Climate and Health Resources:
NORTH CAROLINA

EPA
United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Climate change poses risks to human health. Already in the United States, we are seeing rising temperatures, increased frequency and intensity of some types of extreme weather, sea level rise, and other changes in weather and climate patterns. We are all vulnerable to the health impacts associated with climate change. However, these climate and health risks vary across the country.

Most of North Carolina has warmed 0.5°F to 1°F in the last century and the sea is rising about one inch every decade. These, and other climate impacts, mean increasing risks to health. Examples of risks and actions for North Carolina residents include:

- **Higher temperatures and other weather changes will increase levels of ozone pollution** (a component of smog), increasing health risks like asthma-related hospital visits. Learn how you can take action to protect against poor air quality, such as:
    - o *Prepare*: Check the news or airnow.gov for local air quality reports.
    - o *Respond:* Reduce outdoor activity when pollution levels are high.

- **Intense hurricanes are becoming more common**. Flooding associated with hurricanes increases the risk of injury and disease. Learn how you can take action to protect against floods, such as:
    - o *Prepare:* Plan and practice your evacuation route. Evacuate when advised to do so.
    - o *Respond:* Fill bathtubs, sinks, and plastic containers with clean water.

- **Sea level rise and coastal droughts can cause saltwater to move into fresh groundwater**, threatening drinking water supplies. Learn how you can take action to ensure drinking water safety, such as:
    - o *Prepare:* Have an emergency water supply ready for your family (1 gallon per person/pet per day).
    - o *Respond:* Check the news for tap water safety notices, such as boiling water before use.

Learn more in the USGCRP Climate and Health Assessment.

The examples of risks and actions provided in this document are not a comprehensive list. They provide users with illustrative impacts and resources for further information. Examples were selected based on relevance to the state or region and representation of a diversity of health threats. Selection does not imply ranking of severity of impacts nor prioritization of actions. The examples of impacts are based on "The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment," available at https://health2016.globalchange.gov, as well as the National Climate Assessment at http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/

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RESOURCE FOR NORTH CAROLINA RESIDENTS		
Resource Topic	**Information**	**Source**
Climate Change Impacts	**Learn More:** What Climate Change Means for North Carolina	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	Learn More: National Climate Assessment: Southeast	U.S. Global Change Research Program. 2014.
	Explore Actions: Climate Ready North Carolina: Building a Resilient Future. 2012. *Includes Health Concerns for:* Extreme Heat, Hurricanes, Vector-Borne Disease, Drought, Air Quality	State of North Carolina
	Explore Actions: Community Resilience Pilot Project: Wilmington, North Carolina	US Environmental Protection Agency. February, 2013.
	Find Resources: EPA Region 4 (Southeast)	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Public Health Information	**Find Resources:** North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services	State of North Carolina
	Find Resources: North Carolina Emergency Management	State of North Carolina
Climate and Health Resources	**Explore Actions:** Strategic Plan for Addressing Health Impacts of Climate Change in North Carolina	North Carolina Division of Public Health. 2012.