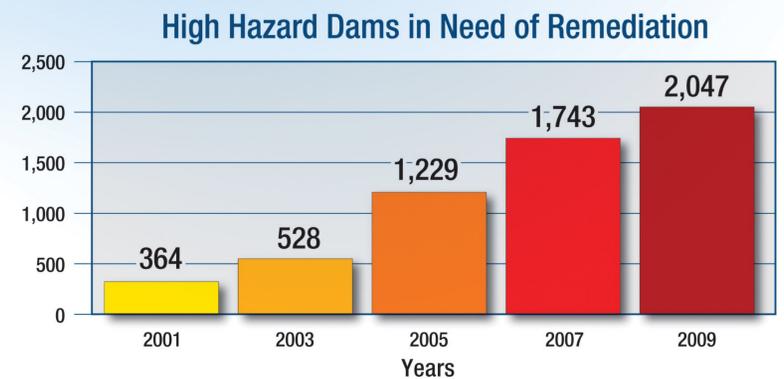
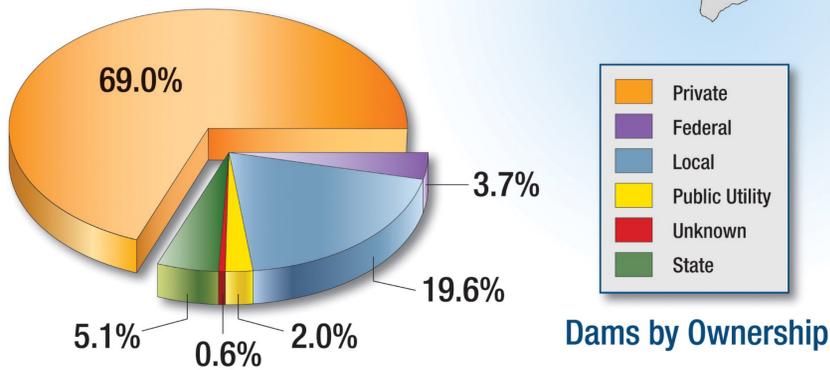
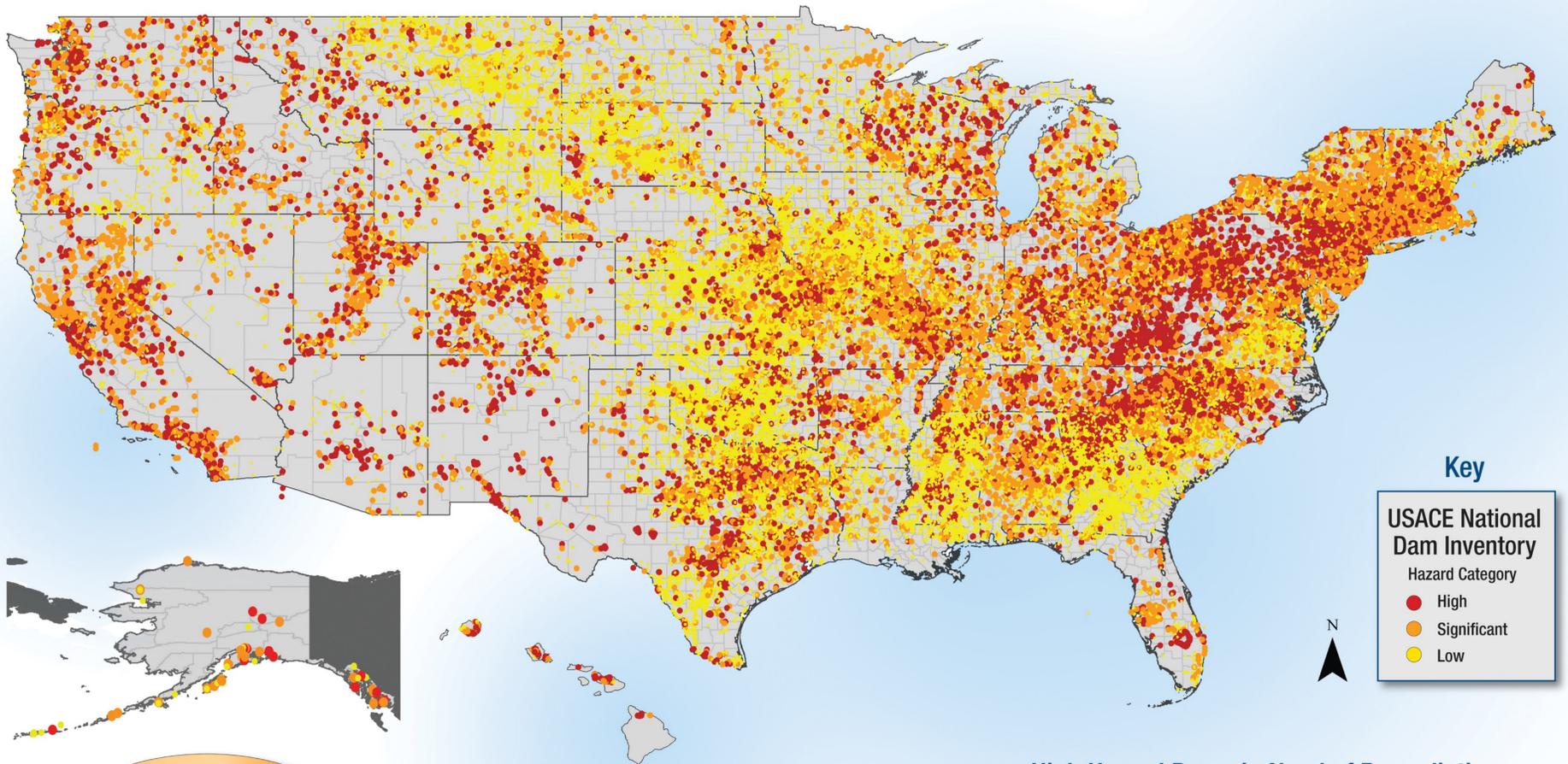




