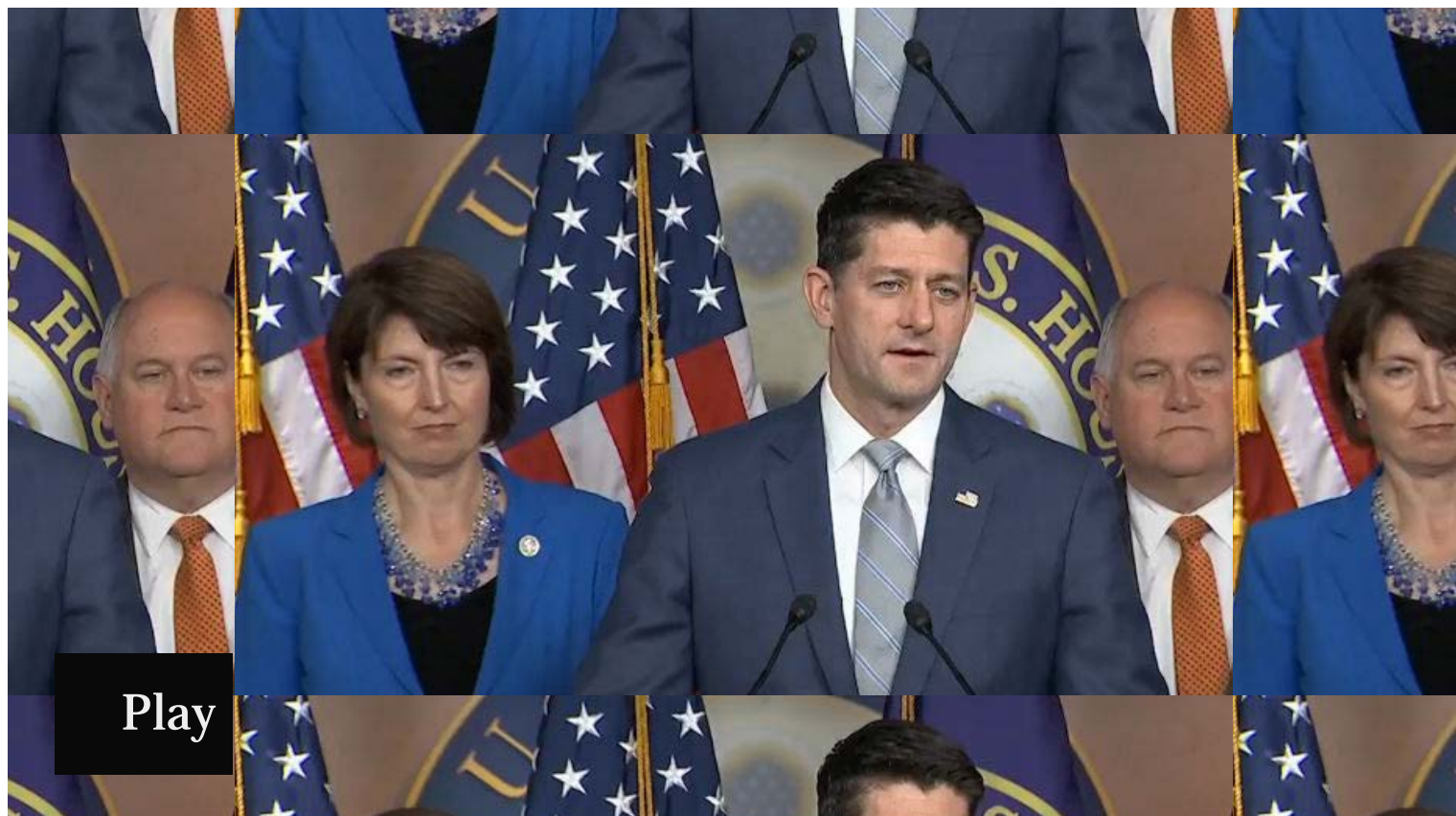




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Here are 8 studies disputing Trump's claim that the hurricane death toll was low



By [Matt Rocheleau](#)

GLOBE STAFF SEPTEMBER 13, 2018

President Trump on Thursday [claimed](#) the number of people who died in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico “did not go up by much” beyond the initial counts that were released just after the storm and put the death toll in the single or low double digits.

But Trump's assertion defies the findings of at least eight different studies that estimated the number of deaths to be at least several hundred, if not more than 1,000.

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That includes one report that estimated the death toll was 2,975 — a figure that the government of Puerto Rico has adopted as the official count.

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An advertisement for SunPower, a solar company. The ad is a vertical rectangle with a blue background. At the top, it says "SUNPOWER" in white, with a small orange square above the 'O', followed by "by BlueSel Home Solar" in smaller white text. Below that, it says "Massachusetts' 1st SunPower Master Dealer" in white. A thin orange horizontal line separates this from the next line, which says "1 of only 30" in large orange font, with "U.S. Master Dealers" in white below it. At the bottom, there is an orange bar with the text "Go Solar Today" in white.

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In a pair of tweets Thursday, Trump appeared to specifically attack the findings of that study.

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The tweets came after Trump on [Wednesday](#), as Hurricane Florence approached the Southeast US coast, attacked criticism lobbed in recent months over the federal government's response to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, calling his administration's efforts "underappreciated."

Below is a list of studies that have estimated the death toll there. The list is arranged to show the most recent studies first.

2,975 deaths

August 2018 estimate from a [study](#) led by researchers at George Washington University

(The Puerto Rican government commissioned this study. When the analysis was published, the government updated its official death toll to reflect this number after claiming for months that there were only 64 deaths.)

1,006—1,272 deaths

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August 2018 [estimate](#) that updated a preliminary November 2017 study led by a researcher at Pennsylvania State University

793—8,498 deaths

July 2018 estimate from a [study](#) led by researchers at Harvard University

1,427 deaths

July 2018 estimate from a [study](#) led by the government of Puerto Rico

1,052 deaths

June 2018 estimate from an [analysis](#) by The New York Times

605—1,039 deaths

February 2018 [estimate](#) from researchers at the University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez

1,065 deaths

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December 2017 [estimate](#) from an analysis by the Center for Investigative Journalism in Puerto Rico

1,085 deaths

November 2017 preliminary estimate from a [study](#) led by researcher at Pennsylvania State University

Material from the Associated Press was used in this report. Matt Rocheleau can be reached at matthew.rocheleau@globe.com.

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