

ACP Climate Change Policy and Resources

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Climate Change's Devastating Impact on Our Planet and Health

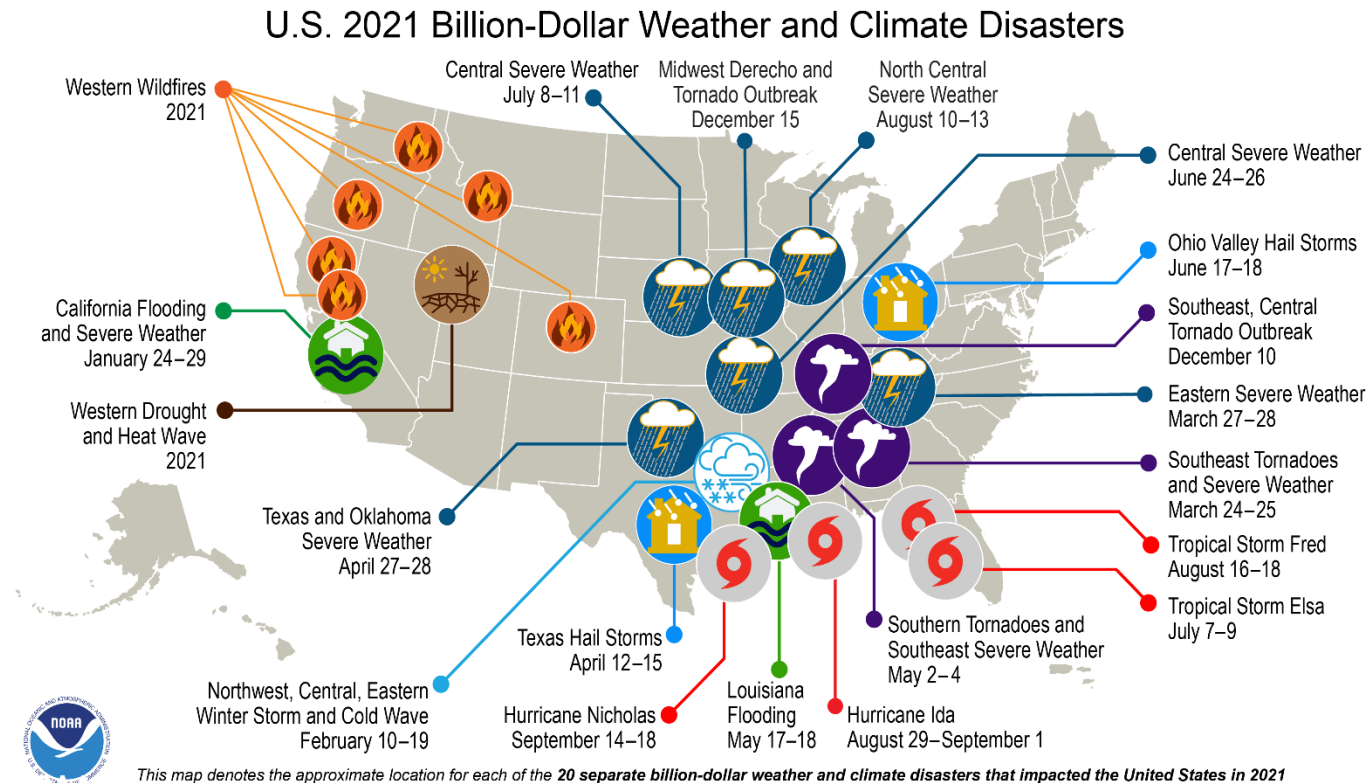
SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Working Group I – The Physical Science Basis



“It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean, and land. The scale of recent changes across the climate system as a whole and the present state of many aspects of the climate system are unprecedented over many centuries to many thousands of years.”

