South Carolina State Climate Office

South Carolina's Tornado Climatology 1950-2012

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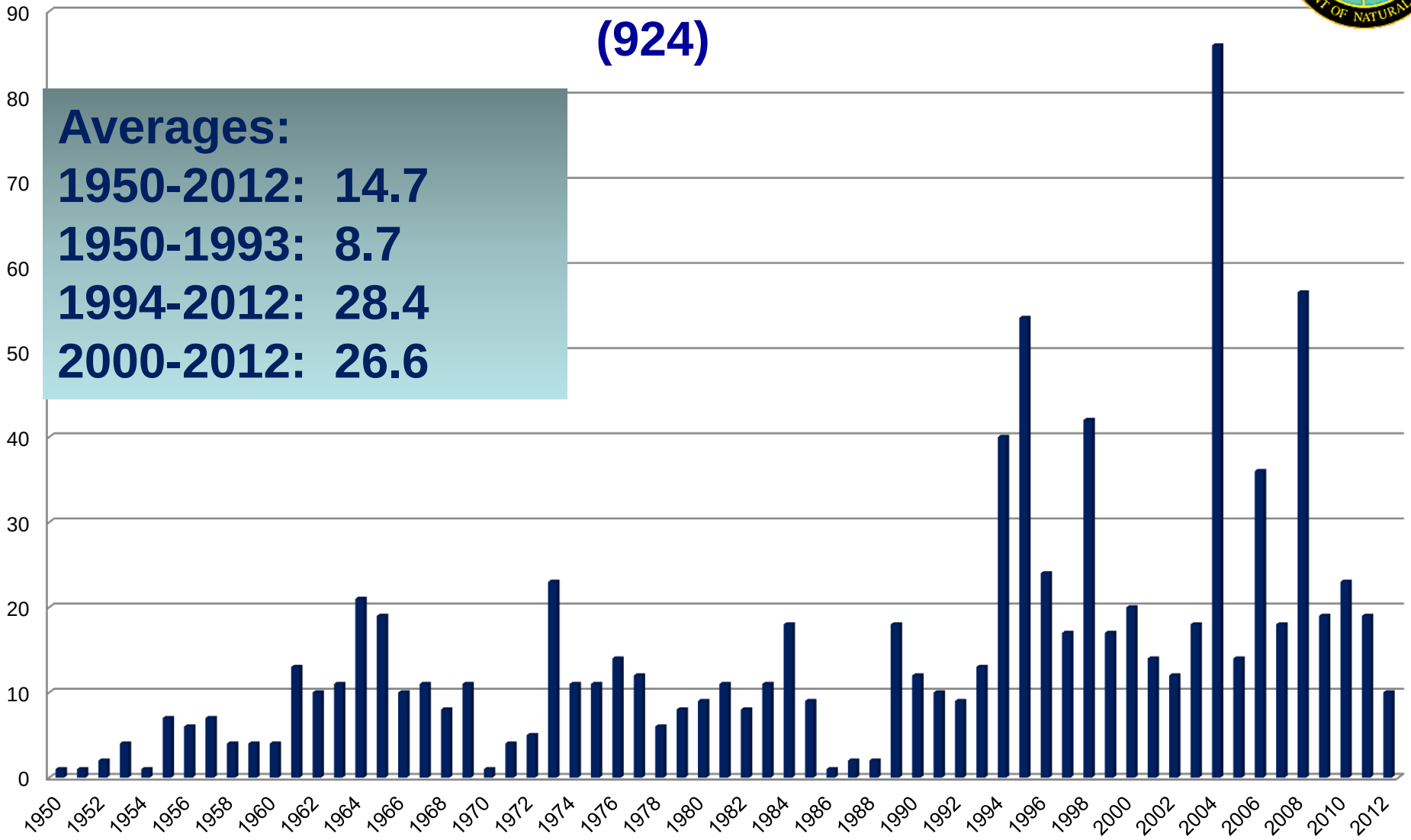
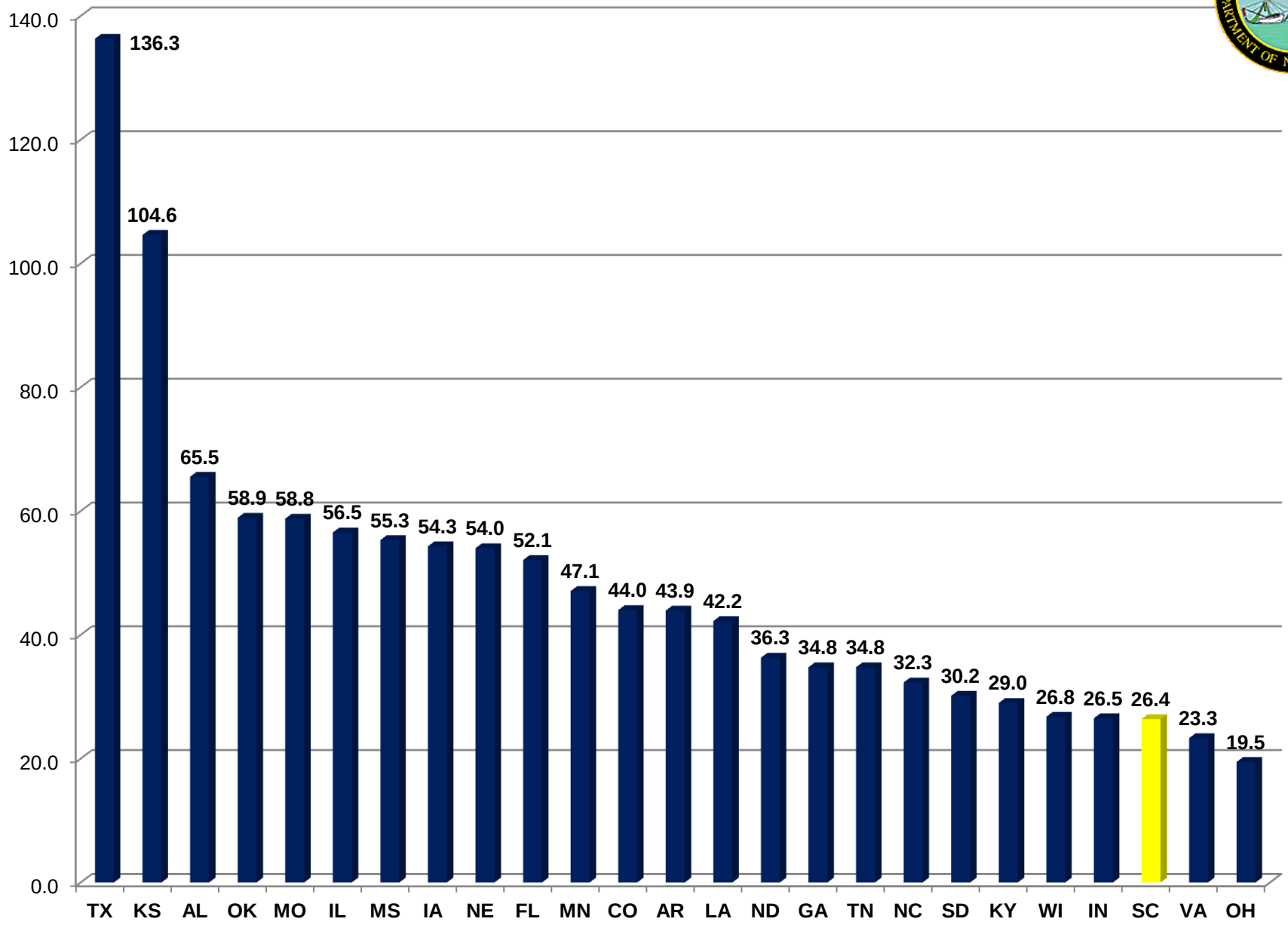
Data source: NOAA's Storm Prediction Center (www.spc.noaa.gov/wcm)

