

## Analysis Plan

### 1. Title Information

- a. **Proposal Title:** County-Level Association between Flood Risk and Mortality
- b. **Abbreviated Title:**
- c. **Suggested key words:** **Keywords that are often used in publications**

### 2. Lead Author Name:

### 3. Co-authors, Contact Information, and Responsibilities:

Name	Contact Information	Responsibilities

### 5. Background/Rationale:

**A brief literature review and the knowledge gap. You can think of this as a precursor to the first 1 or 2 paragraphs in a manuscript introduction.**

Health effects (see Taylor's lit review)  
Flood risk  
BHM

### 6. Brief Overview:

**A summary of your proposed analysis. This can build upon the background/rationale to include your analysis and some expected results. You can think of this as the penultimate or last paragraph in a manuscript introduction.**

- Fjk
- P
- p

### 7. Research Questions & Hypotheses:

**One to three aims or objectives of the manuscript. Since these aims are intended for one manuscript, then they are likely related but not necessarily dependent. One to four sentences each.**

**Aim #1:** To investigate associations between flood risk and mortality.

***Hypotheses:*** We hypothesize that higher flood risk is associated with higher mortality. If longer term flood risk predictions are associated with higher health impacts, that would

*imply that long-term effects of climate change can have health impacts over the short term.*

**Aim #2:** To investigate whether the relationship between flood risk and mortality is modified by social vulnerability factors.

**Hypothesis:** *We hypothesize that the relationship between flood risk and mortality will be enhanced in areas of high social vulnerability.*

## 8. Data:

### a. Study domain and/or population:

All counties in the conterminous United States.

Relevant data include the County Adjacency File provided by the Census Bureau (<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/library/reference/county-adjacency-file.html>).

To-do: sort the states by environmental characteristics, i.e. whether it's inland or coastal (see plots in [https://assets.firststreet.org/uploads/2020/06/first\\_street\\_foundation\\_first\\_national\\_flood\\_risk\\_assessment.pdf](https://assets.firststreet.org/uploads/2020/06/first_street_foundation_first_national_flood_risk_assessment.pdf))

### b. Study years:

- Outcome:
  - i. Life Expectancy: 2014
  - ii. Age-specific mortality risk: 2014
  - iii. Deaths due to various CVD causes: 2016-2018
- Exposures:
  - i. Flood Risk: 2020 (present) and 2050 (climate-adjusted future)
- Mediators, Moderators, etc.
  - i. CDC SVI: 2018

There may be a mismatch of years between the outcome and exposures. The assumption is that the exposure doesn't change drastically over the short term.

### c. Outcomes:

Outcome Type	Variable Names and Description of Variable from Orig Source	Details from Orig Source	Analytical Treatment
Life Expectancy	"Life expectancy, 2014*"	Results of the study were published in JAMA in May 2017 in "Inequalities in	Uncertainty interval provided.

	<p>Data also available for 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, and 2010</p> <p>*Life expectancy at birth (years). Numbers in parentheses are 95% uncertainty intervals.</p> <p>“% Change in Life Expectancy, 1980-2014”</p>	<p>life expectancy among US counties, 1980-2014.”</p> <p><a href="http://ghdx.healthdata.org/record/ihme-data/united-states-life-expectancy-and-age-specific-mortality-risk-county-1980-2014">http://ghdx.healthdata.org/record/ihme-data/united-states-life-expectancy-and-age-specific-mortality-risk-county-1980-2014</a> (see README_1.txt for suggested citation)</p>	<p>Including uncertainty in outcome is probably standard in BHM.s.</p>
Age-specific Mortality Risk	<p>“Mortality risk, 2014*”</p> <p>Available for age ranges 0-5, 5-25, 25-45, 45-65, and 65-85 y.o.</p> <p>Data also available for 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, and 2010</p> <p>*Probability of death, for given age range (%). Numbers in parentheses are 95% uncertainty intervals.</p> <p>“% Change in mortality risk, 1980-2014”</p>	<p>Mortality risk is the probability of death during the given age range conditional on being alive at the beginning of the age range.</p> <p>Same source as for life expectancy (see above).</p>	<p>Uncertainty interval provided.</p> <p>If I can find proportion of people alive at the start of the age ranges, I can recalculate the mortality risk for other age ranges.</p>
Deaths due to Cardiovascular diseases	<p>Multiple CVD outcomes of interest</p> <p>TBD</p>	<p><a href="https://nccd.cdc.gov/dhdspatlas/">https://nccd.cdc.gov/dhdspatlas/</a></p>	

d. Covariates:

