Rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina: The Big Easy, and the Long Road Home

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Why Study Hurricane Katrina

- I wanted to see why the U.S. can help other nations rebuild, but were struggling to rebuild our own city
- I wanted see if media reports were accurate on racial polarization & socioeconomically inequalities
- Why five years after the fact people are still displaced

Hurricane Katrina Facts

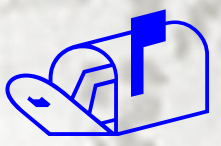
- ORLEANS PARISH
- AUGUST 29TH, 2005
- CATEGORY 4
- WIND
- WATER

Previous Research

- Race, Socioeconomic status, and return migration to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina
  - Fussell, Sastry, and Landingham 2009
- An estimate of the cost of Hurricane Katrina flood damage to single-family residential structures in Orleans Parish
  - Brinkmann 2006
- (Mis)uses of data: what counts as damage in post-Katrina New Orleans recovery planning
  - Bates & Green 2009

Unit of Analysis

73 Neighborhoods within Orleans Parish



Dependent Variable

Households Actively Receiving Mail

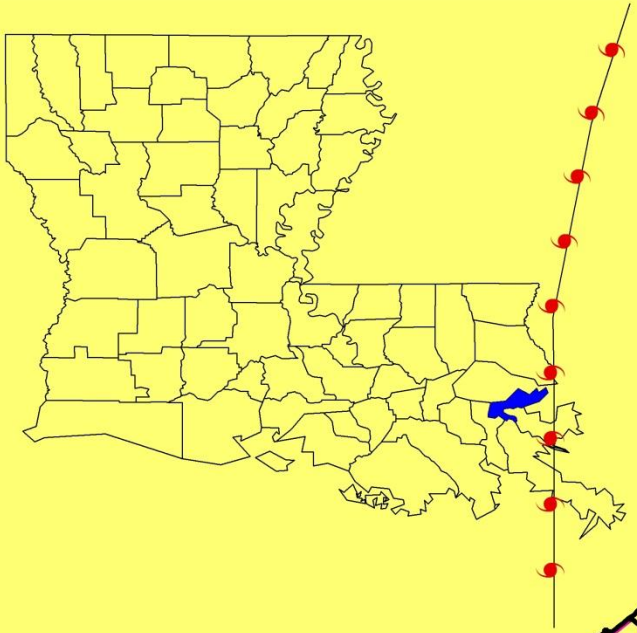
Data Used

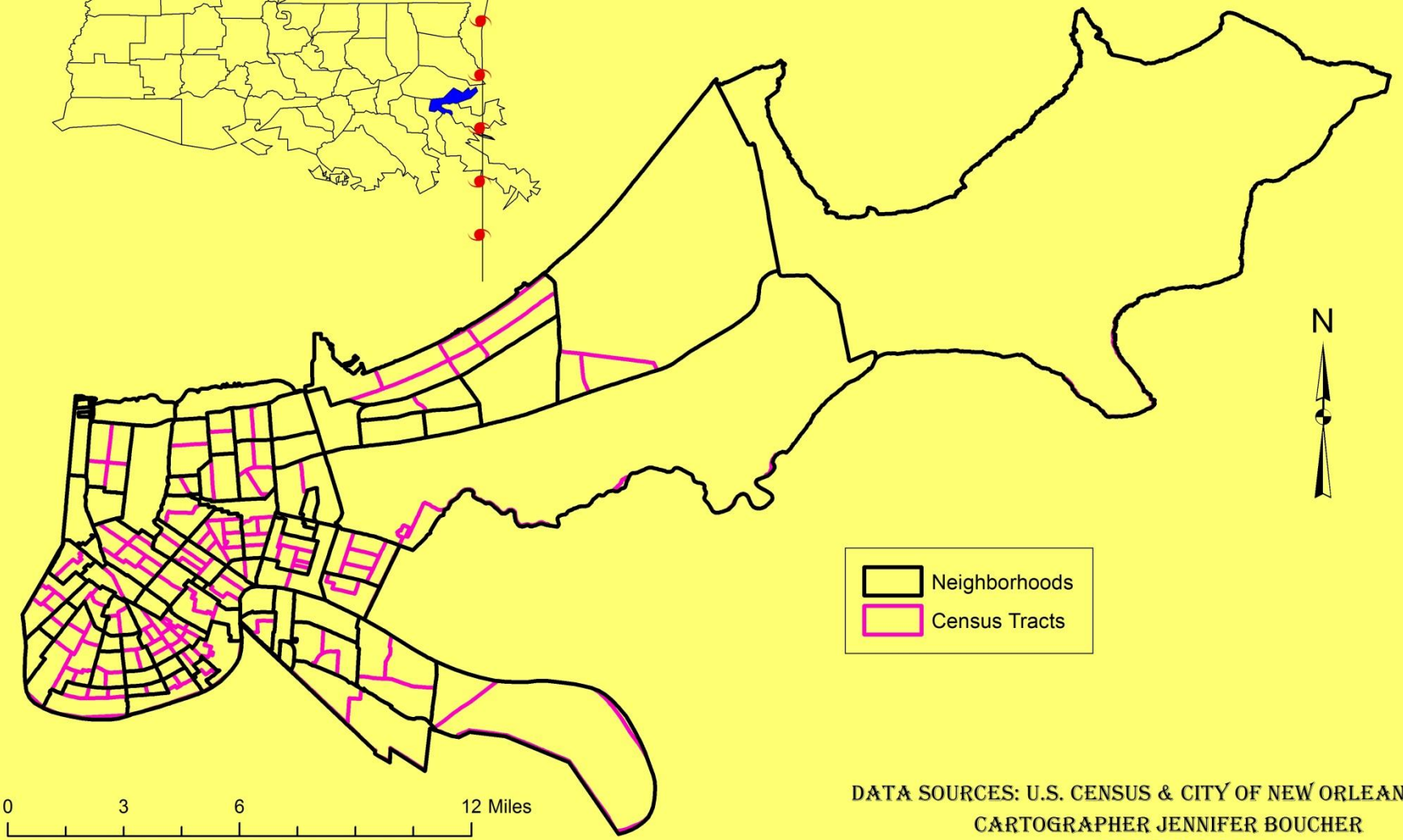
Greater New Orleans Community Data Center

Census Bureau

ESRI (GIS shape files)

