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Post-Sandy normalcy in N.J. five years away & maybe never, 20 percent say in poll

Posted on [April 25, 2013](#) by [Michael Symons](#)

Roughly three-quarters of New Jersey residents say the state hasn't returned to normal following Superstorm Sandy, and 20 percent of that group say normalcy is at least five years away or will never come.

Those results and others are included in today's [latest release from the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll](#), which found that younger people are most likely to say things have returned back to normal and upper-middle income and Shore residents feeling the most pessimistic.

The 74 percent of poll respondents who said they don't think life after Sandy is back to normal yet in New Jersey were asked how long they think that will take. Fifteen percent said within the next year, and 64 percent said 1 to 5 years. But one in five people foresee a longer recovery, including 11 percent who say it'll take 5 to 10 years, 2 percent who say it will take longer than 10 years and 7 percent who said things will never be back to normal.

The how-long question was similar to one Quinnipiac University pollsters asked in January and November, though Quinnipiac specifically asked about the Shore, posed the question to all respondents and provided specific time frames as potential answers. ([See question #49.](#))

In January, 4 percent of people told Quinnipiac it would take less than a year; 43 percent said 1 to 3 years; 36 percent said 3 to 5 years; 10 percent said more than 5 years; and 5 percent said never. The January poll measured a bit more pessimism about the length of the recovery than the November poll had.

Eagleton's pollsters also asked people whether they support or oppose various proposals having to do with rebuilding in coastal areas prone to storm surge flooding. Those results are presented visually below (click it to make it larger); the blue colors to the left represent support, the purple ones to the right opposition. People support elevating homes and requiring sand dunes, but they're cooler toward the ideas of rebuilding without making changes or abandoning parts of waterfront towns. (None of the answers add up to 100 percent because some people said they didn't have an opinion or declined to share one.)



The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted by phone from April 3 through 7. A random sample of 923 adults was interviewed, including 736 reached on a traditional land-line phone and 187 reached on a cell phone. The margin of error was 3.2 percentage points.