Hurricane Harvey
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Disaster recovery

- Recovery entails
  - Unplanned mobility decisions
  - Waiting for state support
  - Asking for help

- Middle-class precarity
  - Less economic mobility
  - More reliance on house as wealth
Disasters causing inequality

- Pre-flood financial inequality and post-flood income and expenditures
- Social network inequality
Friendswood
Data

- 59 household interviews 3-4x
  - 2 weeks-5 months after
  - 1 year after
  - 2 years after

- Additional interviews
  - FEMA officials
  - City manager
  - Local real estate agents

- Observations
  - City council meetings
  - Flood-related community events
Chapter 5: Uneven Recovery

- Extreme variation in recovery
  - Pre-existing financial resources
  - Social capital
  - Human capital
  - Insurance

- Post-flood debt
Chapter 5: Uneven Recovery

- Social capital can fill gaps
  - Though financial strain remains
Chapter 5: Uneven Recovery

- Unrecovered
  - Lack of resources all around
Concluding thoughts

- Storms like Harvey are increasingly likely and increasingly, middle class places are more vulnerable—what does their recovery look like?
- Disasters are exacerbating existing inequality—how?

- What can be done:
  - More policies to reduce immediate housing cost burdens
  - More housing counselors
  - More equitable distribution of post-disaster aid
  - Better communication of risk