ORLEANS PARISH



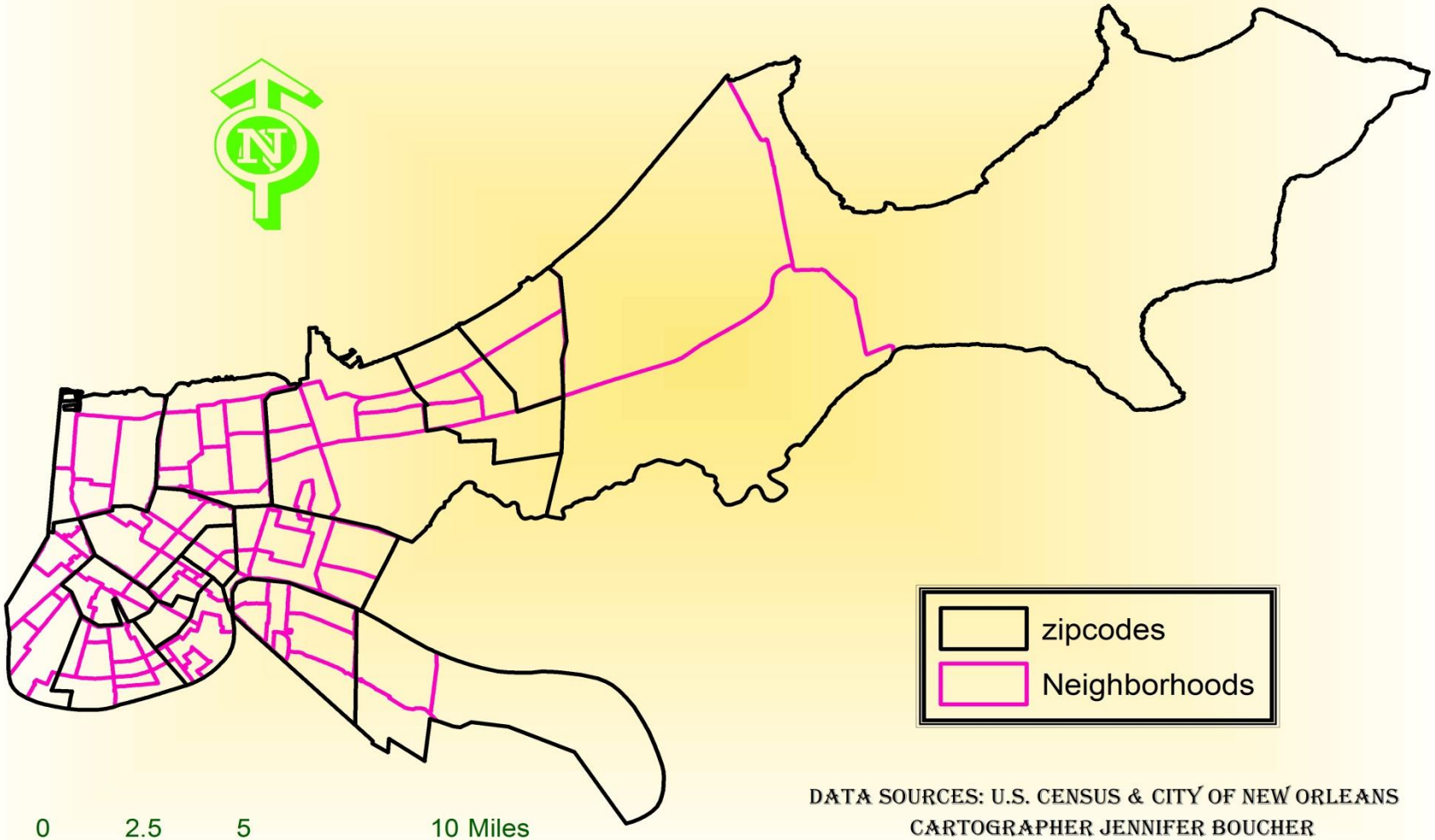


DATA SOURCES: U.S. CENSUS & CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

