

Data Science Specialization[JHU]: Reproducible Research[Project 2]

The Impact of Severe Weather Events to Health and Economy in US based on NOAA database.

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1. Synopsis:

Storms and other severe weather events can cause both public health and economic problems for communities and municipalities. Many severe events can result in fatalities, injuries, and property damage, and preventing such outcomes to the extent possible is a key concern.

This project involves exploring the ***U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) storm database**. This database tracks characteristics of major storms and weather events in the United States, including when and where they occur, as well as estimates of any fatalities, injuries, and property damage.

In this report, we'll study the effect of weather events on the personal and property damages. The top weather events that causes highest injuries and fatalities'll be illustrated.

2. Data:

- The data discussed in this report is available at this Storm Data (<https://d396qusza40orc.cloudfront.net/repdata%2Fdata%2FStormData.csv.bz2>).
- There is also some documentation of the database available at Storm Data Documentation (https://d396qusza40orc.cloudfront.net/repdata%2Fpeer2_doc%2Fpd01016005curr.pdf)
- National Weather Service FAQ (https://d396qusza40orc.cloudfront.net/repdata%2Fpeer2_doc%2FNCD%20Storm%20Events-FAQ%20Page.pdf)

Hint: The events in the database start in the year 1950 and end in November 2011. In the earlier years of the database there are generally fewer events recorded, most likely due to a lack of good records. More recent years should be considered more complete.

3. Data Processing:

1. Reading the Whole Dataset "storm table"

```
#you must have been downloaded and unzipped the data file
storm <- read.csv("../repdata_data_StormData.csv", sep = ",", header = TRUE)
#showing data
str(storm)
```

```
## 'data.frame':  902297 obs. of  37 variables:
## $ STATE__ : num  1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
## $ BGN_DATE : Factor w/ 16335 levels "1/1/1966 0:00:00",...: 6523 6523 4242 11116 2224 2224 2260 383 3980 3980 ...
## $ BGN_TIME : Factor w/ 3608 levels "00:00:00 AM",...: 272 287 2705 1683 2584 3186 242 1683 3186 3186 ...
## $ TIME_ZONE : Factor w/ 22 levels "ADT","AKS","AST",...: 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 ...
## $ COUNTY : num  97 3 57 89 43 77 9 123 125 57 ...
## $ COUNTYNAME: Factor w/ 29601 levels "", "5NM E OF MACKINAC BRIDGE TO PRESQUE ISLE LT MI",...: 13513 1873 4598 10592 4372
10094 1973 23873 24418 4598 ...
## $ STATE : Factor w/ 72 levels "AK","AL","AM",...: 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 ...
## $ EVTYPE : Factor w/ 985 levels " HIGH SURF ADVISORY",...: 834 834 834 834 834 834 834 834 834 834 ...
## $ BGN_RANGE : num  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 ...
## $ BGN_AZI : Factor w/ 35 levels "", " N"," NW",...: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
## $ BGN_LOCATI: Factor w/ 54429 levels "", "- 1 N Albion",...: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
## $ END_DATE : Factor w/ 6663 levels "", "1/1/1993 0:00:00",...: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
## $ END_TIME : Factor w/ 3647 levels "", " 0900CST",...: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
## $ COUNTY_END: num  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 ...
## $ COUNTYENDN: logi  NA NA NA NA NA NA NA ...
## $ END_RANGE : num  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 ...
## $ END_AZI : Factor w/ 24 levels "", "E","ENE","ESE",...: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
## $ END_LOCATI: Factor w/ 34506 levels "", "- .5 NNW",...: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
## $ LENGTH : num  14 2 0.1 0 0 1.5 1.5 0 3.3 2.3 ...
## $ WIDTH : num  100 150 123 100 150 177 33 100 100 ...
## $ F : int  3 2 2 2 2 2 2 1 3 3 ...
## $ MAG : num  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 ...
## $ FATALITIES: num  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 ...
## $ INJURIES : num  15 0 2 2 2 6 1 0 14 0 ...
## $ PROPDGM : num  25 2.5 25 2.5 2.5 2.5 2.5 2.5 25 25 ...
## $ PROPDGMEXP: Factor w/ 19 levels "", "-", "?", "+",...: 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 ...
## $ CROPDMG : num  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 ...
## $ CROPDMGEXP: Factor w/ 9 levels "", "?", "0", "2",...: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
## $ WFO : Factor w/ 542 levels "", " CI","$AC",...: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
## $ STATEOFFIC: Factor w/ 250 levels "", "ALABAMA, Central",...: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
## $ ZONENAMES : Factor w/ 25112 levels "", "
"|__truncated__,...: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
## $ LATITUDE : num  3040 3042 3340 3458 3412 ...
## $ LONGITUDE : num  8812 8755 8742 8626 8642 ...
## $ LATITUDE_E: num  3051 0 0 0 0 ...
## $ LONGITUDE_: num  8806 0 0 0 0 ...
## $ REMARKS : Factor w/ 436774 levels "", "-2 at Deer Park\n",...: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
## $ REFNUM : num  1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ...
```