- Exposure definition:

The main exposure of interest is flood risk as measured by the First Street Foundation (FSF) model. Source of dataset: <https://registry.opendata.aws/fsf-flood-risk/>. All details from original source can be found in [https://assets.firststreet.org/uploads/2020/06/first\\_street\\_foundation\\_first\\_national\\_flood\\_risk\\_assessment.pdf](https://assets.firststreet.org/uploads/2020/06/first_street_foundation_first_national_flood_risk_assessment.pdf).

Flood Risk Type	Variable Names and Description of Variable from Orig Source	Details from Orig Source	Analytical Treatment																								
Comparison with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA)	count_property (the number of First Street properties in the county),  count_fema_sfha (number of properties in FEMA SHFA),  pct_fema_sfha (percent of properties in FEMA SFHA),  pct_fs_fema_difference_2020 (percent difference between number of First Street properties and FEMA properties at risk in 2020)	FEMA classifies 8.7 M properties as having substantial risk (1% annual), i.e. within SFHAs. By contrast, the FSF classifies 14.6 M properties with same level of risk. Discrepancy is due to FSF using current climate data, mapping precip as a stand-alone risk, and includes areas FEMA doesn't  (https://firststreet.org/mission/)	These variables will probably not be directly used in the model. They may be used to process other variables.																								
Percent of First Street Properties with Flooding, under different scenarios	pct_fs_risk_2020_5, pct_fs_risk_2050_5, pct_fs_risk_2020_100, pct_fs_risk_2050_100, pct_fs_risk_2020_500, pct_fs_risk_2050_500.  2020 refers to present-time, and 2050 refers to the climate adjusted future. See right for the 5, 100, 500.	<p>First Street definitions of risk that are used in this report. <i>Substantial risk</i> is analogous to the FEMA SFHA designation.</p> <table><thead><tr><th>First Street Risk Description</th><th>Return Period</th><th>Annual Probability flooding at least 1cm</th><th>Cumulative Probability flooding at least once over 30 years</th><th>Properties at risk in 2020 48 U.S. States + D.C.</th><th>Percent of all properties</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Almost Certain Risk</td><td>5 Year (1 in 5)</td><td>20.0%</td><td>&gt;99%</td><td>3.6 million</td><td>2.6%</td></tr><tr><td>Substantial Risk</td><td>100 Year (1 in 100)</td><td>1.0%</td><td>&gt;26%</td><td>14.6 million</td><td>10.3%</td></tr><tr><td>Any Risk</td><td>500 Year (1 in 500)</td><td>0.2%</td><td>&gt;0%</td><td>21.8 million</td><td>15.4%</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>According to environmental factors, there will be ~11% increase in flood risk over the next 30 years (to 2050).</p>	First Street Risk Description	Return Period	Annual Probability flooding at least 1cm	Cumulative Probability flooding at least once over 30 years	Properties at risk in 2020 48 U.S. States + D.C.	Percent of all properties	Almost Certain Risk	5 Year (1 in 5)	20.0%	>99%	3.6 million	2.6%	Substantial Risk	100 Year (1 in 100)	1.0%	>26%	14.6 million	10.3%	Any Risk	500 Year (1 in 500)	0.2%	>0%	21.8 million	15.4%	Can subtract 2020 variable from 2050 variable to get percent change in properties at certain risk
First Street Risk Description	Return Period	Annual Probability flooding at least 1cm	Cumulative Probability flooding at least once over 30 years	Properties at risk in 2020 48 U.S. States + D.C.	Percent of all properties																						
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Average Risk Score of Properties	avg_risk_score_all, avg_risk_score_2_10, avg_risk_fsf_2020_100, avg_risk_fsf_2020_500, avg_risk_score_sfha, avg_risk_score_no_sfha	The Flood Factor (FF) is an indicator of a property's practical flood risk from 1 to 10. High flood factors correspond to being more likely to flood and/or more likely to experience high floods. FF is determined by the property's likelihood of flooding and the potential depth of that flood. Flood risks accumulate over time, so FF specifically looks at the likelihood of water reaching the building/center of empty lot at least once within the next 30 years.  Properties with less than 0.2% chance of experiencing any depth of flooding in any	The uncertainty can be measured by count_property																								
Count of Properties with a given Flood Factor	count_floodfactor1,  ....  count_floodfactor10		Divide by count_property																								

		year within the next 30 years have FF of 1 (minimal risk).	
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- Confounders/other covariates

TBD:

Smoking

Air pollution

- Mediators: N/A

- Moderators:

These are variables that will interact with the covariates above. One can stratify on SVI (low/medium/high). Categorical and continuous variable interactions are more interpretable than continuous and continuous variable interactions. Can see <https://jenfb.github.io/bkmr/overview.html> for example model set ups and ggplot visualizations.

