

# Climate and Health Resources: OKLAHOMA



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.

Oklahoma soils have become drier and rainfall events have become more intense. These, and other climate impacts, mean increasing risks to health. Examples of risks and actions for Oklahoma residents include:

- **Higher temperatures will increase heat-related illnesses, hospital visits, and deaths.** In Oklahoma City and other large cities, 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.
  
- **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.
  
- **More intense rain increases health risks for people in flood-prone areas.** Floods, such as those seen in May 2015, can lead to injuries, diseases, and deaths. [Learn how you can take action to protect against floods](#), such as:
  - **Respond:** Fill bathtubs, sinks, and plastic containers with clean water.
  - **Respond:** Avoid driving or walking in or near flood waters, even after the flood or during cleanup.

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 OKLAHOMA RESIDENTS

Resource Topic	Information	Source
<b>Climate Change Impacts</b>	<b>Learn More:</b> <a href="#">What Climate Change Means for Oklahoma</a>	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	<b>Learn More:</b> <a href="#">National Climate Assessment: Great Plains</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="#">Oklahoma Department of Health</a>	State of Oklahoma
	<b>Find Resources:</b> <a href="#">Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management</a>	State of Oklahoma