Regional Climate and Health Monitoring Report



Public Health Advisory Committee January 18th, 2022



Overview

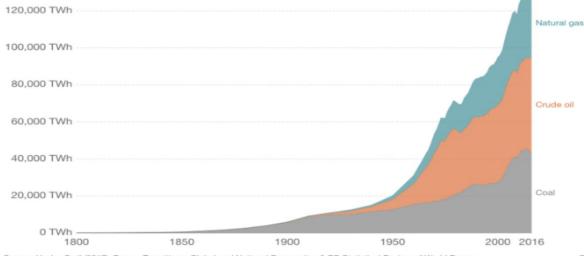
• Climate Change Overview

- Health Impacts
- Solutions and Division Climate Agenda

Climate Change Overview

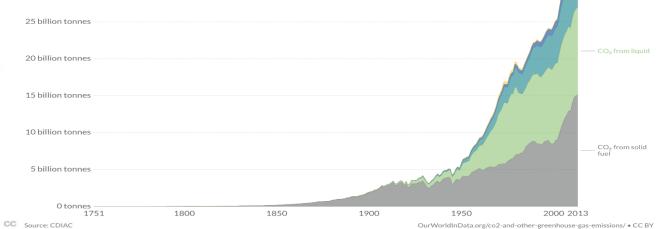


Global Fossil Fuel Consumption

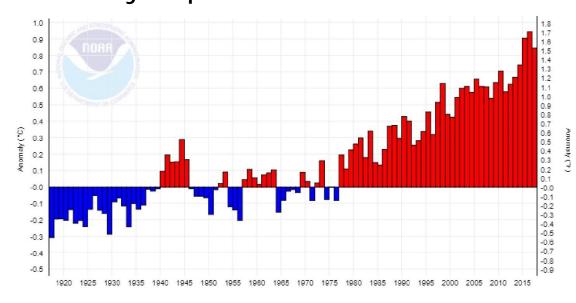


Source: Vaclav Smil (2017). Energy Transitions: Global and National Perspective & BP Statistical Review of World Energy

30 billion tonnes 25 billion tonnes

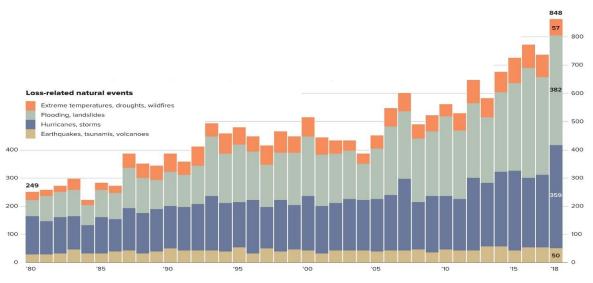


Global Average Temperature



Global Environmental Disasters

Global Fossil Fuel Emissions



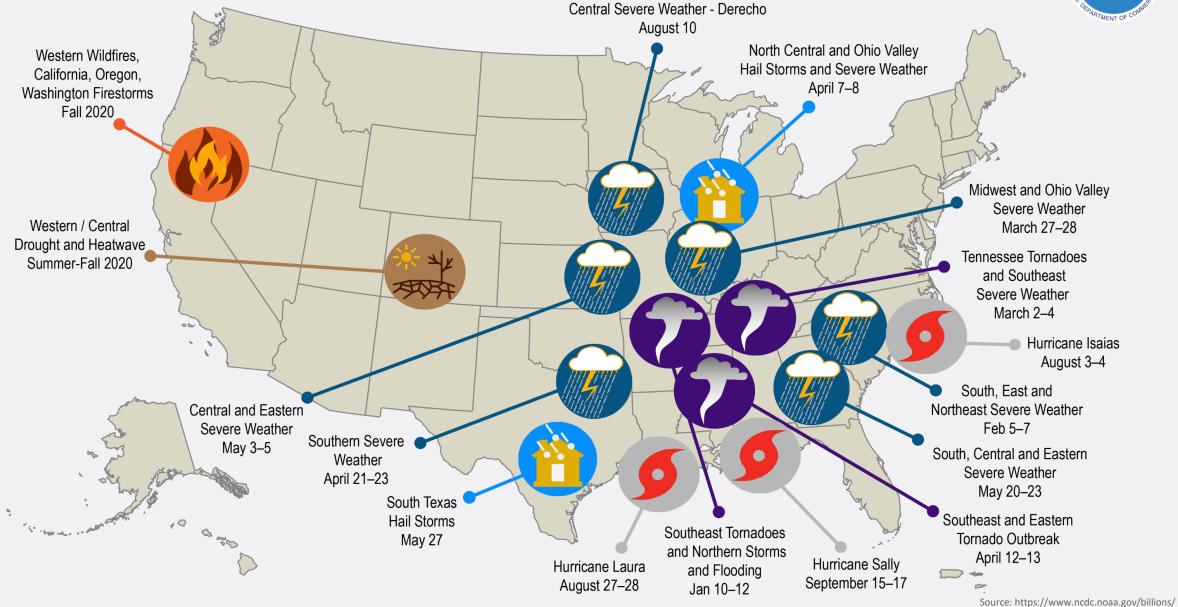
Sources: United Nations. Environment Programme, Munich RE

CO₂ from cement

CO₂ from gas

U.S. 2020 Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters





This map denotes the approximate location for each of the 16 separate billion-dollar weather and climate disasters that impacted the United States from January-September 2020.