CDC Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)

[https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/data\\_documentation\\_download.html](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/data_documentation_download.html) (includes suggested citation). All variables are calculated from the 5-year American Community Survey (2014-2018 for the 2018 SVI version)

There are four themes of social vulnerability: socioeconomic, household composition/disability, minority status/language, housing type/transportation. The EPL\_ variables (see below) are percentile ranks for each of the variables, ordered by county. Higher values of the EPL\_ variables indicate higher social vulnerability.

There are several prefixes that can go before each variable listed in the next table.

Prefix	Meaning
E_	estimate
M_	90% margins of error for the estimates. Can be incorporated in BHM.
EP_	Percentage of ...
MP_	Margin of error for the percentage of...
EPL_	Percentile of the percentage of... (in Excel, calculated as PERCENTRANK.INC on EP_ variable)
SPL_	Sum of the EPL_ variables for the theme, suffixes are THEME1, THEME2, THEME3, THEME4
RPL_	Percentile ranking of SPL_ variable across counties (in Excel, calculated as PERCENTRANK.INC on SPL_ variable)
F_	Binary indicator where 1 means the county is in the top 10% (above 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile) in a certain variable, and 0 means the county is not in the top 10%. Indicates high vulnerability

Aggregated Variable	Meaning
SPL_THEMES	sum of SPL_THEME1 + ... + SPL_THEME4
RPL_THEMES	percentile ranking of SPL_THEMES across county
F_THEME#	Sum of flags for THEME1, ... THEME4
F_TOTAL	Sum of flags for the four themes

SVI Type	Variable Names and Description of Variable from Orig Source	Details from Orig Source	Analytical Treatment
Description of County	TOTPOP (population), HU (# housing units), HH (# households)		These variables will not be directly used in the model. They may be used to process other variables.
Socioeconomic	POV (below poverty) UNEMP (16+ unemployed) PCI (per capita income) NOHSDP (25+ no high school)	E_PCI/EP_PCI and M_PCI/MP_PCI are the same	
Household Composition/Disability	AGE65 ( $\geq 65$ y.o.) AGE17 ( $\leq 17$ y.o.) DISABL (civilian noninstitutionalized w/ disability) SNGPNT (single parent household with $< 18$ y.o. children)		
Minority Status/Language	MINRTY (all except white non-hispanic) LIMENG ( $\geq 5$ y.o. speak English "less than well")		
Housing Type/Transportation	MUNIT (housing in structures w/ $\geq 10$ units) MOBILE (mobile homes) CROWD (household level, more people than rooms) NOVEH (households with no vehicles)		

	GROUPQ (persons in group quarters)		
Other Variables	UNINSUR (those w/o health insurance in the total civilian noninstitutionalized population) E_DAYPOP (estimated daytime population)	UNINSUR has E_, M_, EP_, MP_ versions These variables are excluded from the SVI rankings	

- e. Missingness/ Exclusion criteria: **Missing, censored, or excluded data – both outcome and covariates.**

## 9. Statistical Analysis Plan and Methods:

**Discuss the proposed statistical models – plain English explanation and some equations if applicable**

A Conditional Autoregressive model will be fitted. An adjacency matrix will be calculated, where 1 indicates pairs that are neighbors and 0 indicates pairs with only one county or counties that are not neighbors. The adjacency matrix will be calculated from the County Adjacency File provided by the Census Bureau (<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/library/reference/county-adjacency-file.html>).

- List of expected or potential tables:
- List of expected or potential figures/graphics:

## 10. Anticipated pitfalls/challenges and limitations

- Challenges:
  - *Solution:*
- Limitations:

## 11. Manuscript Timeline

**Goal for manuscript submission and other relevant subgoals (e.g. Methods, Results, Conference abstract).**

## 12. References: