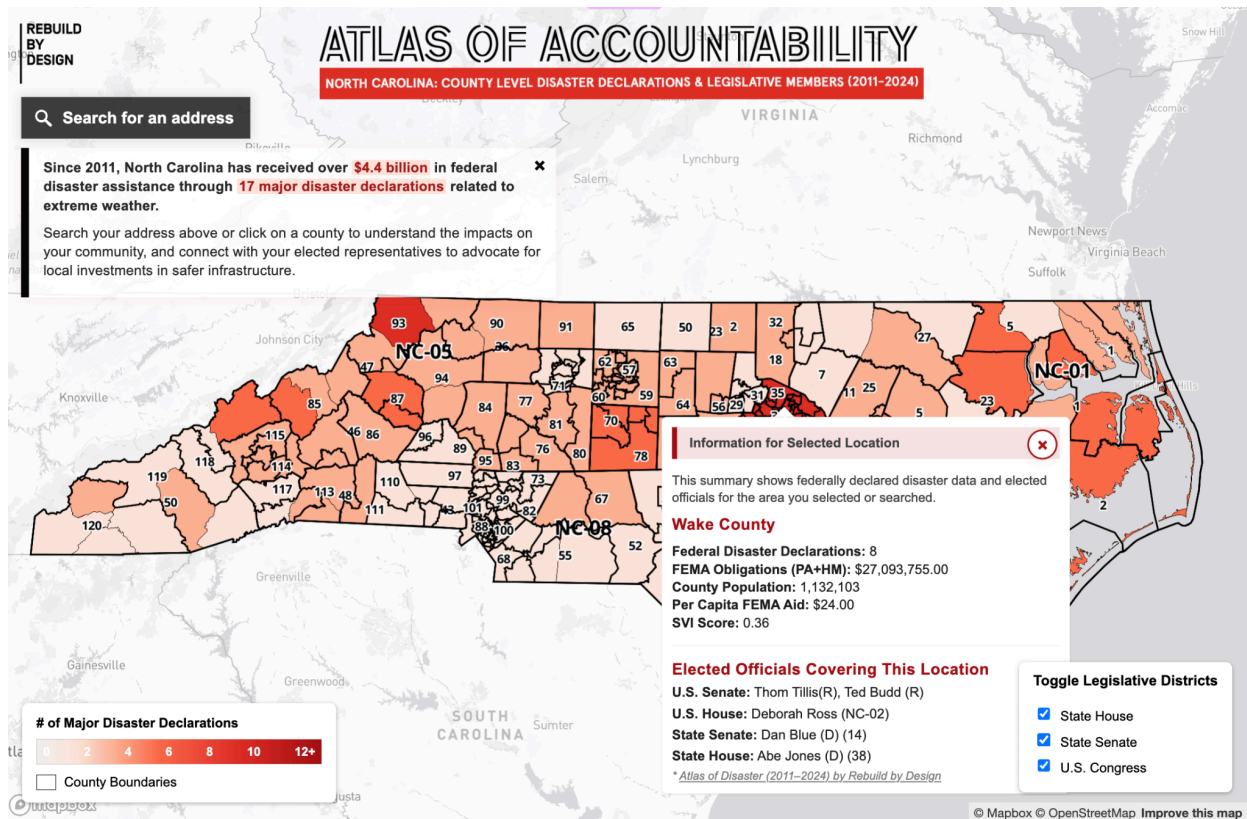


REBUILD BY DESIGN

For more information
Amy Chester, Rebuild by Design: media@rebuildbydesign.org
Institute for Public Knowledge, New York University

NEW REPORT SHOWS NORTH CAROLINA EXPERIENCED 17 MAJOR DISASTERS BETWEEN 2011–2024, CALLS FOR NEW DEDICATED STATE FUNDING SOURCE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES

Recent extreme weather events add to a trend of increasing disasters that touch every corner of the state—costing taxpayers millions.



February 24, 2026 | [Rebuild by Design](#) releases the [Atlas of Disaster: North Carolina](#), a report on North Carolina’s recent history of disasters and opportunities to build storm resilience,

alongside a statewide legislative representative search tool that connects residents to the state and federal officials responsible for advancing resilience across the state.

The analysis finds that North Carolina has experienced **17 federally declared disasters** between 2011 and 2024, costing taxpayers more than **\$4.5 billion dollars**. Wake County recorded the highest number of disaster occurrences (8 disasters), while 32 counties faced five or more events, showing that extreme weather impacts are widespread across the state.

Of these disasters, **flooding was the most common hazard**, occurring in 14 of the 17 events and often accompanied by severe storms, landslides, or mudslides. These events highlight North Carolina's persistent flood and storm risk. Flooding is particularly costly for both residents and government as it increasingly affects critical infrastructure—including schools, hospitals, highways, and utilities—emphasizing the state's vulnerability to climate hazards.

“North Carolina is facing extreme weather not as a rare event, but as a frequent and costly reality that touches communities statewide,” said Amy Chester, Director of Rebuild by Design. “Relying only on emergency responses and post-disaster recovery is both expensive and leaves people and critical services exposed. Investing in durable, long-term resilient infrastructure solutions is essential to help prevent future damage and loss.”

To ensure a livable future, it is crucial that the State of North Carolina secures sustainable, long-term funding for resilient infrastructure that will serve as a catalyst to support innovative, data-driven, and community-led approaches to address flood risk. Rebuild by Design calls for new, long-term funding sources for infrastructure enhancements, such as upgrades to sewer infrastructure, raising roads, helping communities move from high-risk areas, and using the land to create green buffers to reduce risk and premature death from extreme weather events.

The report calls for creating new sources of dedicated, resilient infrastructure funding through a predictable, flexible, and locally deployable funding mechanism to move from reaction to prevention. The report also calls on the State to leverage funds to create better infrastructure that is built to withstand extreme weather events for its lifespan and is designed to address both physical and social vulnerabilities.

If you would like to be briefed on the report, please reach out to media@rebuildbydesign.org.

Rebuild by Design is housed at the Institute for Public Knowledge at NYU and works with communities and local governments to co-design policies, projects, and programs to adapt to the worsening impacts of extreme weather.