2. Cleaning the EVTYPE variable

```
#renaming and cleaning the data
storm$EVTYPE_NEW <- as.character(storm$EVTYPE)
storm[grepl("THUNDERSTORM|THUNDERSTORM|THUNDERSTORM|THUNDERSTORM|THUNDERSTORM|THUNDERSTORM|THUNDERSTORM|TSTM", storm$EVTYPE_NEW, ignore.case = TRUE), 38] <- "THUNDERSTORM"
storm[grepl("HURRICANE|TYPHOON", storm$EVTYPE_NEW, ignore.case = TRUE), 38] <- "HURRICANE/TYPHOON"
storm[grepl("TORNADO", storm$EVTYPE_NEW, ignore.case = TRUE), 38] <- "TORNADO"
storm[grepl("FLASH FLOOD|FLASHFLOOD|FLOOD FLASH", storm$EVTYPE_NEW, ignore.case = TRUE), 38] <- "FLASH FLOOD"
storm[grepl("HIGH WIND|HIGH WINDS", storm$EVTYPE_NEW, ignore.case = TRUE), 38] <- "HIGH WIND"
storm[grepl("COASTAL FLOOD", storm$EVTYPE_NEW, ignore.case = TRUE), 38] <- "COASTAL FLOOD"
storm[grepl("COLD", storm$EVTYPE_NEW, ignore.case = TRUE), 38] <- "COLD"
storm[grepl("SNOW", storm$EVTYPE_NEW, ignore.case = TRUE), 38] <- "SNOW"
storm[grepl("ICE|ICY", storm$EVTYPE_NEW, ignore.case = TRUE), 38] <- "ICE"
storm[grepl("NON-TSTM WIND", storm$EVTYPE_NEW, ignore.case = TRUE), 38] <- "WIND"
storm[grepl("TSTM WIND", storm$EVTYPE_NEW, ignore.case = TRUE), 38] <- "TSTM WIND"
storm[grepl("HAIL", storm$EVTYPE_NEW, ignore.case = TRUE), 38] <- "HAIL"
storm[grepl("HEAT", storm$EVTYPE_NEW, ignore.case = TRUE), 38] <- "EXCESSIVE HEAT"
storm[grepl("^(FLOOD$|^FLOODS$|^FLOODING$)", storm$EVTYPE_NEW, ignore.case = TRUE), 38] <- "FLOOD"
storm[grepl("FROST|FREEZE|FREEZING", storm$EVTYPE_NEW, ignore.case = TRUE), 38] <- "FROST/FREEZE"
storm[grepl("HEAVY RAIN|HEAVY RAINS|Hvy RAIN", storm$EVTYPE_NEW, ignore.case = TRUE), 38] <- "HEAVY RAIN"
storm[grepl("MUD SLIDE|MUD SLIDES|MUDSLIDE|MUDSLIDES", storm$EVTYPE_NEW, ignore.case = TRUE), 38] <- "MUD SLIDE"
storm[grepl("WINTER WEATHER|WINTRY", storm$EVTYPE_NEW, ignore.case = TRUE), 38] <- "WINTER WEATHER"
storm[grepl("URBAN AND SMALL|URBAN FLOOD|URBAN FLOODING|URBAN FLOODS|URBAN SMALL|URBAN/SMALL STREAM|URBAN/SMALL STREAM", storm$EVTYPE_NEW, ignore.case = TRUE), 38] <- "URBAN FLOOD"
storm[grepl("TROPICAL STORM", storm$EVTYPE_NEW, ignore.case = TRUE), 38] <- "TROPICAL STORM"
storm[grepl("^(WIND$|^WINDS$)", storm$EVTYPE_NEW, ignore.case = TRUE), 38] <- "WIND"
storm[grepl("WILDFIRE|WILD FIRE|WILD/FORREST FIRE", storm$EVTYPE_NEW, ignore.case = TRUE), 38] <- "WILD FIRE"
```

Q.1 Across the United States, which types of events are most harmful with respect to population health?

To answer this question, we'll calculate the total injuries and fatalities for each event. We'll subset the required data and then aggregate the impacts of each event in a new data table.

```
#you should make sure that package "plyr" has installed at first.
library(plyr)
#subsetting events for injuries and fatalities != 0
personal <- storm[(storm$INJURIES == 0 & storm$FATALITIES == 0), c(38, 23, 24)]
#subsetting the personal data into a new data frame using ddply() function
personal_impact <- ddply(personal, .(EVTYPE_NEW), summarize, impact = sum(INJURIES+FATALITIES), injury = sum(INJURIES), fatality = sum(FATALITIES))
personal_impact_top10 <- arrange(personal_impact, desc(impact))[1:10,]
```

Q2 Across the United States, which types of events have the greatest economic consequences?

