

Majority of New Yorkers still feels vulnerable to a powerful storm, according to risk perception survey

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New York, 15 October 2013 – As we approach the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Sandy, the Swiss Re Risk perception survey has shown that more than half of New Yorkers believe the city's vulnerability to another powerful storm will increase in the next 20 years.

Fifty-one percent of New Yorkers believe that the risk of the city being hit by another powerful storm will increase over the next two decades. That revelation is despite many feeling as though they are already too vulnerable to natural disasters, with 65% of New Yorkers reporting that their homes or areas sustained some degree of damage during the most recent serious natural catastrophe to strike the city.

"We worked very closely with Mayor Bloomberg's administration in New York to put together a report launched in June which looked at ways to increase the city's resilience to climate change and severe weather events," said Bill Donnell, Head of Property & Casualty in the Americas for global reinsurer Swiss Re. "This survey, however, shows that people in the city still feel too vulnerable and it's important that we don't forget the lessons learned from Hurricane Sandy and continue to look for, and implement, ways to increase resilience to major natural disasters."

Donnell added: "For 150 years Swiss Re has been in the business of analysing risk. Last year natural disasters cost the global economy \$160 billion. Some people question whether we can afford to make our cities more resilient. My question to them is can we afford not to?"

Notes to editors**About the Risk perception survey**

Swiss Re's [Risk perception survey](#) was carried out in April and May 2013 by The Gallup Organisation – Europe.

Results are based on telephone and online interviews with more than 1 000 people per country, aged 15 and older, conducted in 19 markets. The samples are representative of the total population aged 15 and older in most markets; in five markets, interviews were only conducted in urban areas. The 19 markets selected for this study were:

- Canada, the United States, Brazil (only urban areas) and Mexico
- France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and South Africa (only urban areas)
- Australia, China (only urban areas), Hong Kong, India (only urban areas), Indonesia (only urban areas), Japan, Singapore and South Korea

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