



$$\sum_{k=1}^N [n_k \ln n_k]$$

# By-Peril Predictive Modeling for Homeowners

**David Cummings**  
**Senior VP – Personal Lines & Analytics**

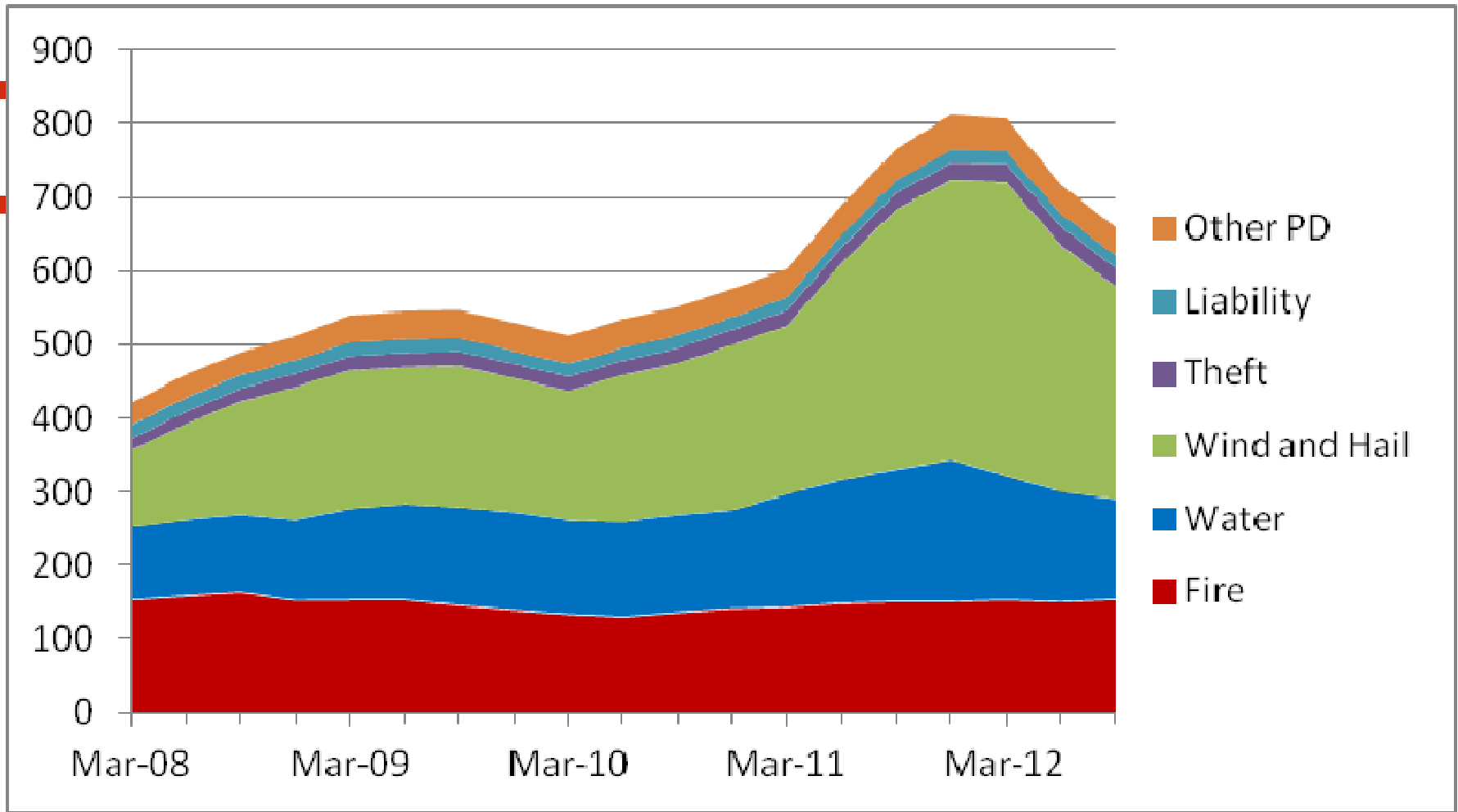
MEASURE, MANAGE, & REDUCE RISK<sup>SM</sup>



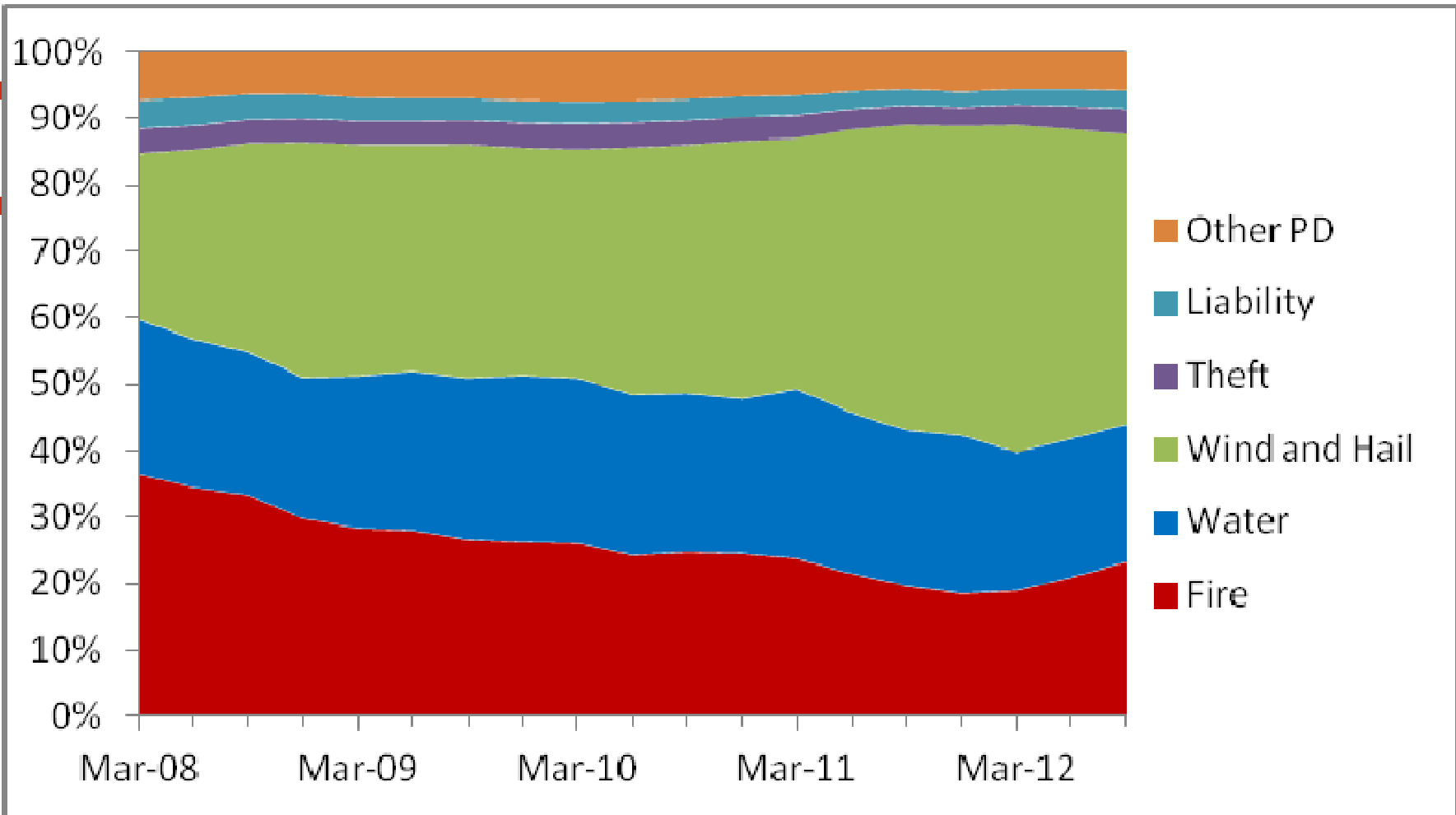
# Opportunities and Challenges in By-Peril Modeling

