

The Connection Between Climate Change and Mental Health: A Federal Perspective



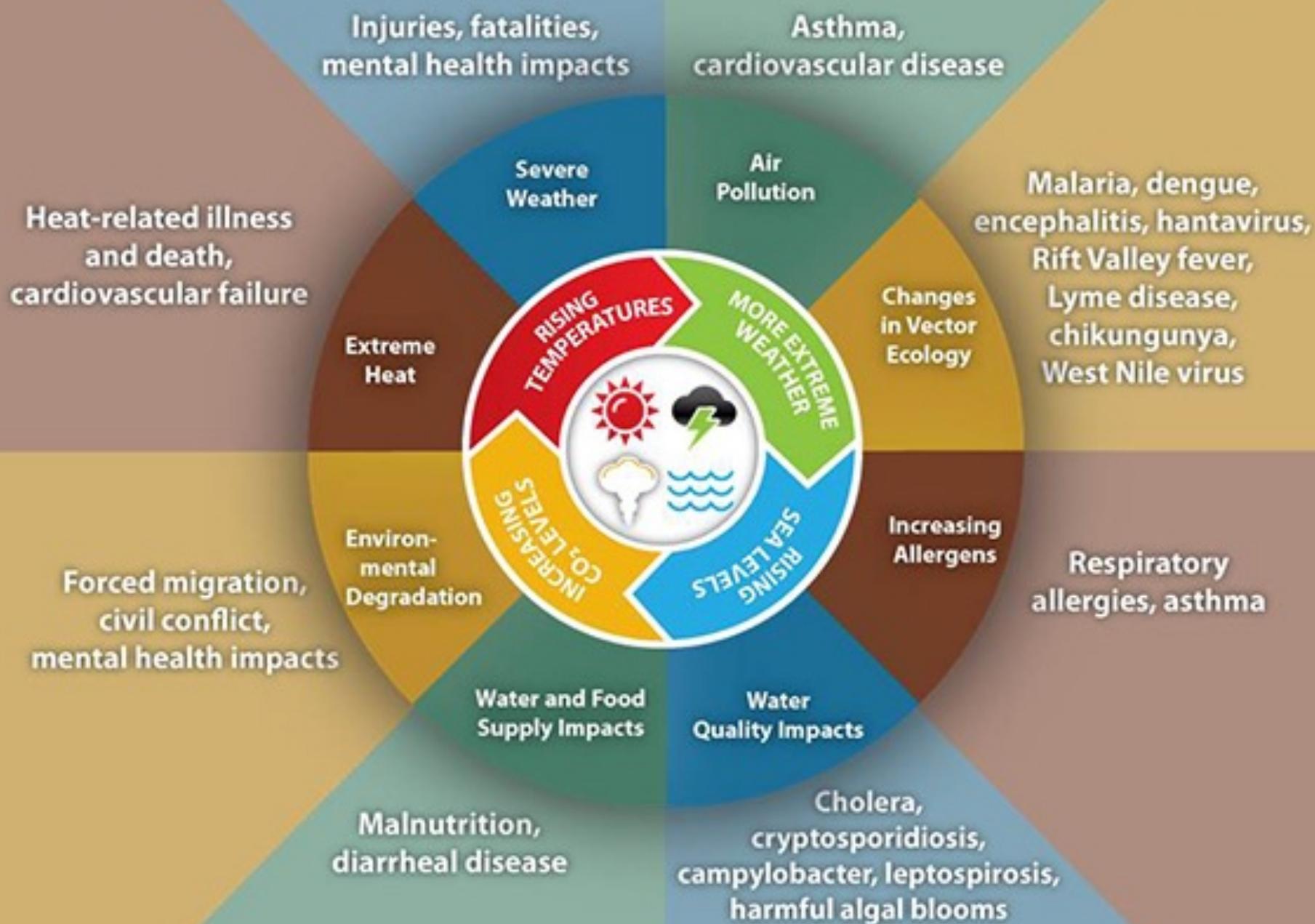
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National Center for Environmental Health
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry



