



South Carolina State Climate Office

South Carolina's Tornado Climatology 1950-2009

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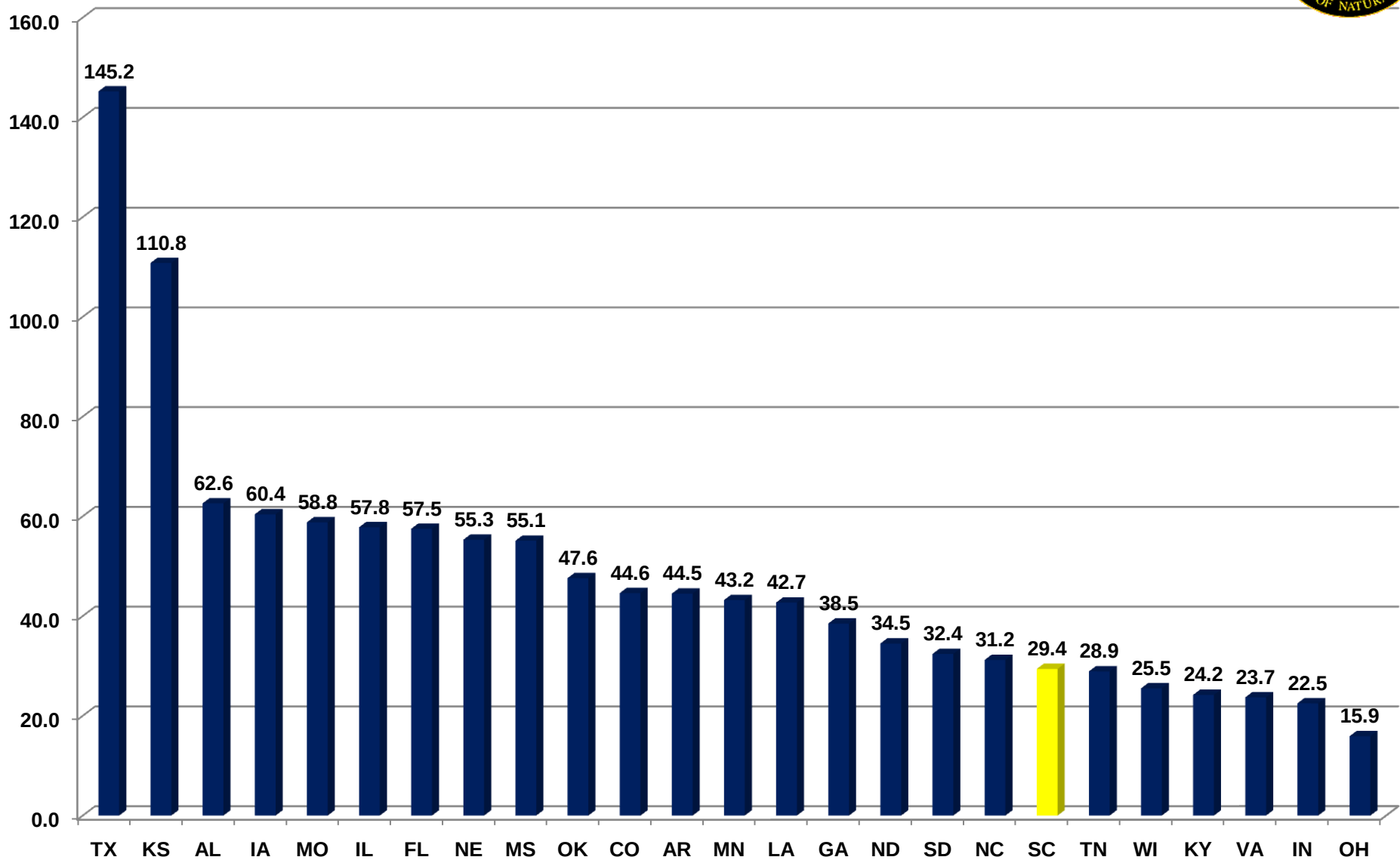


South Carolina's Tornado Climatology: 1950-2009

- **GOAL: CONSOLIDATED SC TORNADO LIST**
- **NOAA-NWS STORM PREDICTION CENTER US SEVERE WEATHER DATABASE. (WCM Page)**
 - **871 SOUTH CAROLINA TORNADOES**
- **CROSS-CHECKED WITH NCDC DATABASE.**
- **SIMPLIFIED MULTI-COUNTY TORNADOES**
- **CONVERTED TIME FROM CST TO EST**



