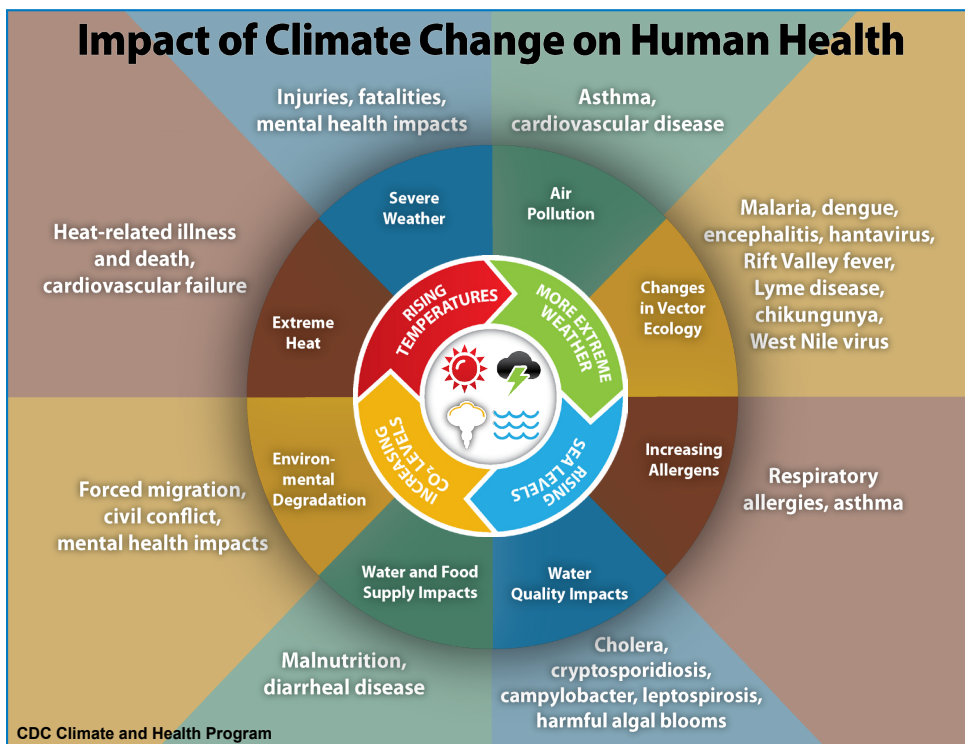


# Climate Change

## Endangering human health and well being

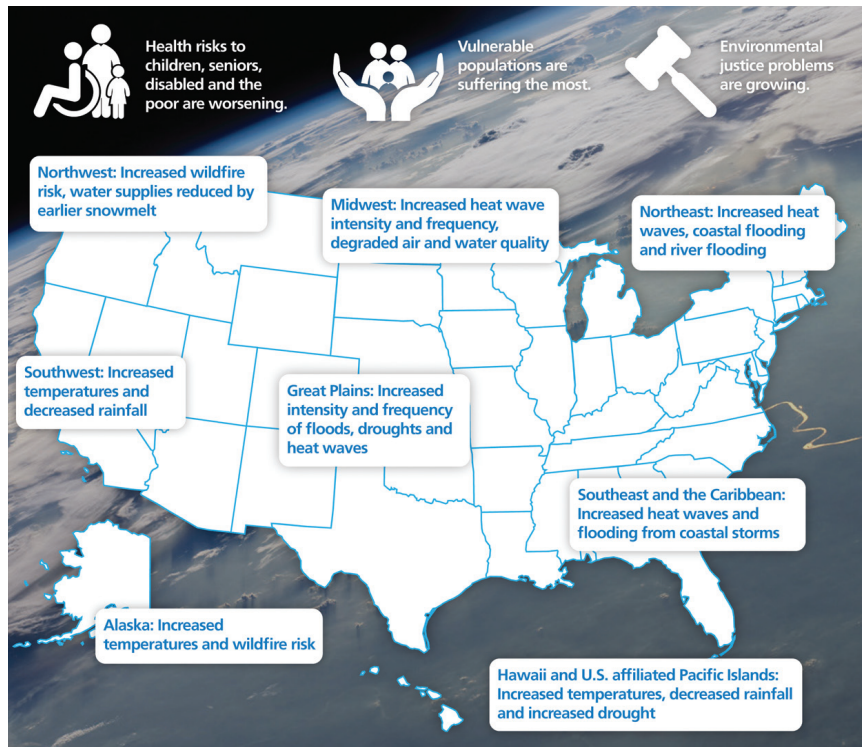
Climate change and extreme weather events are threatening our health today, and if left unchecked, will lead to increases in disease and death. Immediate action can and must be taken to slow climate change and prepare the public health system to protect our communities from negative health impacts.



## Vulnerable Populations are Most at Risk

Vulnerable populations, such as communities of color, the elderly, young children, the sick and the poor, bear the greatest burden of disease and death related to climate change. The existing conditions that cause worse health among these populations – unhealthy air, water and living conditions, heat, drought, flooding and mental health stresses – are exacerbated by the adverse effects of climate change.

Communities located in ecologically sensitive areas – arid states, coastal communities and permafrost regions – are also uniquely vulnerable to the effects of climate change. These communities are not only at increased risk for disease, they are also the least able to prepare, respond to and recover from the effects of climate change and extreme climate events.



Source: Third National Climate Assessment: Climate Change Impacts in the United States.

### To better protect the public from the negative health impacts of climate change, APHA supports the following legislative, regulatory and policy efforts:

- **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Climate and Health Program**, which provides critical guidance, technical support and funding to help prepare and protect the nation from the harmful impacts of climate change.
- **The Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean Power Plan**, which will reduce carbon emissions and slow climate change and reduce other harmful air pollutants.
- **The Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Act**, which addresses negative health effects related to climate change by supporting research, surveillance, planning and interagency coordination to develop national plan for action.
- **Non-health sector policies that can offer co-benefits** – by reducing harmful air emissions and promoting healthy living – such as transitioning to cleaner energy, healthy community design and healthy food production and consumption.