

# Climate and Health Resources: ARKANSAS



Climate change poses risks to human health. [Already in the United States](#), we are seeing rising temperatures, increased frequency and intensity of some types of extreme weather, sea level rise, and other changes in weather and climate patterns. We are all vulnerable to the health impacts associated with climate change. However, these climate and health risks vary across the country.

In Arkansas, annual rainfall has increased. This and other climate impacts mean increasing risks to health. Examples of risks and actions for Arkansas residents include:

- **Higher temperatures and other weather changes will increase levels of ozone pollution** (a component of smog), increasing health risks like asthma-related hospital visits. [Learn how you can take action to protect against poor air quality](#), such as:
  - **Prepare:** Check news or [airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov) for the local air quality index.
  - **Respond:** Reduce outdoor activity when pollution levels are high.
- **More carbon dioxide causes some plants to produce more pollen.** This will combine with longer growing seasons and other changes to result in more allergy and asthma episodes. [Learn how you can take action to prevent asthma attacks and allergy symptoms](#), such as:
  - **Prepare:** Talk to a doctor and make an Asthma Action Plan.
  - **Prepare:** Clean and replace air conditioner filters often.
- **Rising temperatures and changing rain patterns will lead to more mosquitoes.** Mosquito bites can transmit diseases like West Nile virus to humans. [Learn how you can take action to protect against mosquitoes](#), such as:
  - **Prepare:** Get rid of standing water where mosquitoes can breed.
  - **Prepare:** Keep window and door screens in good condition.

Learn more in the [USGCRP Climate and Health Assessment](#).

The examples of risks and actions provided in this document are not a comprehensive list. They provide users with illustrative impacts and resources for further information. Examples were selected based on relevance to the state or region and representation of a diversity of health threats. Selection does not imply ranking of severity of impacts nor prioritization of actions. The examples of impacts are based on "The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment," available at <https://health2016.globalchange.gov>, as well as the National Climate Assessment at <http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/>

## RESOURCES FOR ARKANSAS RESIDENTS

| Resource Topic                   | Information  | Source                                     |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Climate Change Impacts</b>    | <b>Learn more:</b> <a href="#">What Climate Change Means for Arkansas</a>          | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency       |
|                                  | <b>Learn more:</b> <a href="#">National Climate Assessment: Southeast</a>          | U.S. Global Change Research Program. 2014. |
|                                  | <b>Find Resources:</b> <a href="#">EPA Region 6 (South Central)</a>                | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency       |
| <b>Public Health Information</b> | <b>Find Resources:</b> <a href="#">Arkansas Department of Health</a>               | State of Arkansas                          |
|                                  | <b>Find Resources:</b> <a href="#">Arkansas Department of Emergency Management</a> | State of Arkansas                          |