In June 1972, tropical storms caused severe flooding in Pennsylvania and southern New York. The floods on many major streams were the highest in a long time, and the river valleys were swelled. As a result, some areas were flooded for the first time in decades. However, in some areas, the floodwaters were not as high as expected, and the damage was less severe than anticipated.

The flood caused widespread property damage in several counties in the New York City area. The damages included loss of life, property, and economic disruption. The flooding was caused by heavy rainfall and high river discharge. The survey was conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the State of New York and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.