2000-2009 US Annual Tornado Average: Top 25



SOUTH CAROLINA TORNADOES 1950-2009



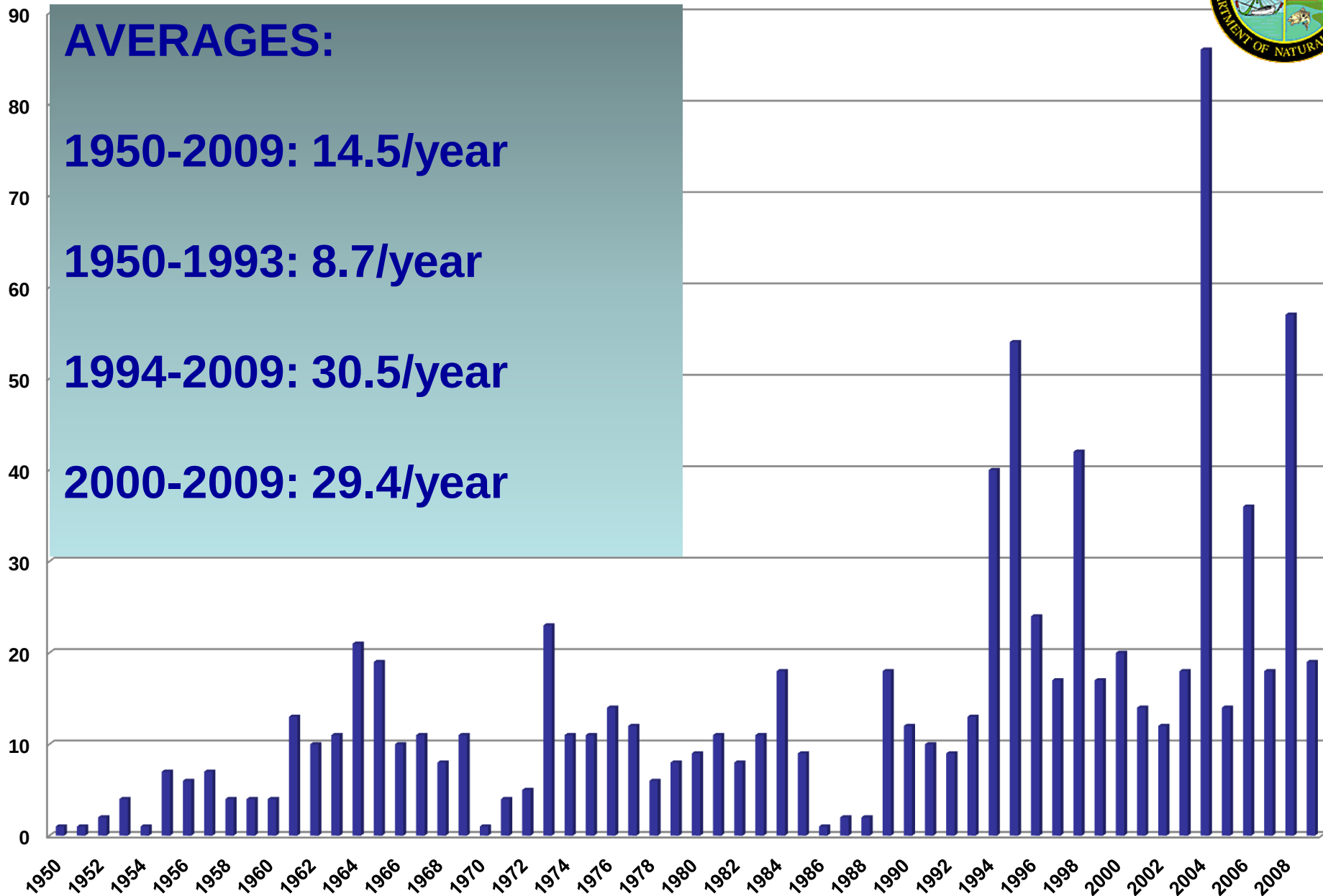
AVERAGES:

