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**[Hurricane Katrina resulted in missed dialysis sessions](#)**

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A significant number of hemodialysis patients missed dialysis sessions the first month after Hurricane Katrina made landfall on August 29, 2005, according to research published online this week in *Kidney International*.

Patients who missed three or more sessions include those who lived alone before the storm, were unaware of their dialysis facility's emergency plans, and those who failed to evacuate prior to landfall of the hurricane. Amanda Anderson and colleagues report that these patients were more than twice as likely to be hospitalized, when compared to patients who were able to attend dialysis sessions.

There were over one million residents in the New Orleans and Gulf Coast area evacuated and relocated during the disaster, and almost 6,000 patients with end-stage renal disease on life-sustaining dialysis treatment in the region affected by the storm. The study shows that Hurricane Katrina resulted in a five- to seven-fold increase in missed hemodialysis sessions. The authors recommend that awareness and early implementation of emergency plans should be a priority among both patients and providers.

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