- Lessons from Personal Auto
  - Major innovations in historically static rate plan
  - Increased competition
  - Profitable growth for adopters of advanced analytics
  - Hunger for the next innovation
- In comparison, much less modeling has been done in Homeowners
  - Translates into greater opportunity
  - By-peril modeling is an important tool

# Peril Trends Over Time



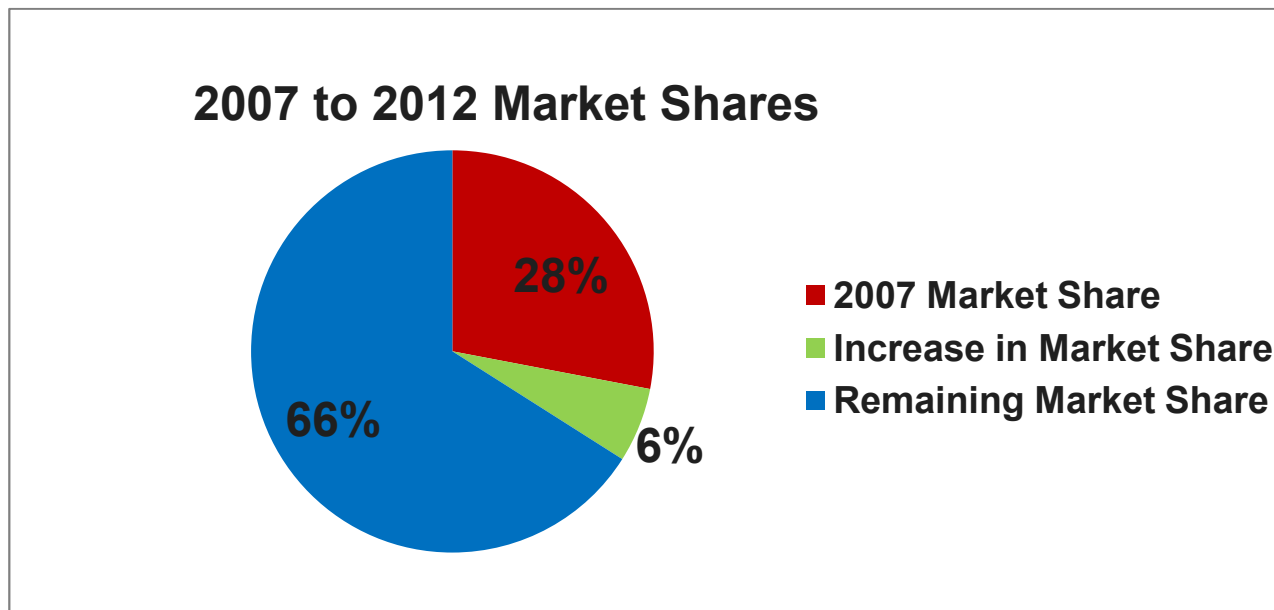
# Peril Distribution Over Time



# Leading the Way With By-Peril Rating

- Market Share Benefits

- The 25 carriers using by-peril plans in 2011 have increased their combined market share from **28% to 34%** in 5 years from 2007 to 2012

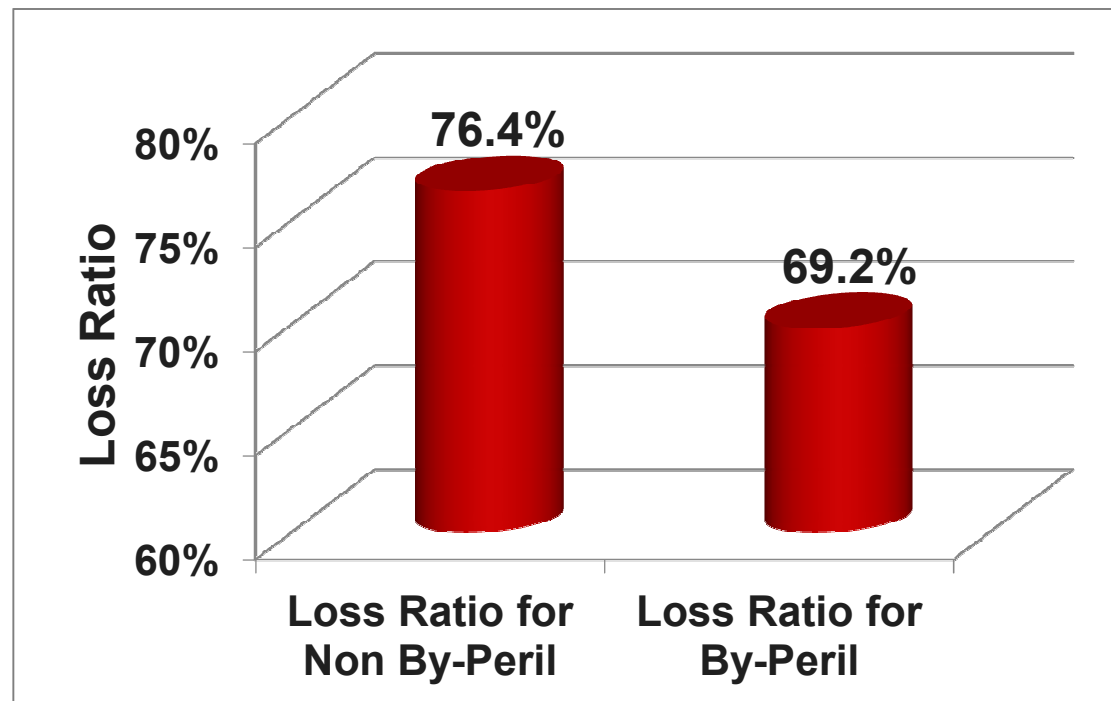


Source: ISO research using Perr & Knight filings and 2007-2012 AM Best Financials

# Leading the Way With By-Peril Rating

## • Loss Ratio Benefits

–The 25 companies rating by-peril have loss ratios **7.2** points lower than their competition in 2012

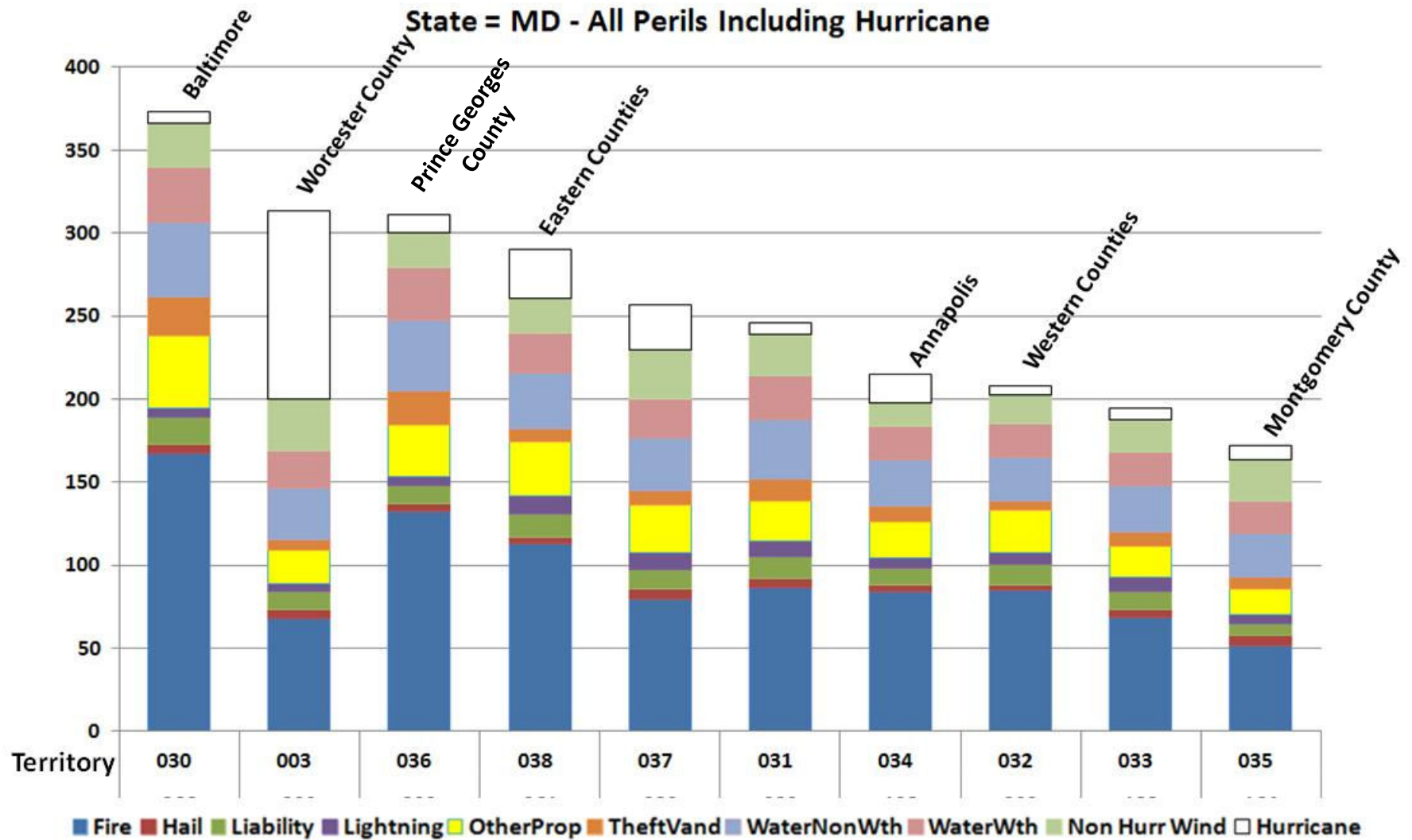


Source: ISO research using Perr & Knight filings and 2007-2012 AM Best Financials

# Opportunities for By-Peril Modeling

- Geographic Refinement
- Traditional Rating Factors
- Building Characteristics

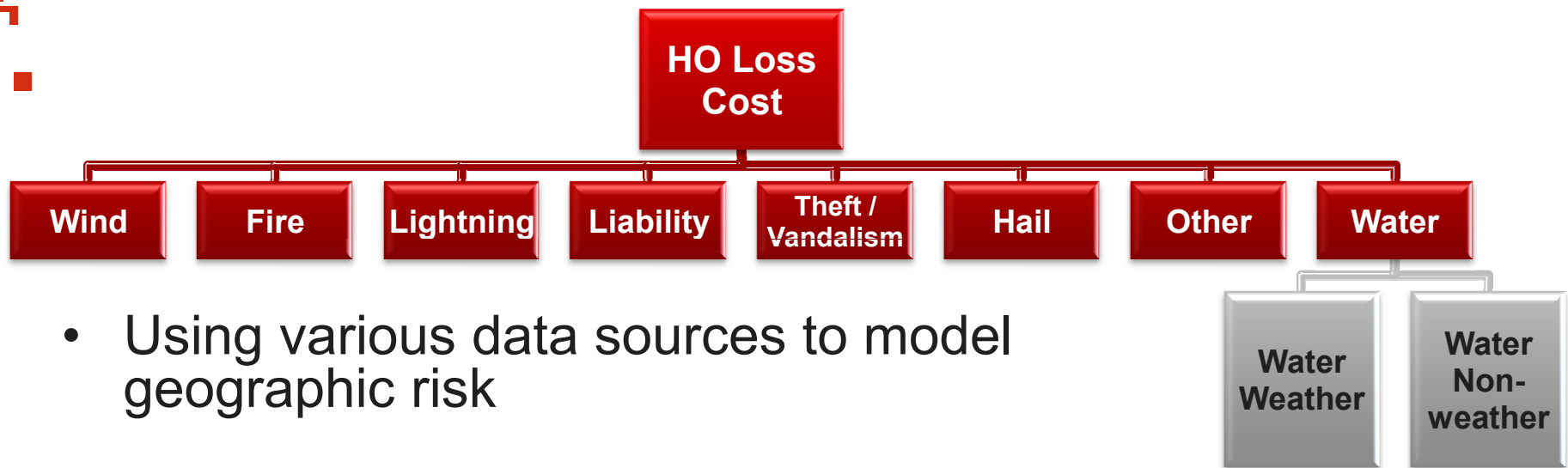
# Implied By-Peril Loss Costs for Standardized Risk





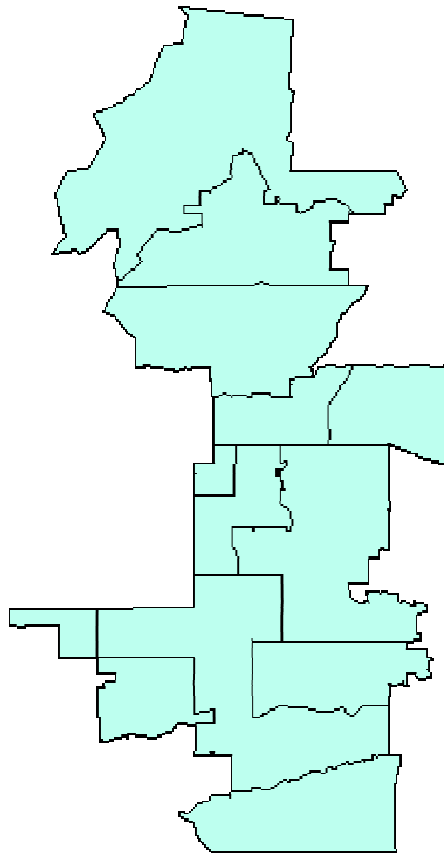
# Modeling Approach

- Modeled by-peril (excluding hurricane)

