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## ISSUES ▼ SEND A TIP FROM 'ALARMING' US CLIMATE REPORT

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Michael Bastasch | Energy Editor 2:20 PM 11/26/2018 | ENERGY



1935

- Hurricanes aren't hitting the

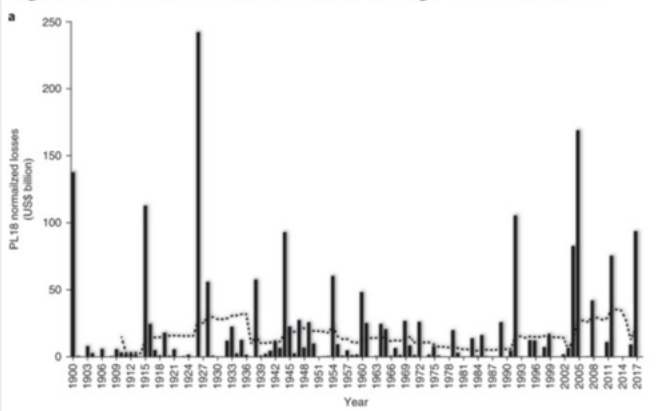
U.S. more often, nor are they causing more normalized damages, a new study found.

- The study presents inconvenient data to those looking to sound the alarm on global warming.
- The newest National Climate Assessment was heavily criticized for omitting such inconvenient hurricane data.

There's been "no trend" in the number and intensity of hurricanes hitting the continental U.S. and the normalized damages caused by such storms over the past 117 years, according to a new study.

"Consistent with observed trends in the frequency and intensity of hurricane landfalls along the continental United States since 1900, the updated normalized loss estimates also show no trend," reads the [study](#), published in Monday in the journal Nature.

Fig. 1: Normalized CONUS hurricane damage from 1900 to 2017



## TRENDING

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Mother In Viral Photo Trying To Avoid Tear Gas Says She Needs A Job



**Roger Pielke Jr.**

@RogerPielkeJr

Replying to @RogerPielkeJr

Weinkle et al. 2018 applies two methods. Here are the bottom-line results for one method (results not sensitive to choice of method).

Graph shows under the accounting methods of NHC/NOAA used consistently over many decades, estimated damage from past hurricane seasons in 2018.

4 11:13 AM - Nov 26, 2018

[See Roger Pielke Jr.'s other Tweets](#)

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The study also found no trend in the number and strength of hurricanes hitting the U.S. over the last 117 years. That finding is consistent with past research by study co-authors University of Colorado professor Roger Pielke Jr. and Colorado State University meteorologist Philip Klotzbach.

“Over the entire dataset there is no significant trend in normalized losses, CONUS hurricane landfalls or CONUS intense hurricane landfalls,” reads the study. CONUS stands for “continental United States.”

While the nominal costs of hurricanes have increased in recent decades, that’s not because of global warming. Population growth and increased amounts of homes and infrastructure in hurricane-prone areas are driving costs up, the study found.


But the upward trend in nominal disaster costs disappears when economic growth is taken into

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account, the study found. In fact, had the 1926 Miami hurricane hit in 2018, it would have been the most damaging on record.



**Roger Pielke Jr.**  
@RogerPielkeJr

Top 10 US hurricanes if hit in 2018

- 1-1926 Miami \$235.9B
- 2-1900 Galveston \$138.6
- 3-2005 Katrina \$116.9
- 4-1915 Galveston \$109.8
- 5-1992 Andrew \$106.0
- 6-2012 Sandy \$73.5
- 7-1944 Florida \$73.5
- 8-2017 Harvey \$62.2
- 9-1938 New England \$57.8
- 10-1928 Florida \$54.4

[nature.com/articles/s4189...](https://www.nature.com/articles/s4189...)

128 1:29 PM - Nov 26, 2018

**Normalized hurricane dama...**  
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nature.com

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When controlled for economic growth, the study found “no trend” in normalized losses from hurricanes hitting the lower 48 states. The study analyzed data from 206 hurricane landfalls going back 117 years to 1900.

It’s the third in a series of papers looking at normalized hurricane damages. The new study includes economic losses from 2017’s devastating Atlantic hurricane

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season and adds in damage estimates from “missing” storms before 1940.

Pielke and Klotzbach also published a study in July that found **no significant trend** in the frequency or intensity of U.S. hurricane landfalls and that increased storm damages were driven by the “[g]rowth in coastal population and regional wealth.”

If anything, the July study showed a declining trend in U.S. hurricane landfalls — though not a statistically insignificant one. Klotzbach and Pielke’s newest paper, once again, shows that population and economic growth are behind increases in nominal hurricane costs.

Work by Klotzbach and Pielke on hurricane landfalls was largely ignored by authors of the U.S. government’s latest National Climate Assessment (NCA) report, which was released Friday. In fact, the NCA seems to suggest the opposite of what observational data shows.

In review comments, Canadian economist Ross McKittrick criticized NCA authors for leaving out data showing hurricane landfalls weren’t becoming more frequent.

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McKittrick said national hurricane data going back more than a century “clearly indicate a drop in the decadal rate of U.S. landfalling hurricanes since the 1960s. The current decade is on the low end of hurricane frequency even with last summer’s busy season.”

“Yet you don’t mention this, instead you spin the topic to make it sound like the trends are all towards more cyclone activity. This paragraph is one-sided and misleading,” McKittrick wrote in his comments.

NCA authors disagreed with McKittrick’s criticism, arguing its choice to ignore hurricane landfall data was justified because they used “the entire dataset, which includes all basin-wide storms.”

Pielke also criticized NCA authors for omitting inconvenient hurricane data.



**Roger Pielke Jr.**

@RogerPielkeJr

Replying to @RogerPielkeJr

Let's observe here hurricanes are discussed at length in the report, and every hurricane that is discussed is ... a landfalling storm. The failure to include trend data on US landfalling hurricanes in USNCA is a remarkable choice. What were they thinking, no one would notice?

43 11:00 AM - Nov 24, 2018

24 people are talking about this



**Roger Pielke Jr.**

@RogerPielkeJr

Replying to @RogerPielkeJr

Here are 2 papers on US hurricanes ignored by USNCA:

1. trends in rainfall & flooding from US hurricanes:[sciencedirect.com/science/articl](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article)

...

2. trends in US landfalling, intense hurricanes:[journals.ametsoc.org/doi/10.1175/BA...](https://journals.ametsoc.org/doi/10.1175/BA...)

Neither show long-term trends, but that isn't a reason to ignore them

30 11:07 AM - Nov 24, 2018

15 people are talking about this

The NCA was produced with input from hundreds of scientists, including experts from 13 federal agencies. However, the report has come under fire for **misusing climate projections** to generate alarming media headlines.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, an Independent, **called** the report “very alarming” and used it as an opportunity to attack the Trump administration.

Trump administration officials, on the other hand, **criticized** the NCA for its heavy reliance on extreme scenarios of global warming that experts are increasingly regarding as flawed and highly unlikely to occur.



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**TAGS : ENERGY, NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENT,**

**PHILIP KLOTZBACH, ROGER PIELKE JR**

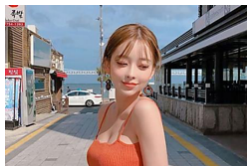
      
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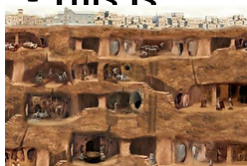
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