

*“It is generally agreed that the government should help disaster victims in times of need, but it is debatable whether the **fiscal responsibility** resides primarily with the federal or the state government.”*

Congressional Research Service 2017



Relocation has happened & is happening. We want to do better.

How is climate-induced relocation different from other types of movement?

Does it matter?

The screenshot shows the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development website. The main navigation bar includes 'About Us', 'What We Do', and a search bar. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with links for 'PIH Home', 'About PIH', 'Public Housing', 'Housing Choice Vouchers', 'Indian Housing', 'Real Estate Assessment Center', and 'More'. The main content area features a large image of a modern brick apartment building at night, identified as 'Jackson Gardens'. Below the image is a red 'LEARN MORE' button. To the right of the image is a 'Contact' section with an email icon and the address 'mtw-info@hud.gov', a 'MTW Agency Contact Info' link with a map icon, and a 'Participating Agencies' section with a map of the United States showing agency locations. Below these are sections for 'General MTW Information' with links to 'Frequently Asked Questions', 'Standard MTW Agreement', 'History of MTW', and 'Research and Evaluation'. At the bottom, there is a 'Moving to Work Demonstration Program' section with a brief description of the program.

Photo: Stu Spivak, CC2.0



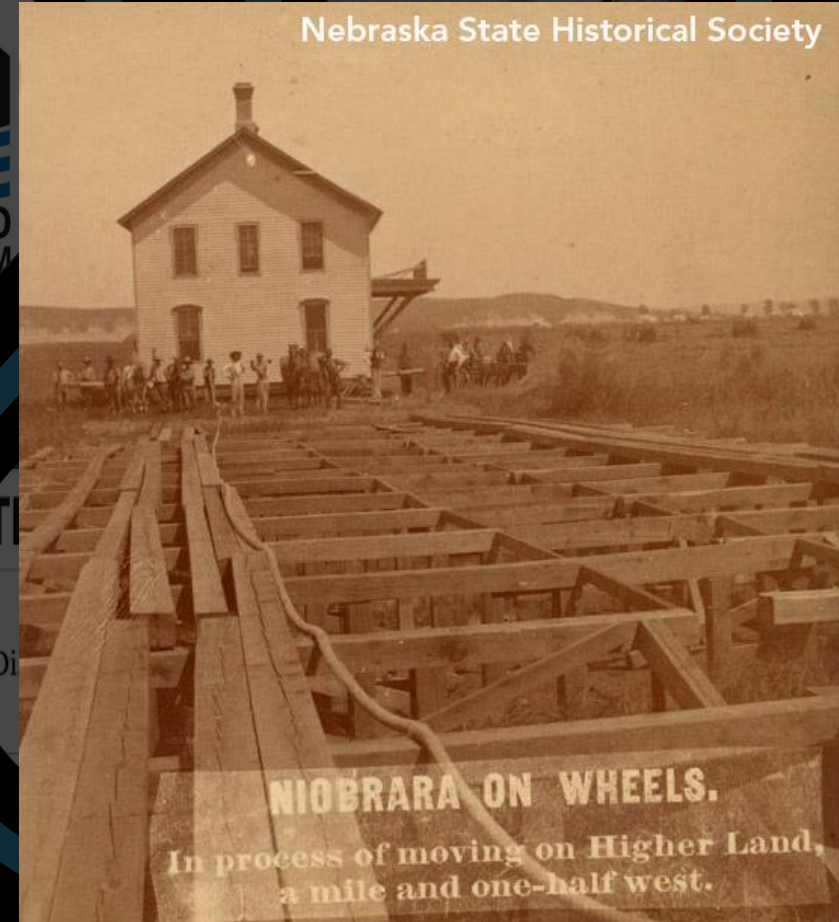
Brighton Beach Hotel
1888 Coney Island
New York

Long Point Cape
Cod 1850s



NATIONAL FLOOD
INSURANCE PROGRAM

Federal Role Minimal/None:
Ignore request to move post office
for 5 months



Niobrara, Nebraska
"The Town Too Tough to Stay Put"
(Nebraska Historical Society)

