## Analysis: Storm hurt elderly the most in New Orleans

 $Katrina {\it from 1A}$ 

homes and hospitals, where nearly 20 percent of the victims were recovered.

Lack of transportation was assumed to be a key reason that many people stayed behind and died, but at many addresses where the dead were found, their cars remained in their driveways, flood-ruined symbols of fatal miscalculation.

The addresses where bodies were recovered were compiled by Louisiana state officials and released earlier this month. Knight Ridder charted the locations on a map of Orleans and St. Bernard parishes, then compared them with census data on income in those neighborhoods. The analysis excluded 216 bodies that were recovered from hospitals and nursing homes, as well as 63 recovered at collection points where people had dropped off bodies in the days after the storm; those victims probably came from locations other than the census tracts where they were found.

The comparison showed that 42 percent of the bodies found in Orleans and St. Bernard parishes were recovered in neighborhoods with poverty rates higher than 30 percent. That's only slightly higher than the 39 percent of residents who lived in such neighborhoods, according to the census data.

Similarly, 31 percent of the bodies turned up in areas with poverty rates below 15 percent, where 30 percent of the population lived.

The median household income in neighborhoods where Katrina victims were recovered was about \$27,000 a year, just under the \$29,000 median for the overall area.

One-fourth of Katrina deaths fell in census tracts with median incomes above \$35,300. Onefourth of the area's pre-storm population lived in tracts with median incomes above \$37,000.

About 67 percent of the mapped deaths fell in the central and western portion of New Or-



NADER KHOURI - KNIGHT RIDDER/TRIBUNE PHOTO

New Orleans police Sgt. Forrest Austin looks into the home where his mother, Winona Austin, died as a result of Hurricane Katrina in the Gentilly area of the city on Oct. 25.

cause of death.

In that database, African Americans outnumbered whites 51 percent to 44 percent. In the area overall, African Americans outnumber whites 61 percent to 36 percent.

In Orleans Parish, 62 percent of known Katrina victims were African American, compared with 66 percent for the total parish population.

In St. Bernard Parish, 92 percent of the identified victims were white. Census figures show that 88 percent of parish residents identified themselves as white.

Among hurricane victims on the Knight Ridder list, men outnumbered women 51 percent to 49 percent, about the same as in the overall area before the storm. — SIMERMAN OF THE CONTRA COSTA TIMES AND OTT OF THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER REPORTED FROM NEW ORLEANS; MELLNIK OF THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER REPORTED FROM CHARLOTTE

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Susie and Edward Sparks were

killed in the Lower Ninth Ward.

leans, an area thought to have

flooded primarily because of the

database of 486 Katrina victims

was compiled from official in-

formation released by state and

federal authorities and inter-

views with survivors of the dead.

It catalogued deaths according to

location, race, age, name and

The separate Knight Ridder

failure of man-made structures.

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