

Climate and Health Resources: TENNESSEE



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.

Annual precipitation in Tennessee has increased approximately 5 percent since the first half of the 20th century. This and other climate impacts mean increasing risks to health. Examples of risks and actions for Tennessee 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 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:
 - **Prepare:** Talk to a doctor and make an Asthma Action Plan.
 - **Respond:** Limit time outdoors based on air quality reports, pollen and mold counts, and heat advisories.

- **Rising temperatures and changing rain patterns will lead to more mosquitoes.** Mosquito bites can transmit diseases like West Nile virus to humans. [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.

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 TENNESSEE RESIDENTS

Resource Topic	Information	Source
Climate Change Impacts	Learn More: What Climate Change Means for Tennessee	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	Learn More: National Climate Assessment: Southeast	U.S. Global Change Research Program. 2014.
	Find Resources: EPA Region 4 (Southeast)	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Public Health Information	Find Resources: Tennessee Department of Health	State of Tennessee
	Find Resources: Tennessee Emergency Management Agency	State of Tennessee