



NORTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY

**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

OFFICE OF RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY

# Climate Change Resilience: North Carolina's Story

Dr. Amanda Martin  
Chief Resilience Officer  
NC Office of Recovery & Resiliency

# Welcome!

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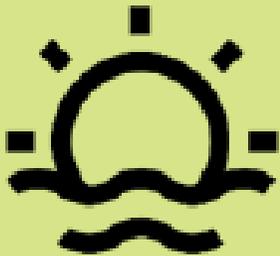


# Tropical Storm Fred

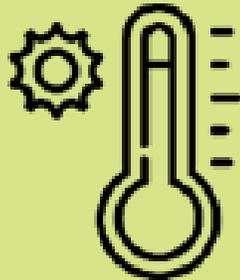


# The Science

***Virtually Certain***  
Sea Level will  
continue to rise



***Very Likely***  
Summer Heat  
Index Values will  
increase



***Likely***  
Annual Total  
precipitation will  
increase



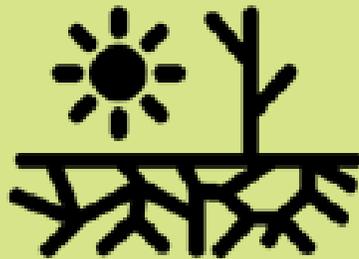
Source: Kunkel et al. (2020) *North Carolina Climate Science Report*

# The Science

**Likely**  
Hurricane  
intensity will  
increase



**Likely**  
Severe droughts  
will become more  
intense



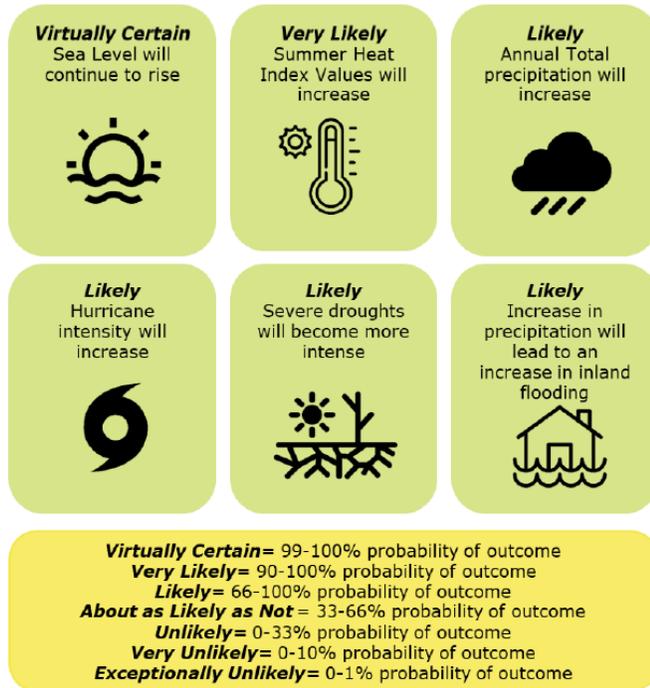
**Likely**  
Increase in  
precipitation will  
lead to an  
increase in inland  
flooding



Source: Kunkel et al. (2020) *North Carolina Climate Science Report*

# The Science

## A. Climate Change Projections in North Carolina<sup>1</sup>



Source: Kunkel et al. (2020) *North Carolina Climate Science Report*

# The Science

## A. Climate Change Projections in North Carolina<sup>1</sup>

<p><b>Virtually Certain</b> Sea Level will continue to rise</p> 	<p><b>Very Likely</b> Summer Heat Index Values will increase</p> 	<p><b>Likely</b> Annual Total precipitation will increase</p> 
<p><b>Likely</b> Hurricane intensity will increase</p> 	<p><b>Likely</b> Severe droughts will become more intense</p> 	<p><b>Likely</b> Increase in precipitation will lead to an increase in inland flooding</p> 