1950-2009: 14.5/year

1950-1993: 8.7/year

1994-2009: 30.5/year

2000-2009: 29.4/year



EF2, 3, 4 TORNADOES



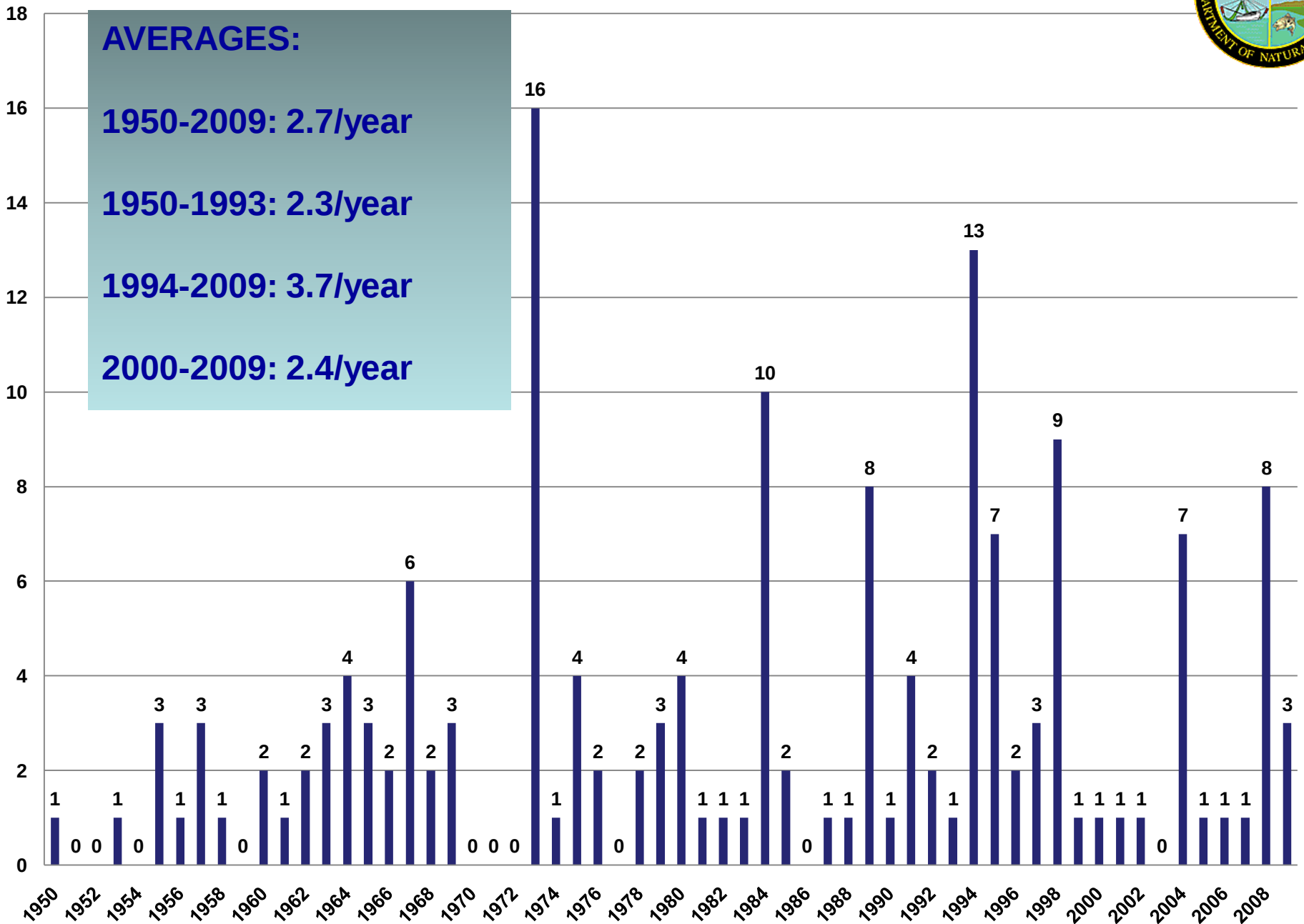
AVERAGES:

1950-2009: 2.7/year

1950-1993: 2.3/year

1994-2009: 3.7/year

2000-2009: 2.4/year



SC Tornadoes 1950-2009

EF4

EF3

EF2

EF1

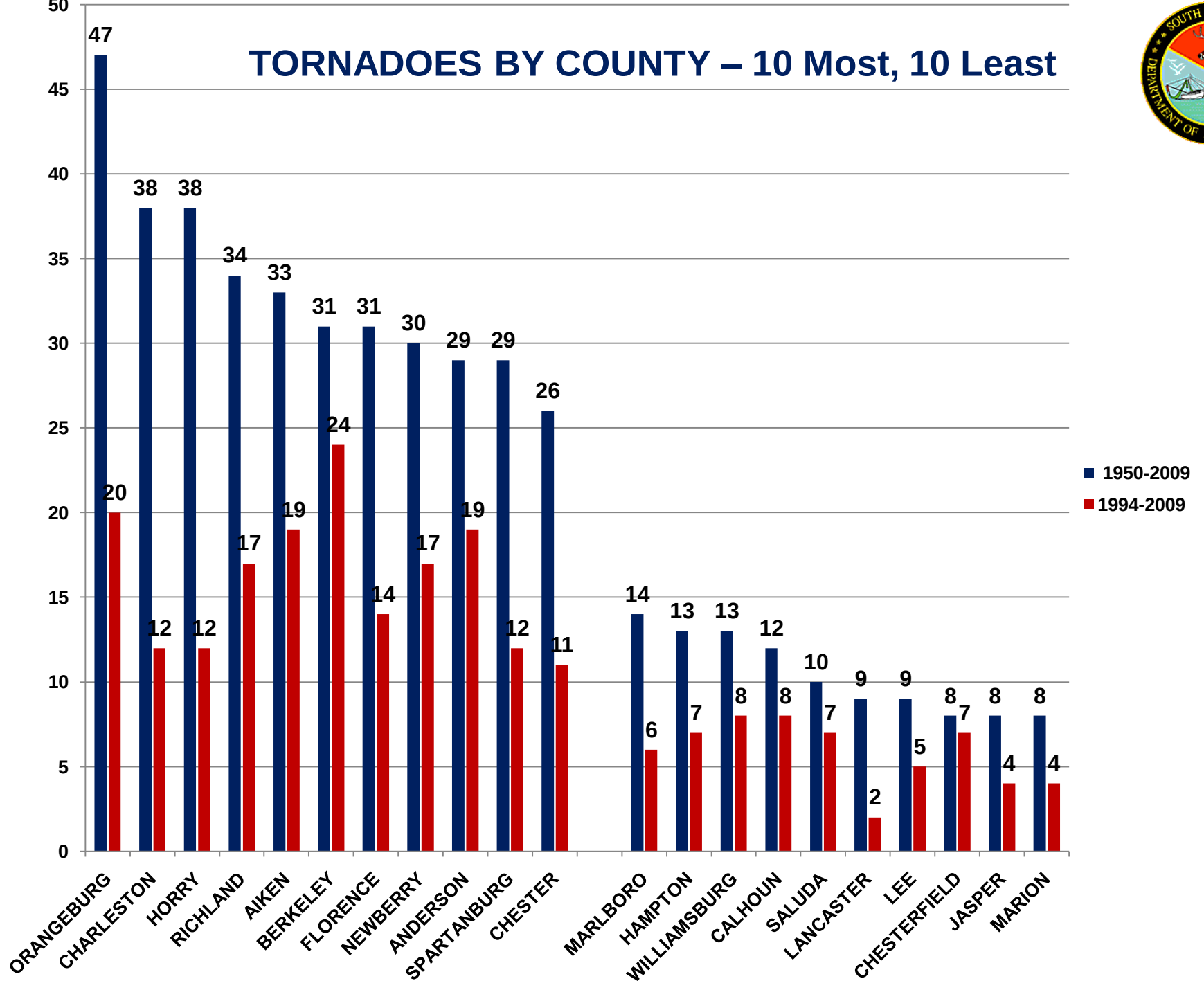
EF0

Tornado_touchdowns



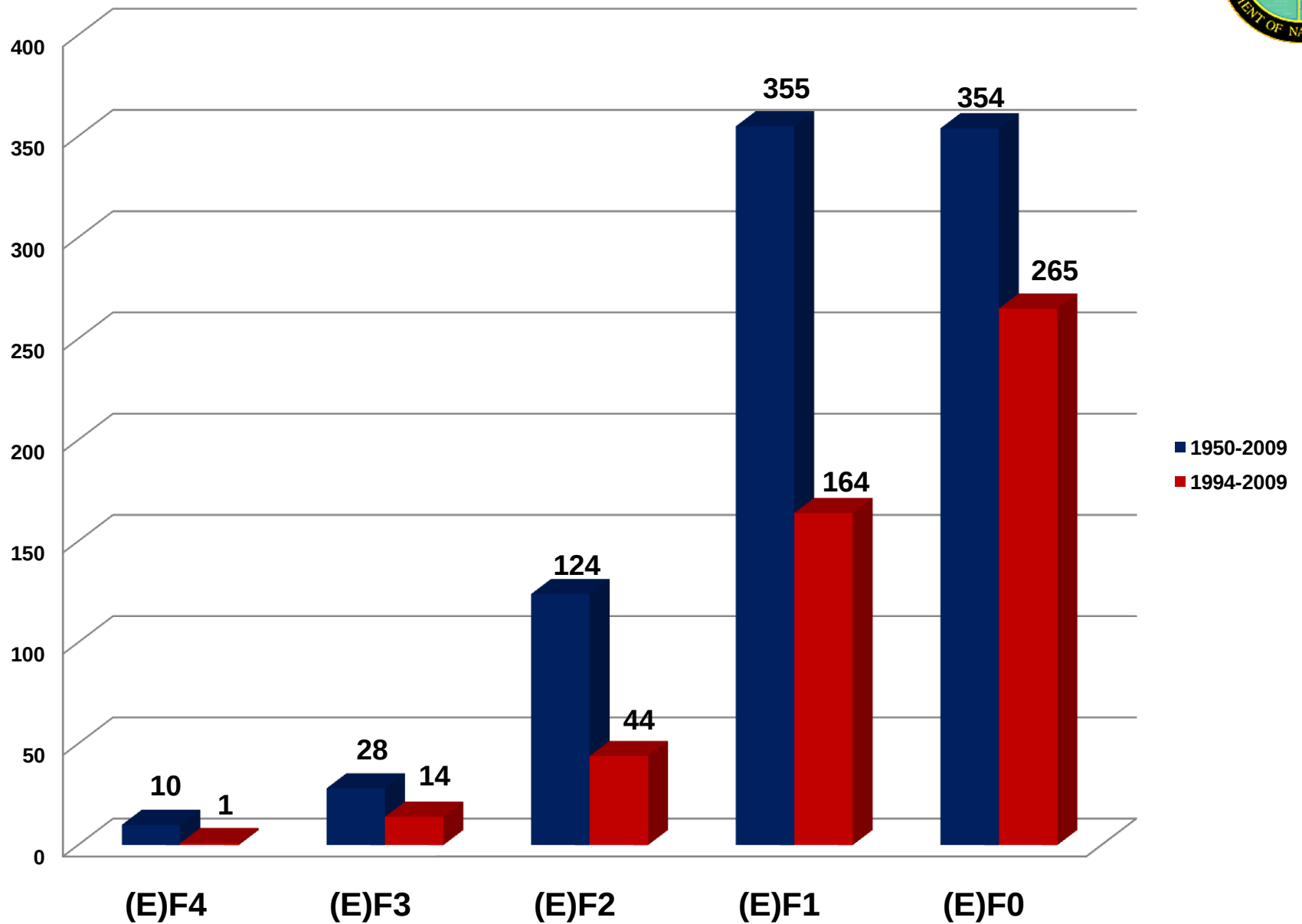