Image: NOAA, IPCC



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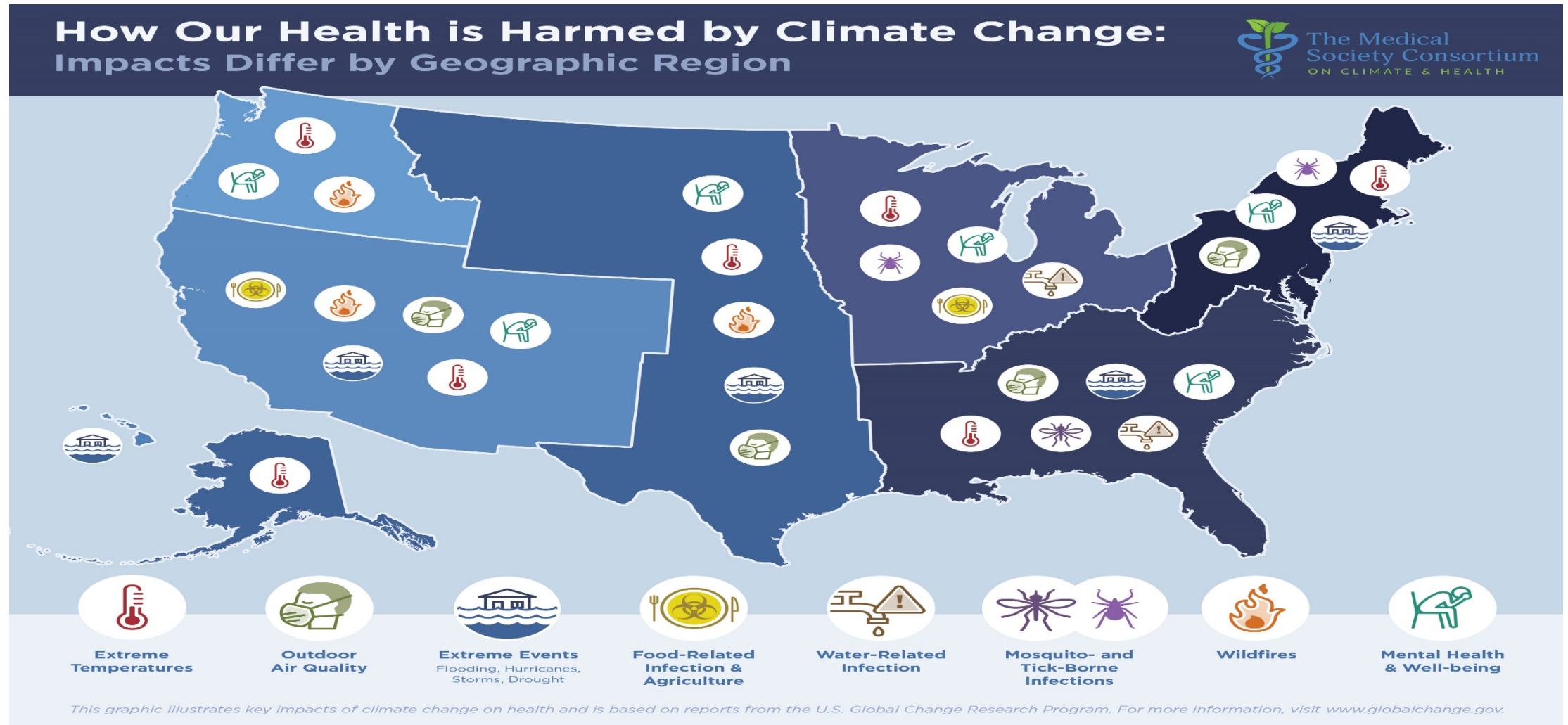
Climate Change and Your Health: Wildfires			
What is changing in our climate?	What is the impact on the environment?	How does that harm our health?	
More frequent droughts and extreme high temperatures are increasing the number and severity of wildfires in many parts of the country.	Wildfires produce smoke, ground-level ozone, and particles that reduce the quality of the air we breathe.	Wildfires harm people's health both nearby – from burns, injuries and smoke inhalation – and as far as hundreds of miles downwind because the poor air quality contributes to asthma attacks and worsening chronic lung diseases. People's mental health can also suffer both immediately and long-term.	

Climate Change and Your Health: Outdoor Air Quality			
What is changing in our climate?	What is the impact on the environment?	How does that harm our health?	
Heat-trapping pollution is causing warmer weather, more intense heat waves, and more droughts and wildfires.	Warmer weather leads to longer and worse allergy seasons; hotter temperatures create more smog (ground-level ozone); and wildfire causes dangerous air pollution.	Increases in airborne allergens, smog and smoke make asthma and allergies worse, and put those with lung and heart diseases at higher risk.	

Climate Change and Your Health: Mosquito- and Tick-Borne Infections			
What is changing in our climate?	What is the impact on the environment?	How does that harm our health?	
Warmer temperatures and changes in the amount of rainfall have an impact on where mosquitos and ticks can thrive.	Mosquitos and tick "seasons" are getting longer, and the pests are spreading to new areas of the country.	Diseases like West Nile Virus, Dengue Fever and Zika (spread by mosquitos), and Lyme disease (spread by ticks) are infecting more people, and are spreading into new regions where they did not previously exist.	

Climate Change and Your Health: Extreme Weather Events			
What is changing in our climate?	What is the impact on the environment?	How does that harm our health?	
Americans are experiencing more frequent and intense heat waves, floods, droughts and dangerous storms.	These events damage infrastructure and crops, contaminate water supplies and put people in danger.	Extreme weather has immediate impacts – like injuries and drowning – and longer-term effects like illnesses from contaminated water and food, and harm to mental health.	

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Some Populations Are More Vulnerable

2021 UNICEF Report: Approximately 1 billion children are at an 'extremely high risk' of the impacts of the climate crisis.



Who is at risk for the health risks associated with climate change?

Every American faces a health risk associated with climate change.
Many people, however, are more vulnerable than others.

Some people have a higher exposure

Low-income populations

generations of targeted disinvestment and environmental injustice have increased exposure to climate change threats particularly in low-income Black, Latino, and Native American communities

Occupational groups

people who work outdoors like first responders and construction workers face more frequent and longer exposure to climate change threats

People in specific locations

certain populations are more likely to be exposed to climate change threats like fires, droughts, floods or severe storms

Some people are more sensitive to the changing climate



The Good News: There are Co-Benefits to Addressing Climate Change

Co-benefits of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Reduced greenhouse gas emissions will lower exposure to air pollution, leading to better respiratory and cardiovascular health

Active transportation may lead to better cardiovascular health, lower mortality rates

Reduction in carbon-intensive food sources could have dietary benefits

Action on Climate Change

United States Re-Enters Paris Agreement



Legislative Action



Regulations

Federal
Action

Action on Climate Change

State and
Local
Activity on
Climate
Change

State and Regional Cap-and-Trade Agreements



State Clean Energy Portfolio



Clean Transportation Incentives

ACP's Work on Climate Change and Health

Policy

Toolkit

Advocacy