No Denying It: We Need Data

Dale H. Easley, Taiana Butler, Lyndy Holdt, and Sam Zebarth

University of Dubuque



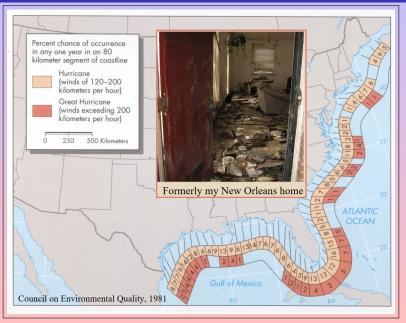
"Hurricane Katrina was, in fact, the judgment of God against the city of New Orleans."

"New Orleans had a level of sin that was offensive to God," Pastor John Hagee said, because "there was to be a homosexual parade there on the Monday that the Katrina came."

The facts:

- Both seminaries in New Orleans were destroyed
- Approximately 900 churches, synagogues or mosques were destroyed
- Nearly 85 percent of those killed were older than 51, 60 percent older than 65 and almost half were older than 75.

We could have been prepared.



People got hurt

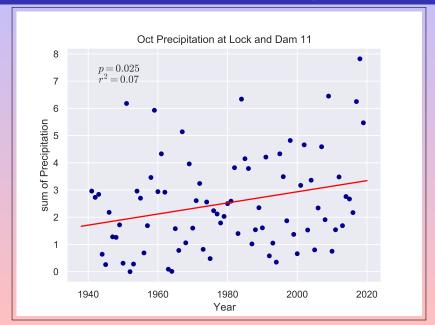


When the Levees Broke

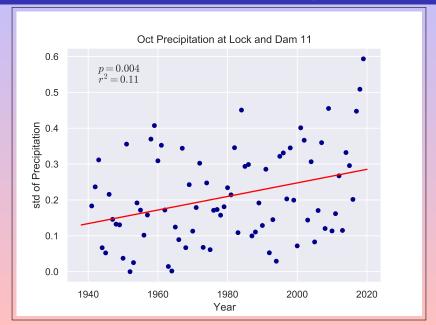
What local weather patterns do we see?



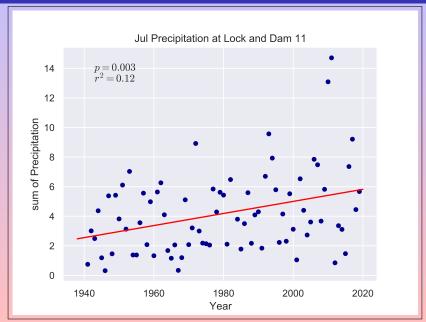
1. October is wetter and less predictable



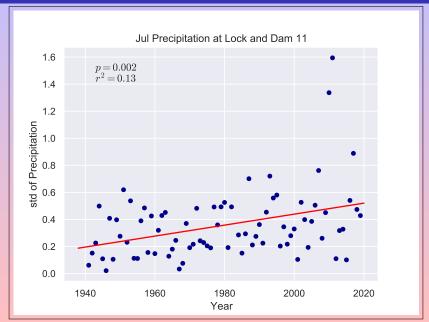
1. October is wetter and less predictable