TORNADOES BY COUNTY – 10 Most, 10 Least



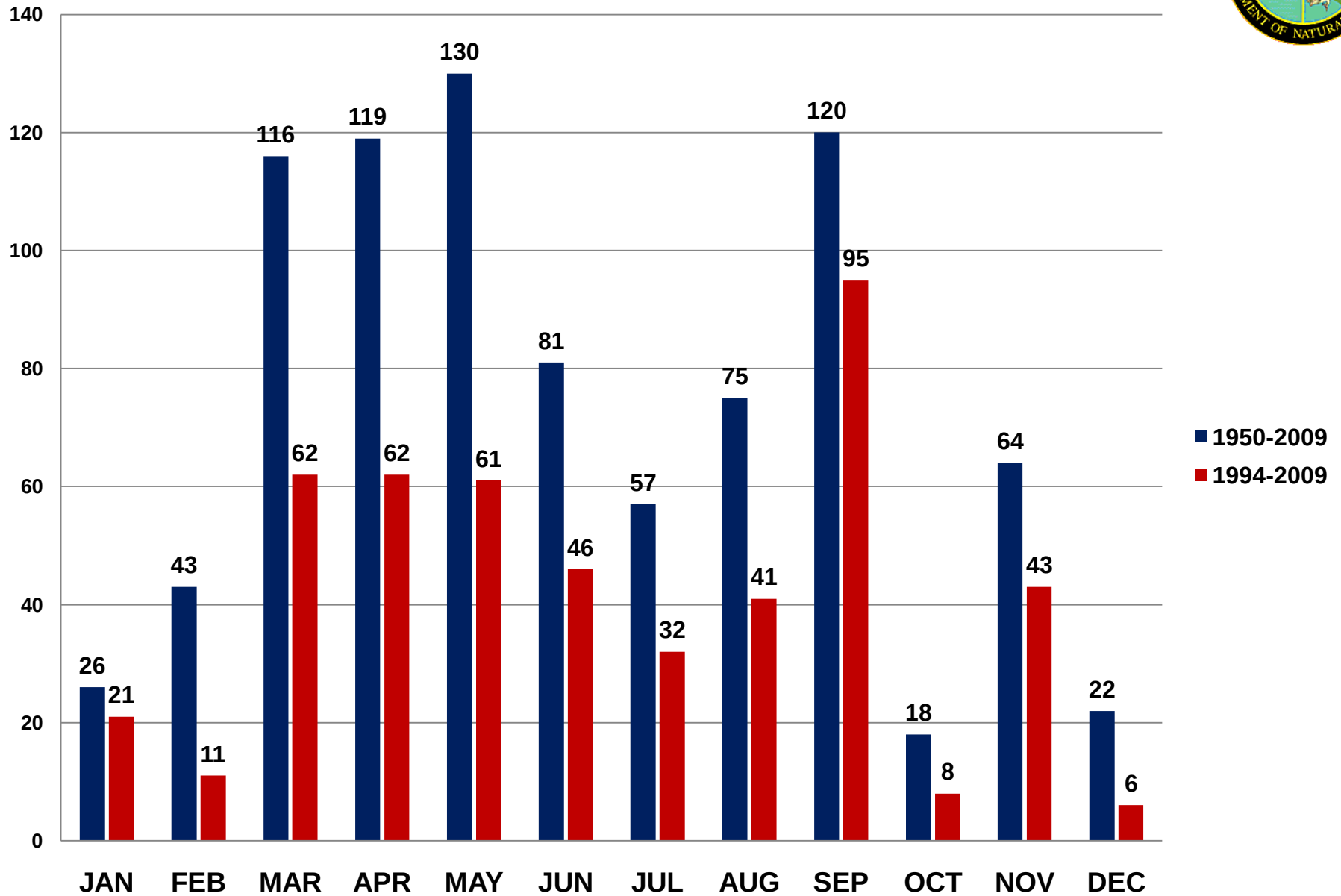


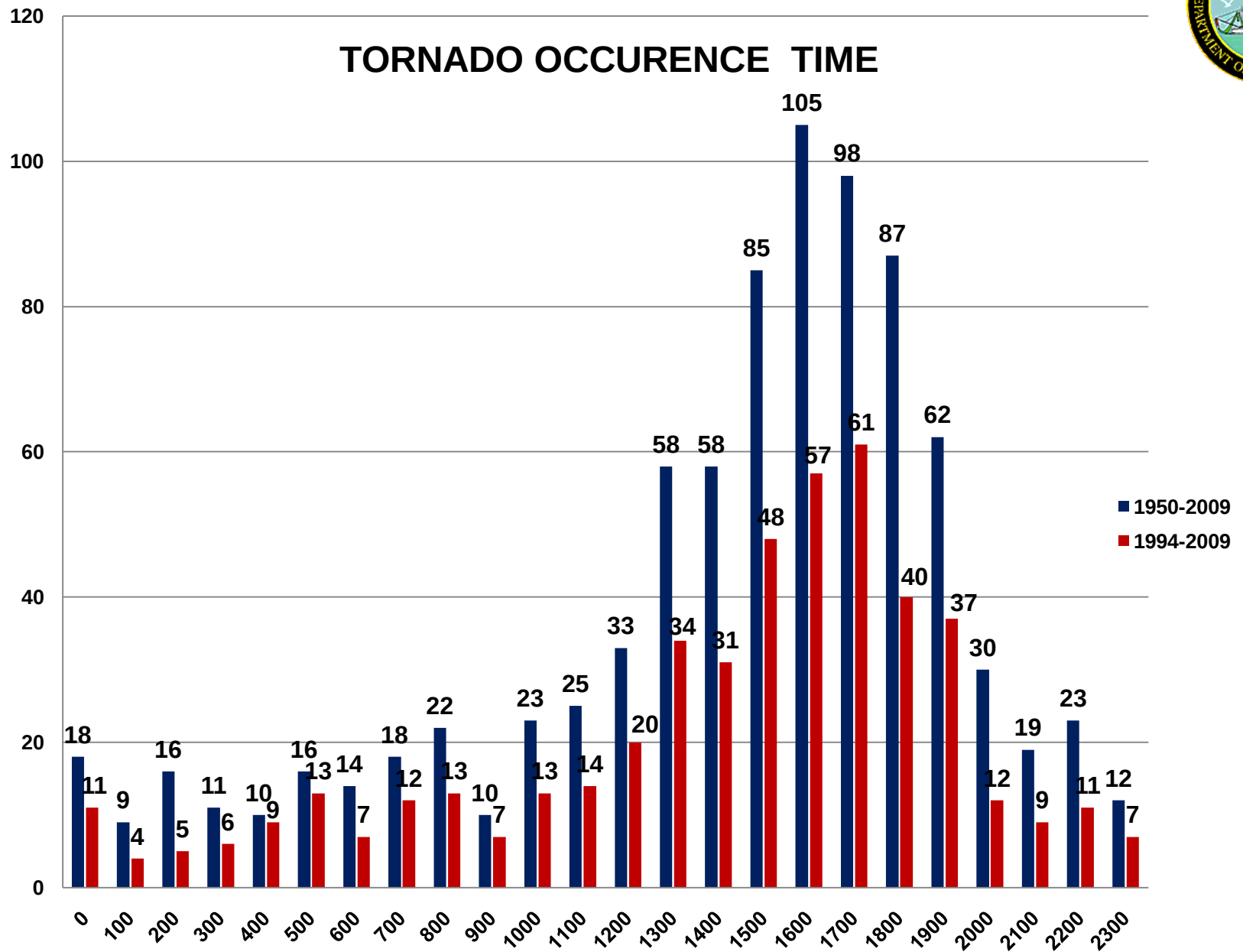
SC TORNADOES BY INTENSITY





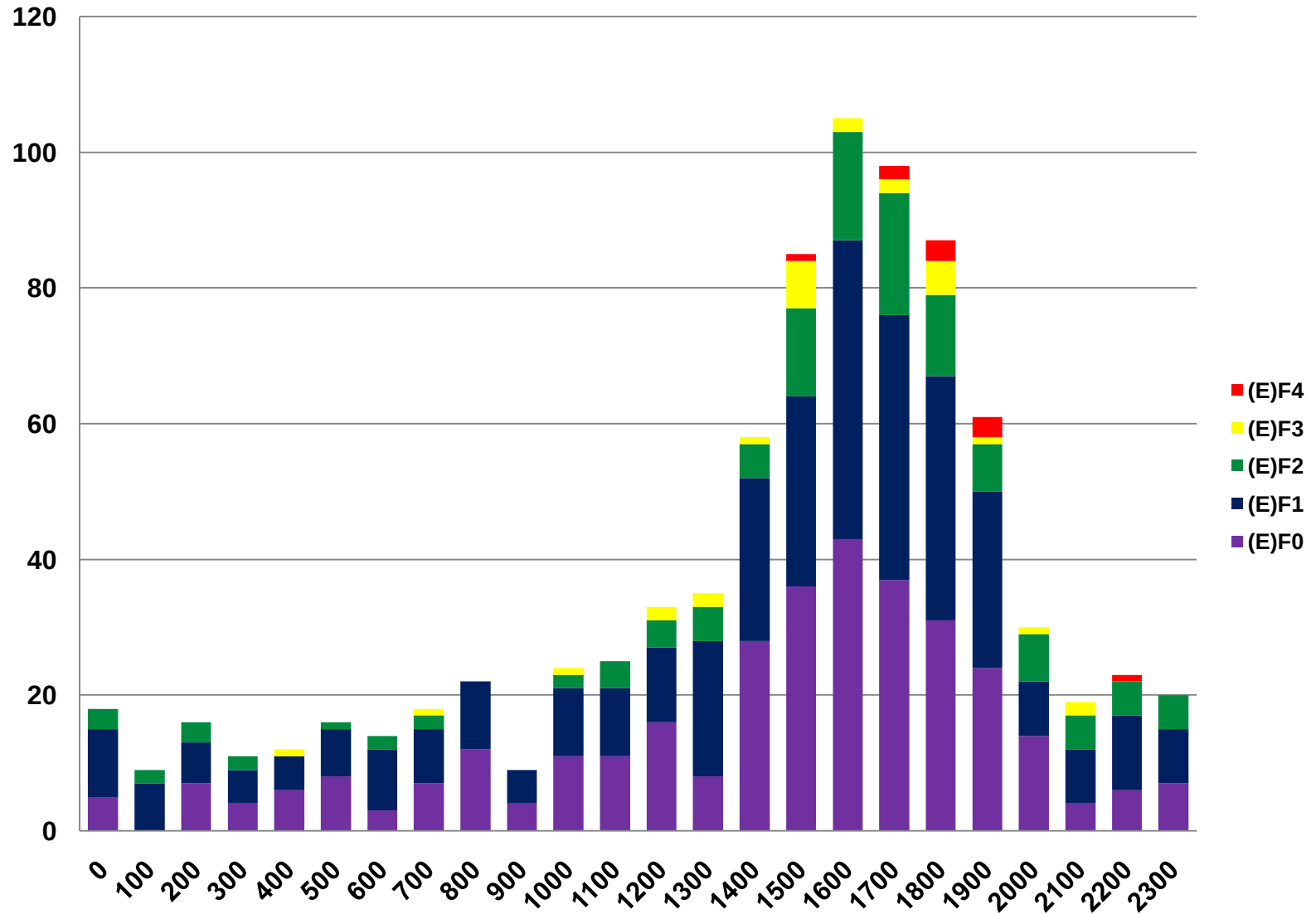
Monthly Tornado Distribution





