

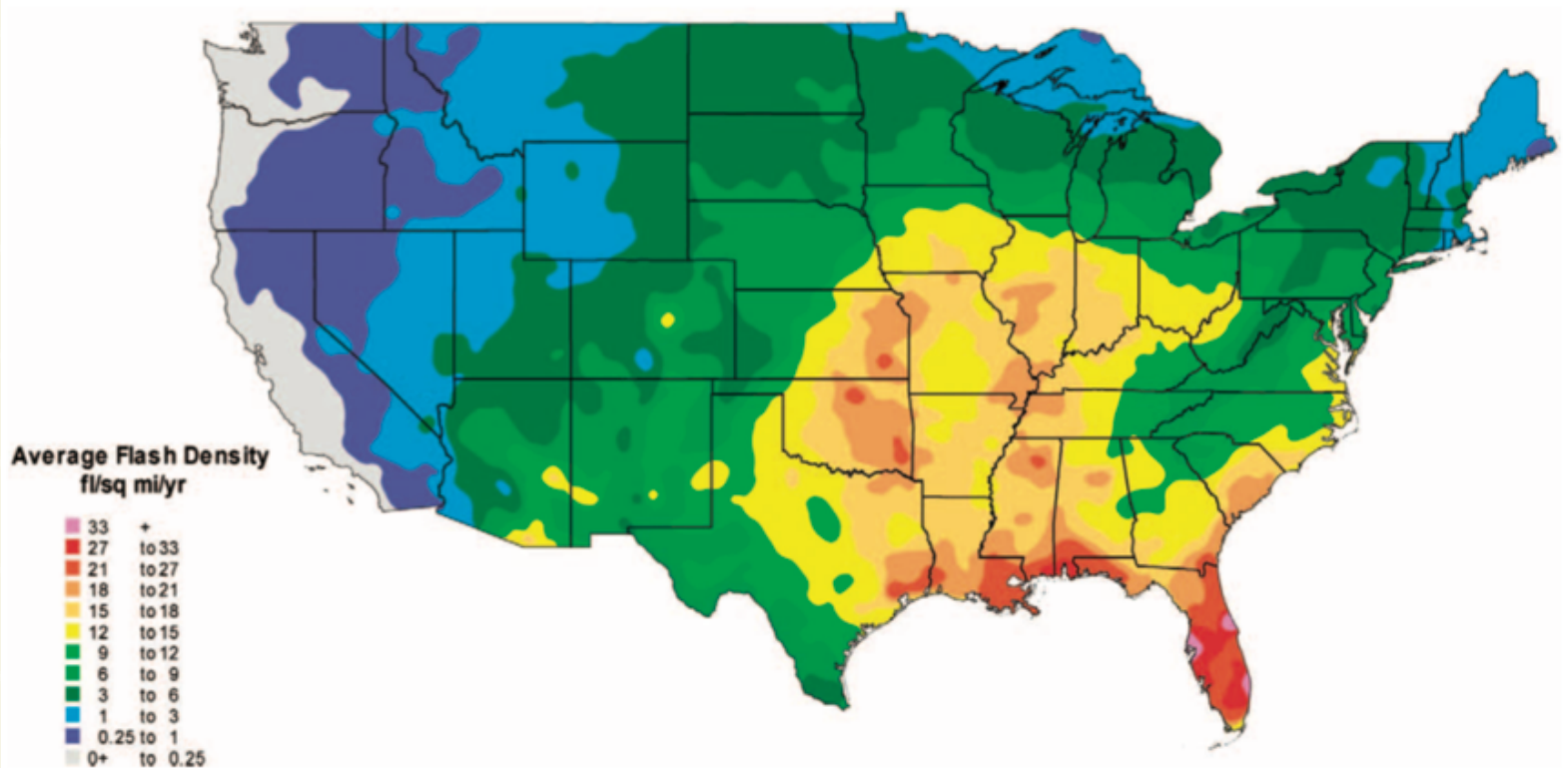
THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF LIGHTENING DEATHS

In the last decade, lightning was responsible for an average of 42 fatalities per year in the United States.

Worldwide, lightning causes an estimated 24,000 deaths and about 240,000 injuries annually.

In 2005, data indicated that approximately 15% of lightning casualties arose in organized sports, and 25% to 30% from recreational activities

In 2010 and 2011, The National Weather Service reported 48% and 62% of lightning fatalities attributed to sport and recreation, respectively.



Education regarding lightning danger and precautions to lessen the likelihood of being struck by lightning are critical to reducing casualties

References

Walsh KM, Cooper MA, Holle R, Rakov VA, Roeder WP, Ryan M. National Athletic Trainers Association Position Statement: Lightning Safety for Athletics and Recreation. *Journal of Athletic Training*. 2013;48(2):258-270. doi:10.4085/1062-6050-48.2.25.