

Climate and Health Resources: MONTANA



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.

Most of Montana has warmed about 2°F in the last century and heat waves are becoming more common. These, and other climate impacts, mean increasing risks to health. Examples of risks and actions for Montana residents include:

- **Higher temperatures will increase heat-related illnesses, hospital visits, and deaths.** People without air conditioning are at risk in Northern states where heat waves have been rare. [Learn how you can take action to protect against heat waves](#), such as:
 - **Respond:** Watch for signs of dehydration and overheating, especially in children.
 - **Respond:** Check on elderly neighbors or anyone else who may need assistance.

- **More frequent and intense droughts make it easier for soil dust to become airborne. Dust storms** lower air quality and cause breathing and visibility problems. [Learn how you can take action to protect against dust storms](#), such as:
 - **Respond:** Seek shelter immediately.
 - **Respond:** Stay low, and cover eyes, nose, and mouth.

- **Rising temperatures and changing rain patterns will lead to more mosquitoes.** The northern Great Plains have become a hotspot for West Nile virus, a mosquito-carried disease. [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 MONTANA RESIDENTS

Resource Topic	Information	Source
Climate Change Impacts	Learn More: What Climate Change Means for Montana	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	Learn More: National Climate Assessment: Great Plains	U.S. Global Change Research Program. 2014.
	Find Resources: EPA Region 8 (Mountains and Plains)	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Public Health Information	Find Resources: Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services	State of Montana
	Find Resources: Montana Department of Disaster and Emergency Services	State of Montana