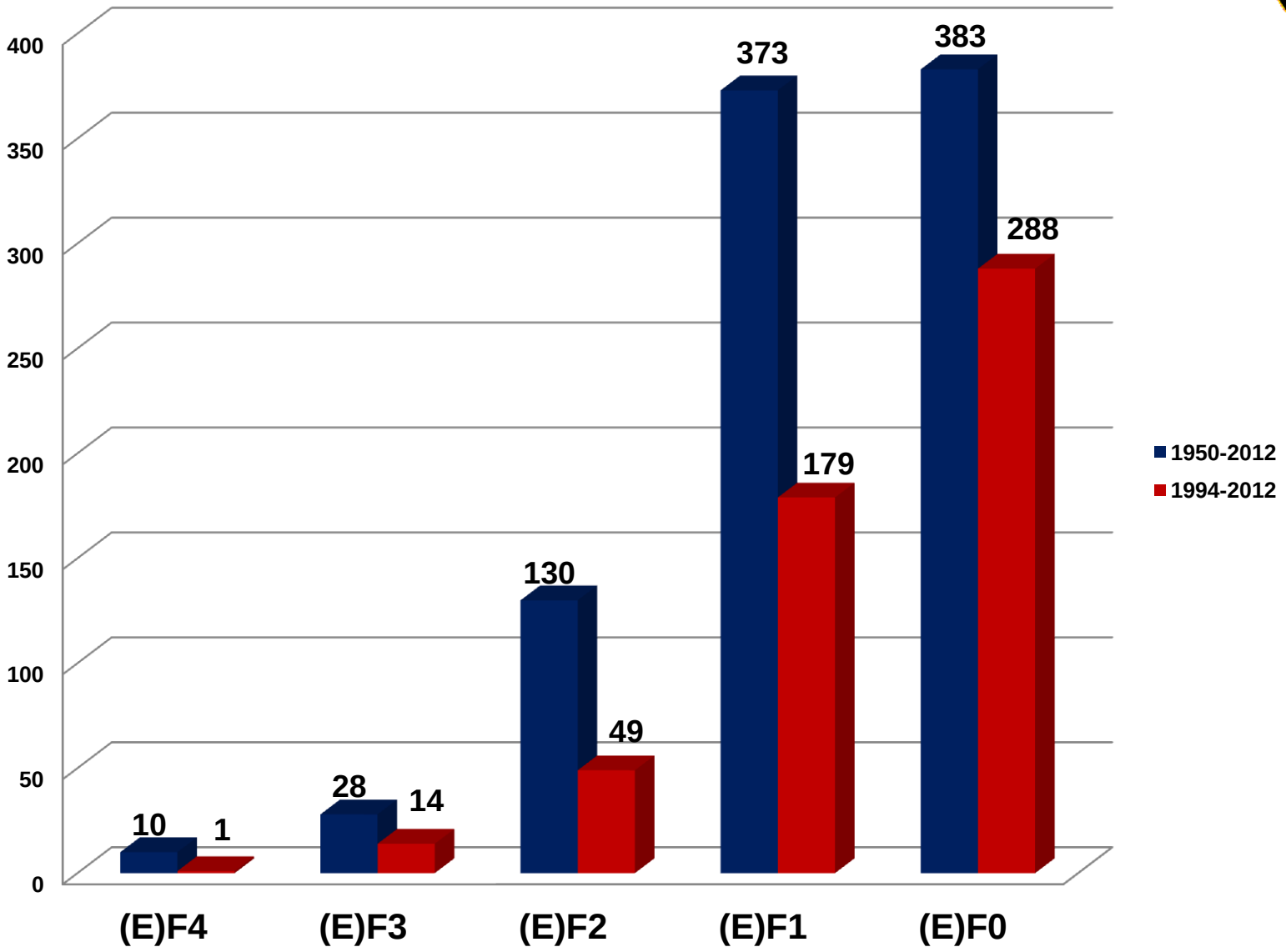
SOUTH CAROLINA TORNADOES 1950-2012 (924)



