# Impacts of increasing flood losses on mortgage credit risk in the United States

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In 30% of counties, damages to residential structures from a 100-year flood event are expected to exceed \$100 million



By 2050 under RCP 4.5, damages from a 100-year flood event are expected to increase by over 10% in 17% of counties



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- Delinquencies and defaults can also create liquidity risks and potential losses for lenders, investors, and the federal government
- Mortgage lenders are beginning to show signs of insulating themselves from credit risk associated with exposure to climate-related hazards
- However, the potential magnitude and distribution of mortgage delinquencies and defaults associated with extreme events remains uncertain

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3) How will increasing flood hazards under future climate change affect the magnitude and distribution of mortgage credit risk?

4) How can tightening lending standards, investments in flood risk reduction, and increased insurance uptake mitigate risk of mortgage defaults associated with flooding?

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- Broad sample of flood events affecting ~640,000 loans across Gulf and Atlantic coast states
  - > Reduces uncertainty & allows generalization across regions and events
- Exploration of heterogeneity in treatment effects
  - > Improves understanding of distribution of credit risk among borrowers
- Projecting mortgage default associated with 100 and 500-year flood events in the present and under future climate change
  - > Allows for exploration of alternative scenarios to mitigate risk

# **Key datasets**

# Loan-level origination & performance data (FRY-14M)

- Loan origination and performance data available on a monthly timestep
- Federal Reserve began collecting data from 29 large US banks in June 2012
- Location of properties identified at address-level
- Borrower and loan characteristics similar to broader samples of loans <u>(link)</u>

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### Modeled inundation from historical flood events (First Street)

- Estimates flood depth from historical events for individual properties
- Location of properties identified at address-level
- Includes information on properties' foundation height
- Modeled flood depths are well validated against observed flood extents <u>(link)</u>

**Treated units (N = 643k)** 

Loans for 1-4 unit residential properties that have been impacted by flooding during major hurricanes between 2016 and 2018

### **Control units (N = 5.2 million)**

Loans for residential properties that have <u>not</u> been impacted by flooding during major hurricanes between 2016 and 2018, but are located in the same set of states as impacted loans

# Distributions of treated units



$$Y_{it} = \sum_{k=-12}^{k=36} \beta_k Flood_{it}^k + \lambda_i + \gamma_t + \epsilon_{it}$$

#### Where:

 $Y_{it}$  is a binary variable equal to 1 if loan *i* is 90+ days delinquent or in foreclosure at time *t* 

 $\beta_k$  is the estimated ATT k months relative to the flood event

 $Flood_{it}^k$  is a binary variable equal to 1 if loan *i* was impacted by flooding *k* months relative to time *t* 

 $\lambda_i$  are loan-level fixed effects

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 $Y_{it} = \lambda_i + \gamma_t + \epsilon_{it}$ 

<u>Stage 2</u>: Regress adjusted outcomes on treatment dummy variables k=36

$$Y_{it} - \widehat{\lambda}_i - \widehat{\gamma}_t = \sum_{k=-12}^{k-30} \beta_k Flood_{it}^k + \epsilon_{it}$$

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### Dynamic treatment effects



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# Dynamic treatment effects



# Heterogenous treatment effects – Flood depth

ATT increases by ~1.5pp for observations with above-median inundation depth at FFE compared to observations where depth is below FFE



where we fail to reject the null hypothesis that  $\beta = \beta'$ 

# Heterogenous treatment effects – FICO & DTI

Borrowers with lower credit scores are more likely to become delinquent following flood events



<sup>\*</sup> Coefficients with the same letter indicate pairwise comparisons where we fail to reject the null hypothesis that  $\beta = \beta'$ 

Borrowers with lower credit scores are more likely to become delinquent following flood events Similar yet smaller differences as DTI ratios increase



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## Heterogenous treatment effects – Flood depth & FICO



# Heterogenous treatment effects – NFIP uptake



\* For named storm-events, the average time from loss until claim payment is 93 days.