**Virtually Certain**= 99-100% probability of outcome  
**Very Likely**= 90-100% probability of outcome  
**Likely**= 66-100% probability of outcome  
**About as Likely as Not** = 33-66% probability of outcome  
**Unlikely**= 0-33% probability of outcome  
**Very Unlikely**= 0-10% probability of outcome  
**Exceptionally Unlikely**= 0-1% probability of outcome

## B. Non-Climate Stressors facing North Carolina

 <p><b>Population Growth</b></p>	 <p><b>Physical Attacks, Cyber Security, and other manmade disasters</b></p>
 <p><b>Aging Infrastructure</b></p>	 <p><b>Rural-Urban Divide</b></p>
 <p><b>Socioeconomic disparity</b></p>	 <p><b>Public Health Threats/Pandemics</b></p>

Source: Kunkel et al. (2020) *North Carolina Climate Science Report*

# What's At Stake



Wildfire



Saltwater intrusion



Flash and riverine flooding



Cumulative public health burden



Loss of housing stock; business and job loss



Water quality and ecological impact

# What's At Stake



# Resilience: Two Models



# Resilience: The Swinging Door Model

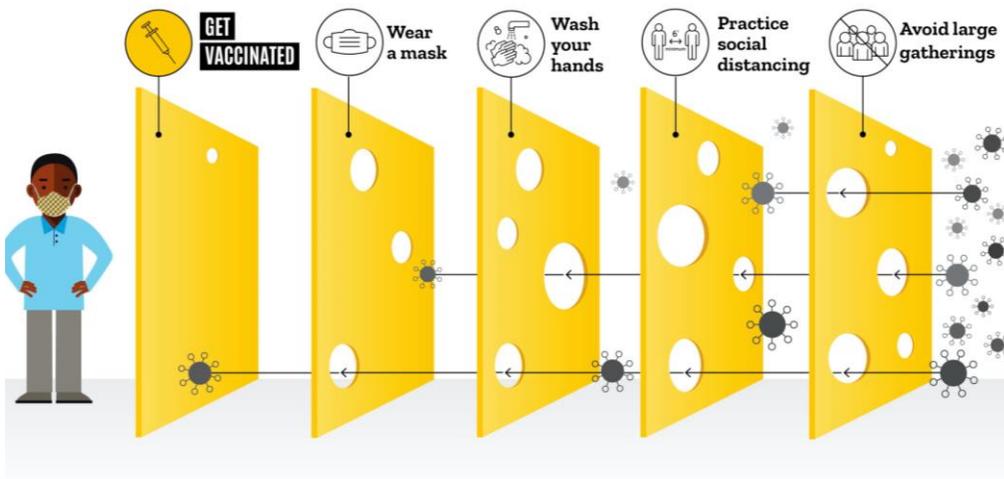


How much time does it take to get back to a baseline after a shock or stress?

... is that baseline the best we can be?  
Is the baseline good enough for the future?

