

Effects of The Flood

... Students Report

Hurricane Floyd:

- Sept 15th: campus closes at 2:00pm, classes do not resume until Sept 29th.
- Sept 16th: city hit by Hurricane Floyd.
- Sept 17th-19th: city-wide power outage.
- Sept 21st-24th: city-wide loss of water.
- Sept 22th-Oct 11th: ECU Flood Relief Center opened, assisting nearly 3000 students and employees.
- Estimated damage to ECU: \$7 million.

General Survey Information:

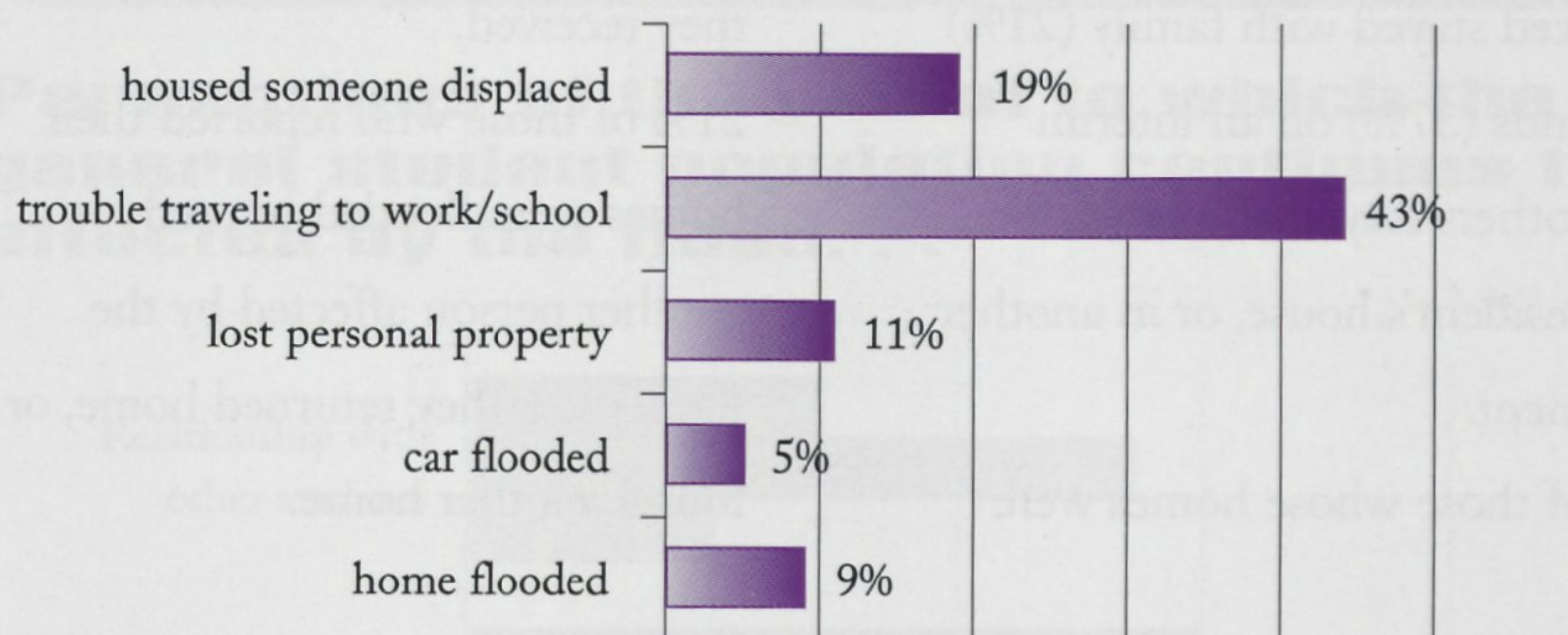
- Random sample included: medical, graduate, commuter, adult, and on-campus students enrolled in spring semester.
- The Flood Survey was administered by phone February 27th for two weeks ending March 9th.

Purpose of The Flood Survey:

- Assess extent to which students were affected and are still affected by the flood.
- Examine ECU students' perceptions of the floods' affects on the general student population during and shortly after the flood.
- Target ongoing student needs.