<sup>\*</sup> Coefficients with the same letter indicate pairwise comparisons where we fail to reject the null hypothesis that  $\beta = \beta$ '

# Projecting impacts of 100 and 500-year events



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# Projecting impacts of 100-year flood events

Extrapolating estimated effects reveals hotspots of credit risk associated with flooding in Appalachia and Gulf and Atlantic coastal regions



# Projecting impacts of more severe flood events



# Projecting impacts of alternative scenarios

Reducing flood depths to below FFE decreases delinquencies by a median of 32% across counties



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![](_page_36_Figure_2.jpeg)

Restricting lending to borrowers in highest FICO quartile decreases delinquencies by a median of 84% across counties

![](_page_36_Figure_4.jpeg)

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- Extrapolating estimated effects reveals credit risk hot spots in the Gulf and Atlantic coasts and Appalachia
- Rates of delinquency are expected to increase under more extreme events and from future climate change
- Mitigating flood risk and tightening lending standards may reduce delinquencies caused by flood event

> Merge FRY-14M with HMDA data to access borrower race and income

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> Add in hurricane windspeeds from HURDAT2 as treatment variable

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### > Add in hurricane windspeeds from HURDAT2 as treatment variable

> Include observations from non-hurricane flood events to sample

### Please reach out with comments or questions!

### Email: jgourevitch@edf.org

![](_page_46_Picture_3.jpeg)

### **Extra Slides**

## Comparing FRY-14M and McDash loan characteristics

![](_page_48_Figure_1.jpeg)

# Validation of modeled historical flood events

Site Name	(a) Fathom hindcast model (b) NWC hindcast mode							odel
	HR	FAR	CSI	EB	HR	FAR	CSI	EB
Tres Palacios River	0.89	0.41	0.55	5.59	0.67	0.43	0.45	1.54
Upper Brazos River	0.89	0.18	0.74	1.68	0.52	0.19	0.46	0.26
Lower Brazos River	0.93	0.04	0.90	0.61	0.50	0.05	0.48	0.06
Cow Bayou	0.77	0.11	0.70	0.42	0.51	0.12	0.47	0.14
Big Cow Creek	0.65	0.16	0.57	0.35	0.54	0.19	0.48	0.27
East Matagorda Bay	0.76	0.15	0.67	0.55	0.33	0.25	0.30	0.17
Matagorda Bay	0.79	0.37	0.54	2.19	0.58	0.21	0.50	0.37
Upper San Bernard River	0.55	0.15	0.50	0.21	0.13	0.05	0.13	0.01
Middle San Bernard River	0.79	0.04	0.76	0.16	0.34	0.04	0.34	0.02
Lower San Bernard River	0.95	0.25	0.72	6.01	0.75	0.27	0.58	1.10
San Jacinto River	0.76	0.35	0.54	1.74	0.45	0.25	0.39	0.28
Lower Neches River	0.79	0.07	0.74	0.29	0.37	0.07	0.36	0.05
Upper Neches River	0.70	0.02	0.69	0.06	0.36	0.03	0.36	0.02
Pine Island Bayou	0.67	0.04	0.65	0.08	0.44	0.07	0.43	0.06
MEAN	0.78	0.17	0.66	1.42	0.46	0.16	0.41	0.31
(c)								
HR: 0 0.1	0.2 0	.3 0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9 1	
FAR: 1 0.9	0.8 0	.7 0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1 0	
CSI: 0 0.1	0.2 0	.3 0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9 1	
EB: $\begin{array}{c} \infty & 100 \\ 0 & 0.01 \end{array}$	50 2 0.02 0.	0 10 05 0.1	5 0.2	2.5 0.4	2 0.5	1.5 0.66	1.25 1 0.8 1	

Wing, et al. (2019) "A flood inundation forecast of Hurricane Harvey using a continental-scale 2D hydrodynamic model." *Journal of Hydrology X* 4: 100039.

	Bias (m)			Error (m)			Critical success index			
Flood Event Location	<u>0.8*Q</u>	<u>1.0*Q</u>	<u>1.2*Q</u>	<u>0.8*Q</u>	<u>1.0*Q</u>	<u>1.2*Q</u>	<u>0.8*Q</u>	<u>1.0*Q</u>	<u>1.2*Q</u>	
Eastern Iowa	-0.87	-0.55	-0.17	1.31	1.13	0.96	0.9	0.92	0.94	
Central Iowa	-0.61	-0.39	-0.10	0.71	0.53	0.39	0.84	0.88	0.91	
Eastern Missouri	-4.27	-3.75	-2.95	4.27	3.75	2.95	0.59	0.7	0.82	
Southern Indiana	-0.65	-0.42	-0.08	0.65	0.45	0.31	0.78	0.82	0.86	
Eastern Nebraska	-1.53	-1.11	-0.70	1.53	1.12	0.74	0.73	0.8	0.85	
Central South Carolina	0.89	1.44	2.07	1.5	1.84	2.35	0.85	0.86	0.87	
Northen Pennsylvania	-1.31	-0.94	-0.60	1.96	1.85	1.85	0.81	0.82	0.83	
Texas / Louisiana border	-1.28	-0.93	-0.59	1.28	0.97	0.66	0.81	0.85	0.88	
New England	0.29	1.05	1.58	1.08	1.22	1.7	0.59	0.88	0.85	

Wing, et al. (2021) "Simulating historical flood events at the continental scale: observational validation of a large-scale hydrodynamic model." *Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences* 21.2: 559-575.