TOP 25 TORNADO STATES 2000-2012



SOUTH CAROLINA TORNADO INTENSITY1950-2012



EF-2, 3 4 TORNADOES 1950-2012

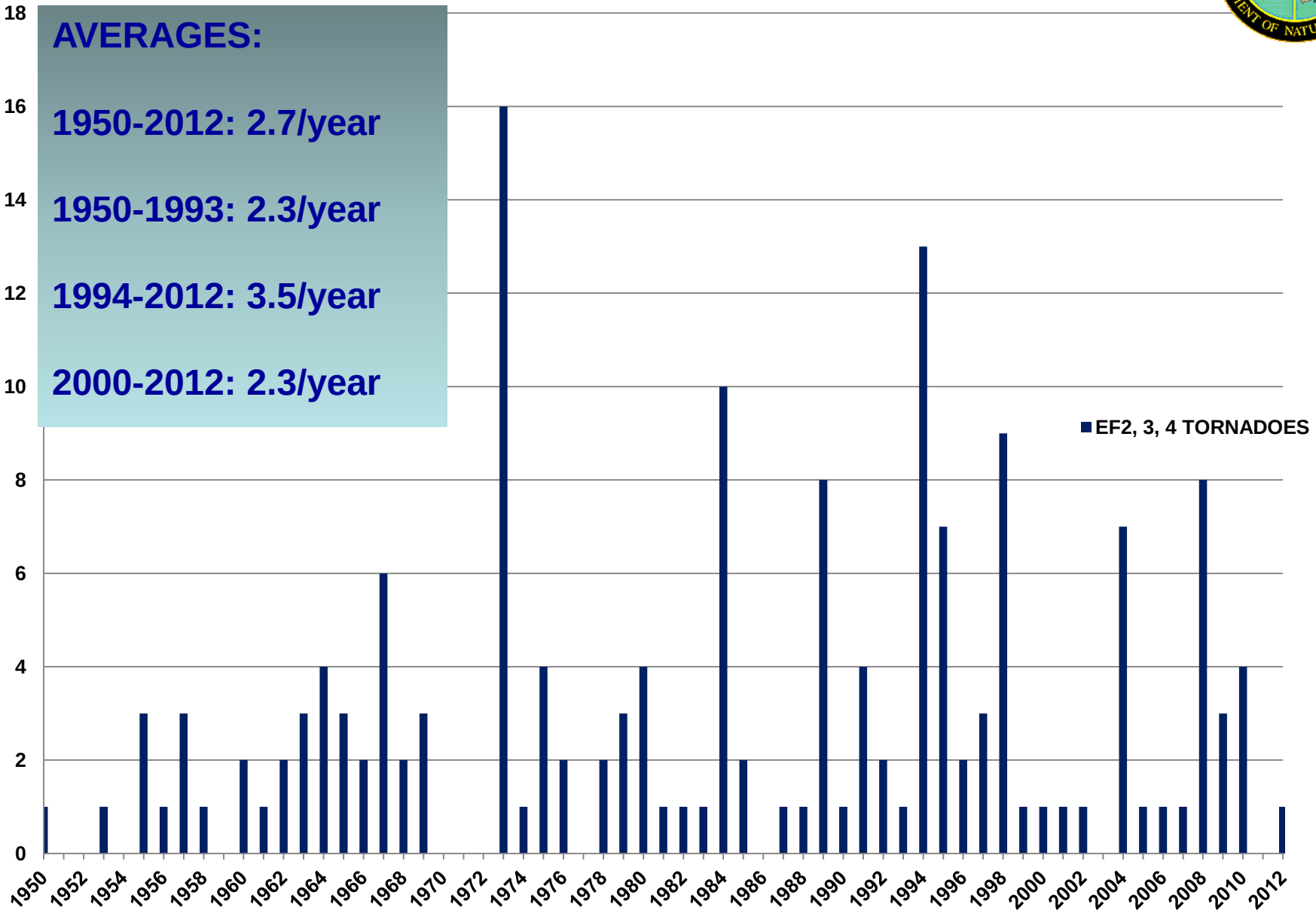
AVERAGES:

