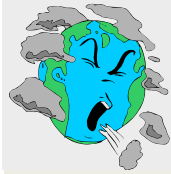




HEALTH IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

○ CLIMATE | ○ JUSTICE | ○ WORKING GROUP

- ▶ AIR POLLUTION RELATED HEALTH EFFECTS
- ▶ EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS
- ▶ HEAT STRESS
- ▶ INFECTIOUS DISEASES FROM CHANGES IN WATER AND FOOD
- ▶ INFECTIOUS DISEASES FROM CHANGES IN WEATHER AND CLIMATE



Climate *justice*

WE MUST DEMOCRATICALLY DEVELOP ECONOMIC SOLUTIONS THAT ARE ENVIRONMENTALLY AND SOCIALLY JUST.

As temperatures rise in urban areas, ozone days will increase, with higher risks of asthma and heat-related fatalities. As water and vector borne diseases spread to regions that are warming, those without access to health care will be more severely impacted.

Climate Change and Health: Elders and Children on the Frontline

- Increased heat related deaths
- Increased malnutrition
- Increased death and injury from storms, fires and droughts
- New forms of infectious disease
- Increased morbidity and mortality from cardio-respiratory problems

In Chicago in 1995, heat reached 106 degrees. About 49,000 families had no electricity and 465 people died as a result of the heat wave. In Europe in 2003, about 14,800 people died due to their heat wave.



CLIMATE HEALTH WATCH

Climate Change will more severely affect you if you are poor, live in areas with less green space and trees, and already have been impacted by pollution. Greater resources for programs that track the effects of climate change on our communities must be developed!





“Over the next few decades in the United States, climate change is likely to have a significant impact on health.”

Howard Frumkin, Director National Center for Environmental Health, Center for Disease Control.

IMPORTANT FACTS

It is expected that extreme heat waves will affect many people, but especially very young children, the elderly, and poorer families without air conditioning. Cities in the Midwest and northeast are at greatest risk.

Extreme weather events such as floods and droughts will also have big effects including loss of life, injuries, and mental health or post event trauma. People losing their homes also suffer disruptions in health care.

Changes in climate will also affect weather patterns and air pollution. Higher

temperatures can result in increases ground-level ozone which aggravates asthma, and inflame and damage cells that line our lungs.

Global warming could also affect an increase in different diseases including food and water-borne diseases, lymes disease, West Nile virus, and hantavirus.

CLIMATE CHANGE & PUBLIC HEALTH



For more information on what you can do to demand for protection against the damaging health effects of Climate Change contact:

Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota

Women's Environmental Institute

Or visit www.ejamn.org www.w-e-i.org

CLIMATE CHANGE IS THE RESULT OF UNJUST SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS. IT'S TIME FOR JUST SOLUTIONS!

Climate Change threatens the lives and heritage of tribal people. Wild rice, berries and other traditional foods and medicines will be impacted. As climate change affects the water and other “natural resources” potential tensions between sovereign tribes and states around water and treaty may re-emerge.

Climate Change adds to the environmental health inequality that already exists. Children of color are three times more likely than white children to live, play and go to school in areas of high automobile traffic. The increase in health risks from global warming will be in addition to this.



Physiological stress from discrimination has been found to be an underlying cause of the high rates of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, hypertension and stroke among African Americans. Along with Asian Americans and Native Americans, African Americans are also more likely than whites to develop Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder after experiencing trauma.

J. Andrew Hoerner and Nia Robinson, Environmental Justice Climate Change Initiative

Traditional tribal practices and relationships with the natural world form the spiritual, cultural, and economic foundation for many Native American nations—foundations that will be, and in some cases already are, threatened by climate change.

Jonathan M. Hanna, National Resources Law Center



Global Warming Working Group.
Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota
Women's Environmental Institute