1700s & 1800s

Primary responsibility local

early 1900s

Responsibility starts to shift
1926 Euclid Zoning (Police Power)
1927 Mississippi River Flood
1928 Flood Control Act



The Stafford Act

Robert T. Stafford
Disaster Relief and Emergency
Assistance Act, as Amended

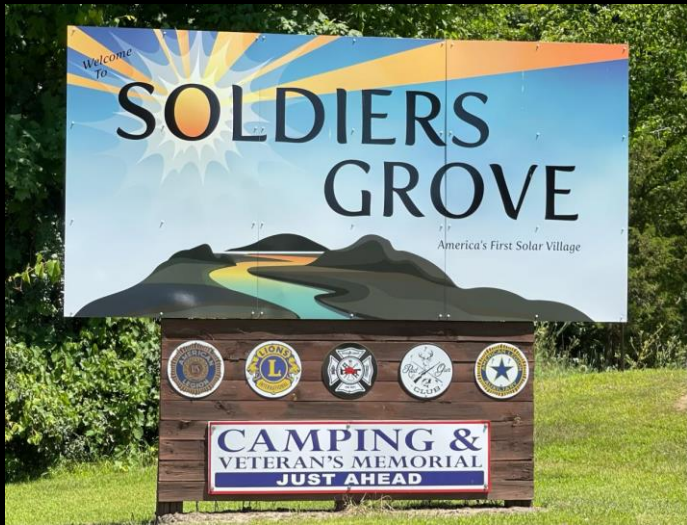


1700s & 1800s

Primary responsibility local
"Acts of God" Laissez-faire

1950s

1950 Disaster Relief Act (public aid)
Highways, Social Security, Housing
1958 Civil Defense 50-50 share



Soldiers Grove WI

1970s
Informal / ad hoc funding
1977-79 Soldiers Grove



Valmeyer IL



Pattonsburg MO – St. Joseph Press Photo

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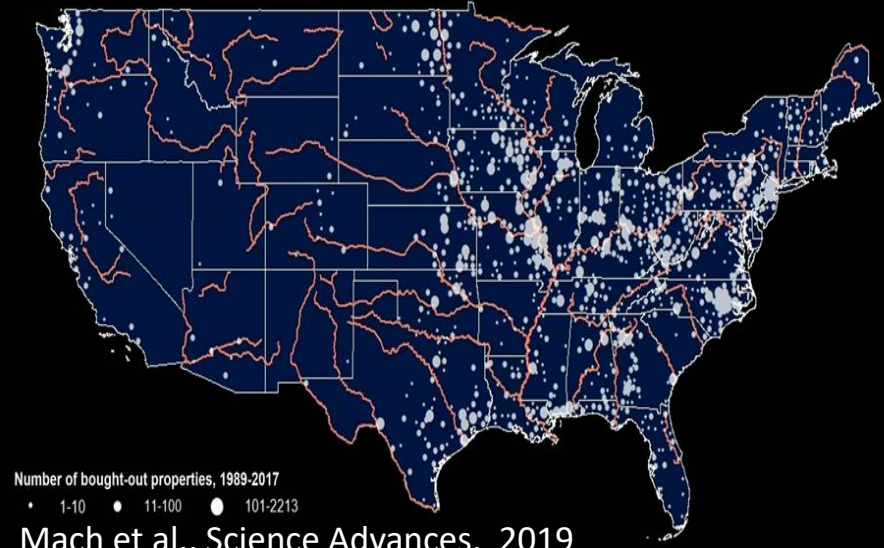
1980s & 90s

