

The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment

Overview and Notice of Draft Assessment for Public Comment

Motivation

Climate change threatens human health and well being in the United States. To improve understanding of this growing threat, the Interagency Group on Climate Change and Human Health (CCHHG), a working group of the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), has developed a draft Climate and Health Assessment. The scientific assessment is part of the National Climate Assessment (NCA) and is called for under the President's Climate Action Plan.

Purpose

The purpose is to help public health officials, urban and disaster response planners, decision makers, and other stakeholders better understand the risks that climate change presents to human health. The draft assessment does not discuss climate mitigation, adaptation, or economic valuation, and does not include any policy recommendations.

Scope

The draft assessment seeks to provide a comprehensive, evidence-based, and where possible, quantitative estimate of observed and projected climate change related health impacts in the United States. Each chapter of the draft assessment summarizes the scientific literature on specific climate change-related health outcomes or exposures important to health. The first four chapters listed below also highlight recent modeling analyses, conducted by multiple Federal research agencies, to project national-scale impacts. Chapters include:

- Temperature-Related Death and Illness
- Air Quality Impacts
- Vectorborne Disease
- Water-Related Illness
- Food Safety, Nutrition and Distribution
- Extreme Weather
- Mental Health and Well-Being
- Risk Factors and Populations of Concern

Public Comment on the Draft USGCRP Climate and Health Assessment

The USGCRP is soliciting public comment on the draft scientific assessment for 60 days beginning on April 7, 2015. The draft assessment and information on submitting comments are available at <http://www.globalchange.gov/health-assessment>. All comments must be submitted to the website by 12:00pm Eastern time on June 8, 2015.

Peer Review and Expected Publication of Final Assessment

The draft assessment will undergo peer review by the National Research Council. The assessment also will undergo federal interagency review and clearance as a Highly Influential Scientific Assessment (HISA) prior to final publication, expected in spring 2016.

Contact:

For more information on the draft assessment and to submit public comment, please go to <http://www.globalchange.gov/health-assessment> or contact Allison Crimmins at crimmins.allison@epa.gov or 202.343.9170.