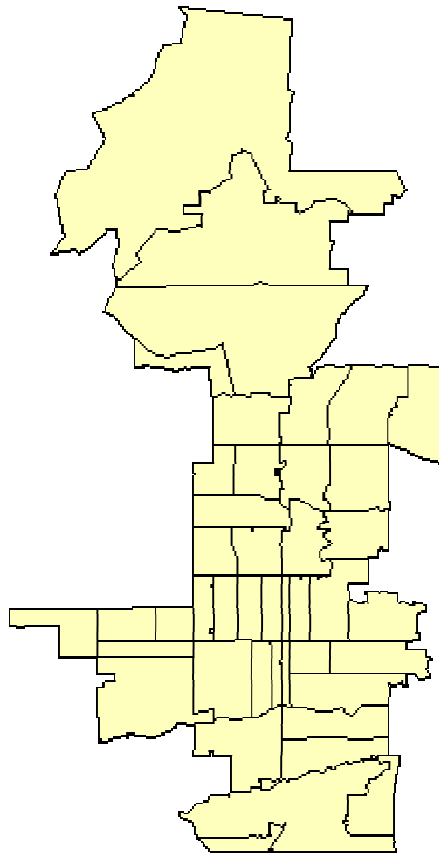


- Using various data sources to model geographic risk
- Frequency and Severity modeled separately
- Combine to form 'all peril loss cost' – multiplied frequency and severity – added across perils