# Swiss Cheese Model

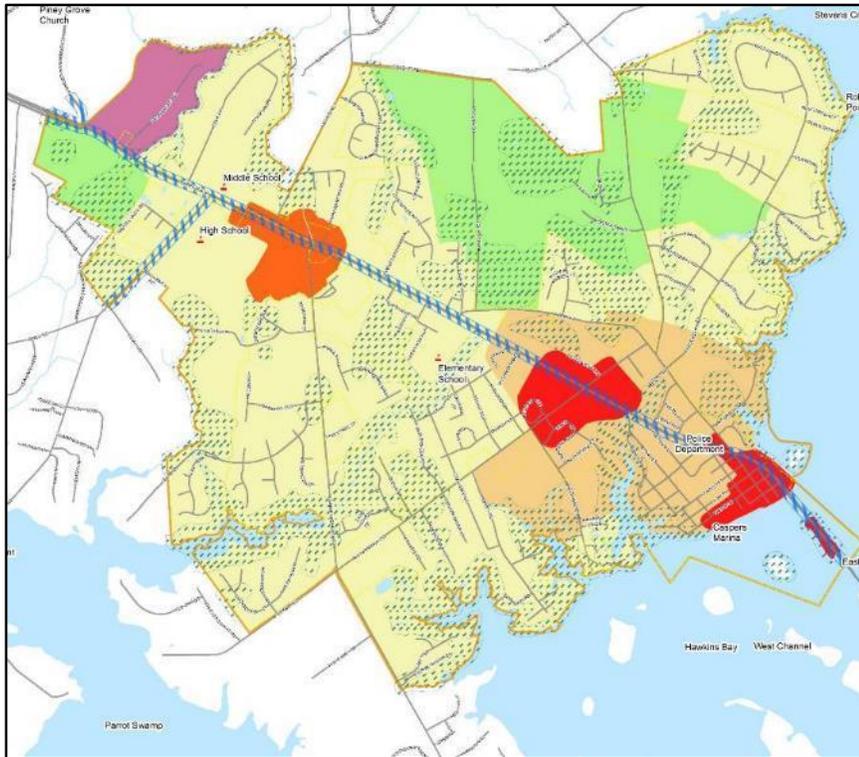
“Why Swiss cheese may be the key to keeping you safe from COVID-19”



- Multiple layers of defense
- No single layer provides 100 percent protection against harm
- Residual possibility of harm

University of Iowa Hospital & Clinics website:  
<https://uihc.org/health-topics/why-swiss-cheese-may-be-key-keeping-you-safe-covid-19>

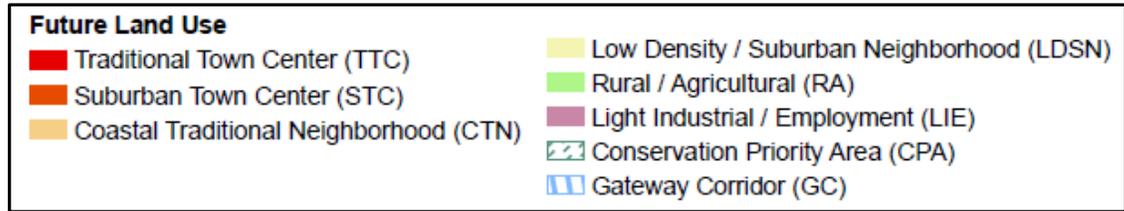
# Land Use



How do we live with water?

A place for development and a place for water.