(link back)

### Estimates using modeled & observed flood depths for Harvey

![](_page_50_Figure_1.jpeg)

### GSE loss given default summary stats (Goodman & Zhu 2015)

			Paths with	Paths with an Eventual Loss								
									Already Liquidated			
Year	LTV	Current w/o	Modified, Current	Prepay w/o Modification	Prepay After Modification	Total	Modified, Not Current	In Pipeline w/o Modification	REO	Foreclosure Alternatives	Total	Total
1999–2004	≤60	6	9	26	3	43	6	19	18	14	32	57
	60-80	4	9	12	2	28	6	15	36	15	51	72
	>80	3	7	9	2	22	6	11	49	12	62	78
	Total	4	8	12	2	26	6	13	41	14	55	74
2005	≤60	5	15	12	2	35	9	21	17	18	36	65
	60-80	3	13	3	1	20	8	17	30	25	56	80
	>80	3	9	2	1	15	7	16	43	19	61	85
	Total	3	12	4	1	20	8	17	32	23	55	80
2006	≤60	5	18	9	1	34	9	21	18	18	36	66
	60-80	3	13	2	1	19	8	16	30	27	57	81
	> 80	2	10	2	1	15	8	15	43	19	62	85
	Total	3	13	3	1	19	8	16	32	24	56	81
2007	≤60	5	17	11	1	34	9	24	18	15	33	66
	60-80	3	14	2	1	21	8	17	29	25	54	79
	$>\!\!80$	3	12	1	1	16	9	16	38	20	59	84
	Total	3	14	3	1	20	9	17	31	23	54	80
2008	≤60	6	15	14	2	37	11	27	13	11	24	63
	60-80	4	16	3	1	24	9	20	25	22	47	76
	> 80	3	14	2	1	19	9	18	33	21	54	81
	Total	4	15	4	1	24	9	20	26	21	47	76
009–2010	≤60	8	5	20	1	33	6	43	10	8	18	67
	60-80	5	8	6	0	19	8	36	21	17	38	81
	>80	3	7	2	0	12	6	30	27	25	52	88
	Total	5	7	7	0	20	7	36	20	17	37	80
2011-2013	≤60	13	2	16	0	31	4	60	0	5	5	69
	60-80	5	5	8	0	18	8	59	8	7	15	82
	>80	3	4	5	0	12	8	53	13	14	27	88
	Total	6	4	8	0	18	7	58	8	8	16	82
otal	≤60	6	14	15	2	37	8	23	17	15	32	63
	60-80	3	12	6	1	23	8	17	31	22	53	77
	>80	3	9	5	1	19	7	14	44	16	60	81
	Total	3	11	6	1	22	7	16	34	20	54	78

#### Loss severity given liquidation (severity = % unpaid balance lost)

Year	FICO	LTV ≤60	LTV 60-80	LTV >80	Total
1999–2004	$\leq 700$	26.0	38.9	21.1	29.3
	700-750	21.9	36.5	24.0	31.0
	>750	23.7	36.5	27.1	32.8
	Total	24.5	38.0	22.1	30.0
2005	≤700	36.7	49.1	33.5	44.2
	700-750	33.6	47.1	34.9	43.9
	>750	32.8	45.8	35.6	43.2
	Total	35.0	47.9	34.1	44.0
2006	≤700	44.7	54.8	36.2	49.1
	700-750	41.1	52.3	39.2	49.5
	>750	38.2	50.0	37.3	47.5
	Total	42.5	53.0	37.0	48.9
2007	$\leq 700$	49.1	55.9	38.2	48.4
	700-750	42.6	52.3	38.3	47.8
	>750	39.3	48.9	36.1	45.2
	Total	45.3	53.3	37.9	47.6
2008	≤700	41.7	53.6	36.7	46.2
	700-750	35.9	48.8	33.4	42.6
	>750	29.8	45.0	30.7	39.3
	Total	37.5	49.8	34.3	43.3
2009–2010	≤700	27.7	41.9	22.1	37.3
	700-750	25.9	36.8	18.2	32.0
	>750	22.6	33.4	18.0	29.3
	Total	25.7	36.7	18.8	32.1
2011-2013	≤700	0.0	28.4	9.3	21.0
	700-750	12.4	30.3	11.5	19.1
	>750	0.0	25.2	11.6	18.3
	Total	9.9	27.7	11.1	19.2
Total		37.1	48.3	31.0	42.0