Note: Many students losing their homes or dropping out for flood related reasons may not have been reachable. This could have resulted in a low estimate of actual flood effects.

Percentage of respondents experiencing the following issues during the flood. . .



“Underneath my house was flooded. I lost things due to the mold. I couldn't get to my classes because all the roads were flooded in my area.”

Female student living off campus in Greenville.

“All of the roads were blocked. I could not go north, west, or south.”

Female commuter student.

“I was so far behind, I could not work and lost all personal items.”

Male sophomore.

“Being in the Greenville area, it was depressing and hard to focus (academically).”

Female senior.

How were students personally affected. . .

- > 39% of all students surveyed reported academic concerns last semester attributed to the flood.
- > 21% experienced financial problems.
- > 6% experienced health problems.
- > At the time of the survey, 2% of respondents were still dealing with academic issues related to the flood.

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What happened to those whose homes were flooded. . .

- > Out of the 38 (9% of those sampled) respondents whose homes were flooded, 12 (32%) were able to move back in after a period of time and 26 (68%) had to find another place to live.
- > A majority of those who were displaced stayed with family (21%) or friends (37%) on an interim basis; others stayed at a hotel, a local resident's house, or in another apartment.
- > 45% of those whose homes were

“My home and my parent's home were flooded . . . because my parent's home was flooded I had to pick up my own tuition.”

Male junior.

“There was 15 feet of water in my house. I lost everything but my clothes.”

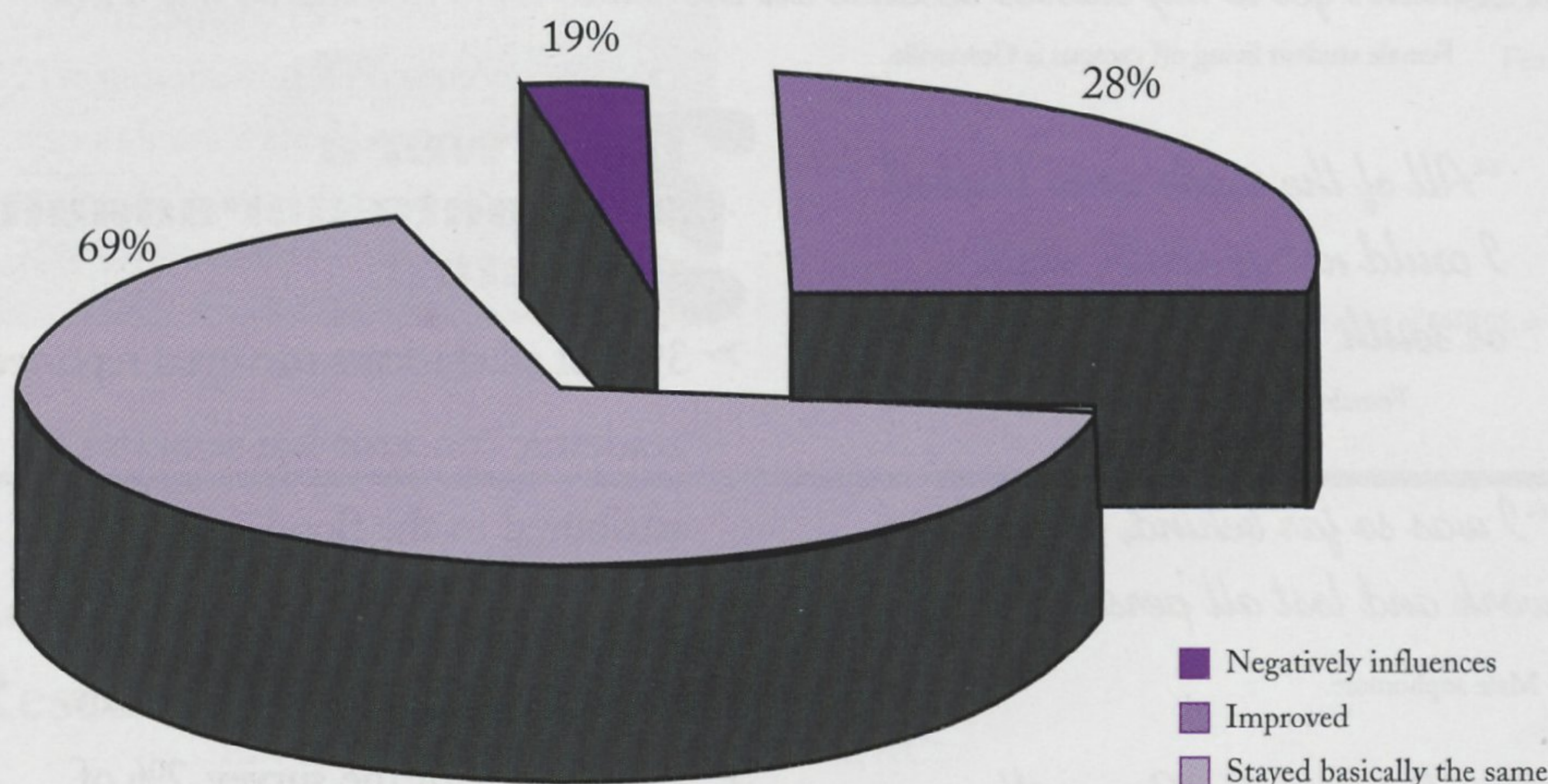
Male senior.