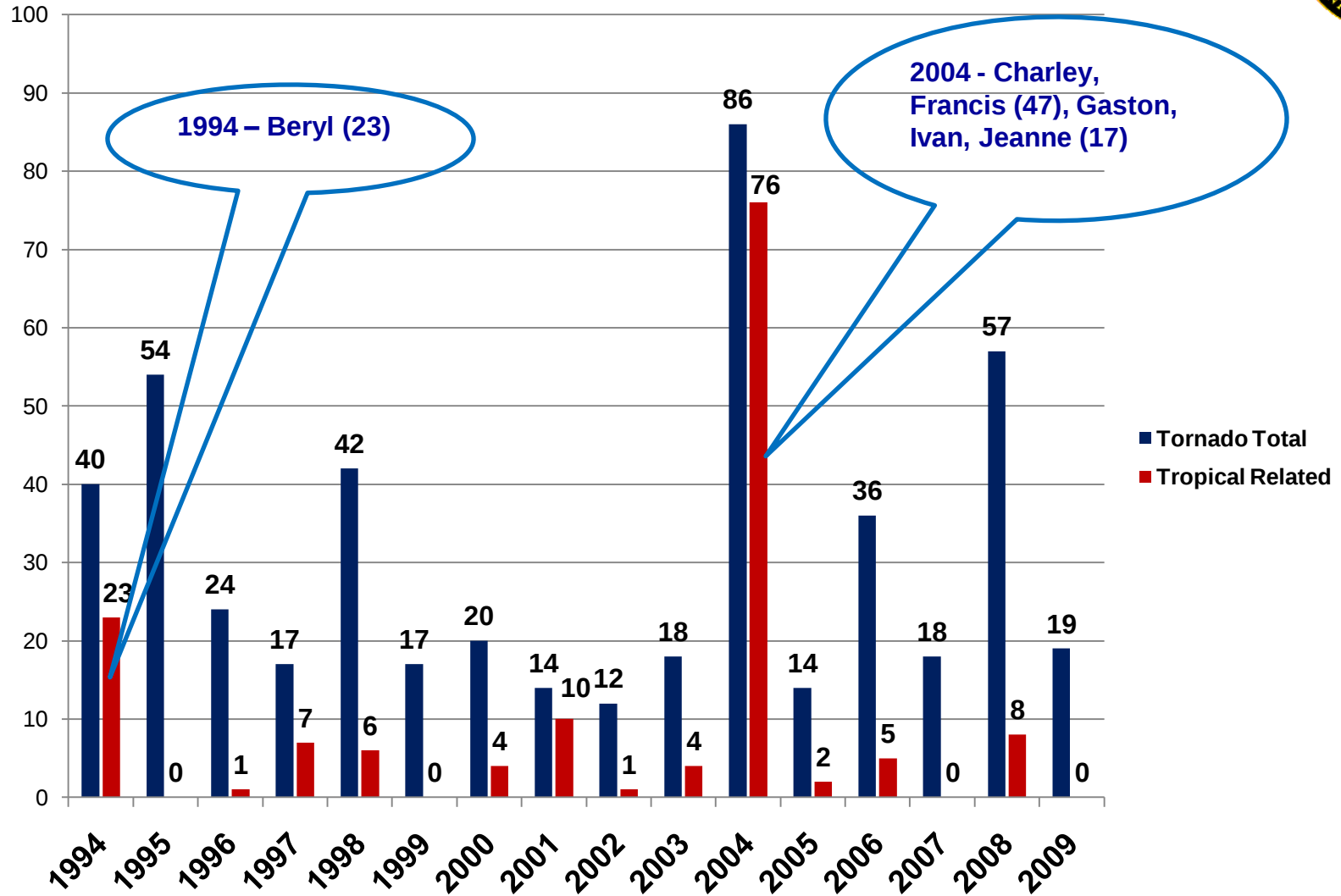


INTENSITY - TIME (1950-2009)





“TROPICAL” TORNADOES*



*Tornadoes triggered by decaying tropical storms over land.



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SOUTH CAROLINA TORNADO CLIMATE BASICS:

- Annual climate feature, Spring preferred, any month fair game.
- Afternoons preferred, any hour fair game.
- Midlands and Piedmont preferred, any County fair game.
- EF0 and EF1 tornadoes: 81% (65-110 mph, EF4: 166-200 mph) .
- Short, narrow tracks, short lived (AVG: 3.5 miles, 110 yds.). But...
 - Longest: 62 miles, (400yds wide, F3, McCrmck-Edgfld-Slda, 11 NOV 1992)
 - Widest: 2600yds, (5 miles, F4, Marlboro, 28 MAR 1984)
- “Tropical” tornadoes a significant inland threat.