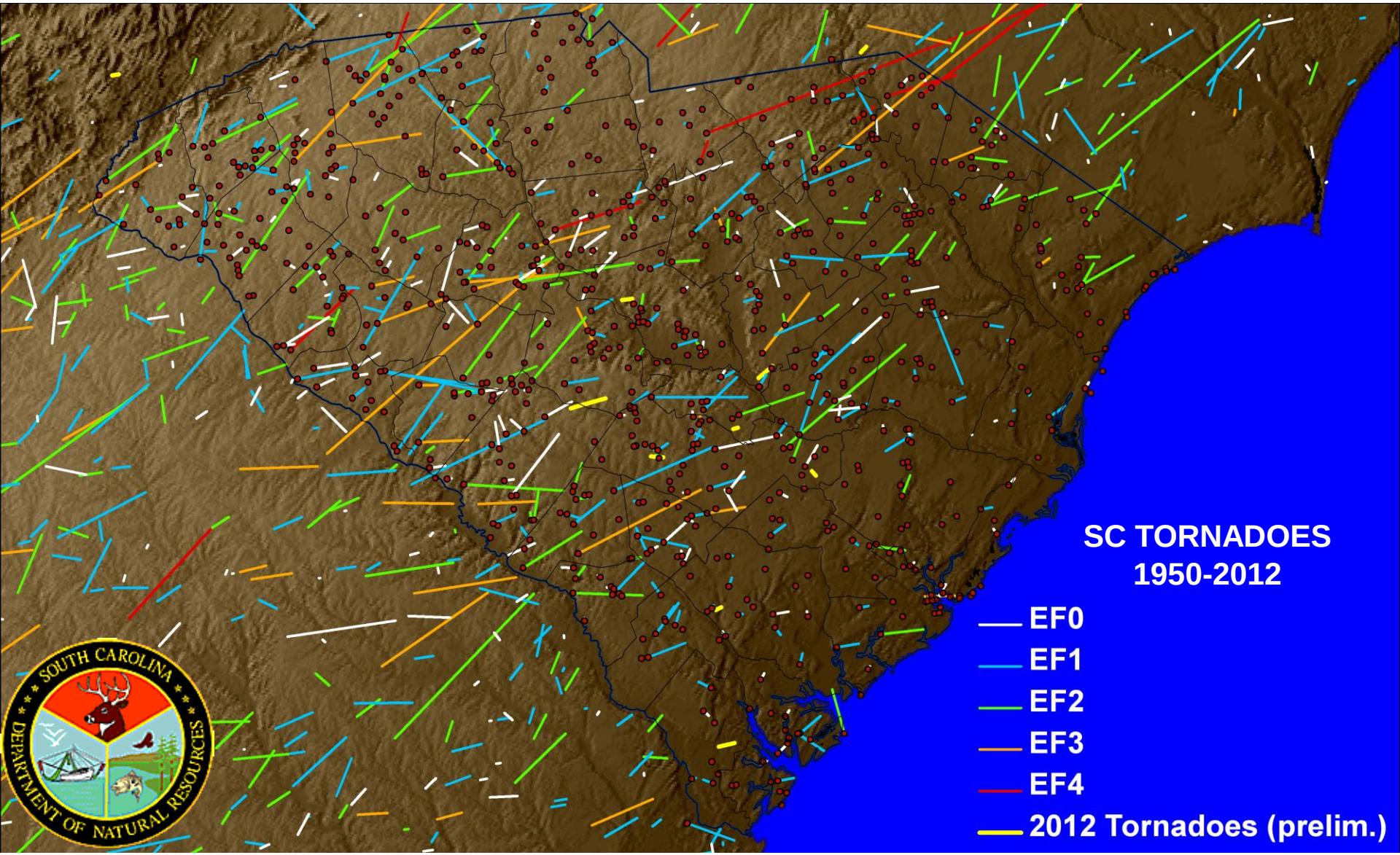
1950-2012: 2.7/year

1950-1993: 2.3/year

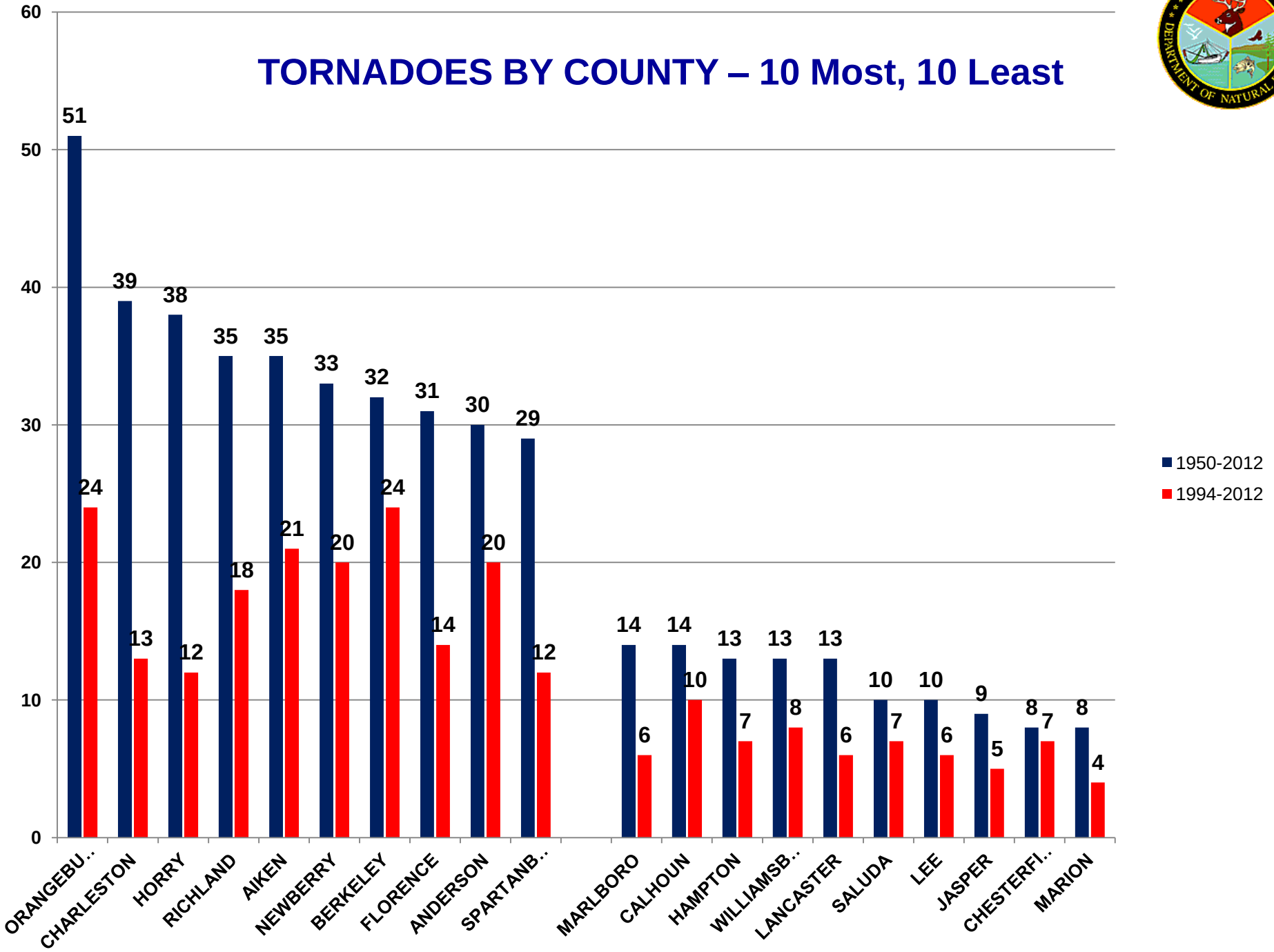
