

Climate and Health Resources: LOUISIANA



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 Louisiana, soils have become drier, annual rainfall has increased, and the sea level is rising. This and other climate impacts mean increasing risks to health. Examples of risks and actions for Louisiana residents include:

- **Intense hurricanes are becoming more common.** Flooding associated with hurricanes (like Hurricane Katrina) increases the risk of injury and disease. [Learn how you can take action to protect against floods](#), such as:
 - **Prepare:** Ask someone out-of-state to act as a “family contact” in case your family is separated.
 - **Respond:** Avoid driving or walking in or near flood waters, even after the flood or during cleanup.

- **Warming temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico will increase the risk of ciguatera fish poisoning,** the most frequently reported fish poisoning. [Learn how you can take action to ensure food safety](#), such as:
 - **Prepare:** Check for health department notices before fishing or harvesting shellfish.
 - **Respond:** Keep seafood chilled to less than 38°F. Discard any perishable food if your refrigerator has lost power for longer than four hours.

- **Sea level rise will increase the loss of tribal land,** threatening traditional livelihoods and access to food. [Learn how you can take action to cope with post-disaster mental health impacts](#), such as:
 - **Respond:** Be aware of signs of withdrawal, depression, or other indications that someone needs help. Contact the [Disaster Distress Helpline](#) for crisis support.
 - **Respond:** Communicate openly to keep relationships healthy. Help children discuss their feelings after a traumatic event.

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 LOUISIANA RESIDENTS

Resource Topic	Information	Source
Climate Change Impacts	Learn More: What Climate Change Means for Louisiana	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	Learn More: National Climate Assessment: Southeast	U.S. Global Change Research Program. 2014.
	Explore Actions: Resilient New Orleans	City of New Orleans, Louisiana. August, 2015.
	Find Resources: EPA Region 6 (South Central)	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Public Health Information	Find Resources: Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals	State of Louisiana
	Find Resources: Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness	State of Louisiana