

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Climate and Health Resources: PUERTO RICO



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.

Heat waves, heavy downpours, and sea level rise pose growing challenges to many aspects of life in Puerto Rico. Examples of risks and actions for Puerto Ricans include:

- **Rising temperatures and changing rain patterns will lead to more mosquitoes.** Mosquito bites can transmit diseases like West Nile virus and chikungunya 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.
- **More intense hurricanes are becoming more common.** Extreme weather events can disrupt infrastructure (damage to roads, bridges, or utilities). [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.
- **Sea level rise and storm surge threaten low-lying areas**, which are increasingly prone to flooding during tropical storms. Storm surge and flooding associated with hurricanes increases the risk of injury and disease. [Learn how you can take action to protect against floods](#), such as:
 - **Respond:** Fill bathtubs, sinks, and plastic containers with clean water.
 - **Respond:** Avoid driving or walking in or near flood waters, even after the flood or during cleanup.

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 PUERTO RICANS		
Resource Topic	Information	Source
Climate Change Impacts	Learn More: What Climate Change Means for Puerto Rico	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	Learn More: National Climate Assessment: Southeast and the Caribbean	U.S. Global Change Research Program. 2014.
	Explore Actions: Puerto Rico's State of the Climate 2010-2013: Assessing Puerto Rico's Social-Ecological Vulnerabilities in a Changing Climate	Puerto Rico Climate Change Council
	Find Resources: EPA Region 2	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Public Health Information	Find Resources: Puerto Rico Department of Health (Departamento de Salud)	Puerto Rico
	Find Resources: Puerto Rico State Agency for Emergency and Disaster Management (Agencia Estatal para el Manejo de Emergencias y Administración de Desastres)	Puerto Rico