Climate and Health Resources: SOUTH CAROLINA

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.

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

- **Climate change will increase average temperatures across the US.** Higher temperatures have been linked with a higher risk of kidney stones. Learn how you can take action to protect against heat waves, such as:
    - o *Respond*: Stay hydrated to help prevent kidney stones. Drink plenty of water.
    - o *Respond:* Check on elderly neighbors or anyone else who may need assistance.

- **More 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:* Ask someone out-of-state to act as a "family contact" in case your family is separated.
    - o *Respond:* Avoid driving or walking in or near flood waters, even after the flood or during cleanup.

- **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/

RESOURCES FOR SOUTH CAROLINA RESIDENTS		
Resource Topic	**Information**	**Source**
Climate Change Impacts	**Learn More:** What Climate Change Means for South Carolina	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	Learn More: National Climate Assessment: Southeast	U.S. Global Change Research Program. 2014.
	Find Resources: EPA Region 4 (Southeast)	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Public Health Information	**Find Resources:** South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control	State of South Carolina
	Find Resources: South Carolina Emergency Management Division	State of South Carolina