flooded sought help from the ECU flood relief center and all but one were satisfied with the assistance they received.

- > 21% of those who reported their homes were flooded housed another person affected by the flood once they returned home, or found another home.

- > Of those whose homes were flooded, 74% mentioned that the flood affected them academically last semester. Only 8% were still dealing with academic issues related to the flood at the time of the survey.
- > 76% of the students whose homes were flooded said they were affected financially by the flood last semester and 21% continue to deal with financial issues due to the flood.

How were relationships affected by the flood. . .



- > 28% of those surveyed felt that their relationships IMPROVED during the flood, a higher percentage (50%) of those whose homes were flood reported their relationships improved during the flood.
- > Only 3% of respondents felt that the flood affected their relationships negatively.
- > 81% of the students surveyed felt that the flood affected students' relationships with other students at least somewhat.

“It was something we all had in common.”

Female junior.

“People were always willing to help out.”

Female junior, whose home was flooded.

“It brought people closer together.”

Male junior.

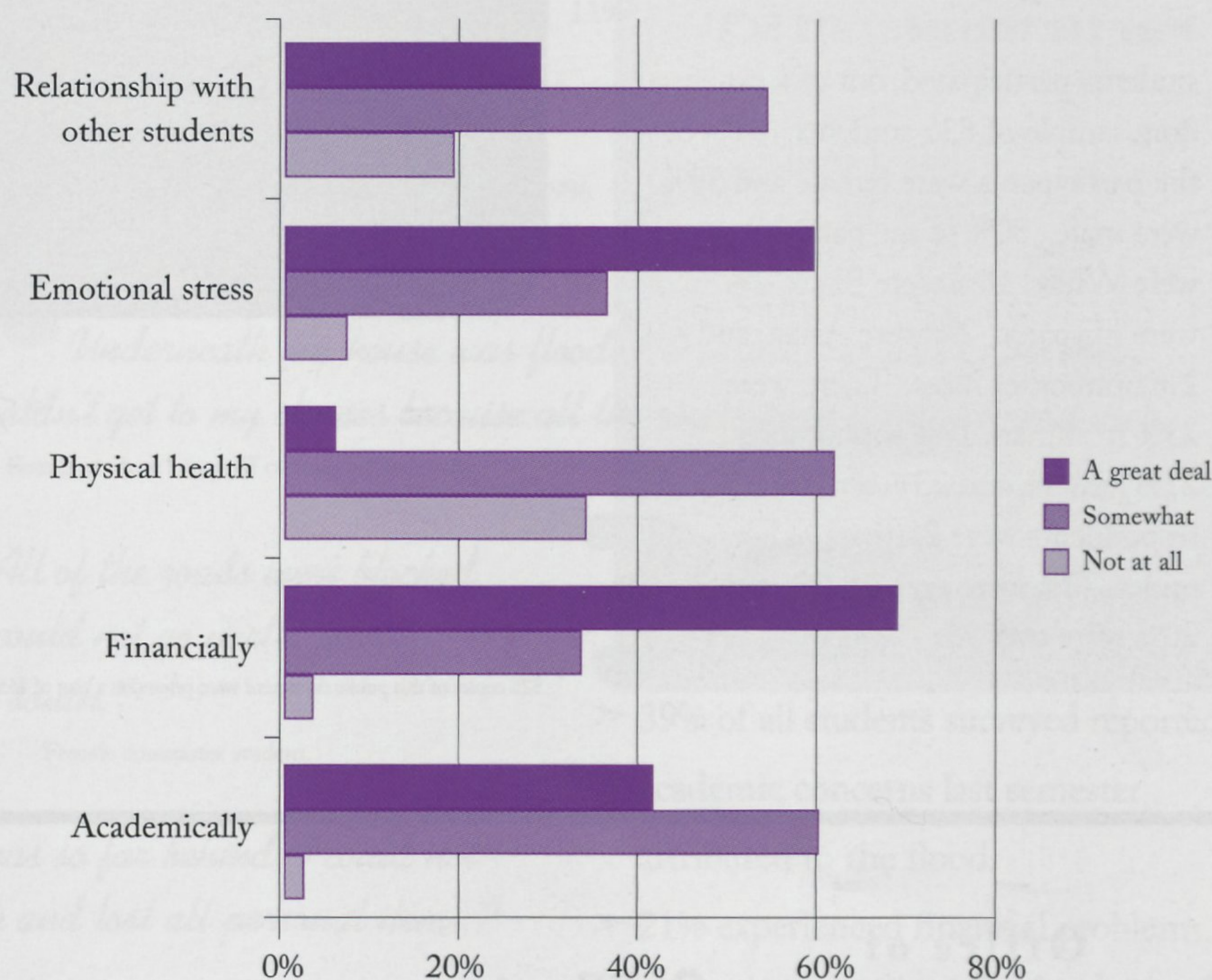
How was the general population at ECU affected. . .

- 98% of ECU students surveyed felt that the flood affected the general student population academically.
- 97% felt that the general population at ECU was affected financially, with 66% feeling the general population was affected a great deal.
- 67% of ECU students perceived the physical health of the general student population to be, at least somewhat, affected by the flood.
- Most students (60%) felt that the general student population experienced a great deal of emotional stress during the flood.
