

Climate and Health Resources: NEW YORK



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 New York has warmed 1°F to 3°F in the last century and sea level is rising about one inch every decade. These, and other climate impacts, mean increasing risks to health. Examples of risks and actions for New York residents include:

- **Higher temperatures will increase heat-related illnesses, hospital visits, and deaths.** In [New York City, the urban heat island effect will make heat events worse. [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.

- **Extreme weather events like Superstorm Sandy can disrupt infrastructure** (damage to roads, bridges, or utilities). A heat wave contributed to the 2003 Northeast blackout, which was linked to increased injuries, illnesses, and deaths. [Learn how you can take action to manage infrastructure disruptions](#), such as:
 - **Respond:** Keep power generators outside to avoid fire and carbon monoxide risks.
 - **Respond:** Discard perishable food if your refrigerator has lost power for longer than four hours.

- **More intense rain can overwhelm combined sewer systems** (where storm water and sewage share pipes). This can contaminate recreational water and sources of drinking water, and lead to disease outbreaks. [Learn how you can take action to ensure drinking water safety](#), such as:
 - **Prepare:** Have an emergency water supply ready for your family (1 gallon per person/pet per day).
 - **Respond:** Check the news for tap water safety notices, such as boiling water before use.

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 NEW YORK RESIDENTS

Resource Topic	Information	Source
Climate Change Impacts	Learn More: What Climate Change Means for New York	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	Learn More: National Climate Assessment: Northeast	U.S. Global Change Research Program. 2014.
	Explore Actions: One New York: The Plan for a Strong and Just City	New York City. April 2015.
	Find Resources: EPA Region 2	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Public Health Information	Find Resources: New York Department of Health	State of New York
	Find Resources: New York Office of Emergency Management	State of New York