A Look at Climate Change and Public Health Policy

Georges C. Benjamin, MD
Executive Director
American Public Health Association
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Agenda:

- Overview of the health impacts of climate change and APHA’s efforts
- Federal climate change policy
- Examples of state policy and climate mitigation
- State and local policy regarding adaptation planning
- Looking to the future
Health Effects: Climate Change

Subtle & Extreme Ecological Change

Climate Change

Health Effects
- Heat stress
- Injuries
- Respiratory conditions
- Infectious diseases
- Malnutrition
- Diarrhea
- Harmful algal blooms
- Stress & depression
- Forced migration
- Civil conflict
APHA’s Work:

- Climate change policy in 1995 & 2007
- National Public Health Week 2008
- Webinar Series
- Climate Change Guidebook
- Advocacy
Public Health Actions: For Climate Change

- Study and predict links between climate change and health
- Track diseases and trends related to climate change
- Investigate infectious water, food, and vector-borne disease outbreaks
- Communicate effectively on climate change
- Public health workforce prepared to respond
- Heat wave and severe storm response plans; focus on the most vulnerable
- Partnerships with private sector, civic groups, NGOs, faith community, etc

Used with permission from Frumkin H., et al., CDC NCEH/ATSDR, 2007
Federal Climate Change Policy

- 2009 Endangerment Finding
- 2010 Waxman-Markey bill
- December 2011 re-introduction of Capps bill
  - Support infrastructure and capacity among federal, state, and local agencies to prevent health effects of climate change
  - Advance climate and health research, preparedness and planning to train the public health workforce in addressing climate change
  - Improve disease surveillance systems, create tools to predict and monitor climate effects
- Protecting the Clean Air Act
State Policy and Mitigation Efforts:

- **Economy-wide GHG reductions**
  - Minnesota, California
- **GHG Reporting**
  - Wisconsin
- **Emissions reduction in the Transportation Sector**
  - Washington State
State and Local Public Health Adaptation:

- State and local climate action planning can help states institutionalize public health safeguards and maximize health co-benefits in state climate policies
  - 13 states include public health measures in their climate change adaptation plans
Examples of State & Local Adaptation Policy:

• Some cities including Seattle, Chicago, Milwaukee, Philadelphia and New York are making strides in adapting their water infrastructure for climate changes.
• NYC instituted a heat wave adaptation program.
• *NACCHO & ASTHO have been instrumental in supporting state and local health departments in adaptation efforts.
State & Local Adaptation Planning:

- CA has an adaptation strategy that considers public health—including impacts from increased heat waves, air pollution, increased fires, water pollution, introduction of new diseases, impacts to agriculture and more *(http://resources.ca.gov/climate_adaptation/statewide_adaptation/public_health.html)*

- Comprehensive list of state and local adaptation plans can be found at:  *http://www.georgetownclimate.org/adaptation/state-and-local-plans?page=2*
Looking to the Future:

- Assessing public health capacity and infrastructure needs
  - ASTHO and NACCHO are currently surveying public health officials and will present preliminary findings on the next webinar

- Climate change and weather extremes require proactive public health planning
  - 2011 weather extremes included flooding in the Mississippi, Texas wildfires, and more that resulted in billions of dollars infrastructural damage and health costs
Thank You!

Georges C. Benjamin, MD, FACP, FACEP (Emeritus)
Executive Director
American Public Health Association
WWW.APHA.ORG

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