1994-2012: 3.5/year

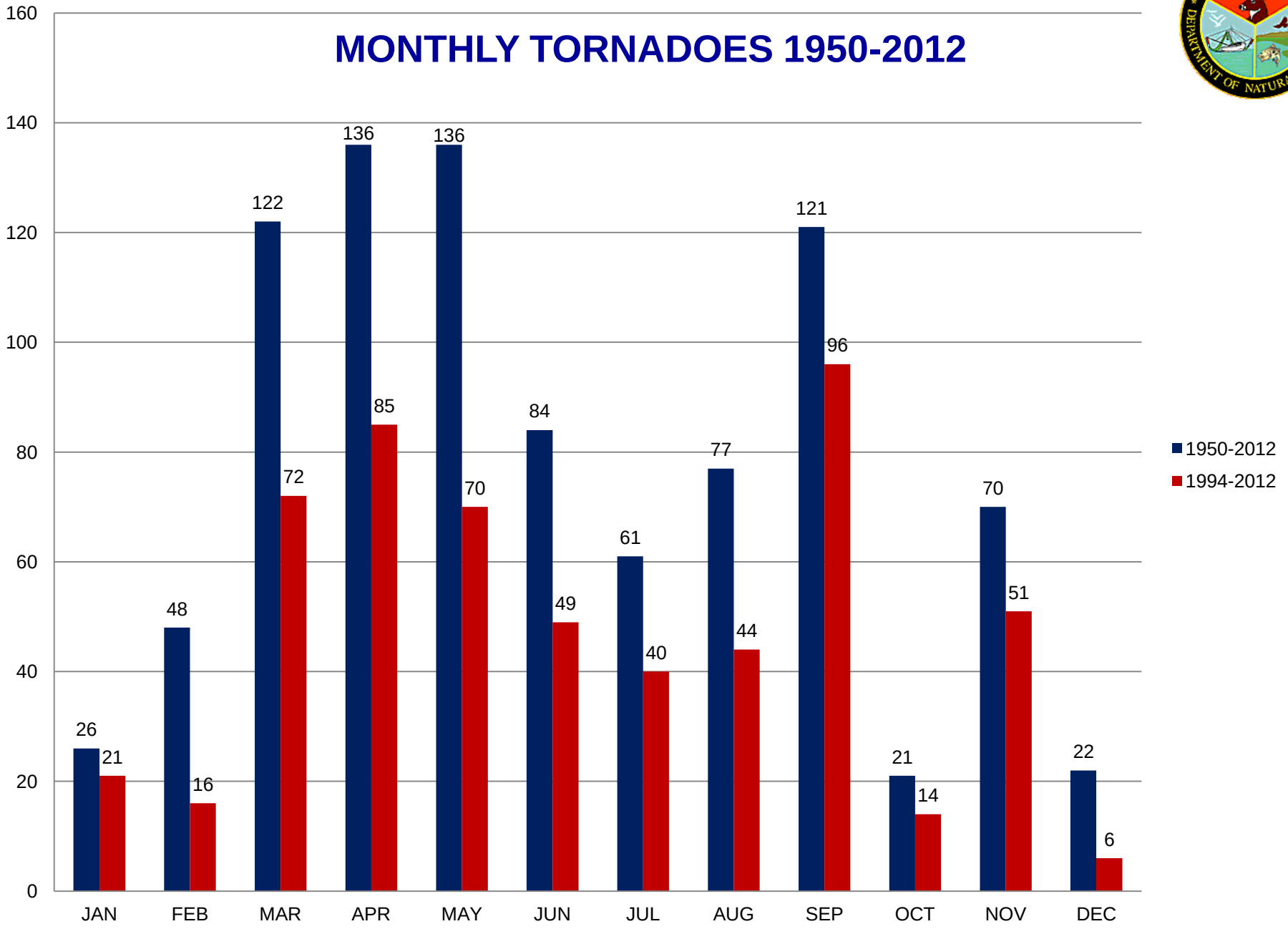
2000-2012: 2.3/year

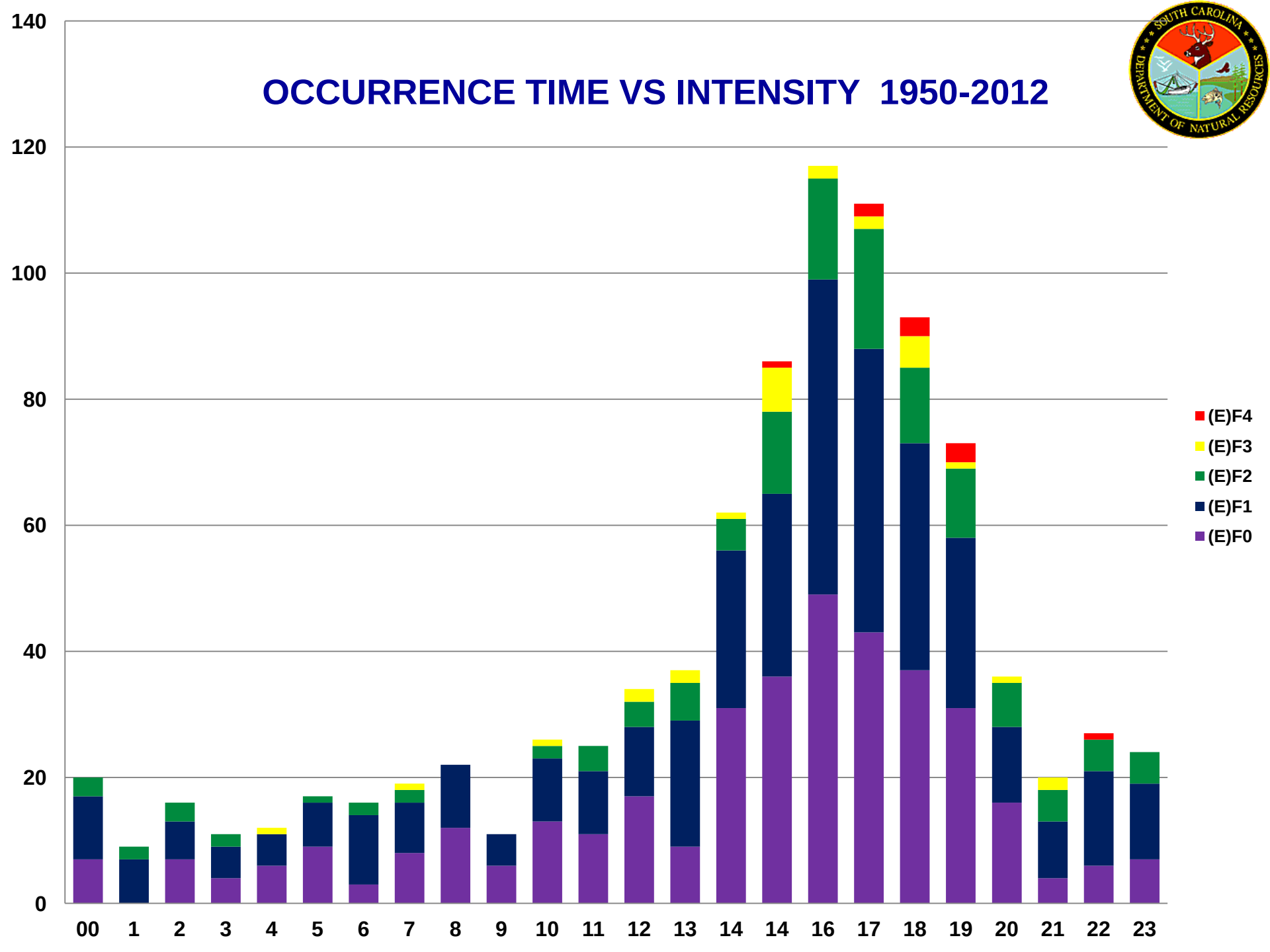



SC TORNADOES
1950-2012
EF0
EF1
EF2
EF3
EF4
2012 Tornadoes (prelim.)
SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

