

## BACKGROUND

- Climate change is a “threat multiplier,” exacerbating existing environmental health risks and introducing new ones.<sup>1</sup>
- Climate and health is an emerging and interdisciplinary field.
- As a CDC Climate Ready States & Cities grantee, Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) has implemented the Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) framework and produced a climate and health adaptation plan for the state.<sup>2,3</sup>
- The Pima County Health Department (PCHD) has not yet begun incorporating climate change into its work. This project serves as a starting place for local-level climate and health work.



## OBJECTIVES

Identify the most credible, current, and widely used guidelines, resources, toolkits, and information for aligning health department activities to climate adaptation and resilience strategies.

Develop training materials for PCHD employees that build staff capacity by:

- Communicating** anticipated health impacts resulting from climate change
- Connecting** local climate change impacts to PCHD work
- Identifying** specific actions to integrate climate resilience into existing work.

## METHODS

- Reviewed existing scientific, academic, and workforce development literature relating to climate and health.
- Developed findings of literature review into a 40-minute presentation.
- Delivered a condensed presentation (20 minutes) at PCHD offices in conjunction with other Public Health Week activities.
- Designed a summary handout to accompany the 40-minute presentation.
- Produced division-specific flyers summarizing main points, to be posted in each division’s workspace.

## PROJECT OUTPUTS

### 40-minute Presentation



### Condensed Presentation



Informational handout accompanying presentation

### Flyers for individual PCHD divisions: Community Health Assurance & Assessment, Clinical Services, Outreach, Intervention & Prevention



## DISCUSSION

### Most relevant local impacts of climate change for PCHD:

- Heat (higher average temperatures, higher extreme highs, more frequent record-breaking heat, longer heat waves)
- More frequent and more severe emergencies (heat waves, droughts, floods, dust storms, water shortages, wildfires)
- Changes in vector borne disease patterns
- Reduced air and water quality
- Reduced food production

### How these impacts will affect the work of PCHD:

- Extreme heat: More frequent heat illnesses, increased food contamination, reduced access to care
- Weather emergencies: Reduced access to care, maternal/infant mortality, increased prevalence of vaccine-preventable disease
- Increased food insecurity: Undernutrition and low birth weight
- Increase in size of vulnerable populations; exacerbation of existing health inequities

### Recommended actions:

- Collaborate with other stakeholders, such as local governmental departments, care providers, and NGOs, in support of initiatives to reduce the harmful impacts of climate change in Pima County
- Increase and/or adapt surveillance and assessment efforts to account for expected changes
- Inform stakeholders such as healthcare providers, food industry workers, policy makers, and community health workers about how climate change will affect them
- Educate the public about climate and health and opportunities for building resilience in advance of anticipated impacts

## REFERENCES & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

1. American Public Health Association, “Climate Change, Health, and Equity: A Guide for Local Health Departments”, <https://www.apha.org/topics-and-issues/climate-change/guide>  
 2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “CDC’s Building Resilience Against Climate Effects Framework”, <https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/BRACE.htm>  
 3. Arizona Department of Health Services, “Arizona Climate and Health Adaptation Plan 2017”, <https://www.azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/extreme-weather/pubs/arizona-climate-health-adaptation-plan.pdf>

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