

# THE CLIMATE AND HEALTH CONNECTION

## WISCONSIN CLIMATE AND HEALTH PROGRAM

### Wisconsin has been getting warmer and wetter.



Over the past 60 years, Wisconsin has become generally warmer and wetter, especially during winter months.<sup>1</sup>

Changes in the climate may lead to more flooding and precipitation, temperature extremes (very hot and very cold days), drought, and more carriers of disease (such as mosquitoes and ticks).<sup>1,2</sup>

### These changes can cause health problems.



Temperature extremes, more precipitation, drought, and more carriers of disease can lead to injury, mental health problems, disease and illness, allergic reactions, water and food insecurity, and even death.<sup>2,3,4,5</sup>

### Some people are more likely to be hurt by extreme weather.



Extreme weather can be especially harmful to some people, including those most affected by social factors that impact health<sup>6</sup>:

- Low income
- Indigenous peoples
- Persons living with disabilities
- Communities of color
- Children and pregnant women
- Persons living with chronic disease (such as asthma)
- Immigrant groups (including those with limited English skills)
- Older adults
- Vulnerable occupational groups

### The Wisconsin Climate and Health Program is working to help our state study and prepare for these climate effects.

In collaboration with our partners, Wisconsin and Climate Health Program aims to:



Expand and enhance partnerships



Provide training and technical assistance



Develop strategies and tools to address health factors linked to climate effects

#### REFERENCES

1. Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts ([wicci.wisc.edu/report/2011\\_WICCI-Report.pdf](http://wicci.wisc.edu/report/2011_WICCI-Report.pdf))
2. Lyme Disease Trends in Wisconsin ([dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p01295.pdf](http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p01295.pdf))
3. The Potential Impacts of Climate Variability and Change on Health Impacts of Extreme Weather Events in the United States ([ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11359686](http://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11359686))
4. A Human Health Perspective on Climate Change: A Report Outlining the Research Needs on the Human Health Effects of Climate Change ([niehs.nih.gov/health/materials/a\\_human\\_health\\_perspective\\_on\\_climate\\_change\\_full\\_report\\_508.pdf](http://niehs.nih.gov/health/materials/a_human_health_perspective_on_climate_change_full_report_508.pdf))
5. Climate Change and Allergic Disease ([ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18774380](http://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18774380))
6. Climate Change and Health: Report by the Secretariat ([who.int/globalchange/A62\\_11\\_en.pdf](http://who.int/globalchange/A62_11_en.pdf))

Together we can better prepare for climate effects.  
LEARN MORE AT [HTTP://DHS.WISCONSIN.GOV/CLIMATE](http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/climate)

WISCONSIN CLIMATE AND HEALTH PROGRAM  
Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health

<http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/climate> | JANUARY 2017 | [dhsclimate@wi.gov](mailto:dhsclimate@wi.gov)  
Department of Health Services | Division of Public Health | P-00709B (01/2017)  
Icons courtesy of The Noun Project users @ Jennifer Cozzette and Galaxicon

