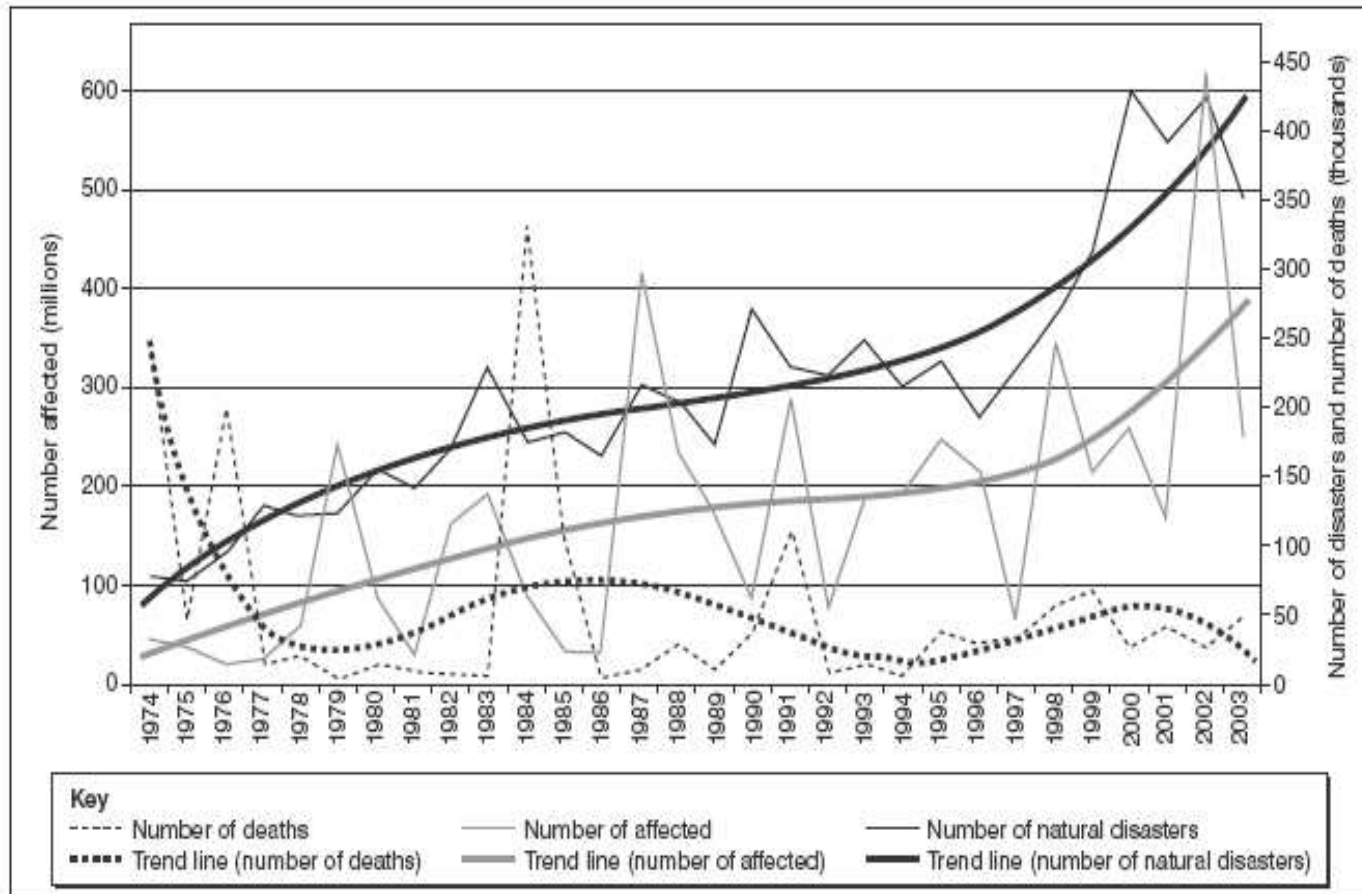


Trends in frequency and impact of disasters over time



Source: EM-DAT.

There is a decreasing number of deaths due to hazards

The number / frequency of reported natural disasters has increased

Since 1980, the average annual economic cost of hazards has risen from less than \$20 bn to more than \$160 bn.

Why ?

Better understanding of natural disasters

Better preparedness

Better technology

Graph shows:-

Number of deaths declining

Numbers affected increasing

Number of natural disasters increasing

Average annual economic cost increasing

Why? If number of tectonic events not increasing???

More reported

More people live in hazardous areas

Although fewer deaths, more people are affected

Definition of disaster relates to economic cost as well as human cost

Therefore relates to definition of disaster.

source EM-DAT international disaster database