Climate Change Effects on Community Health

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Center for Climate and Health

Our Mission:
To improve the capacity of the tribal health system and Alaska communities to identify and address health effects associated with climate change.
What do we do?

1. Climate Change Health Assessments
2. Technical Assistance
3. Adaptation Planning Assistance
4. Climate and Health List Serve mbrubaker@anthc.org
5. Climate and Health Web Resource Library
6. Climate Change Engineering Atlas
7. Environmental Demonstration Grants
8. Educate about climate change effects on health.
The Take Home Lessons

1. Climate change can effect community health in many ways.

2. Effects are not well understood; we are learning more about climate – health mechanisms every day.

3. Local records, observers, and traditional knowledge are critical for understanding community conditions and impacts.

4. By better understanding impacts, we can begin to develop responses that protect community health.

5. Preventing negative health effects requires the expertise of many people both inside and outside of the health field.
Four Types of Climate Change Health Effects
What are potential health risks?

- **Acute Disease**: giardia, PSP, WNV, brucellosis
- **Chronic Disease**: heart disease, diabetes, cancer
- **Injury**: falls, vehicle accidents, insect stings
- **Behavioral Health**: stress, anxiety, depression
- **Health Infrastructure**: damage, disruption
What are the potential health benefits?

- **Acute Disease**: decreased indoor, increase outdoor
- **Chronic Disease**: improved diet, exercise
- **Injury**: reduced falls, vehicle accidents
- **Behavioral Health**: adaptation reduces stress
- **Health Infrastructure**: longer water-making season
Climate change results in extreme, and unpredictable weather.

Photo by Millie Hawley
It changes ice conditions,
It can change the availability of food resources,
Safe, Healthy, Sustainable Communities influencing food safety, and security.
It can bring in new plants,
Safe, Healthy, Sustainable Communities and new animals.
It can change rivers,
the marine waters,
the land ...

Photo: Yuri Gorokhovich
the forests,
and the air.
It can damage infrastructure,
change water resources,

Photo: Vladimir Romanovsky
and interrupt local services.
It can mobilize pollutants,
providing new pathways to the sea,
and into the diet.
It can cause anxiety, and fear for adults,
and for children.
How is climate effecting health?
Google us: climate @ anthc