CARTOGRAPHER JENNIFER BOUCHER

MARCH 29, 2011

ORLEANS PARISH

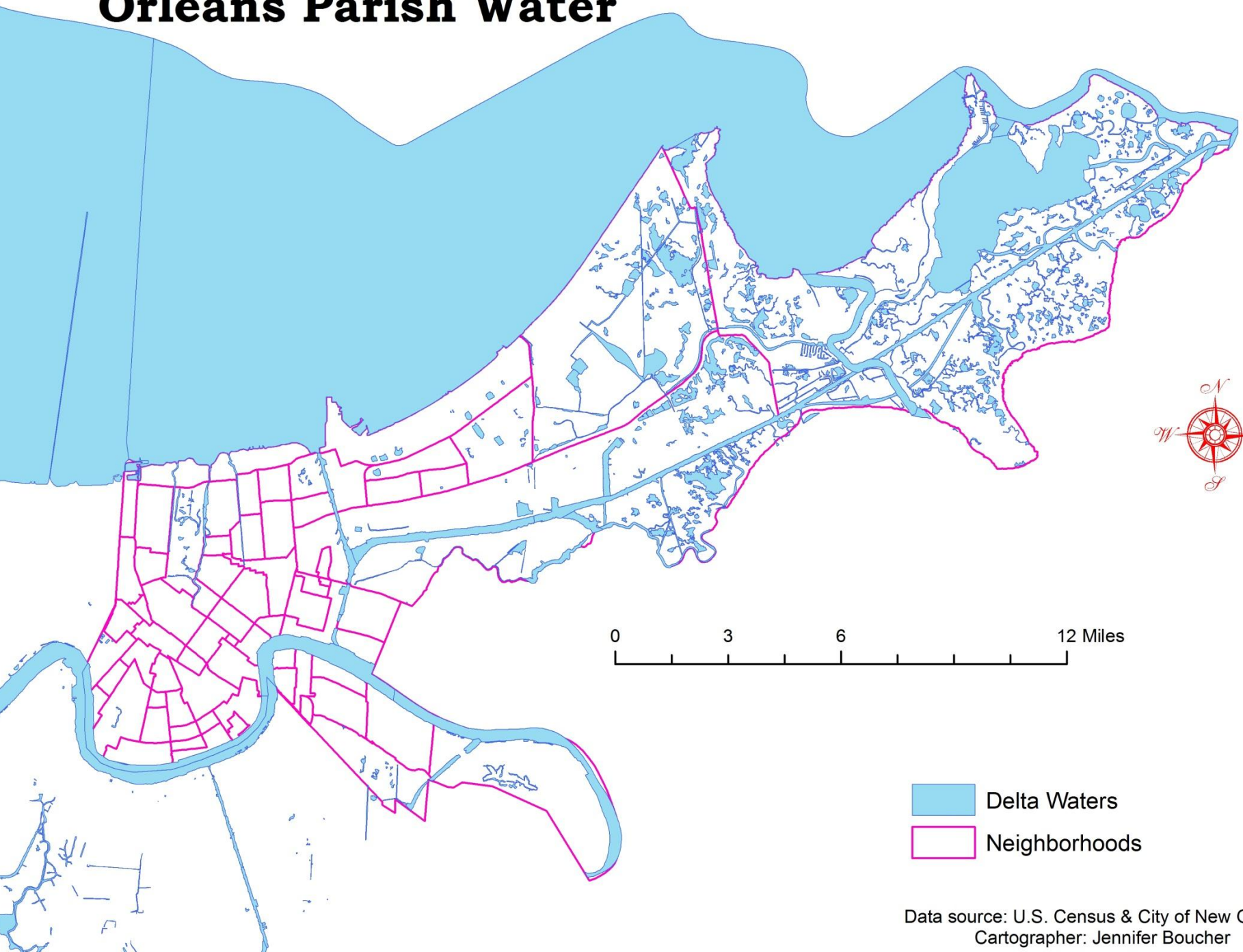


DATA SOURCES: U.S. CENSUS & CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

