

REBUILD BY DESIGN

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NEW RESEARCH SHOWS THAT EVERY STATE AND 99.5% OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS HAVE EXPERIENCED AT LEAST ONE FEDERALLY-DECLARED MAJOR DISASTER FOR EXTREME WEATHER

All but two House of Representative districts in the U.S. have received federal post-disaster assistance from 2011-2024, affecting constituents across all political affiliations.

February 19, 2025 | As extreme weather continues to impact the United States from coast to coast, including at least 14¹ deaths this past weekend, [Rebuild by Design](#) updates the [Atlas of Accountability](#), a tool designed to help communities and policymakers understand their localized exposure to extreme weather disasters and the benefits of investments in resilient infrastructure that can make communities safer. This update adds 2024 data to its tool.

The analysis finds that from 2011-2024:

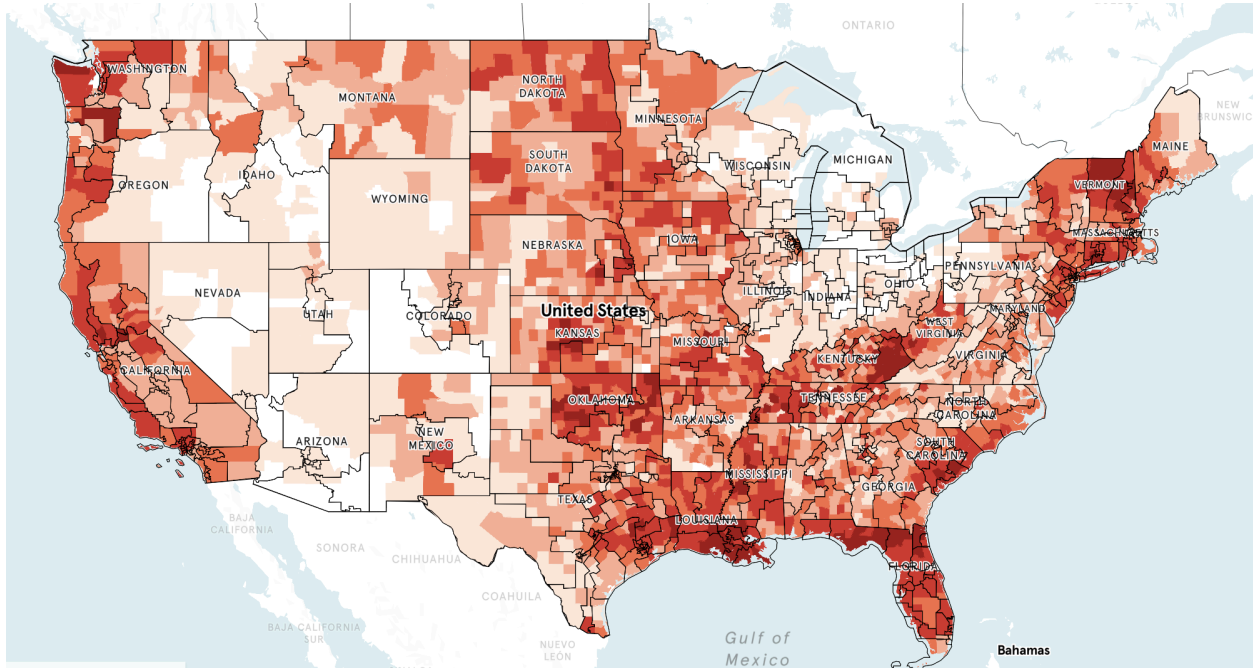
- **95.5%** of U.S. residents live in counties with recent disaster declarations
- **All Senate and 99.5%** of all House of Representative Districts** have had at least one federally-declared major disaster due to an extreme weather event since 2011. Only two Congressional Districts have had zero (OH-09 and OH-13).
- **Washington County, VT** has the highest number of disaster declarations in the nation – 22. **Merrimack, NH** follows at 19, with **Lamoille, VT** next at 17. **Franklin, KY; Johnson, KY; Essex, VT; and Orleans, VT** each have 16, while **Clay, KY; Lawrence, KY; and Lee, KY** follow closely at fifteen.
- **California,* Oklahoma,* Tennessee, Iowa,* Vermont, Alaska, and Mississippi** have over 25 disaster declarations each, with California having the highest at 39.*
- **80% of states** have had more than 10 disaster declarations.
- In **28 states**, every county has had a disaster declaration.
- **22 Congressional Districts** have been struck by **12 or more disasters**. Of these, **77.3%** are represented by Republicans and **22.7%** by Democrats in the House of Representatives.

For more information, check out a fact sheet [here](#).

¹[CBS News](#)

If a journalist would like to be walked through localized state or county data, please email media@rebuildbydesign.org

Image: Disaster Declarations across County and Congressional districts 2011-2024



Such experience across the political spectrum and American geography emphasizes the urgency of bipartisan cooperation across the urban-rural divide. "The data is very clear. Residents in nearly every congressional district have experienced a costly, and likely traumatic, recent disaster due to extreme weather," said **Amy Chester, Director of Rebuild by Design**. "This is a shared challenge and requires a shared response."

Rebuild by Design's [Atlas of Accountability](#) is an interactive map that allows users to identify past federal disaster declarations and recovery funding for extreme weather events county-by-county, and congressional representatives district-by-district. To localize this story, Rebuild will make available to reporters state-level data, which includes two major pools of funding totalling over \$117.9 billion. For each state, research includes:

- Total FEMA Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Assistance allocated for extreme weather events.
- Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Block Grant Disaster Recovery Assistance.
- Per capita post-disaster assistance cost for each state.
- Congressional representative overlay of disaster areas.

Weather-related disasters that have led to federal major disaster declarations include fires, floods, tornadoes, and hurricanes. Though much of the U.S. experiences deadly extreme heat

events, as 2024 was the [hottest year on record](#), heat waves have never initiated a federal disaster declaration.

“This update continues to show that disasters impact everyone. We need to invest in resilience before and after disasters to reduce the disaster impacts on communities and their critical infrastructure,” **said Jeff Stevens, CEM, MEP, Executive Vice President and General Manager at iParametrics.**

This analysis builds on Rebuild by Design's 2022 research, "[Atlas of Disaster](#)," which takes a look at county-level disaster declarations, post disaster federal assistance, social vulnerability, and energy reliability for the years 2011-2021. That effort was developed with the expertise of [APTIM](#) and [iParametrics](#). The report provides an overview of the challenges embedded in current U.S. federal disaster policy and provides a roadmap for states to develop sustainable, state-level resilient infrastructure projects in collaboration with the most physically and socially vulnerable communities. To view the state-by-state data, visit <https://rebuildbydesign.org/atlas-of-disaster/> and scroll to the bottom

Rebuild by Design is housed at the Institute for Public Knowledge at New York University.

* In instances where tribal land is affected, federal disaster declarations may count the same event twice.

**In the quantification of congressional districts, we did not include FEMA state-wide disaster declarations for an extreme weather event, which would have raised the number to 100 percent of congressional districts.