100

living in or near poverty assumed a disproportionate burden in support of displaced Puerto Ricans migrating to the city of Holyoke.

Overall, our analysis found that the Federal government’s response to the disaster created by the displacement of Puerto Ricans was inadequate, and at times exacerbated or created new crisis.

The Puerto Rican local municipal governments were the first line of response to the disaster, but their ability to coordinate beyond their jurisdictions was fairly limited and mired by lack of capacity, lack of efficacy, corruption, lack of preparation, and lack of resources.

Communal solidarity was a key dimension of the positive responses to the disaster in Puerto Rico and in the City of Holyoke. A sense of solidarity among Puerto Ricans is a resource for future responses to a crisis. However, this source of capital may be of limited duration, and dependent on the existing stock of material resources.

Civic, religious and secular organizations provided substantive, albeit limited, support to Puerto Ricans in the island and in the United States.

A fundamental failure in the response to the crisis was the lack of adequate information and data sharing about the needs of displaced/migrant Puerto Ricans. The Federal government’s refusal to share substantive information with the local entities about the Puerto Ricans that they were bringing to the City of Holyoke created obstacles for the response to the crisis.

Various levels of government encouraged Puerto Ricans to leave the island and travel to cities like Holyoke. Some Puerto Ricans were persuaded to leave the island and migrate to Holyoke under the belief that resources awaited them, or that the city could provide more opportunities (e.g., work, housing, health care, etc.) for Puerto Ricans to find relief and start a new life. Most Puerto Ricans made an individual decision to leave the island.

Displaced Puerto Ricans residing in the Holyoke and in Western Massachusetts view the City of Holyoke as a resource.

Affordable and accessible housing was the primary need of displaced Puerto Ricans arriving to the City of Holyoke (see table 5).

Most respondents found the available sources of support, such as civic organizations, government agencies, churches, and other entities, helpful. However, most respondents were unable to distinguish the differences between federal, state, and city agencies as well as civic organizations. In many instances, respondents conflated all agencies and organizations as city agencies. Ultimately, however, the majority of respondents stated that the governments of Massachusetts and the City of Holyoke provided helpful support.

The majority of displaced Puerto Ricans saw social service agencies as a lifeline in the crisis, perhaps the most important lifeline.

The needs of displaced Puerto Ricans who settled in the City of Holyoke or in Western Massachusetts quickly became similar to those of other Puerto Ricans already residing in the area.

Access to affordable housing became the key to stabilizing displaced Puerto Ricans.

Displaced Puerto Ricans overwhelmingly indicated that Holyoke’s Family Resource Center—Enlace de Familias—provided the most effective support to address their needs. Central to the success of this approach was the creation of a central place or resource center that provided access to various federal, state and local agencies and resources for an extended period of time. This “one-stop-shopping” approach was effective and efficient.

In addition, the staff of the Holyoke Family Resource Center understood the cultural dimensions and nuances of displaced Puerto Ricans arriving in or seeking help in Holyoke.

Table 5. Top Needs after Moving from Puerto Rico to Holyoke or elsewhere in Hampden County

If you moved to the U.S. because of the hurricane that struck Puerto Rico, what was the reason?	Freq.	Percent
Children's school closed	2	4.7
Did not have any source of steady income	8	18.6
Had no access to needed medical treatment	4	9.3
Home destroyed, damaged, and uninhabitable	11	25.6
Hopelessness	1	2.3
My job/place of employment closed	2	2.7
No electricity	2	4.7
No electricity, Little access to fuel	1	2.3
No electricity, No running water	1	2.3
No job prospects	4	9.3
Not enough food for my family	8	18.6
Total	43	100

Regular meetings (i.e., conference calls) among responding entities to share information, coordinate response and request resources were also seen as instrumental in facilitating the delivery of services under circumstances of great uncertainty and limited surplus of resources.

Central to the success of the response to the post-Maria migration of Puerto Ricans to the City of Holyoke was the solidarity, collaboration and synergy of civic leaders and leaders of agencies who were committed to offering a collective response. Extant patterns of cooperation, coordination and communication paved the way for a focused response once the arrival of displaced persons reached unmanageable proportions for any single entity. Insufficient resources before and during the response to the arrival of displaced persons hampered the effective response and assistance of entities recruited or volunteered to provide assistance.