CARTOGRAPHER JENNIFER BOUCHER

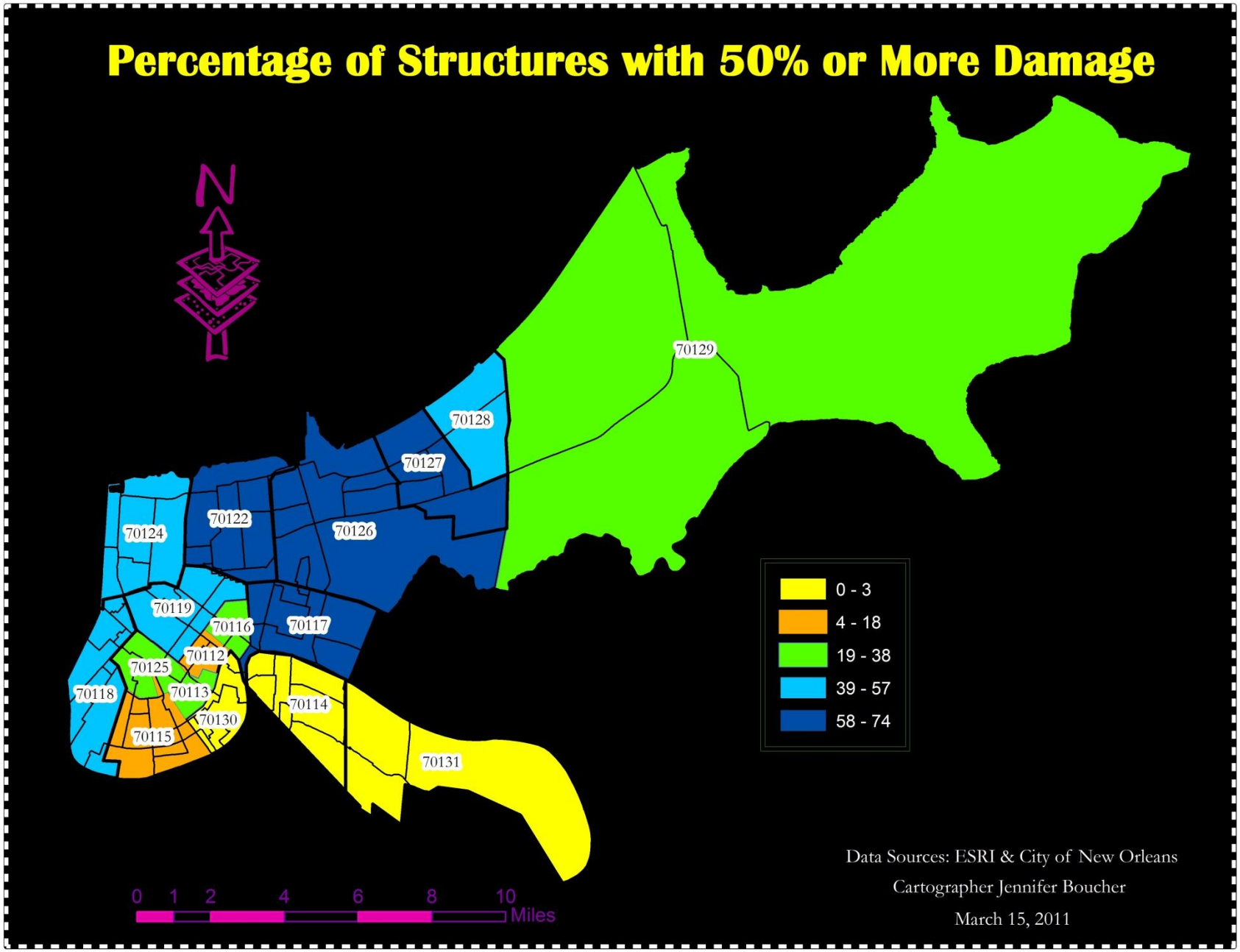
MARCH 29, 2011

Orleans Parish Water



Data source: U.S. Census & City of New Orleans
Cartographer: Jennifer Boucher

Percentage of Structures with 50% or More Damage



Data Sources: ESRI & City of New Orleans

Cartographer Jennifer Boucher

March 15, 2011

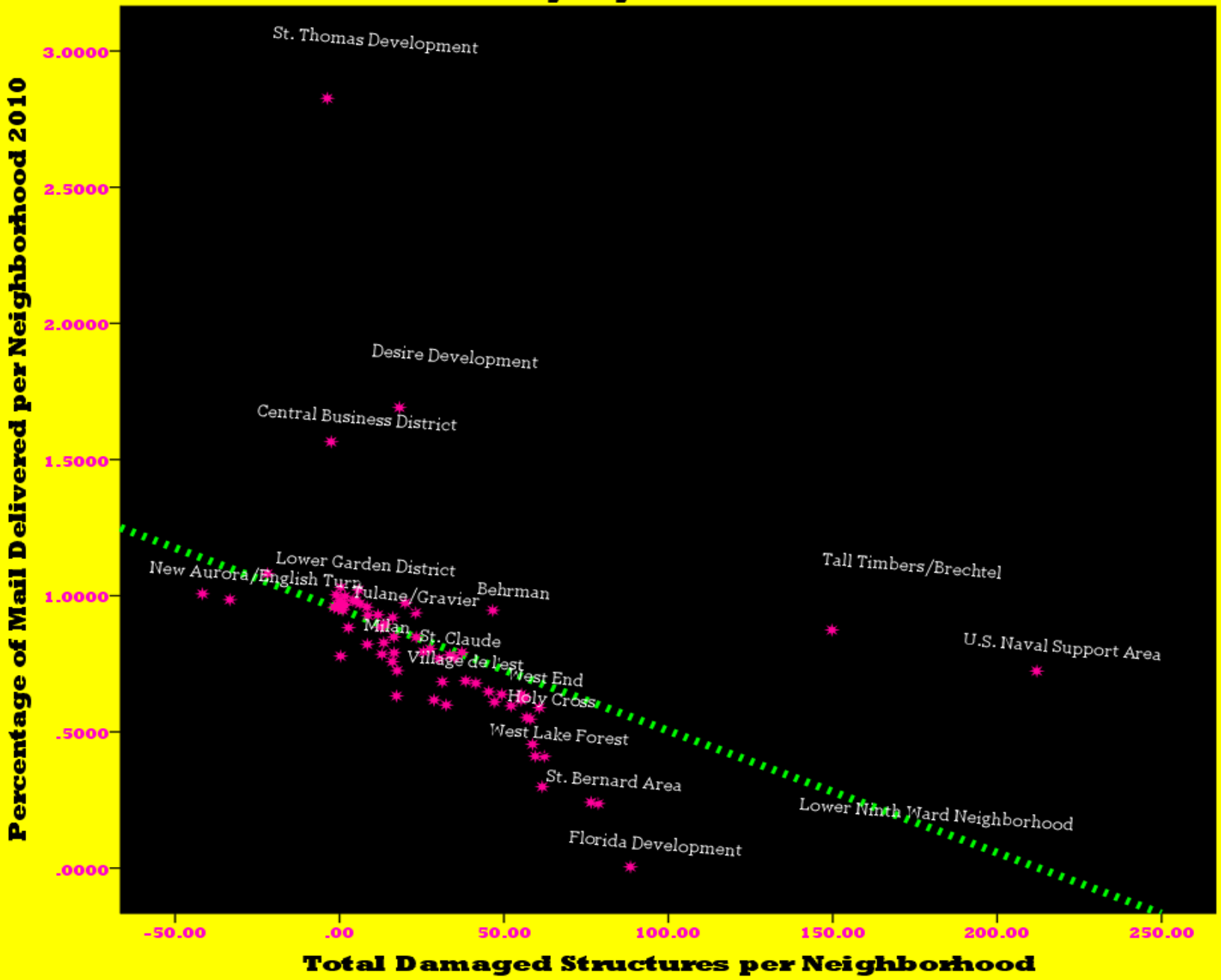
Correlations

50% or less damage	Pearson Correlation	**.471****
	Sig. (2-tailed)	**.000**
50% or more damage	Pearson Correlation	**-0.366****
	Sig. (2-tailed)	**0.001**
Average household income	Pearson Correlation	.087
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.466
Anglo-American	Pearson Correlation	.085
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.473
African American	Pearson Correlation	-.147
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.213
Total number of organizations	Pearson Correlation	-.015
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.9

Dependent Variable is Percentage Mail recovered

**** correlations is significant at the .01 level (2-tailed)**

Recovery By Mail Distribution



Conclusion

- ***Major factor for the slow return***
  - Housing damage
- ***Historical processes/uneven recovery of neighborhoods***
  - Vulnerable city
- ***More research***
  - Ground truthing
  - Actual numbers rather than estimated

Sources
The Greater New Orleans Community Data Center
U.S. Census Bureau
ESRI
Bring New Orleans Back Commission (BNOB)
Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA)
Greater New Orleans Foundations (GNOF)
Office of Recovery Management (ORM)

Questions?