1989 FEMA buyout program
1990s Midwest town relocations
Individual property acquisitions (rivers)

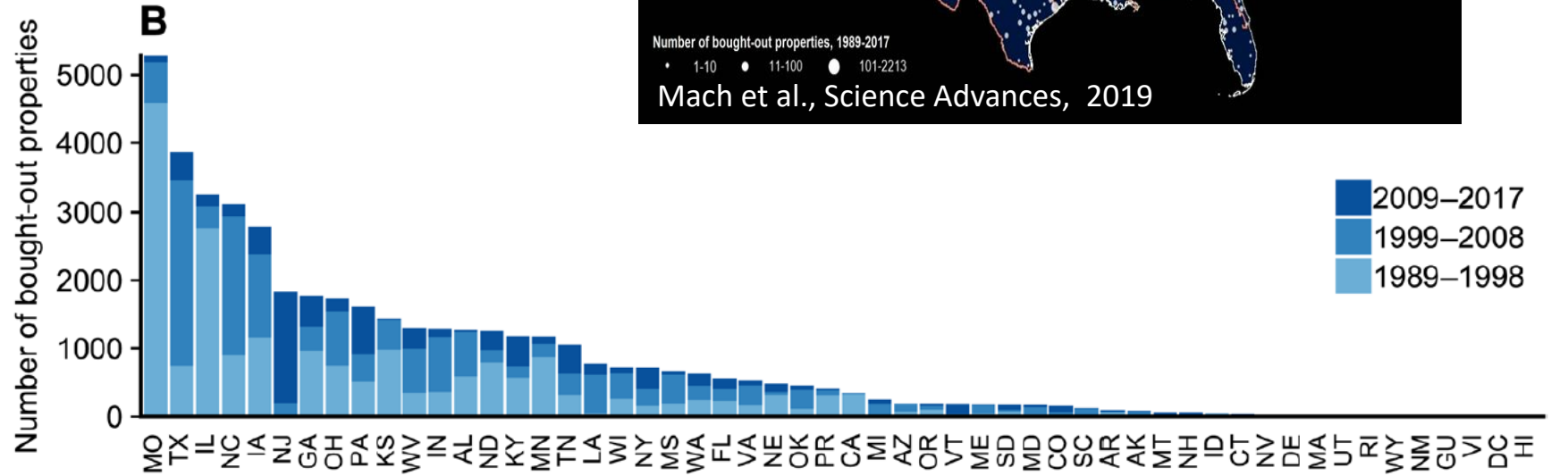


Winslow NE 2019, Photo by NE

FEMA-FUNDED PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS



Number of bought-out properties, 1989-2017
 • 1-10 • 11-100 • 101-2213
 Mach et al., Science Advances, 2019



2000s & '10s

More, smaller buyouts (individual)
 Fewer community relocations (exception: Tribal communities)



Current

Government as barrier
 Solution: more federal control? Or less?



FEMA-funded property acquisitions, Mach et al. 2019

early 1900s

Responsibility starts to shift
 1926 Euclid Zoning (Police Power)
 1927 Mississippi River Flood
 1928 Flood Control Act



1960s & 70s

1968 National Flood Insurance Program
 1979 Federal Emergency Mgmt Agency
 1979 Soldiers Grove



2000s

presidential disaster declarations triples
 Local authority reduced (resist land use control)



Current

Equity
 Debate over more or less federal role



1700s & 1800s

Primary responsibility local
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1980s & 90s

1988 Stafford Disaster Relief & Emergency Assistance Act ("Integrated Em Mgmt")
 1989 FEMA approves funding for buyouts
 1990s Midwest relocations



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Congressional Research Service 2017

Figure 6: National Flood Insurance Program, Cumulative Number of Mitigated and Nonmitigated Repetitive Loss Properties, 2009–2018

Number of repetitive loss properties (in thousands)

250

200

150

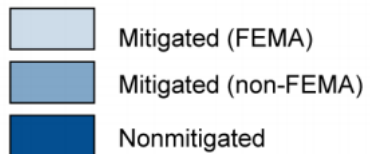
100

50

0

2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018

Year



Source: GAO analysis of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) data. | GAO-20-508