The experience of Holyoke with people displaced from Puerto Rico by hurricane Maria show the need for preparation and anticipation at the municipal level; a tall order given the multiple demands and limited resources municipal government already experience. The increased frequency and intensity of catastrophic weather events in the context of a changing climate, whether it is in Puerto Rico or in the United States, makes it imperative to assess collective efforts that can provide stakeholders with best practices that may be shared and replicated in communities affected by anticipated vulnerabilities.

Table 6. Families Displaced by Natural Forces

Families Displaced by Natural Forces	Totals
Total Families from Intake	982
Total Family Members from Intake	2,295
Unduplicated Number of Family Members Who Received Services	2,153
Total Children Served (0-17)	750
Total Adults Served (18+)	1,372
Total Age Unknown	31
Total Services Provided	7,186
Food/Nutrition (Pantry, Meals, WIC, Food Stamps, etc.)	2,244
Clothing	1,770
Other (e.g., Assistance with FEMA, Elder Care Services, Health Insurance, WIC, SSI, Continuing Education)	1,209
Rental Assistance	361
Employment/Job search (Job Application)	358
Health Care (Screenings, insurance, immunizations, etc.)	273
Housing / Shelter Assistance (Housing Applications)	181
Furniture	156
Mental Health Services	137
Income/Transitional Assistance	135
SSI / SSDI	108
School Support / School Liaison	59
Educational/Recreational Activities	34
Adult Education	32
Transportation	20
Legal Assistance	18
Diapers	16
Financial Literacy	15
Translation Services	11
Fuel Assistance / Utilities	6
Baby Formula	5
Baby Items	5
Car Seats	4
Child Care	4
Undefined	4
Computer Literacy Education	3
Behavior Management	2
Child Development Information	2
Early Intervention/Development Screening	2
Household Management	2
Immigration	2
Services for Children with Special Needs	2
Be Proud! Be Protective	1
Citizenship Information	1
Cooking Events / Potluck	1
Family Outings	1
Family Planning, Pregnancy, and Breastfeeding Support	1
Involvement with Child Protective Services	1

Centro Research Briefs

Research Briefs are descriptive and topical summaries on specific areas of interest about the experience of the Puerto Rican population in the United States and Puerto Rico. These briefs include charts, tables, and narratives that describe the Puerto Rican population in the context of other, broader populations.

- ⦿ A printed copy of our briefs can be ordered through the Centro E-Store: <https://www.centropr-store.com>
- ⦿ A digital copy can be downloaded online for free: <https://centropr.hunter.cuny.edu/research/data-center/research-briefs>



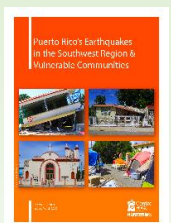
ENDURING DISASTERS: PUERTO RICO, THREE YEARS AFTER HURRICANE MARIA (SEPTEMBER 2020)

Puerto Rico has suffered the compounded effects of multiple disasters over the last three years: the devastating impacts of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017, recurrent seismic activity in the southwest region, including a magnitude 6.4 earthquake on January 7, 2020, the current COVID-19 pandemic; all underscored by a crushing debt crisis and a federally-mandated austerity regime since 2016. Multiple natural disasters have exacerbated vulnerability and poverty, and public energy, telecommunications, water, health, and transportation systems have greatly deteriorated and become even more vulnerable, causing systematic failures in social safety nets. **\$5.00 | ID: CP3YAHM**



ANTICIPATED VULNERABILITIES: DISPLACEMENT AND MIGRATION IN THE AGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE (JUNE 2020)

In 2017, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs unveiled the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program, in an effort to move forward the Commonwealth's initiative to assist its municipalities in their efforts to assess, anticipate and plan for hazards associated with changes in climate and their vulnerability to those hazards. The MVP program assessed the city's capability to respond to an influx of migrants driven by a climate change event. This project sought to address the city's concerns through a multipronged analysis of the experience of the post-hurricane Maria displacement/migration of Puerto Ricans to the City of Holyoke. Included are some of the key findings and recommendations contained in the study. **\$5.00 | ID: CPAVDMA**



PUERTO RICO'S EARTHQUAKES IN THE SOUTHWEST REGION & VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES (MAY 2020)

