

# Animal Experimentation, Interrupted



The Impact of Disasters and People on Animals in Labs

**Rise for  
Animals.**

# Intro



This presentation will explore the impact of natural and manmade disasters on animals in research laboratories by:

- Exploring the harm experienced by these animals
- Highlighting weakness in current laws and regulations
- Reviewing Rise for Animals' new ARLO tool, a database we've built to ensure information about animal experimentation can be found by advocates, attorneys, and journalists
- Reviewing the PREPARED Act as a first step toward protecting these animals

# Key Stats about Animal Experimentation



**95%**

The underlying premise that animal experimentation is necessary to protect human health is nonsense. 95% of potential pharmaceutical products that look promising in animals fail to make it through human clinical trials



**\$15 Billion/Year**

The NIH alone spends approximately \$15bn/year on animal experimentation. Total government spending may be as high as \$30Bn/year



**2 Billion**

A conservative estimate of the number of animals who have died as a result of animal experimentation over the last 20 years

Two of NYU Langone's vivarium facilities were severely damaged as a result of Hurricane Sandy. Although many animals were relocated in time to satellite facilities, with many rodents saved, a significant number of animals still perished: up to 35,000 mice in 7,000 pens ([Ahlborn, 2017](#)). NYU Langone estimated their value—including the cost to replace the animals and re-derive the lines—at \$25-30 million.

SCIENCE

## COVID-19 is interrupting lab animal research, sometimes fatally

Scientists across the country have needed to abruptly halt their work, leaving research animals in limbo.