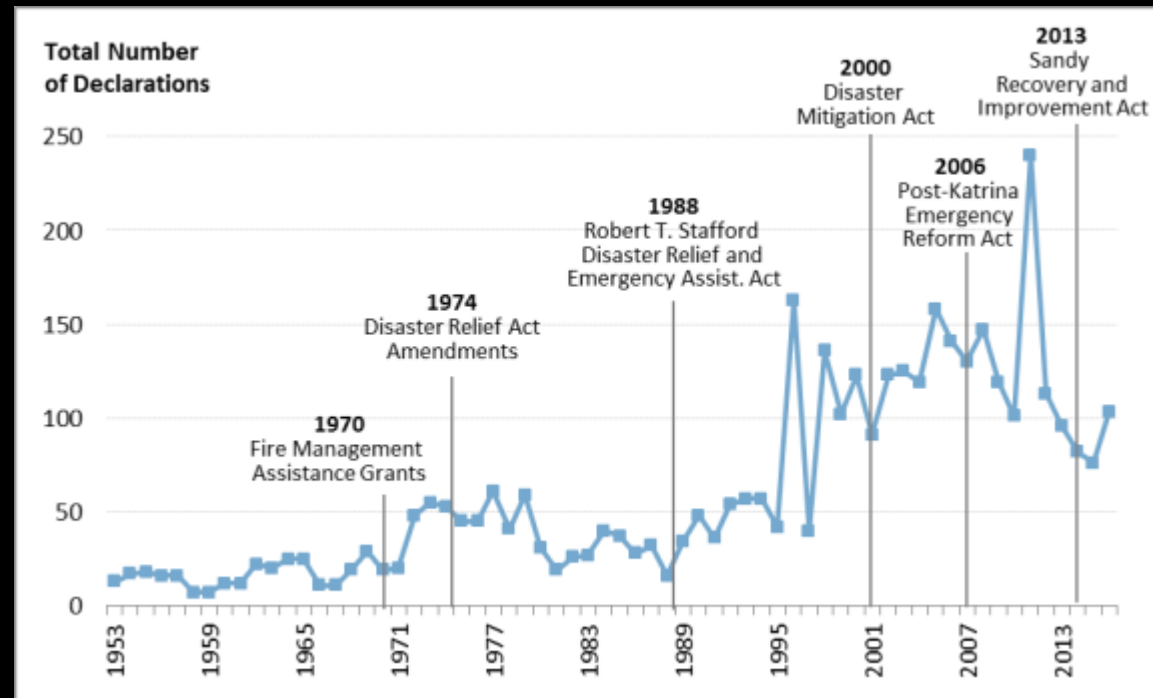
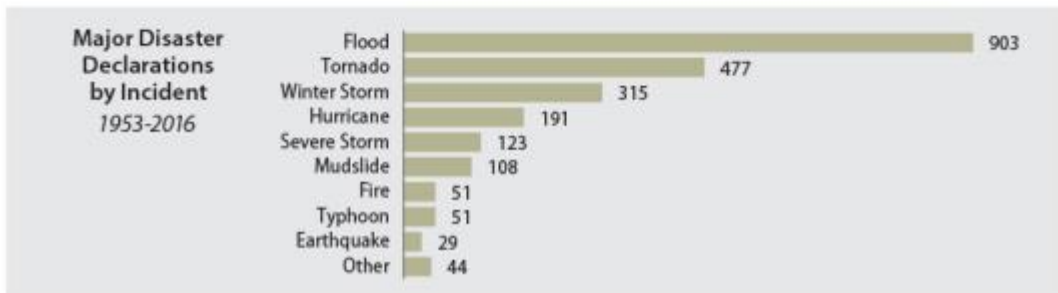
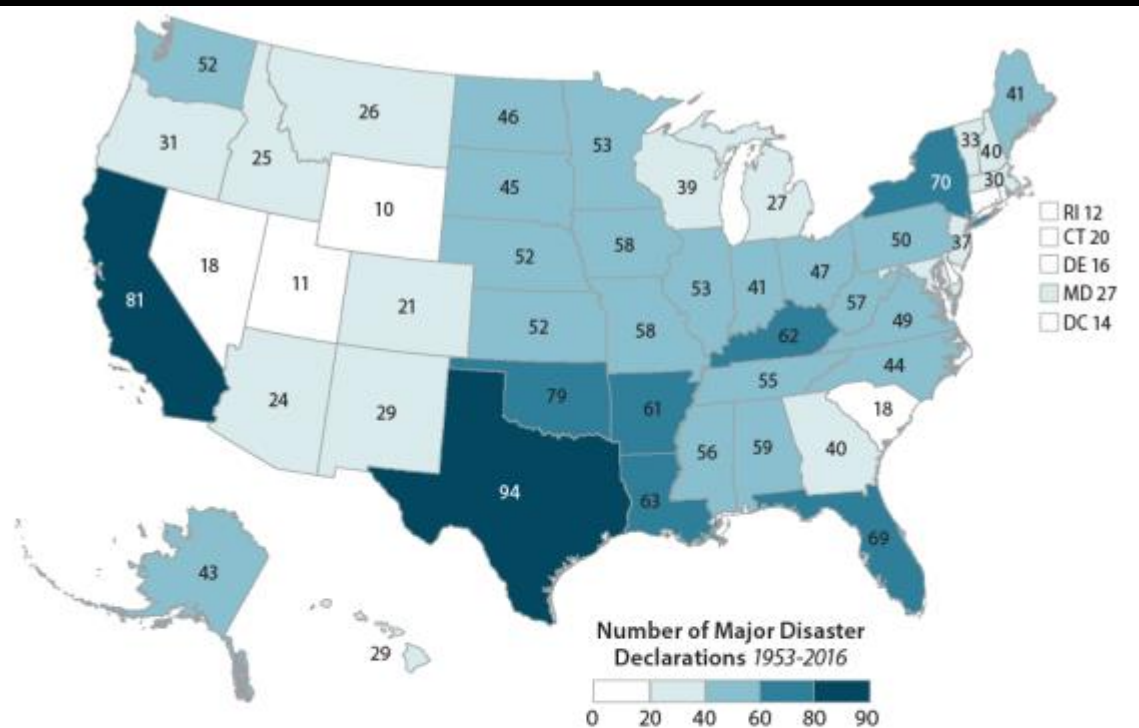
Note: FEMA provided these data as of June each year.