Impact of Climate Change on Human Health

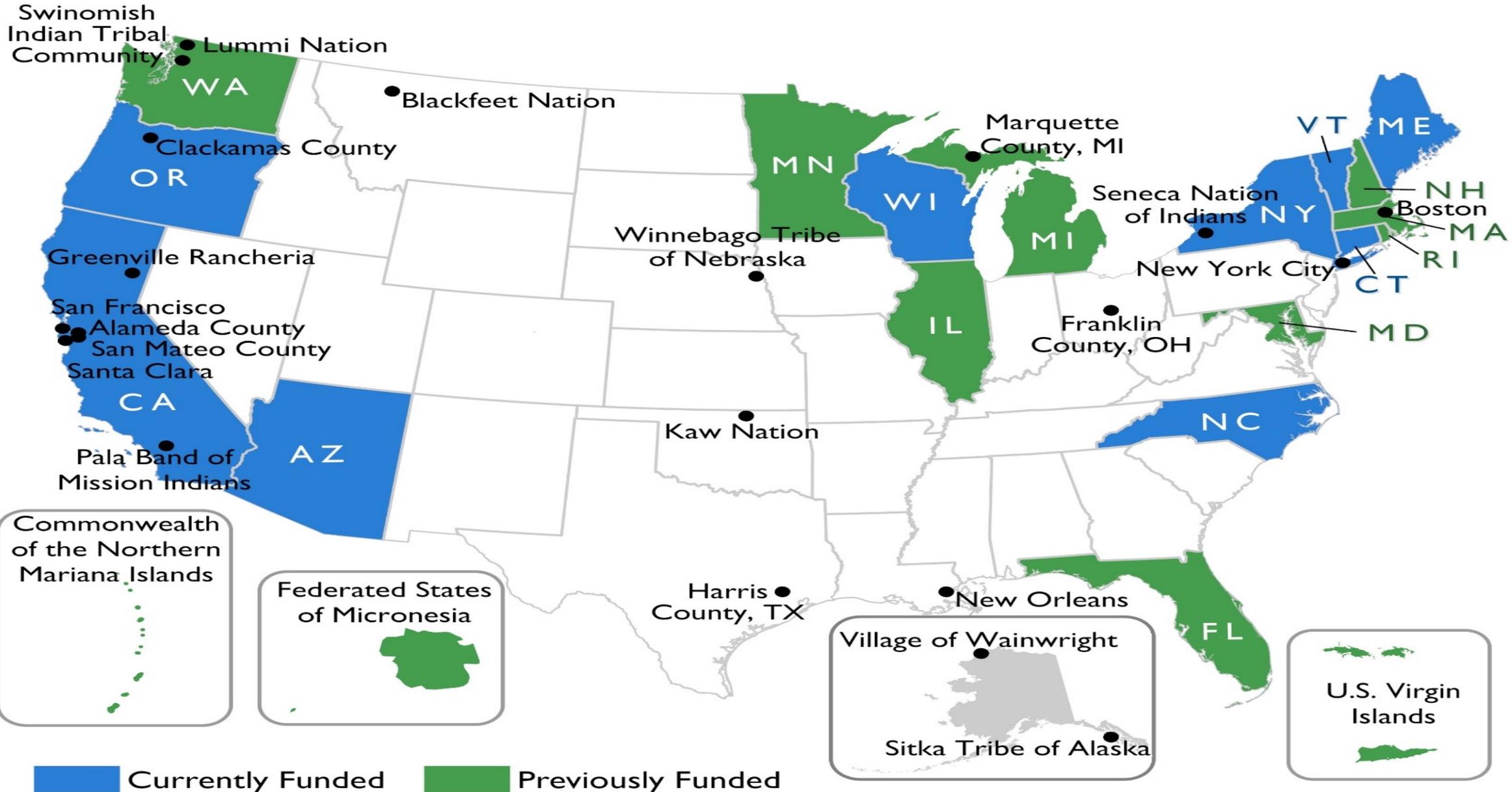


CDC'S CLIMATE AND HEALTH PROGRAM

CDC's Climate and Health Program

- Funded by Congress since 2009
- **Serve as a resource** for federal, state, local, territory, and Tribal health agencies
- **Prepare public health practitioners** to address the health effects of climate change
- **Provide tools, guides, and processes** to help assess vulnerability to possible health effects
- **Serve as a leader** in planning for public health effects of climate change





Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
Lummi Nation

WA

Blackfeet Nation

OR

Clackamas County

MN

Marquette County, MI

VT

ME

Seneca Nation of Indians

NH

Boston

MA

Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

WI

MI

RI

New York City

CT

Greenville Rancheria

San Francisco
Alameda County
San Mateo County
Santa Clara

CA

Franklin County, OH

MD

Pala Band of Mission Indians

AZ

Kaw Nation

NC

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Federated States of Micronesia

Harris County, TX

New Orleans

FL

Village of Wainwright

U.S. Virgin Islands

Sitka Tribe of Alaska

Currently Funded

Previously Funded



Community Needs Assessment during Disasters

- Assessed mental and behavioral health
 - Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill
 - Droughts
 - Flint Water Crisis
 - Earthquakes
 - Hurricanes
- Assessed recovery needs
 - 2018 and 2019 post Hurricanes

CLIMATE AND HEALTH ADAPTATION

Preparing for and Responding to the Health Impacts of Climate change

Two Complementary Paths to Resilience

Adaptation

Manage the risks of climate change impacts



Flood protection



Disaster preparedness



Managed retreat

Upgraded infrastructure



Mitigation

Reduce emissions causing climate change



Education



Green urban



Active transport



Public health



Sustainable agriculture



Afforestation and reforestation



Carbon capture (CCS)



Energy efficiency

Clean energy sources



CDC's Framework for Climate & Health Adaptation

BRACE: Building Resilience Against Climate Effects



Adapting BRACE for indigenous communities

PREPARING FOR THE REGIONAL HEALTH IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE UNITED STATES

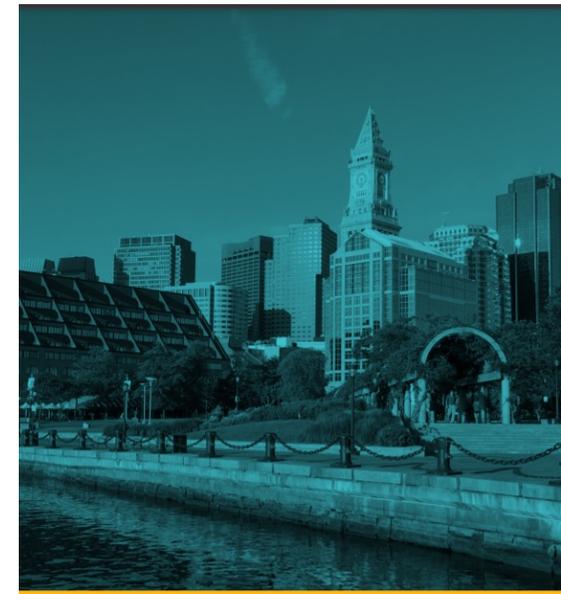
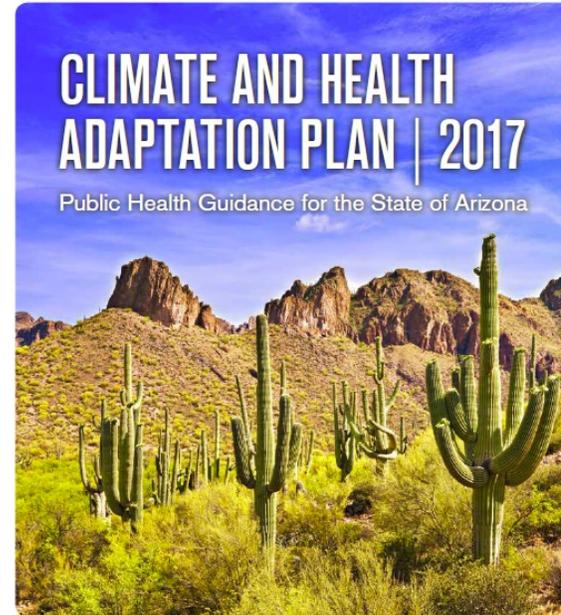
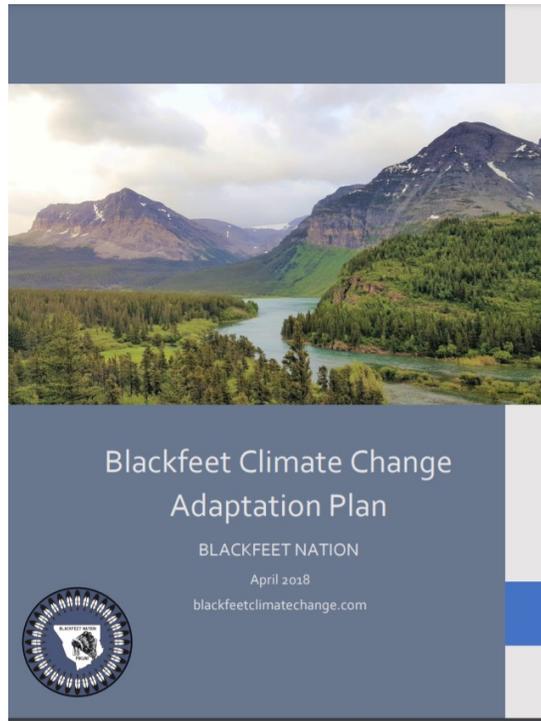


