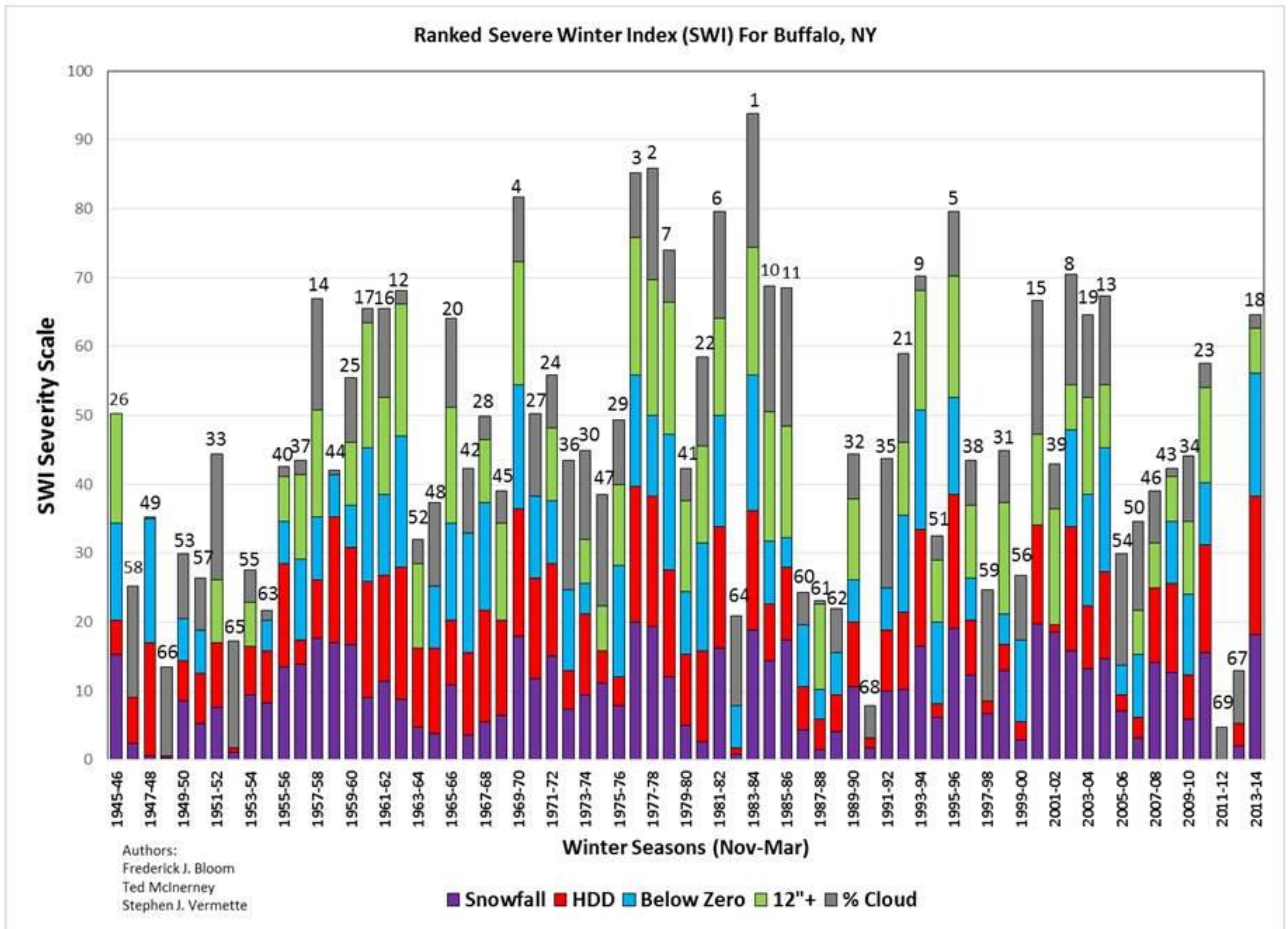


Buffalo's Severe Winter Index

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The Severe Winter Index ranks the winters (November through March) of 1945-46 to 2013-14 (69 years) based on five individual severity categories: 1) total snowfall; 2) the number of days with a snowpack depth greater than 12 inches, 3) Heating Degree Days (a measure of a season's overall coldness); 4) the number of days with minimums less than 0°F; and 5) percent cloud cover during daylight hours. The rankings from each category were added, and the year with the highest summed ranking (out of 100) was ranked as the most severe, while the year with lowest summed ranking was ranked as the least severe. The years in between are grouped as Mild (0 to 29), Moderate (30 to 59), and Severe (\geq 60). The Index begins with the 1945-46 winter season, as the winter data collected since then were taken exclusively from the Buffalo airport and not at various downtown locations that may not be comparable.

*McInerney, T. and Vermette, S. 2008. Development of a Severe Winter Index, *The Geographical Bulletin*, 49 (1), 47-55.