First, do no harm: Not making flooding problems any worse



# Infrastructure



Photo (center + left):  
Jess Whitehead

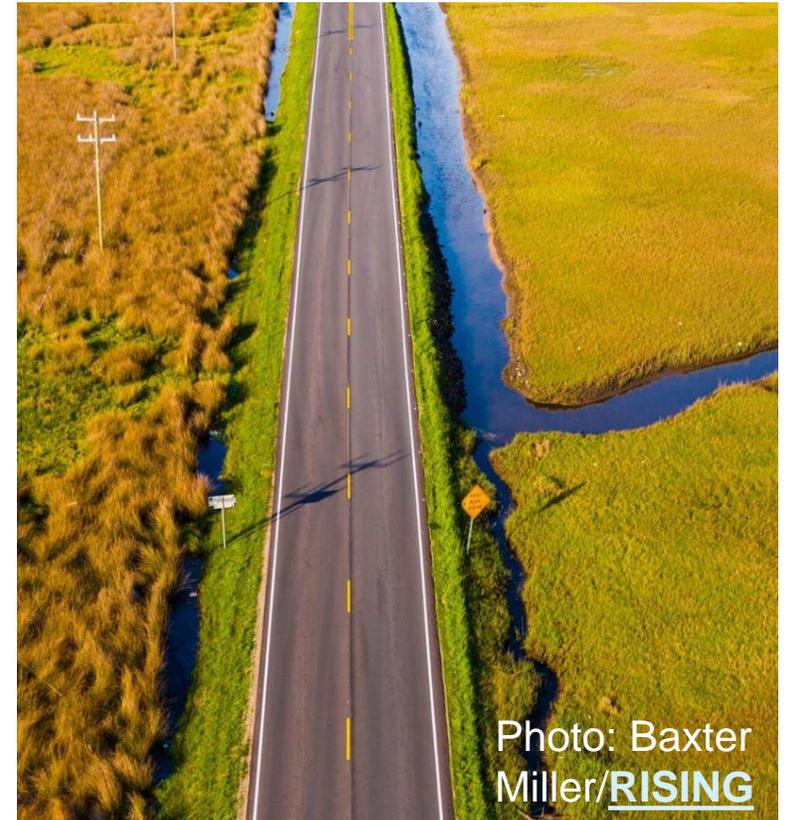


Photo: Baxter  
Miller/**RISING**

# Nature Based Solutions

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Natural features provide protection



# Community Capacity

## Local government



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

## Neighborhood cohesion



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# Social and Economic Connectedness



# Emergency Preparedness

- Emergency management operations
- Multi-lingual emergency communication
- Household emergency kit
- Evacuation preparation, especially for elders, people with disabilities
- Know your flood risk: [flood.nc.gov](https://flood.nc.gov)
- Purchase flood insurance (even renters)



# What's Happening in North Carolina?

## UPDATING DATA

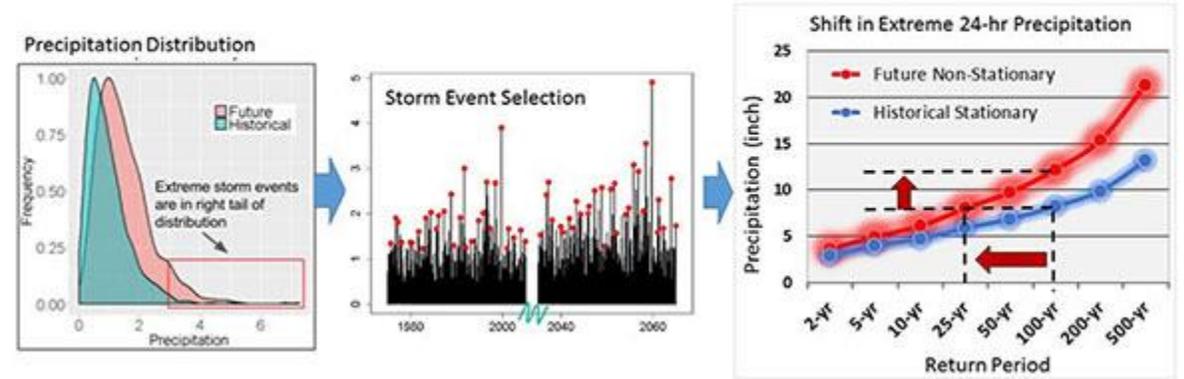
Rainfall frequencies (Atlas 14)

Future rainfall statistics

Probable maximum precipitation

Climate projections

### Intensity-Duration-Frequency Analysis Tool



# What's Happening in North Carolina?

## RETROFITTING TO BETTER STANDARDS

Protecting N.C. 24 between Swansboro and Cedar Point by building large-scale living shorelines

Restoration efforts along the corridor will improve water quality in the White Oak River



# What's Happening in North Carolina?

## HEAT HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Heat-health alert systems in Bladen, Robeson, and Scotland Counties tailored toward populations most vulnerable

High heat included in Durham Community Health Assessment; urban heat island effect mapping



# What's Happening in North Carolina?

## COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLANNING

Local and regional leadership and action provide groundwork for bringing in implementation money

Two state programs provide technical assistance for local government and regions interested in resilience planning



# What's Happening in North Carolina?

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**TELL US MORE!**



# Resilience Recap

- There is a lot at stake in North Carolina

1



- Make today's decisions in consideration of their *generational* impact

2



- Learn from past mistakes (swinging door) and build many layers of resilience (swiss cheese)

3