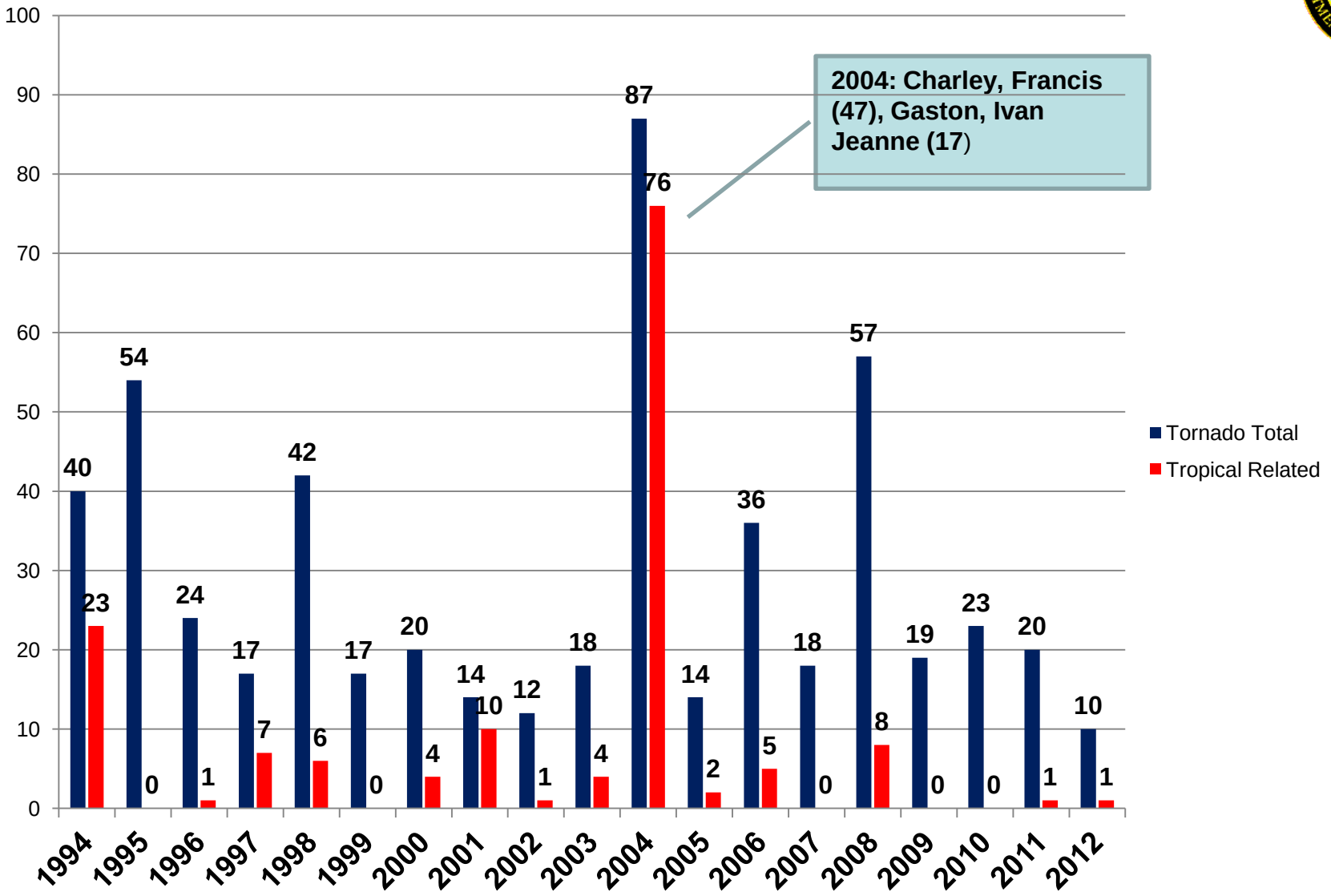
TORNADOES BY COUNTY – 10 Most, 10 Least




MONTHLY TORNADOES 1950-2012
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
26
21
48
16
122
72
136
85
136
70
84
49
61
40
77
44
121
96
21
14
70
51
22
6
JAN
FEB
MAR
APR
MAY
JUN
JUL
AUG
SEP
OCT
NOV
DEC
1950-2012
1994-2012


OCCURRENCE TIME VS INTENSITY 1950-2012
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
00
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
14
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
(E)F4
(E)F3
(E)F2
(E)F1
(E)F0

"TROPICAL" TORNADOES*



***Tornadoes triggered by decaying tropical storms over land.**

South Carolina's Tornado Climatology: 1950-2012

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 mile track, F4, Marlboro, 28 MAR 1984)**
- **"Tropical" tornadoes a significant inland threat.**

Data source: NOAA's Storm Prediction Center (www.spc.noaa.gov/wcm)