A summary of health effects, resources, and adaptation examples from health departments funded by CDC's Climate and Health Program

- Community connection
- Natural resources security
- Cultural use
- Education
- Self-determination
- Resilience

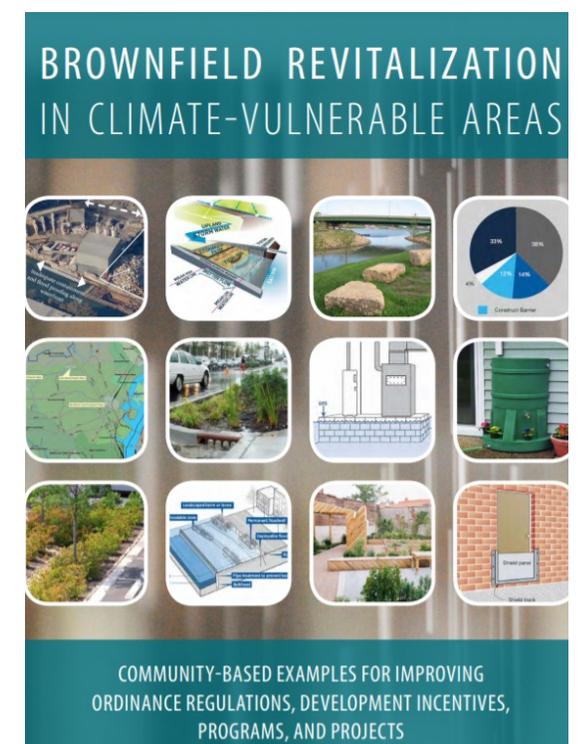


Adaptation Plans Come in All Shapes and Sizes

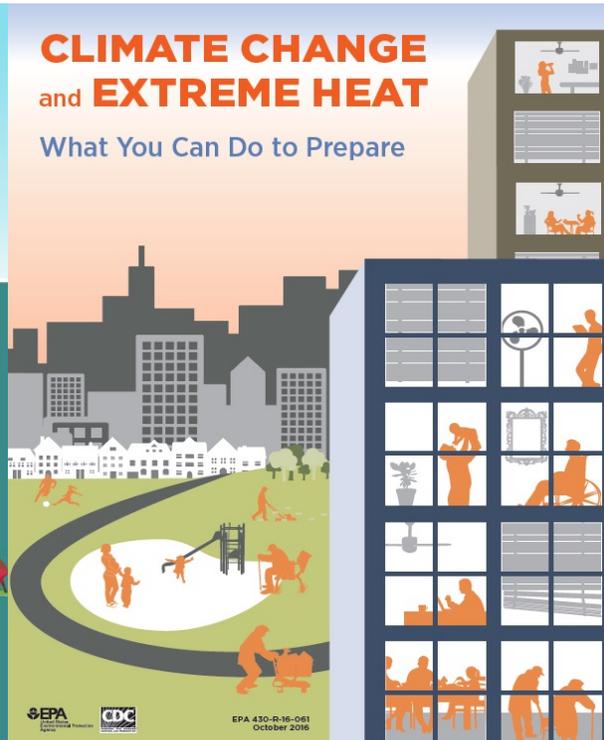
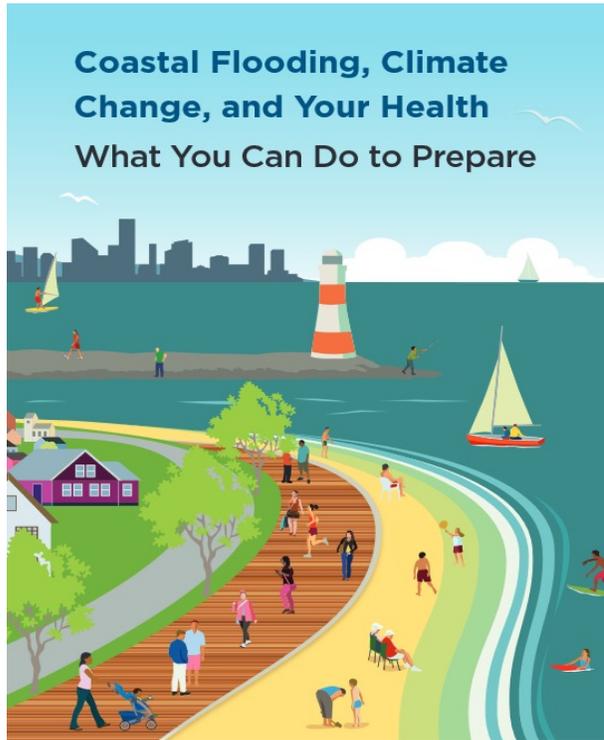


CLIMATE READY BOSTON
FINAL REPORT

MAYOR MARTIN J. WALSH BOSTON CDM GROUP GREEN SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS DECEMBER 2014



Resources for Communities



[FACT SHEET]
June 2018

Essential Actions for Climate Resilience in Local Health Departments



Climate change is a serious public health issue. Communities affected by environmental injustices and socioeconomic inequities are disproportionately at risk from health impacts of climate change. Local health departments (LHDs) are uniquely positioned to identify and communicate the human health risks of climate change and develop interventions that reduce these risks to improve health and promote equity. This document suggests actions for local public health authorities to begin examining the local health impacts of climate change.

LEARN: Enhance Climate Literacy

- Educate yourself and your LHD staff about the risks and health impacts of climate change.
- Review existing risk assessments and community vulnerability assessments with a climate change lens.
- Research best practices and successful resilience strategies (e.g., connect with experts, attend conferences, join listservs, participate in workgroups) to incorporate a climate change focus into all LHD practice areas.
- Provide access for your staff and key partners to relevant resources (e.g., articles, webinars, research papers) to encourage ongoing self-education.

CONNECTIONS WITH CDC'S BRACE FRAMEWORK¹

The actions in this fact sheet complement the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) Framework, and they are aligned with the three core functions of public health (i.e., assessment, policy development, and assurance). They are aimed at health departments that wish to take specific, measured steps to build climate resilience in their organizations and communities.



ADAPTION IN ACTION

Successes from the Climate-Ready States and Cities Initiative

How New York City is Addressing Extreme Heat



THE PROBLEM

Disadvantaged communities face **increased risk** of climate-related illness and death.



OUR SOLUTION

Be A Buddy was implemented to prepare residents and local organizations to check in on vulnerable residents.