- 41% of students feel that the flood is continuing to affect the general student population financially, 18% feel it is still affecting fellow students academically, and 30% feel that students are still dealing with emotional stress from the flood.
- The drop out rate for fall 1999 was 4%, the average rate is 3.4%; 102 students cited the hurricane/flood as the number one reason for dropping out in fall 1999.

Perceptions of flood effects differed from actual reporting of these effects.



Perceptions of the extent to which the general student population continues to be affected by the flood. . .



- 2% of students reported continued academic problems related to the flood. However, 18% of respondents believed that the general student population is still dealing with academic issues.
- 4% of students report they are still dealing with lingering financial issues from the flood, while 41% of respondents believed that these issues are continuing for the general student population.
- 4% of students report they are still dealing with emotional stress related to the flood, while 30% of respondents believed it to be a general problem.

How well did ECU respond to the flood...

- > 6% of those surveyed sought help from the ECU flood relief center, and most (88%) were satisfied with the assistance they received there.
- > 85% of ECU students felt that their faculty members were sensitive to the challenges presented to students by the flood.
- > 84% felt that the ECU administration was sensitive to challenges presented to students by the flood.

Participants: 418 ECU students participated, out of a random sample of 836 students. 61% of the participants were female and 39% were male. 80% of the participants were White, 14% were Black, 2% were Hispanic, 2% were Asian, and 2% from other races. There were 23% freshmen, 19% sophomores, 21% juniors, and 23% seniors. 48% of respondents were 21 years old or under, 32% were ages 21-25, and 20% were over 25.

“Teachers helped out a lot.”

Female freshman



“Teachers crammed everything together.”

Female sophomore.

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