Each year natural disasters in Puerto Rico are becoming more threatening and costly. The largest and most damaging earthquake took place on January 7, 2020 with a 6.4 magnitude followed by numerous aftershocks and continues today throughout the southwest region of Puerto Rico. Over 33,000 homes were damaged and about 52% of the valid registrants had occupants who were 65 years old and over. This report gives an overview of federal and state level post-disaster response followed the impacts of schools and housing structures, and finally a closer look at the impact on selected municipalities in the southwest region of the Island **\$5.00 | ID: CPESRVC**



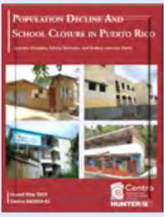
PUERTO RICO'S VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES AND FLOOD HAZARDS AND MITIGATION (MAY 2020)

Using the 2018 U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (5-year estimates), at least 15% of Puerto Rico's population resided in the 100-year floodplain. This report utilizes the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) 'social vulnerability index' (SVI) to measure resiliency among the Island's communities faced with human or natural induced hazards, like flooding. The purpose of this research brief is to help inform policy, planners, and community leaders the population and housing structures at risk in the Island's floodplains. **\$5.00 | ID: CPVCFHM**



PUERTO RICO: TWO YEARS AFTER HURRICANE MARIA (SEPTEMBER 2019)

In this report we provide a continuation of last years' timeline of the major occurrences in the aftermath, an analysis of the media's coverage of the disaster, the impact of Hurricane Maria Evacuees on the Puerto Rican population in the United States and the migration effects resulting in school closures. **\$5.00 | ID: CP2YAHM**



POPULATION DECLINE AND SCHOOL CLOSURE IN PUERTO RICO (MAY 2019)

According to the 2018 U.S. Census Bureau’s Population Estimates, Puerto Rico’s population is 3.1 million, having declined 4% since 2017 (3.2 million). This is the first official estimate by the U.S. Census Bureau since Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico on September 20th, 2017

\$5.00 | ID: CPPDSC



PUERTO RICO ONE YEAR AFTER HURRICANE MARIA (OCTOBER 2018)

September 20, 2018 marked a year since hurricane Maria wrought havoc on the Island of Puerto Rico. Though the media has reported the crisis in a myriad of ways—for better or worse—our intention here is to provide a timeline of the major occurrences in the aftermath, a meta-analysis of the media’s coverage of the disaster, and an updated account of the exodus of people.

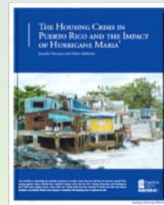
\$5.00 | ID: CP1YAHM



REBUILD PUERTO RICO: A GUIDE TO FEDERAL POLICY AND ADVOCACY (OCTOBER 2018)

The impact of Hurricane Maria will be felt for decades, and long-term recovery and rebuilding efforts in Puerto Rico are expected to take years. This report provides an overview of federal disaster relief policy, dissects the recovery process and the role of federal assistance, and discusses possible entry points for advocacy efforts.

\$5.00 | ID: CPRGFPA



THE HOUSING CRISIS IN PUERTO RICO AND THE IMPACT OF HURRICANE MARIA (JUNE 2018)

By all counts, Puerto Rico’s housing market is in a deep and prolonged crisis. At least 18 percent of Puerto Rico’s housing stock is vacant as a result of the island’s prolonged economic recession. This report examines the housing crisis, which commenced in 2006, and how the spike in foreclosures after Hurricane Maria suggests that vacant units are increasing at an accelerated rate.

\$5.00 | ID: CPHCPRI



PUERTO RICO POST MARIA REPORT (MARCH 2018)

Hurricane Maria was the worst storm to hit Puerto Rico since San Felipe Segundo in 1928. On September 20, 2017, Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico as a Category 4 storm, with sustained winds blowing at 145 mph and peaking at 155 mph as it made landfall. Researchers from the Climate Impact Lab described the storm as a 1-in-3,000 event, which is reflected in the severity of the potential long-term economic impact.

\$5.00 | ID: CPPRPMR



PUERTO RICAN POST-MARIA RELOCATION BY STATES (MARCH 2018)

This research brief presents findings of the relocation of Puerto Ricans to the U.S. mainland as a result of aftermath of-Hurricane Maria. Data from FEMA and school enrollment data from the selected state’s Department of Education were used to analyze Puerto Rican relocation patterns in the U.S. mainland. Prior estimates of the magnitude of this exodus have been based on movement of passengers or statistical projections based on recent migration trends from Puerto Rico to the United States.