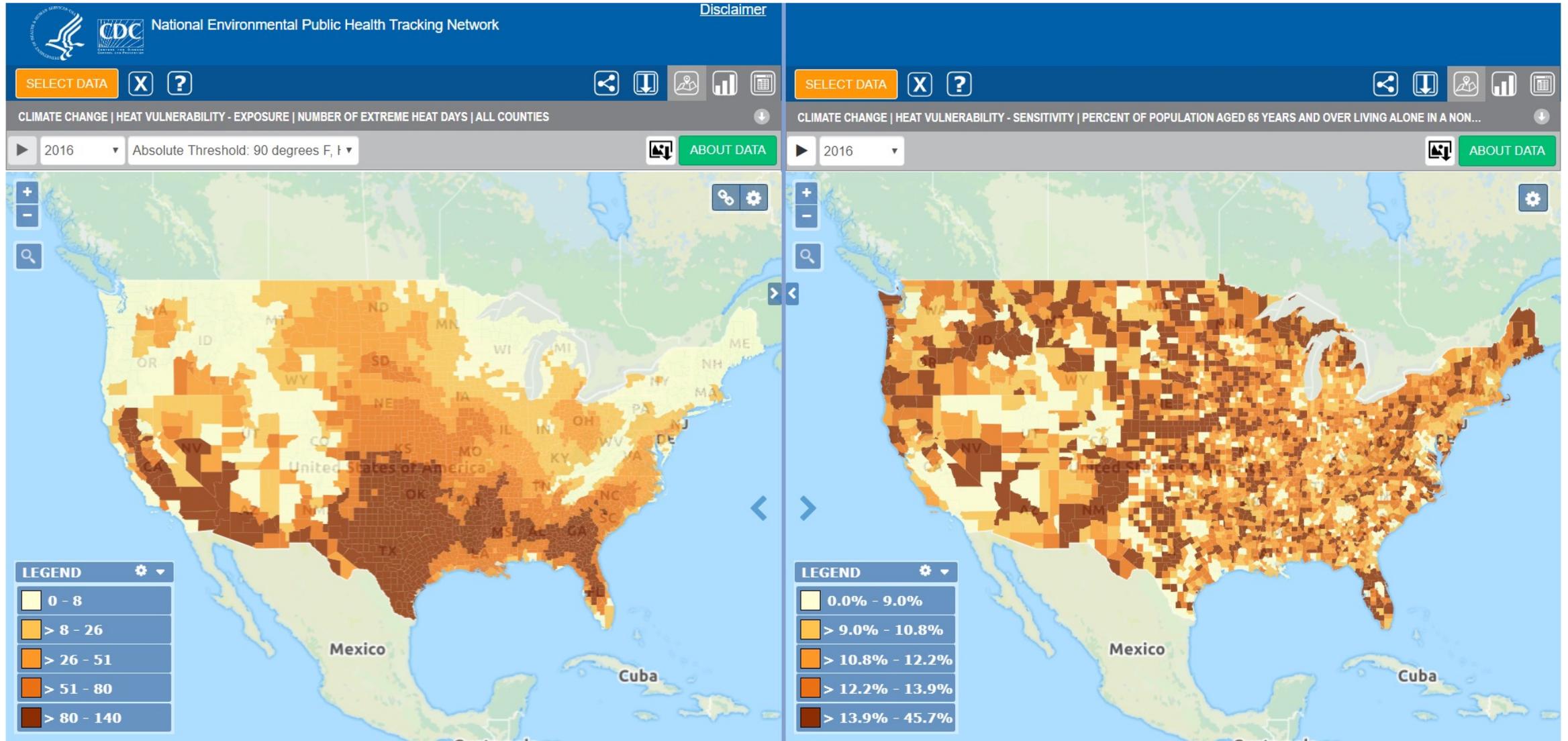


LASTING IMPACT

Strengthened relationships between residents and local organizations to **reduce vulnerabilities** to extreme heat and other weather emergencies in four low-income communities



