

Climate and Health Resources: OHIO



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 Ohio has warmed by about 1°F in the last century. This and other climate impacts, like more frequent floods, mean increasing risks to health. Examples of risks and actions for Ohio residents include:

- **Heat-related illnesses, hospital visits, and deaths will increase.** In Cincinnati and other large cities, urban heat island effect will make heat events worse. [Learn how you can take action to protect against heat waves](#), such as:
 - **Respond:** Drink plenty of water.
 - **Respond:** Watch for signs of dehydration and overheating, especially in children.

- **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:
 - **Respond:** Limit time outdoors based on air quality reports, pollen and mold counts, and heat advisories.
 - **Prepare:** Clean and replace air conditioner filters often.

- **Increased levels of harmful algae and bacteria will threaten sources of drinking water.** A 2014 bloom of blue-green algae in Lake Erie near a Toledo water plant caused nearly 500,000 residents to lose access to drinking water. [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 OHIO RESIDENTS

| Resource Topic | Information | Source |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Climate Change Impacts | Learn More: What Climate Change Means for Ohio | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency |
| | Find Resources: EPA Region 5 | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency |
| | Learn More: National Climate Assessment: Midwest | U.S. Global Change Research Program. 2014. |
| Public Health Information | Find Resources: Ohio Department of Health | State of Ohio |
| | Find Resources: Ohio Emergency Management Agency | State of Ohio |
| Climate and Health Resources | Explore Actions: Cleveland, Ohio Climate Action Plan: Building Thriving and Healthy Neighborhoods | City of Cleveland, Office of Sustainability. October, 2013. |