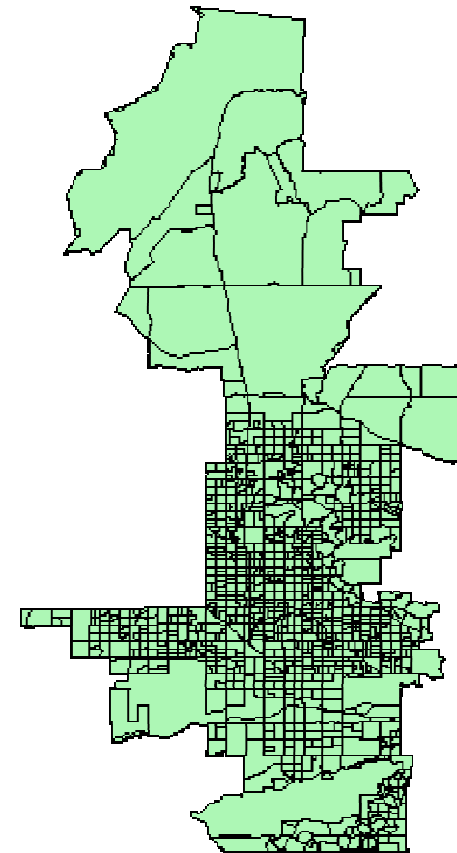
# Phoenix, AZ Geographic Area



**ISO Territories: 9**



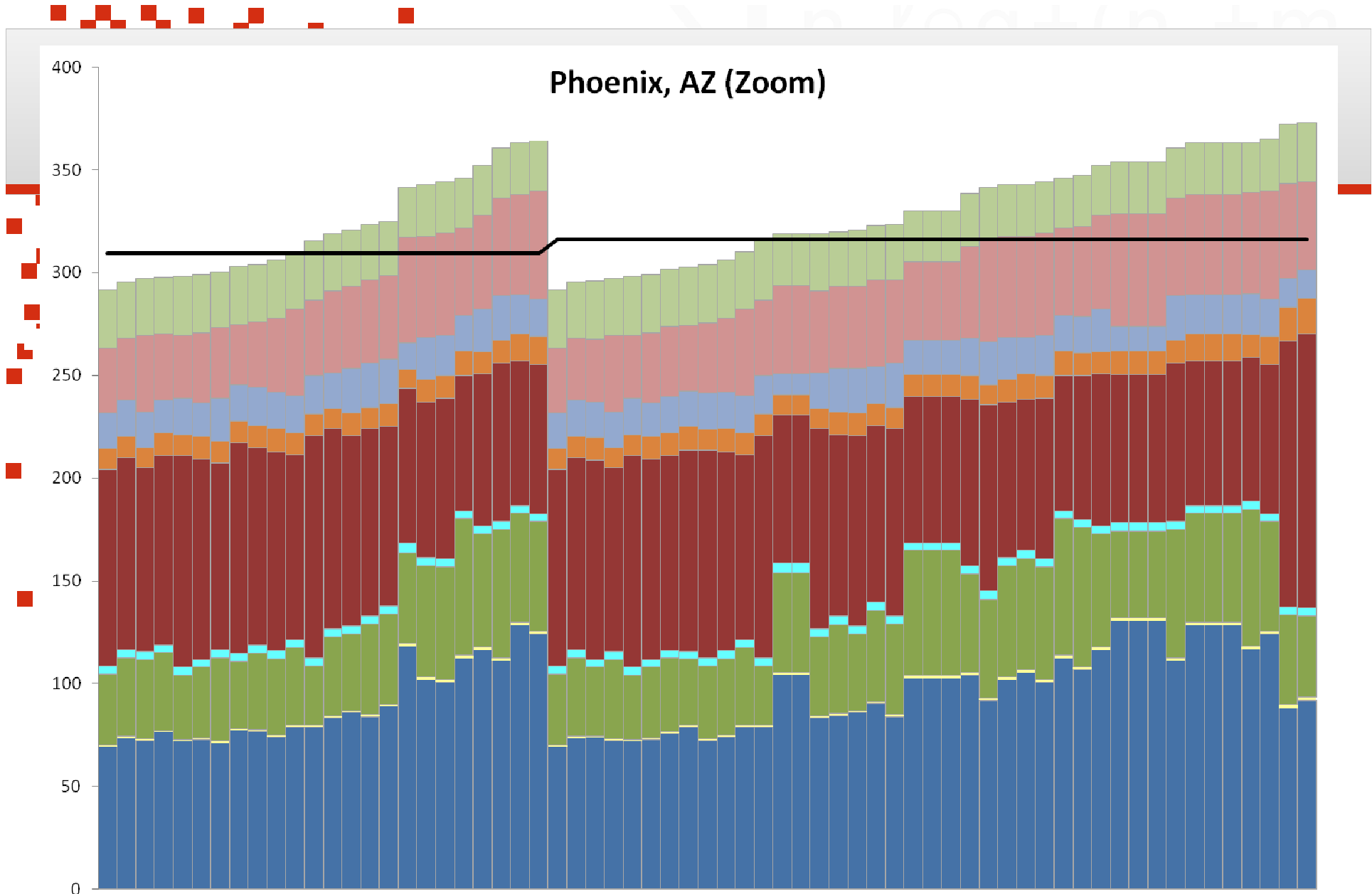
**ZIP Codes: 80**



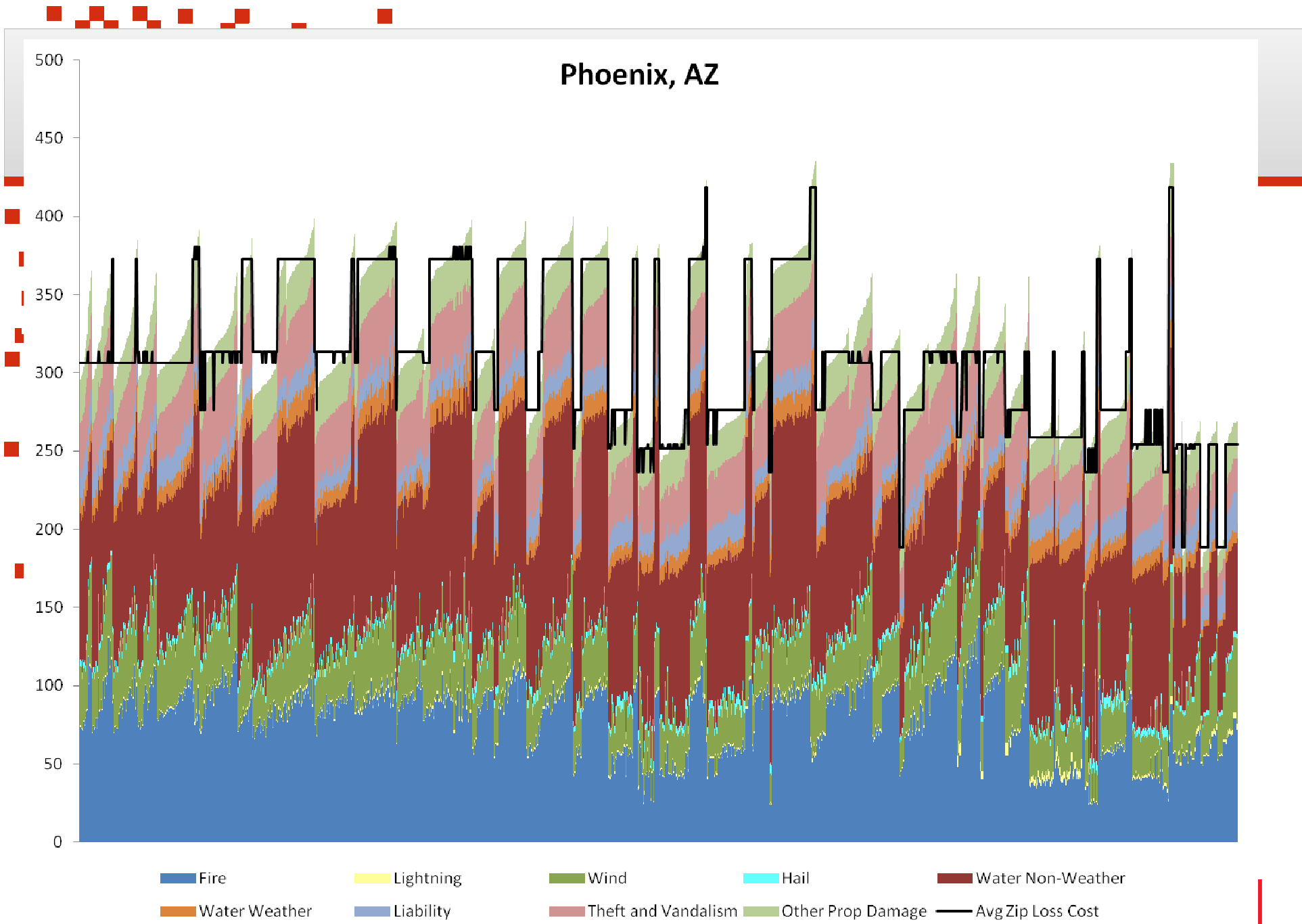
**RAHO: 1309**



# Phoenix, AZ (Zoom)

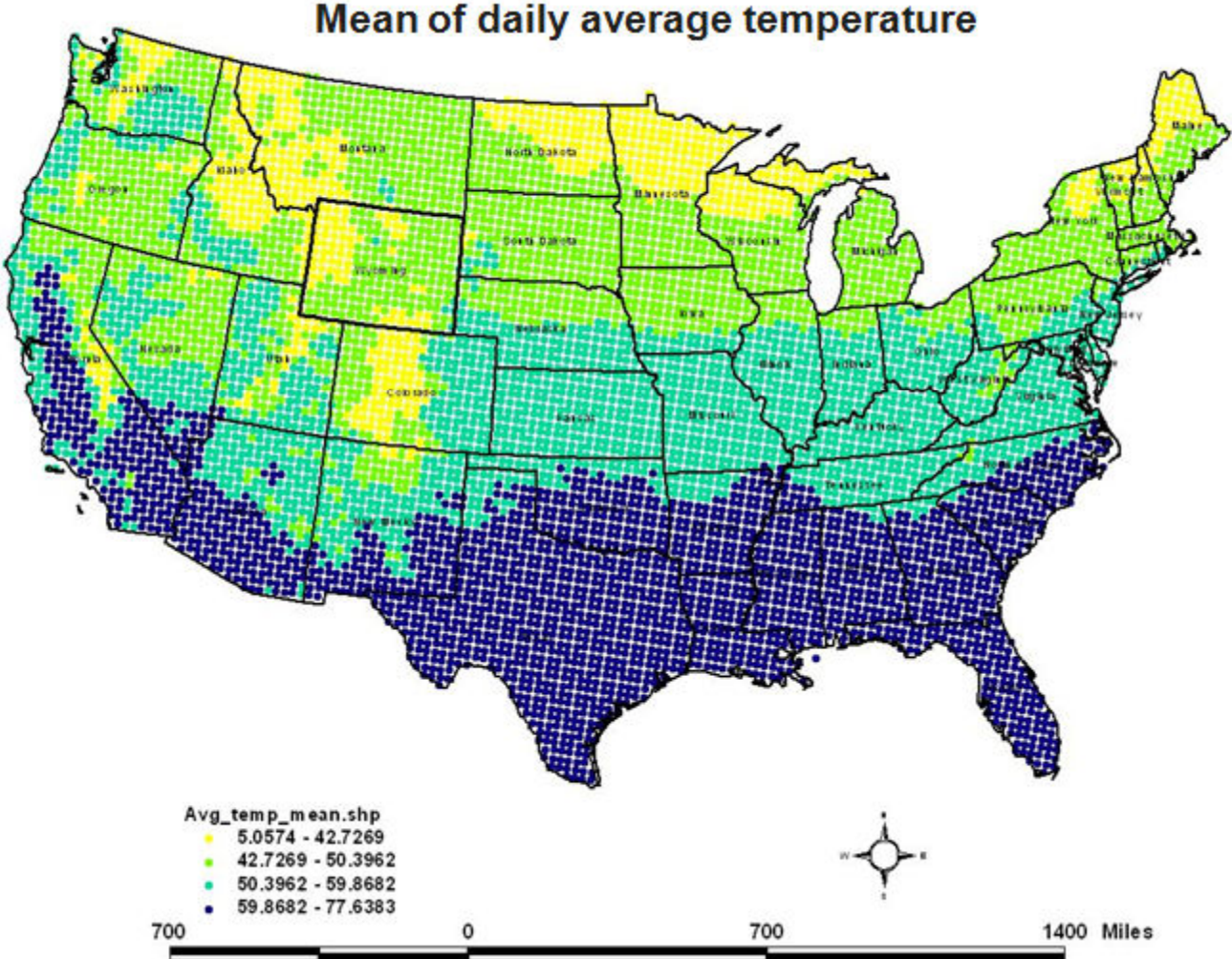


- Fire
- Lightning
- Wind
- Hail
- Water Non-Weather
- Water Weather
- Liability
- Theft and Vandalism
- Other Prop Damage
- Avg Zip Loss Cost



