

## Hurricane

Since 2006, the Metropolitan Center has been receiving recurring funding from the Florida Legislature to conduct social science research on hurricane mitigation. The social science research complements the funding that other scientists receive in the International Hurricane Research Center to study the science of hurricanes, including storm surge prediction, hurricane losses and storm hardening strategies.

The focus of our research has been on Florida's coastal counties. Most Florida counties (61 of 67) are considered coastal by the Strategic Environmental Assessments Division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and over 20 million Floridians resident in them. Nationally, there are 672 coastal counties including the District of Columbia in the U.S. (285 in the Atlantic, 142 in the Gulf of Mexico, 87 in the Pacific, and 158 in the Great Lakes).

The research has specifically focused on the most densely populated counties in which the majority of Florida's population is concentrated -Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Duval, St. Johns.

Our research topics over the years have included the insurance market, risk reduction, evacuations, government measures for the mitigation of loss, critical infrastructure location and protection, sea level rise effects etc. The research includes an assessment of trends in Florida resident perceptions through the annual hurricane poll and the study of business preparedness and continuity planning through a survey of businesses every three years. Since 2006, the annual baseline poll has expanded to include questions on sea level rise, expectations from government, homeowners insurance and measures to mitigate the effect of hurricanes. The poll is conducted in the beginning of hurricane season, with data collection in the first two weeks of June.

The 2017 research scope included the following topics: Florida Building Code and Insurance Policies ; The Community Rating System; Flood Insurance Rate Maps; Vulnerable Populations in South Florida; Mitigation in the Local Government Comprehensive Planning process; The Florida Resident Perspective; and Best Practices in planning and preparedness. The report with the research on the above sections was produced in September 2017.

