

WHAT CLIMATE CHANGE MEANS TO PUBLIC HEALTH

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August 15, 2007

Maryland's Public Health Structure

- State
 - Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
 - Department of the Environment
- Local
 - Health departments, environmental health

CDC Public Health Priorities for Climate Change

1. **Information source**
2. **Track data**
3. **Model and forecast health effects**
4. **Enhance science base**
5. **Identify places and populations at greatest risk**
6. **Communicate health risks to public**
7. **Partnerships**
8. **Leadership**
9. **Preparedness and response planning**
10. **Technical advice and support**
11. **Workforce development**

Information Source

- State, local agencies
 - Extreme temperature events
 - Heat Health Watch-Warning Systems (Baltimore City, U. Delaware)
 - Extreme weather events, floods, drought
 - All-Hazards Preparedness
 - Population displacement, sequelae
 - General environmental and public health requirements

Tracking Data on Climate Change

- Environmental Public Health Tracking
- Indicators?

Populations, Locations at Greatest Risk

- Vulnerable populations
 - Children
 - Elderly
 - Disadvantaged
 - Pre-existing illness
- Vulnerable locations
 - Agricultural
 - Coastal

Communicate Public Health Risks to Public



- States' Environmental Health Directors' Activities

Partnerships



- Preparedness Planning
 - All hazards response
- Maryland Climate Change Commission
 - Coordination with DNR, Planning, planners, emergency responders, environmental organizations, business and insurance representatives
 - Strategy for reducing Maryland's vulnerability to climate change, with an initial focus on sea level rise and coastal hazards

Leadership



- Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
- Clean Car Initiative

Workforce Development



- Maintenance
- Surge capacity
- Are we training the right workforce and the workforce right?

References



- Ebi KL, Paulson JA. Climate change and children. *Pediatr Clin North Am.* 2007 Apr;54(2):213-26, vii.
CDC Climate Change Policy: http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/climatechange/pubs/Climate_Change_Policy.pdf