To answer this question, we'll calculate the values of total economy damages. We'll aggregate the values of crops and property damages.

```
#subsetting the whole data storm
event <- c("EVTYPE", "FATALITIES", "INJURIES", "PROPDGMG", "PROPDMGEXP", "CROPDGMG", "CROPDMGEXP")
data <- storm[event]

# Assigning values for the property exponent data
# B or b = Billion, M or m = Million, K or k = Thousand, H or h = Hundred). The number from one to ten represent the power of ten (10^The number). The symbols "-", "+" and "?" refers to less than, greater than and low certainty. Here, we ignored these three symbols.
economy <- storm[(storm$PROPDGMG==0 & storm$CROPDGMG==0), c(38,25,26,27,28)]

m <- cbind(names(table(economy$PROPDMGEXP)), c(0,0,0,0,0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,2,2,3,6,6))
m <- rbind(m, c("k", 3))

economy$PROPDMGEXP <- as.integer(m[,2][match(economy$PROPDMGEXP, m[,1])])
economy$CROPDMGEXP <- as.integer(m[,2][match(economy$CROPDMGEXP, m[,1])])
#making economy impact from the economy data, a new data frame using ddply() function
economy_impact <- ddply(economy, .(EVTYPE_NEW), summarize, damage=sum(PROPDMG*10^(PROPDMGEXP)+CROPDMG*10^(CROPDMGEXP)), propdmg=sum(PROPDMG*10^(PROPDMGEXP)), cropdmg=sum(CROPDMG*10^(CROPDMGEXP)))
economy_impact_top10 <- arrange(economy_impact, desc(damage))[1:10,]
```

3. Results:

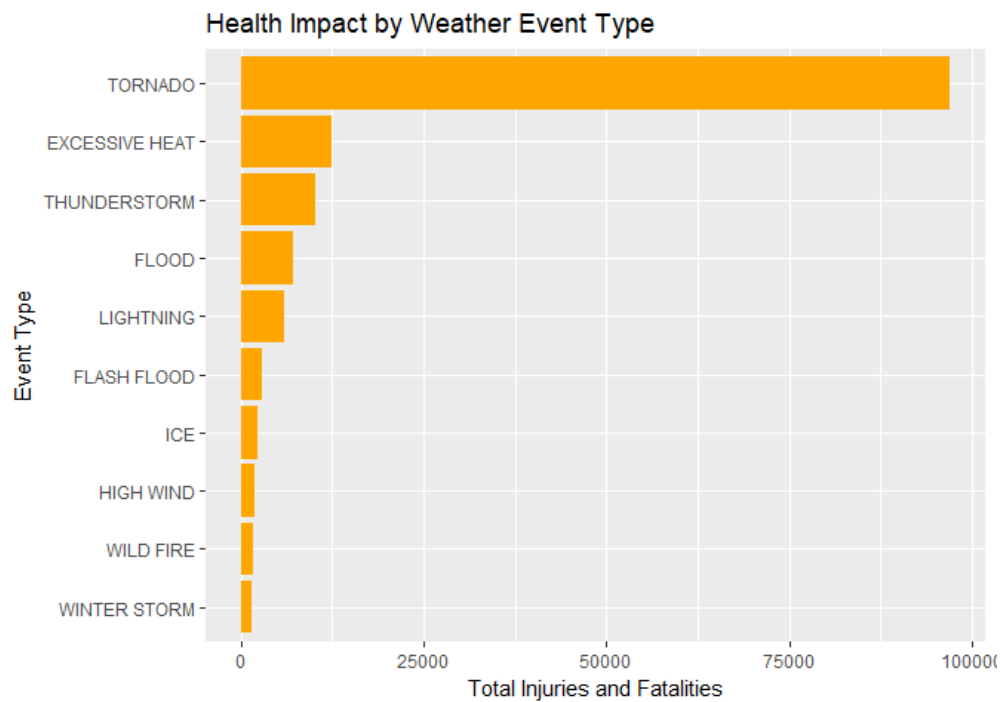
3.1: Showing the Health impacts from different events

```
personal_impact_top10
```

