

# Climate and Health Resources: SOUTH DAKOTA



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 the past century, most of South Dakota has warmed by 1°F to 2°F. This and other climate impacts mean increasing risks to health. Examples of risks and actions for South Dakota residents include:

- **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.
  
- **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:
  - **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.
  
- **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.
  - **Respond:** When driving, be alert for sudden changes in visibility. Pull off the roadway, or reduce speed.

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 SOUTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS

Resource Topic	Information	Source
<b>Climate Change Impacts</b>	<b>Learn More:</b> <a href="#">What Climate Change Means for South Dakota</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 8 (Mountains and Plains)</a>	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
<b>Public Health Information</b>	<b>Find Resources:</b> <a href="#">South Dakota Department of Health</a>	State of South Dakota
	<b>Find Resources:</b> <a href="#">South Dakota Office of Emergency Management</a>	State of South Dakota