Kat Eschner | April 2, 2020

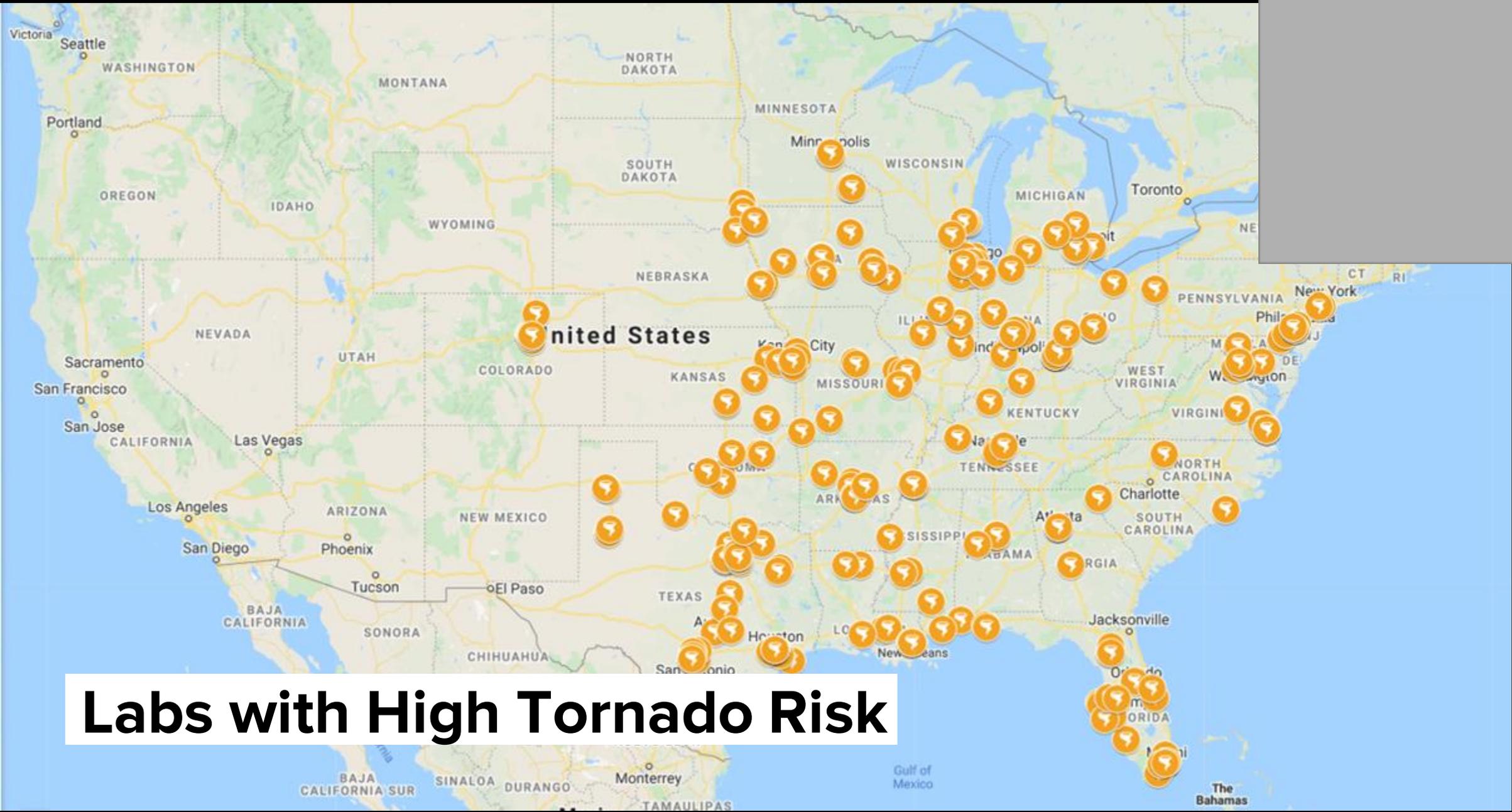




# Continental Labs



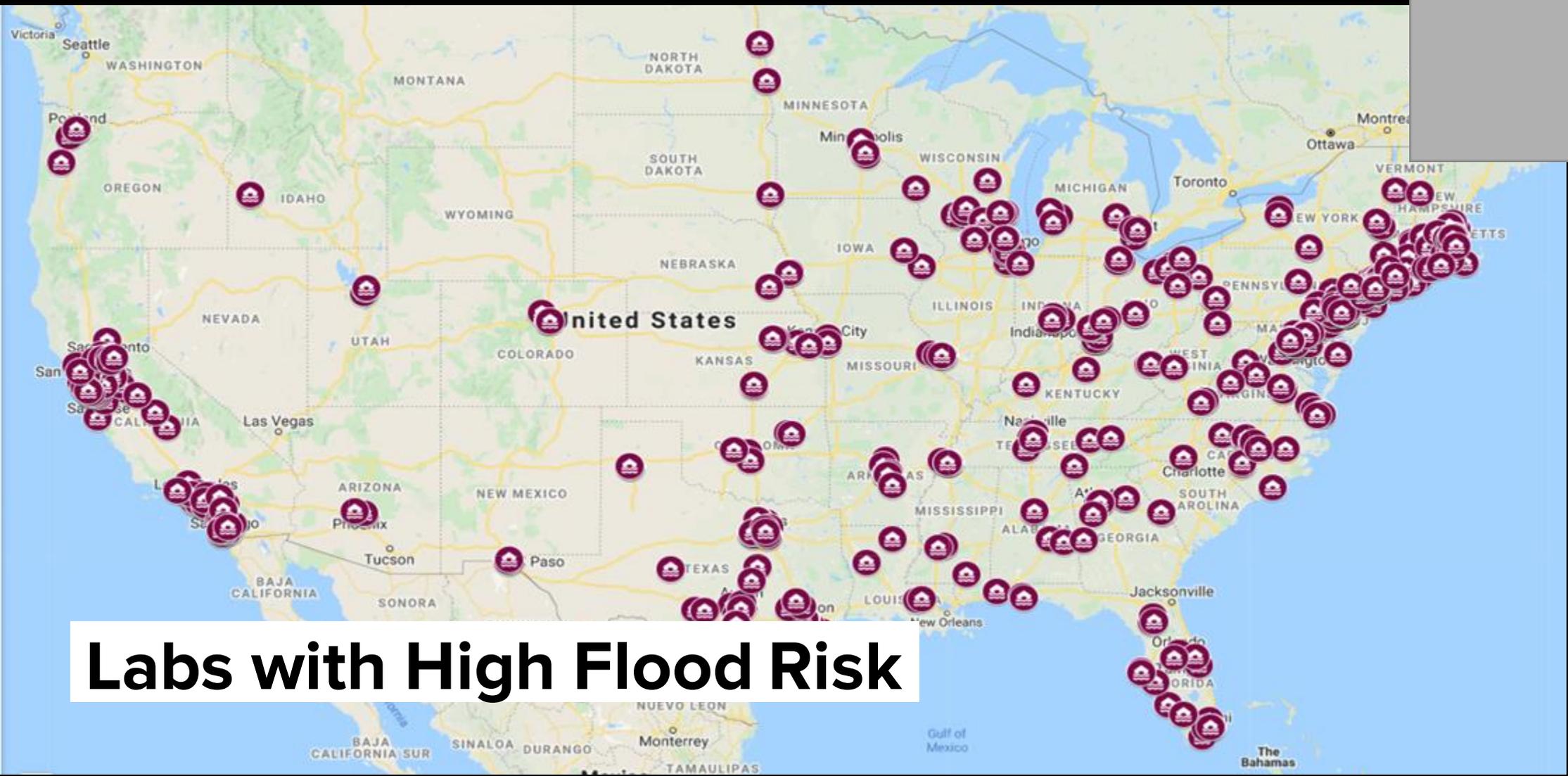
# Labs with High Fire Risk



**Labs with High Tornado Risk**

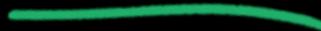


# Labs with High Hurricane Risk



# Labs with High Flood Risk

“If there are no longer enough staff members to provide basic animal care, depopulation might be the only option.”



- Jennifer Pullium, NYU



## Weakness of Current Law and Regulation

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- 95% of labs in the United States are required to obtain a Public Health Service assurance, including a requirement that those labs have disaster plans in place.
- 56 facilities have no disaster plan requirement
- Simply having a plan is inadequate. The National Academy of Sciences agrees, recommending that labs:
  - Assign a senior individual responsibility for disaster resilience
  - Implement planning and training
  - Develop performance based standards
  - Develop an institutional financial investment strategy for resilience

# Using ARLO

Leveraging our database to  
identify PHS assurance  
information for a lab near you



# ARLO

September 29, 2020

BETA Version

[arlo.riseforanimals.org](http://arlo.riseforanimals.org)

@rise\_arlo

# The PREPARED Act is necessary to protect animals in labs.



National Academy of Sciences, HHS, and NIH assessed this issue and their 2017 report found that there are systematic failures in the way labs prepare for disasters.

- Current guidelines are incomplete and inconsistent with the National Preparedness System
- Lack of disaster resilience and training resources for the animal research community
- Recommendation: “Academic research institutions should acknowledge that there is an ethical imperative to ... preserve the lives and prevent the suffering of research animals.”

The research community deep-sixed the last attempt at setting guidelines for the protection of animals in labs in 2012-2013.

The labs have a moral obligation to protect the animals under their care.

# Thank you!

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