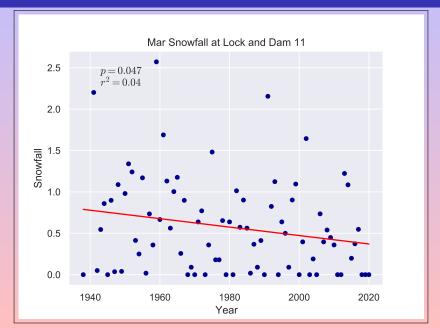
2. July is wetter and less predictable



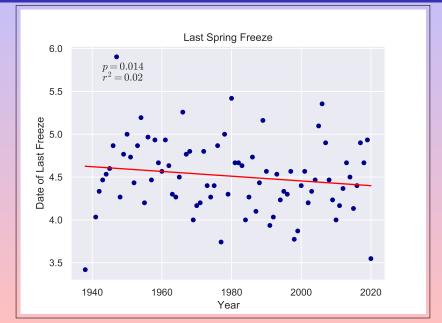
2. July is wetter and less predictable



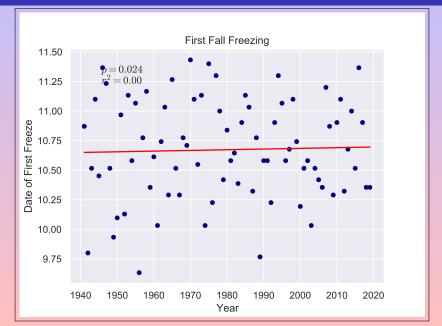
3. March snow has decreased



4. The last freeze of spring is earlier



5. The first freeze of fall is later



Which do you support most?

- a. reduce alcohol-related auto accidents
- b. reduce suicides



Do these data influence you?

Suicide Facts & Figures:

lowa 2019*





On average, one person dies by suicide every 18 hours in the state.

More than five times as many people died by suicide in Iowa in 2017 than in alcohol related motor vehicle accidents.

The total deaths to suicide reflect a total of 10,127 years of potential life lost (YPLL) before age 65.



Suicide cost lowa a total of \$441,111,000 combined lifetime medical and work loss cost in 2010, or an average of \$1,185,783 per suicide death.

*Based on most recent 2017 data from CDC. Learn more at afsp.org/statistics.



leading cause of death in Iowa

2nd leading cause of death for ages 15-34

4th leading

cause of death for ages 35-54

8th leading

cause of death for ages 55-64

17th leading

cause of death for ages 65 & older

Suicide Death Rates

	Number of Deaths by Suicide	Rate per 100,000 Population	State Rank
Iowa	479	15.13	29
Nationally	47,173	14.00	

Farmer suicide

lowa's suicide rate increased more than 35 percent in 17

CDC: 'Farm stress,' suicides a rising rural health concern by George Jared (glared@talkbusiness.net) O May 14, 2019 4:17 pm @ 8,112.vlews |

I Work With Suicidal Farmers. It's Becoming Too Much to Bear.

Mike Rosmann left seminary to become a clinical psychologist for farmers. Now, as historic flooding ravages the Midwest, he's never been more overwhelmed.

MIKE ROSMANN as told to EMILY ATKIN | April 22, 2019



Why are America's farmers killing themselves?

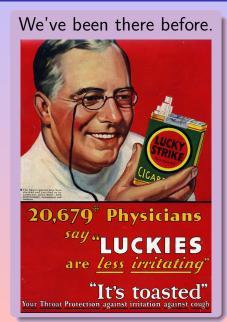
. 2018

The suicide rate for farmers is more than double that of veterans. A former farmer gives an insider's perspective on farm life and how to help

 I wrote about farmers' suicides - and the reaction has been overwhelming by Debbie Weingarten

The connection to climate change?

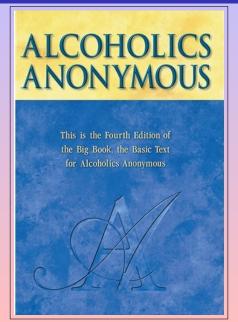
- Ignoring the data
- Dealing with uncertainty
- In denial



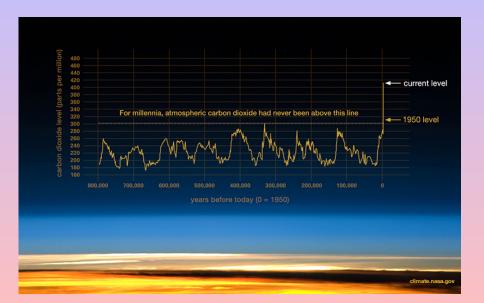
Dealing with despair



Taking the first step: Admitting problems



Step four: A fearless moral inventory



We've had some successes

- Acid rain
- CFCs and ozone
- Mental health support for farmers

Baldwin, Ernst introduce bill to prevent farmer suicides

Source: WBAY

Apr 19 2018

WASHINGTON (WBAY) - A new, bipartisan bill was introduced in the U.S. Senate aimed at preventing farmer suicides.

Wall Street Journal

Ozone Hole Above Antarctica Shrinks to Smallest Size on Record