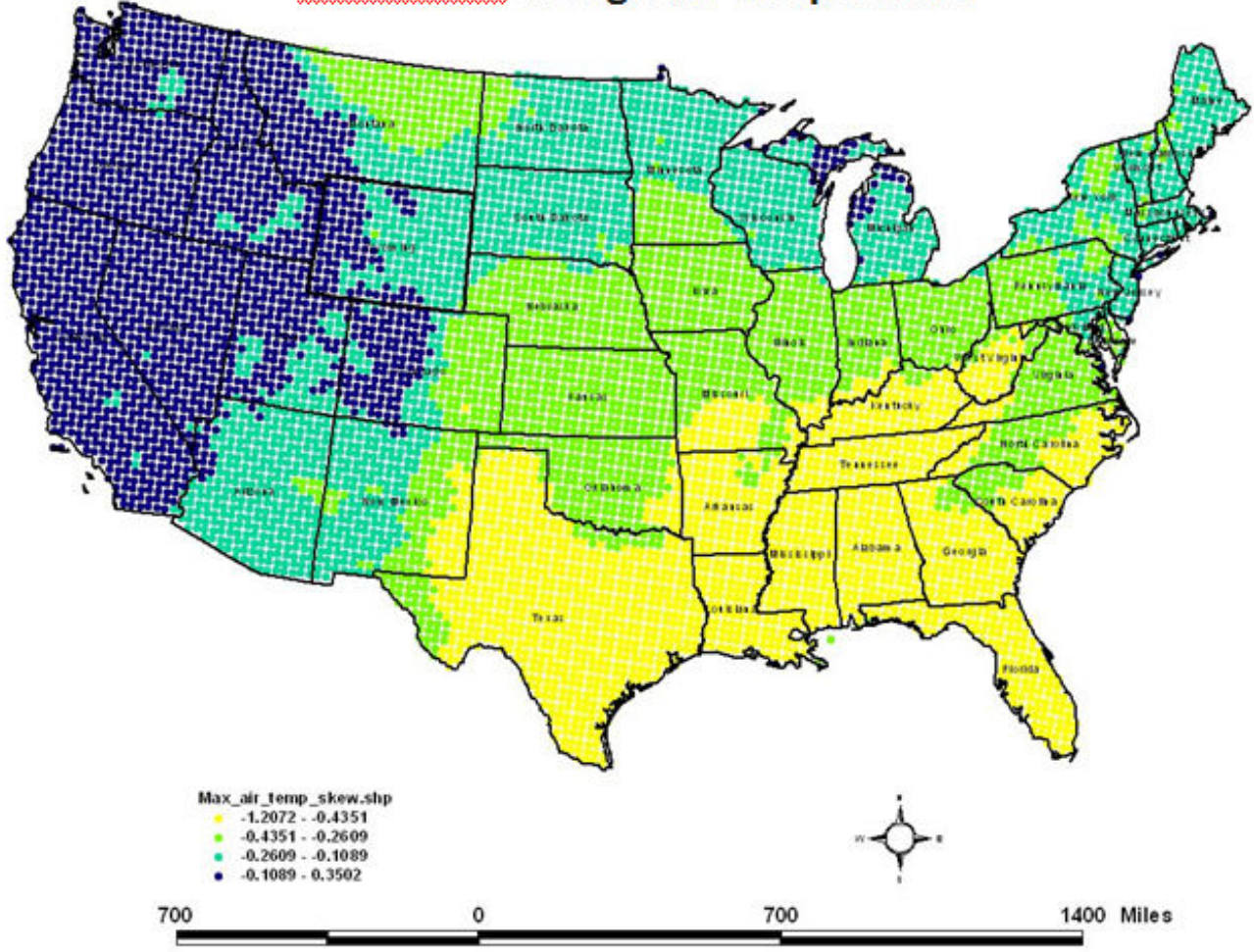
\* Loss cost are calculated @ Territory Representative Risk

# External Data – Weather



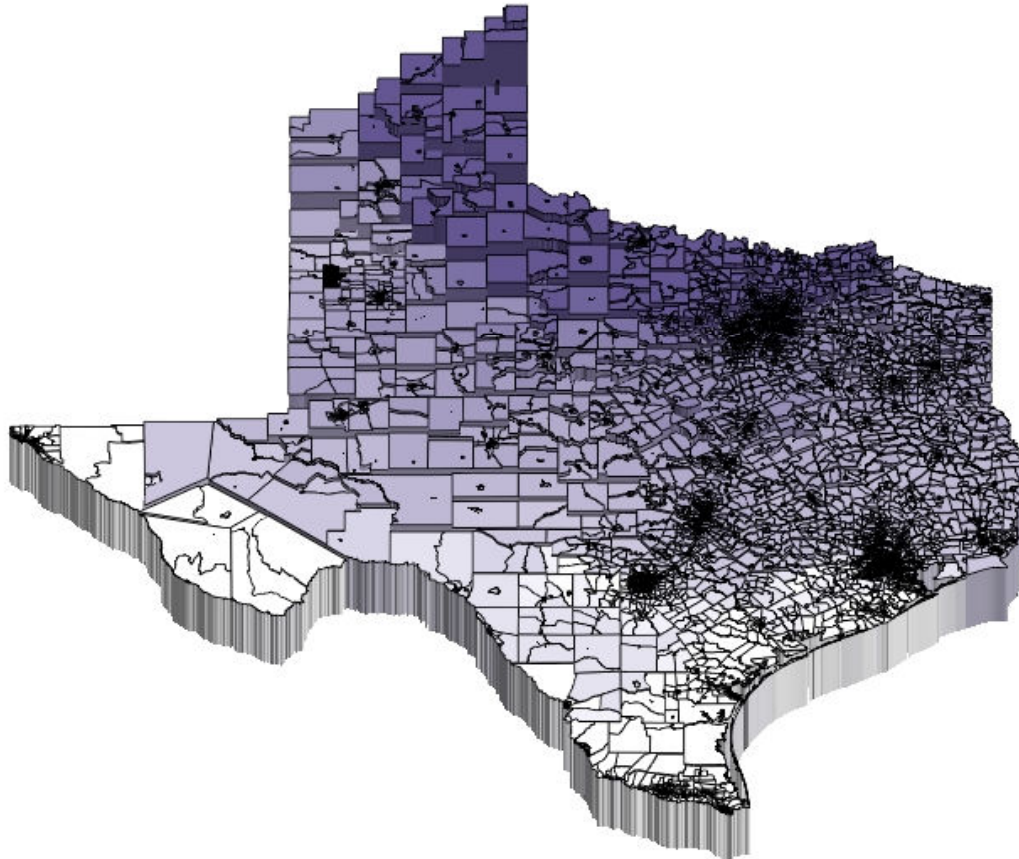
# External Data – Weather

Skewness of high air temperature



# Visualizing Weather Interactions

% of days with High < 32 and % of days with Low > 72 (Texas)



