

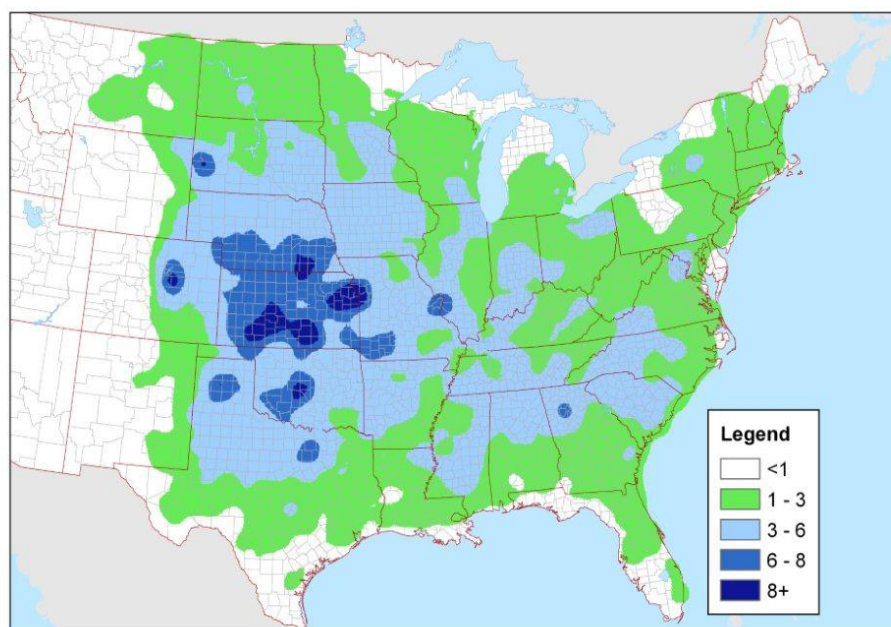
IBHS Analysis of Hailstorm Frequency 2003 – 2012

This is the latest edition of the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety's (IBHS) map representing the frequency of hail reports in the United States, which has been updated to reflect the most recent 10 years of hail reports available. Created by IBHS Staff Statistician Hank Pogorzelski, in conjunction with IBHS engineers, the map was produced using data from the Severe Weather Database files maintained by the NOAA Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla.

The map is based on reports of 1" or larger hail from 2003 through 2012. The techniques for creating the revised map are the same as those used to create the prior frequency analysis for the period from 2000 through 2009. The steps included removing duplicative reports from the dataset, counting the number of reports within 10 x 10 mile grid cells, averaging those counts with neighboring grid cells, and interpolating the transitions in frequency between the 10 x 10 mile cells. A more complete explanation of how the map was created, along with the 2000-2009 frequency analysis, can be found in the IBHS Analysis of Hailstorm Frequency (<http://www.disastersafety.org/wp-content/uploads/hail-tornado-report.pdf>).

Compared to the older map, the area of three to six reports per 100 square miles has expanded in the Southeast and Midwest while the areas with six to eight reports per 100 square miles has expanded from areas of Kansas well into southern Nebraska. The number of reports included in the three years of data added for the current analysis (2010-2012) averaged 7,409 per year compared to an average of 5,303 per year for the reporting years

Hail Activity in the United States
Average Number of Hail Reports per 100 Square Miles
2003 - 2012 Reports of Hail 1" or Larger



included in the prior map - 2000 through 2009. However, it is unclear from this dataset how much of the increase in the number of hail reports is a result of more complete reporting, and how much, if any, is due to any actual increase in hail activity.