# FEMA

Risk MAP Learning. Integrating. Collaborating.



# Identifying High Hazard Dam Risk in the United States

The National Dam Safety Program (NDSP), led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is a partnership of states, Federal agencies, and other stakeholders to encourage individual and community responsibility for dam safety.

The NDSP covers over 83,000 dams that provide:

- Renewable, clean electrical generation
- Municipal water storage and irrigation
- Inland river navigation and flood control
- Retention of hazardous waste

Balancing these benefits, the NDSP's mission is to reduce the risk to life and property should a dam fail — especially where large populations are living downstream. The NDSP's activities include providing grants for the improvement of state dam safety programs, funding dam risk reduction research initiatives, delivering training to state dam safety staff and inspectors, and providing for the education of the public, including State and local officials, in the hazards of dam failures.

There are approximately 14,000 dams in the United States classified as "high hazard potential." The failure or mis-operation of these dams will likely result in loss of life. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Association of State Dam Safety Officials, the cost to repair deficient dams is \$50 billion for all dams, or \$16 billion to repair only high hazard dams. Geographic Information Systems are being used to analyze risk, raise awareness, and help the NDSP prioritize its limited resources — especially among stakeholders who have responsibility for dam inspections, repairs/maintenance, and emergency action plans.



John Day Dam, Rufus, Oregon  
Image Source: www.bpa.gov/

### Additional Information:

- National Dam Safety Program: [www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/damfailure/ndsp.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/damfailure/ndsp.shtm)
- Association of State Dam Safety Officials: [www.damsafety.org](http://www.damsafety.org)
- 2009 ASCE Report Card: [www.infrastructurereportcard.org/fact-sheet/dams](http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/fact-sheet/dams)
- Dam Safety Coalition: [www.damsafetycoalition.org](http://www.damsafetycoalition.org)
- National Inventory of Dams: <http://nid.usace.army.mil>

Data Sources: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers National Inventory of Dams, 2009, <http://nid.usace.army.mil>