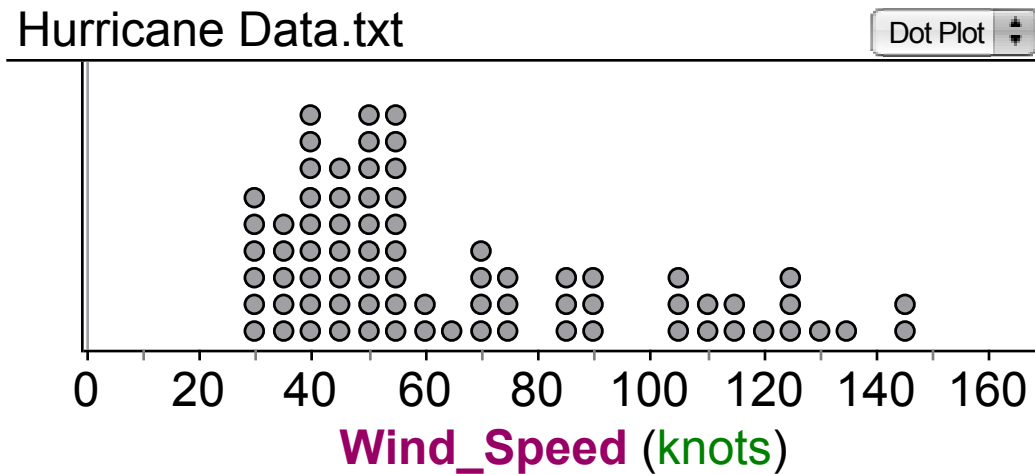


Irene: Just Another Storm?

The Northeast and Mid Atlantic regions aren't as used to dealing with tropical storms and hurricanes as our neighbors to the South. However, when the eye of Hurricane Irene made landfall in Southern New Jersey on Saturday, August 27 as a large, category one hurricane, she created conditions that are still impacting us now.

Every year, people in the US have to deal with hurricanes. Just how did Irene compare with other hurricanes to make landfall in the US? To answer this, consider some data from other previous named Atlantic tropical storms from the past five years.



1. Based on these data, what would you consider to be the typical wind speed for a storms making landfall in the US? How did you determine what you'd call typical? Mark this typical wind speed with a line on the graph above.
2. How much did these storms vary in their wind speed? By about how much did the wind speed typically deviate from the value you marked above?
3. In terms of wind speed, how typical was Irene? Explain.

Atlantic Tropical Storms/Hurricanes, 2007-2011

Name	Year	Wind Speed (kt)
Andrea	2007	40
Barry	2007	45
Chantal	2007	45
Dean	2007	145
Erin	2007	35
Felix	2007	145
Fiftee	2007	30
Gabrielle	2007	45
Humberto	2007	75
Ingrid	2007	40
Jerry	2007	40
Karen	2007	60
Lorenzo	2007	70
Melissa	2007	40
Noel	2007	70
Olga	2007	50
Ten	2007	30
Arthur	2008	35
Bertha	2008	105
Cristobal	2008	55
Dolly	2008	85
Edouard	2008	55
Fay	2008	55
Gustav	2008	130
Hanna	2008	70
Ike	2008	125
Josephine	2008	55
Kyle	2008	70
Laura	2008	50
Marco	2008	55
Nana	2008	35
Omar	2008	110
Paloma	2008	125
Sixtee	2008	30
Ana	2009	35
Bill	2009	115
Claudette	2009	45
Danny	2009	50

Name	Year	Wind Speed (kt)
Eight	2009	30
Erika	2009	50
Fred	2009	105
Grace	2009	60
Henri	2009	45
Ida	2009	90
One	2009	30
Alex	2010	90
Bonnie	2010	40
Colin	2010	50
Danielle	2010	115
Earl	2010	125
Fiona	2010	55
Gaston	2010	35
Hermine	2010	55
Igor	2010	135
Julia	2010	120
Karl	2010	110
Lisa	2010	75
Matthew	2010	50
Nicole	2010	40
Otto	2010	75
Paula	2010	90
Richard	2010	85
Shary	2010	65
Tomas	2010	85
Arlene	2011	55
Bret	2011	55
Cindy	2011	50
Don	2011	45
Emily	2011	45
Franklin	2011	40
Gert	2011	50
Hervey	2011	50
Irene	2011	105
Jose	2011	40
Katia	2011	40
Ten	2011	30