Positive coefficient in  
Wind Frequency  
model

value 

-1.05 - -1.01	-1.01 - -0.99	-0.99 - -0.99	-0.99 - -0.98	-0.98 - -0.97	-0.97 - -0.91	-0.91 - -0.79
-0.79 - -0.65	-0.65 - -0.52	-0.52 - -0.34	-0.34 - -0.26	-0.26 - -0.20	-0.20 - -0.13	-0.13 - 1.20

Using SAS/Graph



# By-Peril Modeling – Serendipitous Discoveries

Weather & Elevation	FIRE	LIGHT	WIND	HAIL	WW	LIAB	THEFT
Elevation							
Temperature							
Precipitation							
Relative Humidity							
Snow							
Wind							
Ice Pellets							

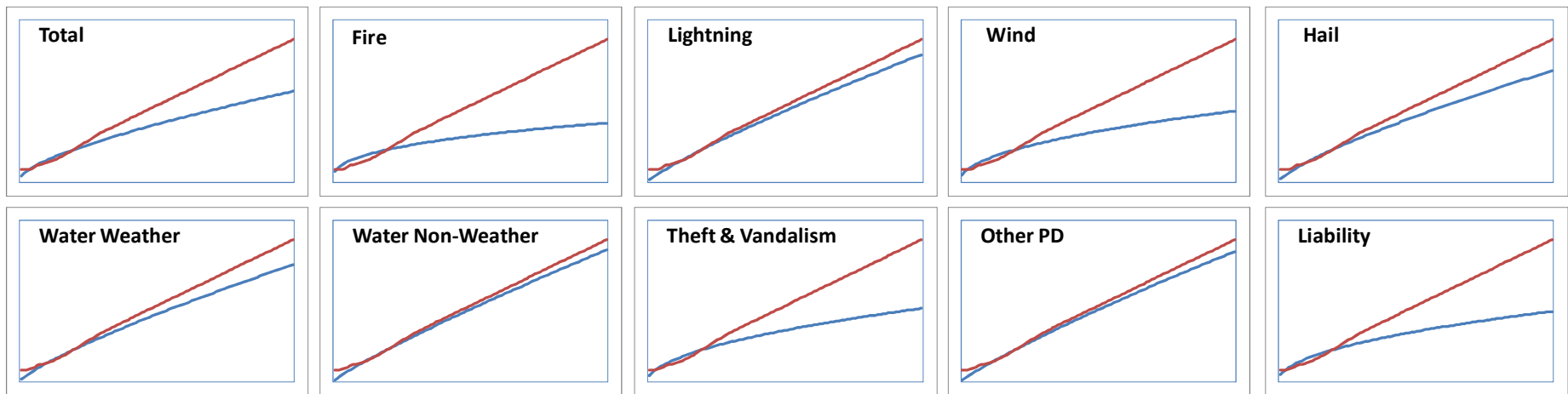
## External Validation:

Ellen Cohn. "Weather and Crime". *The British Journal of Criminology* 30:51-64 (1990)



# By-Peril Rating Factors

- Modeled simultaneously with geographic variables
  - Amount of Insurance
  - Deductible
  - Age of Construction
- Produces a set of countrywide tables by peril for each rating factor



# By-Peril Rating Factors + Environmental Factors

- Why are by-peril rating factors more accurate?
  - By-peril rating factors allow for a more explicit recognition of the impact of perils *varying by location*
  - By-peril rating factors more dynamically react to changing peril contributions over time

Peril	Amount of Insurance Factor	Location A	Location B	Location C
Fire	1.5	30%	25%	50%
Wind	1.2	20%	25%	15%
Water	1.0	40%	25%	20%
Other	2.0	10%	25%	15%
All-Perils Factor	1.37	1.29	1.43	1.39

# Building Characteristics Overview

Use specific building and property features:

- Construction style & material
- Roof age & material
- Square footage, lot size, # of bedrooms / baths / stories
- Heating and cooling systems
- Garage and basement information
- Etc.....



# Building Characteristics Illustration

Both houses are in the same ZIP Code and have \$300k ITV  
Same year of construction and in same PPC



3000 sq foot 4 bed, 3.5 bath colonial  
Brick exterior, attached 2 car garage



2500 sq foot 3 bed, 2.0 bath ranch  
Wood siding, 2 car carport

# Building Characteristics Illustration



3000 sq foot 4 bed, 3.5 bath colonial  
Brick exterior, attached 2 car garage

- Multiple stories have higher water non-weather losses
- 3.5 baths and two stories leads to higher water claims
- Attached garage lowers fire and wind exposure
- Fireplace increases hail exposure
- Brick construction lowers weather claims
  
- All peril factor: 1.165
  - Hail: 1.258
  - Water Non-Weather: 1.309
  - Liability: 0.859
  - Fire: 0.908

# Building Characteristics Illustration

- Larger floor plan has greater weather exposure
- Fewer bathrooms decreases water non-weather losses
- Pool increases wind and liability exposure
- Composite shingles lowers weather claims
- Single story increases theft/vandalism
  
- All peril factor: 0.950
  - Hail: 0.605
  - Water Non-Weather: 0.905
  - Liability: 1.162
  - Theft & Vandalism: 1.373



2500 sq foot 3 bed, 2.0 bath ranch  
Wood siding, 2 car carport

# Building Characteristics Summary



- All peril factor: 1.165
  - Hail: 1.258
  - Water Non-Weather: 1.309
  - Liability: 0.859
  - Fire: 0.908



- All peril factor: 0.950
  - Hail: 0.605
  - Water Non-Weather: 0.905
  - Liability: 1.162
  - Theft & Vandalism: 1.373

