CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS HUMAN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

We can act now to prevent disease and death.

CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS HUMAN HEALTH

- Extreme Heat
  - More frequent heatwaves
  - More widespread, prolonged heatwaves
- Increased frequency of wildfires
  - More widespread, greater extent and intensity
- Poor Air Quality
  - Increased allergens, increased ground-level ozone and particles matter air pollution
- Vector-borne Disease
  - Expanded geographic range, increased biting intensity
- More intense storms and flooding
  - More frequent heatwaves
  - More widespread, greater extent

EXISTING HEALTH THREATS WORSEN

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS ARE MOST AT RISK

- Alaska: Increased temperatures and wildfire risk
- Northwest: Increased wildfire risk, water supplies reduced by earlier snowmelt
- Great Plains: Increased intensity and frequency of floods, droughts and heat waves
- Midwest: Increased heat wave intensity and frequency, degraded air and water quality
- Northeast: Increased heat waves, coastal flooding and river flooding
- Southeast and the Caribbean: Increased heat waves and flooding from coastal storms
- Hawaii and U.S. affiliated Pacific Islands: Increased temperatures, decreased rainfall and increased drought
- Southwest: Increased temperatures and decreased rainfall

NON-HEALTH SECTOR CHANGES OFFER MULTIPLE BENEFITS

CLEAN ENERGY
- Reduces air pollution, along with greenhouse gas emissions
- Fossil fuel reliance
- Transportation and green space
- Reduces livestock-related greenhouse gas emissions

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
- Increases consumption of fruits and vegetables
- Reduces red meat consumption
- Reduces livestock-related greenhouse gas emissions

AGRICULTURE
- Increases consumption of fruits and vegetables
- Reduces livestock-related greenhouse gas emissions

PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS PROVIDE PROTECTION

U.S. EPA CLEAN POWER PLAN
- Slows climate change and reduces harmful pollutants in the air
- Cuts power sector’s heat-trapping carbon emissions 30% below 2005 levels
- More than 25% drop in particle pollution, nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide
- Up to $93 billion saved
- 6,600 fewer premature deaths
- 150,000 asthma attacks in children avoided
- Up to 490,000 missed work or school days reclaimed

CDC CLIMATE AND HEALTH PROGRAM
- Leads efforts to identify vulnerable populations to climate change
- Prevents and adapts to current and anticipated health impacts
- Assures that systems are in place to detect and respond to current and emerging health threats

STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS
- Forecasts climate impacts and assesses vulnerabilities
- Projects future injury and disease rates
- Develops and identifies suitable health interventions
- Creates and implements climate and health adaptation plans
- Evaluates impacts to improve adaptation activities

BUILDING RESILIENCE AGAINST CLIMATE EFFECTS

INVESTIGATE
- Complete local climate change threat
- Assess the built environment
- Identify vulnerable communities

PREPARE
- Increase education and awareness
- Develop key health indicators
- Create response plans

RESPOND
- Implement disaster response activities
- Distribute toolkits
- Manage health centers (food, water, vaccines, cooling)

For more information: apha.org/climate

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