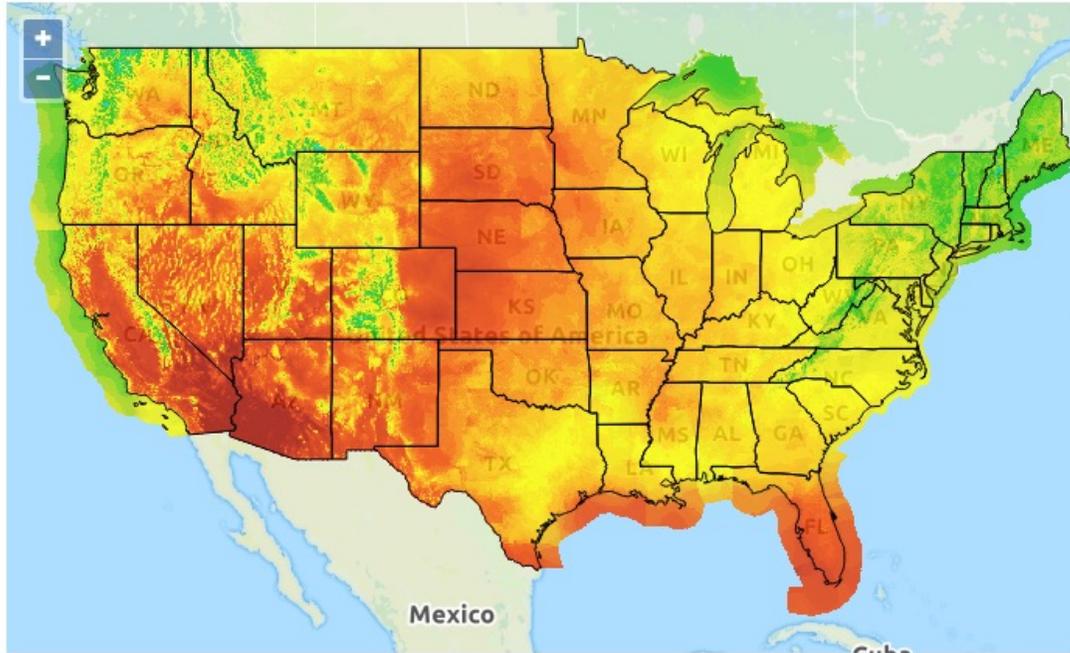
CDC Environmental Public Health Tracking Portal



[Ephtracking.cdc.gov/DataExplorer/](https://ephtracking.cdc.gov/DataExplorer/)

Heat and Health Tracker

Historical Real-time Projected



Douglas County, NE

37

Number of days above 90°F since April 21

Number of projected heat days in 2050 is 40



19.7% 
Percent of Minority Population
National Median is 14.2%

10.0% 
Populations without Health Insurance
National Median is 18.2%

7.1% 
People with Limited English-speaking Ability
National Median is 0.8%

11.4% 
Living in Poverty
National Median is 14.7%

How the Tribal Village of Wainwright is Preparing for Thinning Ice



THE PROBLEM

Recent warming as caused a **thinning of ice** that was previously stable for much of the spring and used for **transportation** by snow machines, creating hazardous travel conditions.



OUR SOLUTION

“InReach” devices implemented for emergency communication. Allows for **emergency communication** when snow mobiles get stuck in unseasonably thin ice.



LASTING IMPACT

Money saved due to reduction in helicopter rescues for ice emergencies and improved community awareness of hazards of unseasonably thin ice on travel.



Source:
CDC

How Florida is Protecting Residents During Hurricane Season



THE PROBLEM

With increasing **sea level rise** and more **intense hurricanes**, Florida is more prone to flooding and will need to set up **emergency shelters** more readily and make them more accessible.



OUR SOLUTION

The Florida Department of Health conducted **assessments of emergency shelters** and made recommendations to clarify shelter roles and the resilience of communication systems.



LASTING IMPACT

Emergency shelters are **better prepared to serve the most in need residents**, particularly those with disabilities, and the partnership with FEMA and Red Cross is an established and **ongoing collaboration**.





Taking Care of Your Emotional Health

Information and resources for adults and families.

[More information](#)



Helping Children Cope

Information and resources addressing the special emotional needs of children during a disaster.

[More information](#)



Helping Teens Cope

Information and resources for older children, teens, and young adults to help better cope after a natural disaster.

[More information](#)



Planning Resources for State and Local Governments

Information and resources for emergency planners, state, and local government to support mental health in emergencies.

[More information](#)



Response Resources for Leaders

Information and resources for government, faith-based, and community leaders to support their communities.

[More information](#)



Responders: Tips for Taking Care of Yourself

Tips and resources to for emergency responders for resiliency and coping during a disaster.

[More information](#)

For more information, please visit our website:

Website: www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/

Email: climateandhealth@cdc.gov

For more information, contact NCEH/ATSDR
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)

TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.atsdr.cdc.gov www.cdc.gov

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The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