\$5.00 | ID: CPPRMRS



STORM SURGE: (FEBRUARY 2018)

NEW REPORT ON HARTFORD SURVEY BY CENTRO & EL INSTITUTO UCONN

On September 20, 2017, Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico as a category 4 cyclone, with minimum sustained winds blowing at 145 mph, peaking at 155 mph as it made landfall. The northwest trajectory of the storm assured that the entire island would be affected by its effects.

\$5.00 | ID: CPSSRHS

Puerto Rican Voices | SEASON 4

REBUILD PUERTO RICO

Puerto Ricans on
the Island and the
Diaspora working
together to Rebuild
Puerto Rico



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Our Mission

The Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College-CUNY (Centro) is a research institute dedicated to the study and interpretation of the Puerto Rican experience in the United States that produces and disseminates relevant interdisciplinary research. Centro also collects, preserves, and provides access to library resources documenting Puerto Rican history and culture. We seek to link scholarship to social action and policy debates and contribute to the betterment of our community and enrichment of Puerto Rican studies.

Research

Our research department investigates, documents, and broadens the understanding of the Puerto Rican experience in the U.S. We heighten the impact of the data by sharing it in research-based conferences and publishing in original publications and refereed journals.

Library and Archives

The Centro Library and Archives is the only institution solely dedicated to collecting, preserving, and disseminating the story of the stateside Puerto Rican. Our collections include audio and video oral histories, photographs, original works by prominent writers and artists, papers of elected officials, early records of major community organizations, and other primary materials available nowhere else. A major strength of the Library collection is the history of Puerto Ricans in the United States, particularly in New York and the Northeast region, and in all the areas of the humanities, the social sciences and the arts. Live chat with a librarian or explore our collections at <https://bit.ly/3m94keM>

Education

Centro education programs focus on the development of curriculum and educational materials, such as videos, posters, and teaching guides, which disseminate and promote the use of historical and cultural heritage content for colleges, middle and high schools, and the general public. These tools help teachers and students learn about Centro's vast archival collections and promote Puerto Rican studies. Our web-based open courseware, videoconferences, and other pedagogical resources provide the necessary supports for classroom success.

Centro's Puerto Rican Heritage Cultural Ambassadors Program is a free, self-paced, multimedia online course in Puerto Rican history, culture, and traditions, with a focus on the migratory experience of the stateside diaspora. The goal of the program is to inspire the next generation of Puerto Rican leaders to become a driving force of change for themselves and their communities. To learn more visit <https://bit.ly/37xeGRO>

Visit us on the web at:
<https://centopr.hunter.cuny.edu>

Publications

Centro Publications engage in the fields of Puerto Rican, Latino, and American Studies. By taking advantage of our vast archival resources and connections in the Puerto Rican community, we disseminate crucial information about the Puerto Rican experience and contribution to the political, economic, and social cultures of the United States via the following products:

- Centro E-Store is where you can purchase books, art, DVDs and educational materials. Browse at <http://www.centopr-store.com/>
- CENTRO Journal is the leading peer-reviewed academic journal dedicated entirely to the field of Puerto Rican Studies. To subscribe, visit <https://bit.ly/3jjlynV>
- Centro Voices is an online magazine covering current affairs, history, arts and culture. Join Centro's Puerto Rican Nation online community to receive Voices and invitations to events by registering at <http://centopr.nationbuilder.com/>
- Puerto Rican Voices is our award-winning TV series highlighting the contributions of Puerto Ricans across the United States. Watch on Centro TV at <https://bit.ly/3ooBEk7>

Data Center

The Data Center packages and disseminates the most current information about Puerto Ricans. This information is provided to present socioeconomic and demographic portraits of the Puerto Rican population. The purpose is to provide basic descriptive information to scholars, policy makers and the public in general. Download maps, data sheets and research briefs at <https://bit.ly/2HnmJG0>

Events and Webinars

Centro events examine our past, portray our present and explore our future with lectures, panel discussions, performances, art exhibits and more. The Puerto Rico, Puerto Ricans conference series brings together the Diaspora to gain a broader understanding of how the economic and humanitarian crises in Puerto Rico affect Puerto Ricans living stateside.

As a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic, all Centro events will be held virtually until further notice. Follow us on social media at [@CentroPR](https://twitter.com/CentroPR) for updates and invitations.

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