

Climate and Health Resources: WISCONSIN



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 Wisconsin has warmed about 2°F and heavy rainstorms are becoming more frequent. These, and other climate impacts, mean increasing risks to health. Examples of risks and actions for Wisconsin residents include:

- **More intense rain can overwhelm combined sewer systems** (where storm water and sewage share pipes). This can contaminate recreational water and sources of 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.
- **Heat-related illnesses, hospital visits, and deaths will increase.** [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.
- **Longer warm seasons mean that ticks will emerge earlier in the season.** Already common in the Midwest, Lyme disease infections will increase. [Learn how you can take action to protect against ticks](#), such as:
 - **Respond:** Check for and remove ticks promptly after coming indoors. Remember that pets may bring ticks into the house.
 - **Respond:** Wear protective clothing (such as high boots and long sleeves and pants), and consider using insect repellent.
- **For Ojibwe peoples, rising temperatures and ecosystem impacts threaten culturally and economically important species like wild rice and moose.**

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 WISCONSIN RESIDENTS

Resource Topic	Information	Source
Climate Change Impacts	Learn More: What Climate Change Means for Wisconsin	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	Learn More: National Climate Assessment: Midwest	U.S. Global Change Research Program. 2014.
	Learn More: Wisconsin's Changing Climate: Impacts and Adaptation, 2011 <i>Includes Health Concerns for: Inland Flooding, Extreme Heat, Drought</i>	Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts. 2011.
	Explore Actions: Dane County, Wisconsin Climate Change and Emergency Preparedness Plan	Dane County, Wisconsin Climate Change Action Council. October 2013.
	Find Resources: EPA Region 5	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Public Health Information	Find Resources: Wisconsin Department of Health Services	State of Wisconsin
	Find Resources: Wisconsin Division of Emergency Management	State of Wisconsin