GAO-20-509

~43k households helped

64,101 NEW repetitive loss properties (2009-2018)

Households still at risk



Average 18.6 per year 1960-1969
 Average 57.1 per year 2000-2009

Congressional Reporting System, using FEMA data 2017,
<https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/R42702.html>

INCREASE FEDERAL ROLE

- More federal funding
 - to state & local govts
 - to individuals
- Centralized federal framework to support relocation
 - where? who leads?
- Address wider range of hazards (and climate change)
 - e.g., coastal erosion, drought
- Lack of local & state capacity

DECREASE FEDERAL ROLE

- Increase local & state government responsibility
 - raise federal cost share
 - raise 'disaster' threshold
 - disaster deductible
- Increased role private sector?
- Authority-funding mismatch
 - new development in coastal counties growing
 - lack of flood risk disclosure masks market signals
 - does increased federal responsibility come with authority? Not yet...

THINGS GOVERNMENT DOES*

(Bardach, *Practical Guide to Policy Analysis*)



TAXES



REGULATIONS



RIGHTS









SUBSIDIES & GRANTS









SERVICES



INFORMATION
&
EDUCATION

THINGS GOVERNMENT DOES* <i>(Bardach, Practical Guide to Policy Analysis)</i>	MANAGED RETREAT CONTEXT (not comprehensive by a long shot)
 <p>TAXES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared lessons on alternatives to property tax revenue models for local governments Town mergers
 <p>REGULATIONS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebuilding restrictions Armoring restrictions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal infrastructure siting • Cost-benefit requirements & calculations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental justice requirements • Wetlands & open space protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model ordinances
 <p>RIGHTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support govs in takings litigations (e.g., amicus briefs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing the waters on 'givings' • Test limits (existence) of federal public trust doctrine
 <p>SUBSIDIES & GRANTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster recovery aid (thresholds & requirements) • Requirements for state & local disaster recovery aid (carrots) • Disaster mitigation support (need more continuous sources of funding not tied to disasters) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building funding (continuous)
 <p>SERVICES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidized housing (stop building in floodplains) • Dams & flood control (purchase all reservoir land to prevent building) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NFIP reform Community Rating System ambition increase
 <p>INFORMATION & EDUCATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prospective floodplain maps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood risk communication • Flood risk disclosures real estate & rental transactions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical assistance (BUILD YOUR OWN CAPACITY!) • Communities of practice Shared lessons learned Evaluation

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WAG WILD AMBITIOUS GOAL

what would wildly ambitious adaptation / hazard mitigation look like?

