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Climate Changes Children’s Health: Protecting Our Future

The Threats

October 19, 2017
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Region 3
Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit

http://kidsandenvironment.georgetown.edu
“Warming of the climate system is unequivocal.”

- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2007
INCREASING MAGNITUDES OF WARMING INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD OF SEVERE AND PERVERSIVE IMPACTS
An Overview: Climate Change and Health
Impact of Climate Change on Human Health

- Injuries, fatalities, mental health impacts
- Asthma, cardiovascular disease
- Heat-related illness and death, cardiovascular failure
- Malaria, dengue, encephalitis, hantavirus, Rift Valley fever, Lyme disease, chikungunya, West Nile virus
- Forced migration, civil conflict, mental health impacts
- Extreme heat
- More extreme weather
- Changes in vector ecology
- Respiratory allergies, asthma
- Sea level rise
- Rising CO2 levels
- Water and food supply impacts
- Water quality impacts
- Malnutrition, diarrheal disease
- Cholera, cryptosporidiosis, campylobacter, leptospirosis, harmful algal blooms
Children are not little adults

- Drink more water per unit of body mass
- Eat more food per unit of body mass
- Breath more air per unit of body mass
- Have longer “shelf-life”
- Developing organism with stages of vulnerability
- Differing metabolism
Air Quality Impacts
Vector-Borne Diseases
Water-Related Illness
Extreme Events

Downtown Franklin, VA inundated by flood waters. (photo credit: FEMA)
Thank You!