| ## | EVTYPE_NEW | impact | injury | fatality |
|-------|----------------|--------|--------|----------|
| ## 1 | TORNADO | 97043 | 91407 | 5636 |
| ## 2 | EXCESSIVE HEAT | 12362 | 9224 | 3138 |
| ## 3 | THUNDERSTORM | 10299 | 9544 | 755 |
| ## 4 | FLOOD | 7267 | 6791 | 476 |
| ## 5 | LIGHTNING | 6046 | 5230 | 816 |
| ## 6 | FLASH FLOOD | 2837 | 1802 | 1035 |
| ## 7 | ICE | 2285 | 2183 | 102 |
| ## 8 | HIGH WIND | 1820 | 1523 | 297 |
| ## 9 | WILD FIRE | 1696 | 1606 | 90 |
| ## 10 | WINTER STORM | 1527 | 1321 | 206 |

```
library(ggplot2)

ggplot(personal_impact_top10, aes(x = reorder(EVTYPE_NEW, impact), y = impact)) + geom_bar(stat="identity", fill = "orange")
+ labs(title = "Health Impact by Weather Event Type", x = "Event Type", y = "Total Injuries and Fatalities") + coord_flip()
```

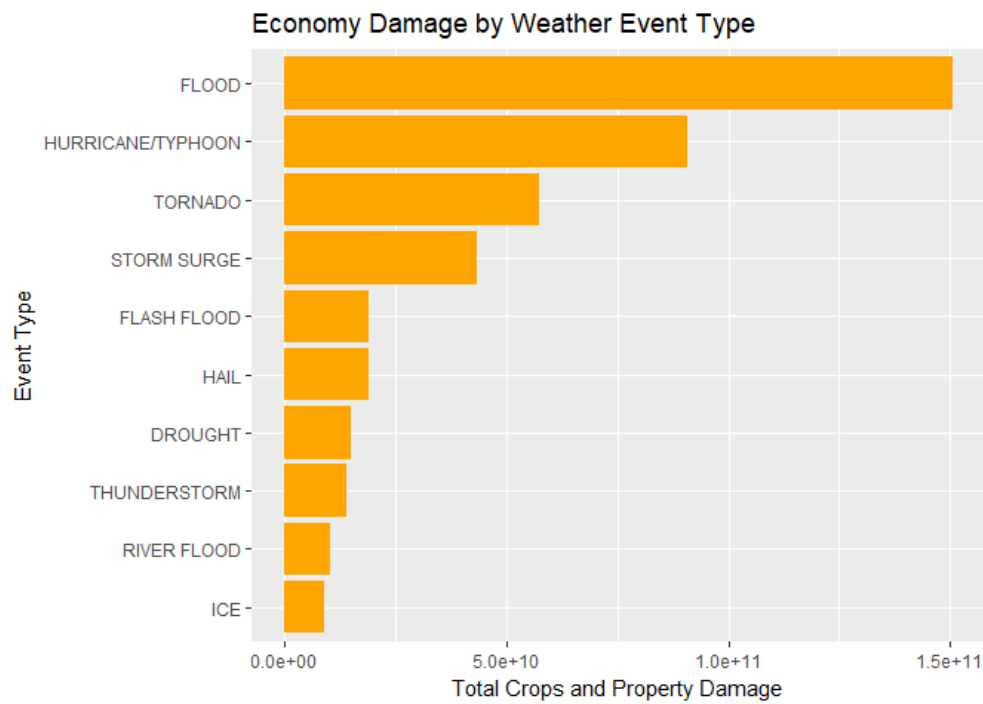


3.2: Showing the Economy impacts from different events

```
economy_impact_top10
```

| ## | EVTYPE_NEW | damage | propdmg | croprdmg |
|-------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| ## 1 | FLOOD | 150443429757 | 144772555807 | 5670873950 |
| ## 2 | HURRICANE/TYPHOON | 90872527810 | 85356410010 | 5516117800 |
| ## 3 | TORNADO | 57418279447 | 57003317927 | 414961520 |
| ## 4 | STORM SURGE | 43323541000 | 43323536000 | 5000 |
| ## 5 | FLASH FLOOD | 19120499246 | 17588302096 | 1532197150 |
| ## 6 | HAIL | 19024452136 | 15977564513 | 3046887623 |
| ## 7 | DROUGHT | 15018672000 | 1046106000 | 13972566000 |
| ## 8 | THUNDERSTORM | 14059635688 | 12785421700 | 1274213988 |
| ## 9 | RIVER FLOOD | 10148404500 | 5118945500 | 5029459000 |
| ## 10 | ICE | 8994976860 | 3967862560 | 5027114300 |

```
ggplot(economy_impact_top10, aes(x = reorder(EVTYPE_NEW,damage), y = damage)) + geom_bar(stat = "identity", fill = "orange")
+ labs(title = "Economy Damage by Weather Event Type", x = "Event Type", y = "Total Crops and Property Damage") + coord_fli
p()
```



4. Conclusion:

As we see, Tornado events have the highest harmful impacts on population health. Also, Flood events have the biggest impacts on the economical side. So, we wish that the American Governments would take the right preventive actions to save both lifes and money.