

Climate and Health Resources: MISSISSIPPI



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 Mississippi, sea levels are rising one inch every seven years and soils have become drier. These and other climate impacts mean increasing risks to health. Examples of risks and actions for Mississippi residents include:

- **Climate change will increase average temperatures across the US.** Higher temperatures have been linked with a higher risk of kidney stones. [Learn how you can take action to protect against heat waves](#), such as:
 - **Respond:** Stay hydrated to help prevent kidney stones.
 - **Respond:** Watch for signs of dehydration and overheating, especially in children.
- **More intense hurricanes can disrupt infrastructure** (damage to roads, bridges, or utilities), which can prevent access to health care. [Learn how you can take action to manage infrastructure disruptions](#), such as:
 - **Respond:** Check the news for tap water safety notices, such boiling water before use.
 - **Respond:** Avoid fallen power lines.
 - **Respond:** Keep power generators outside to avoid fire and carbon monoxide risks.
- **Increasing levels of harmful algae and bacteria in coastal waters may make eating fish and shellfish less safe.** These contaminants cause infections or stomach illnesses. [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.

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 MISSISSIPPI RESIDENTS

Resource Topic	Information	Source
Climate Change Impacts	Learn More: What Climate Change Means for Mississippi	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	Learn More: National Climate Assessment: Southeast	U.S. Global Change Research Program. 2014.
	Explore Actions: City of Waveland Local Hazard Mitigation Plan	City of Waveland, Mississippi. March 2013.
	Find Resources: EPA Region 4 (Southeast)	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Public Health Information	Find Resources: Mississippi Department of Health	State of Mississippi
	Find Resources: Mississippi Emergency Management Agency	State of Mississippi