# Data Challenges in By-Peril Predictive Modeling

- Data Preparation

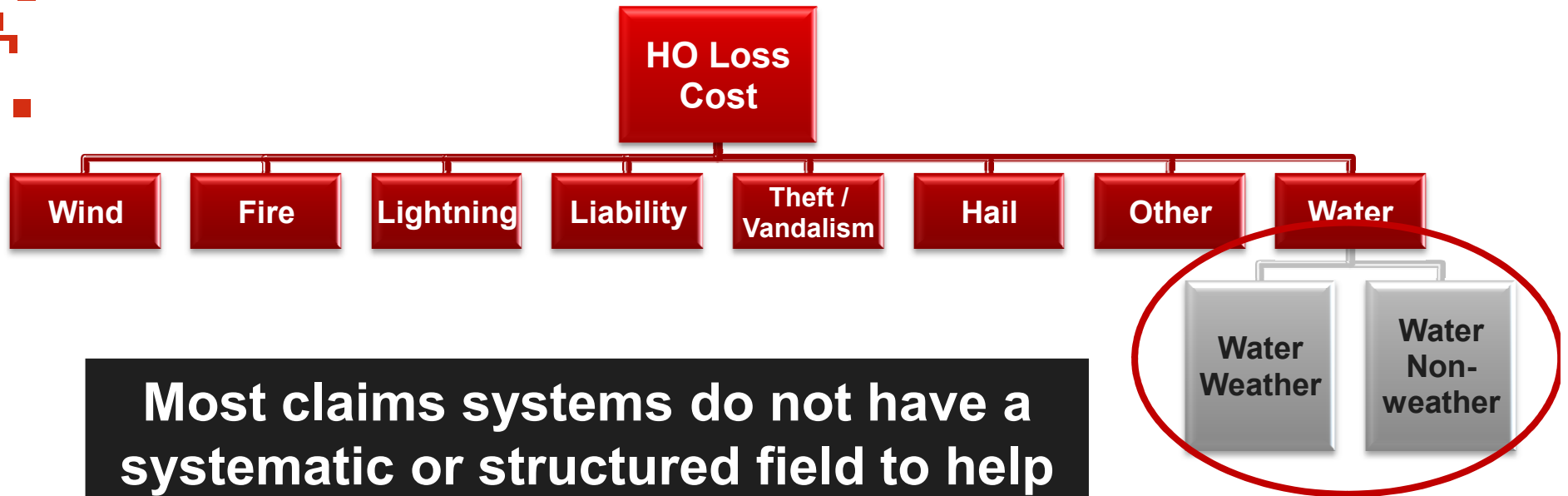
- Splitting losses by peril

- Data Volume

- Separating the signal from the noise in each peril



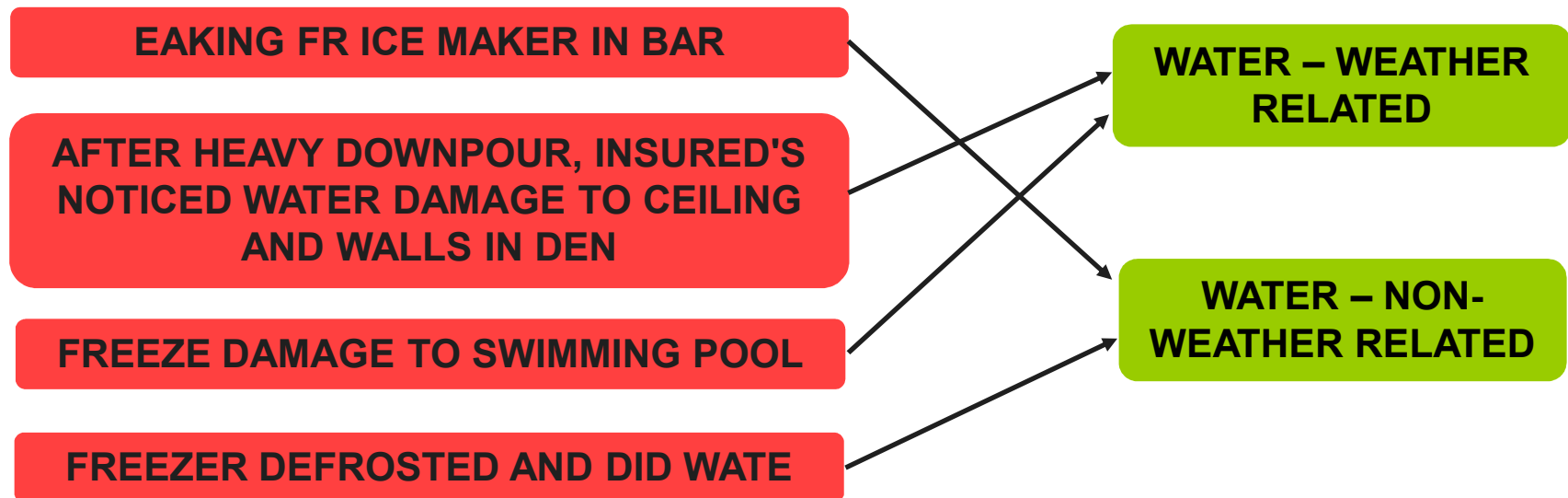
# Decomposing Water Losses



**Most claims systems do not have a systematic or structured field to help distinguish weather related water losses from non-weather related water losses**

# Text Mining for Cause-Of-Loss

- Rich information buried in unstructured data, such as loss descriptions or adjuster notes
- E.g., extracting the “Type of Loss” from the loss description



# Dealing with Data for By-Peril Modeling

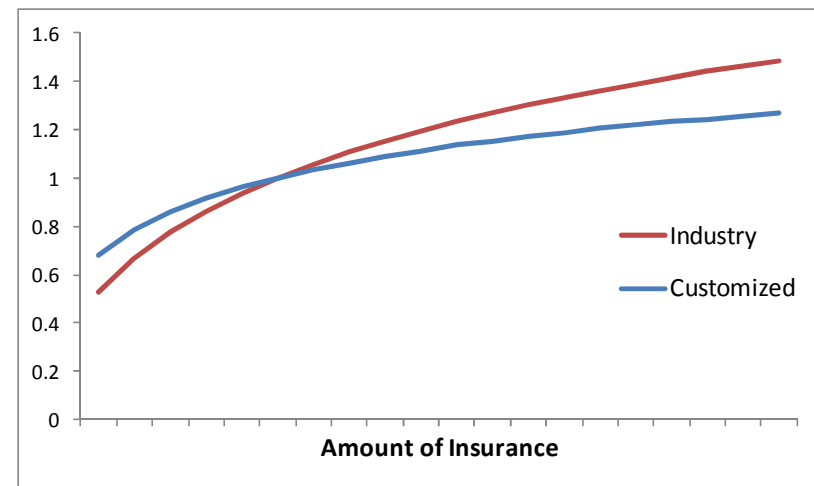
- Accurate by-peril Homeowners models require extensive data resources
  - Low frequency line – split further by-peril
  - Severity is volatile and differs significantly by-peril
- Solution: Create re-usable data features
  - Derived from modeling on larger datasets
  - Can be used directly as inputs into models on smaller datasets – Ensuring stable results without overfitting

# Gaining Customized Lift With Re-Usable Data Features

- Step 1: Score your data using results from “larger” model
- Step 2: Fit your GLM using scored variable
  - Use continuous predictor (variate)
  - Apply transformations as needed
- Result:
  - Customized rating factor indication requiring less of your data
  - Avoids overfitting by preserving information from “larger” model

Policy Number	Amount of Insurance	Fire Severity Factor
1	210,000	1.32
2	140,000	1.13
3	370,000	1.63

$$\dots + \beta \times (\text{AOI Fire Severity Factor}) + \dots$$



# Be Careful with Binned Variables

- Without enough data, binned variables ignore known relationship to loss – can lead to overfitting

Variable Treatment	Gini
Continuous	38.05
5 bins – equal exposures	37.77
10 bins – equal exposures	33.78
20 bins – equal exposures	31.72

Data with 1,400 claims

Variable Treatment	Gini
Continuous	29.18
5 bins – equal exposures	28.93
10 bins – equal exposures	29.31
20 bins – equal exposures	30.12

Data with 6,300 claims

# Opportunities for Enhanced Segmentation

- Use sum-of-peril loss cost estimates
  - Build new territories
  - Refine existing territories
- Use peril-specific models to break apart all-peril rating
  - Geographic exposures and rating variables
- Using components as input to models
  - Incorporate new predictive data with simpler sourcing, preparing, and selecting of variables
  - Enables accurate predictions on smaller data sets

# Questions?

David Cummings  
dcummings@iso.com

