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NJISJ Releases Report on Social Justice Impact of Hurricane Sandy

Dr. John Tepper Marlin, Chief Economist at NJISJ, examines the challenges faced by low-wage workers and communities in the hardest hit areas of New Jersey

Hurricane Sandy hit New Jersey on October 29, 2012. Six months later, thousands of New Jersey homes remain unoccupied, their owners displaced and lacking the funds for repairs. Families in hard hit coastal areas are facing rising insurance premiums and costly new building codes, even as they fight to collect insurance and repay the debts they incurred in the wake of the storm.

In a new study by the New Jersey Institute for Social justice, seasoned government economist John Tepper Marlin analyzes the impact of Hurricane Sandy on a range of vulnerable groups, with a particular focus on low-wage workers in the coastal communities of Atlantic, Ocean and Cape May counties. According to Dr. Marlin, the damage done by the storm was greatest in the poorest areas of the state. Low-wage workers were the most vulnerable to a temporary loss of unemployment as a result of the storm, and had little savings to cope with its effects. The NJISJ study is rare in spotlighting the challenges faced by these workers and their families, who are often overlooked in the public policy debates on disaster recovery.

Dr. Marlin has served as a Federal Government economist for seven years, most recently as Senior Economist for the Joint Economic Committee of the Congress. Previously he served for more than 13 years as the Chief Economist for three New York City Comptrollers. He has been on the faculty of Baruch College, City University of New York and the Stern School of Business, New York University.

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