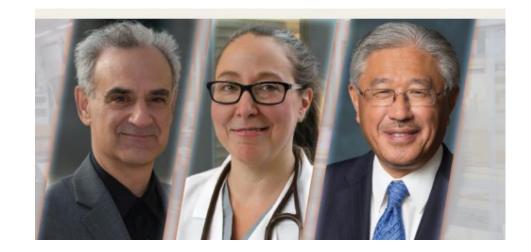


Report: Climate change is making health problems worse for Portland area residents

Wildfires, extreme heat waves, air pollution, snowstorms, and drought are just some of the extreme whentes, extreme near waves, air ponution, snowstorms, and drought are just some of the extreme weather events Oregon has gone through the last couple of years. A new report from the three Portland metro area counties shines a light at how climate change is impacting the health of the The Regional Climate and Health Monitoring Report provides data for 12 health conditions like asthma and heat stress, which span areas that climate change is known to affect. The report was astinua and neat stress, which span areas that cumate change is known to affect. The report was completed by health officials from Multinomah, Clackamas and Washington counties where nearly 2

National Academies of Medicine

Climate Conversations: Decarbonizing the Health Sector



"Health care is the only sector that lives by the Hippocratic Oath: do no harm."

"The greenest hospital is the one we don't build because we are addressing the reasons people are sick in the first place."

Health Impacts



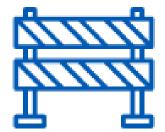
Unequal Impacts



- Youth
- People with pre-existing conditions
- People who are pregnant

...that are more exposed

- Low-income and BIPOC groups displaced or living in areas of disinvestment
- Outdoor workers
- Rural and frontline communities



...that face greater barriers

- Older adults
- People with disabilities

Report Overview

The Regional Climate and Health Monitoring report is a collection of **baseline data** for **Clackamas**, **Multnomah**, and **Washington** Counties on **12 health indicators** influenced by climate change.

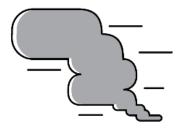


Key Takeaways

- Health conditions related to poor air quality and extreme heat are affecting the largest amount of people in the region.
- Few apparent long term trends. In 2020 was unusual. Coinciding with the COVID-19 pandemic, several heat, air quality, and foodborne communicable disease health outcomes decreased in counts.
- Acute events lead to major impacts. Specific climate-related events caused spikes in health outcomes, like the 2020 wildfires.
- We need ways to measure mental health impacts. There is a need for more robust and consistent tracking systems for mental health related impacts.

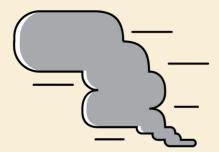
Air Quality

- Warmer and drier conditions increase the length and severity of wildfire seasons.
- The particulate mater (PM) from wildfire smoke can enter the deepest parts of our lungs creating and making worse health conditions.
- In 2012, 963 wildfires burned more than 1.2 million acres in Oregon, causing an estimated <u>226 premature deaths</u>, 92 <u>hospital admissions</u>, and 1,986 ER visits. The costs with these losses and health care visits is totaled at \$2.1B



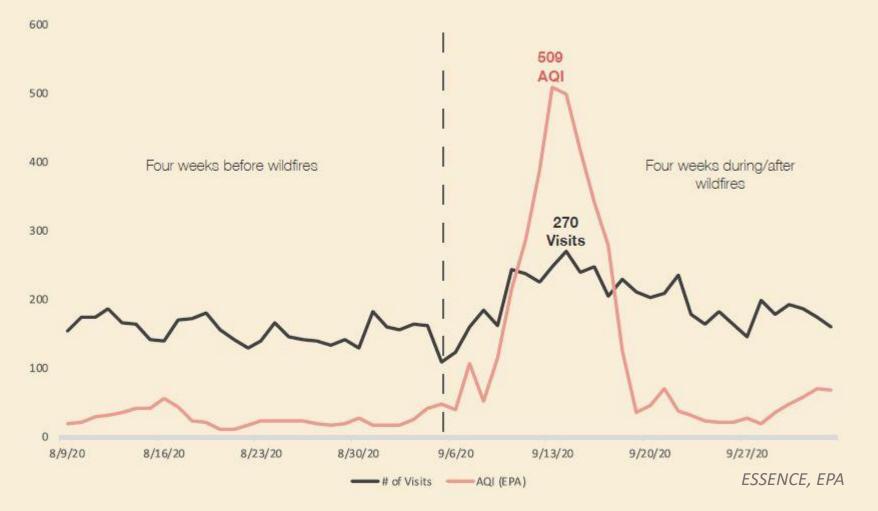


Climate Event Impacts 2020 Wildfire Season



Despite an overall decrease of asthma-like symptoms visits for the year of 2020, there were direct increases in ED visits in response to the September wildfires.

Average daily visits increased by **29%** the four weeks during/after the wildfire in comparison to the four weeks before.



Mental Health and Climate Change



Different types and lengths of climate change events can create a range of mental health impacts:

- Short and acute events that last a few hours to a few weeks like heatwaves, extreme storms, or wildfires
- Long periods of extended climate change events like drought or recovery periods from acute events
- **Ongoing direct or indirect exposure** to the hazards of climate change like rising temperatures, rising sea levels, and other global and regional threats

Mental Health and Climate Change Landscape

Estimated Percentage of People Worried about Global Warming

Yale Climate Opinion Survey

Estimated Percentage of People Who Think Global Warming Will Harm Future Generations

Yale Climate Opinion Survey

Estimated Percentage of People Who Think Global Warming Will Cause Personal Harm

57.0%

2016

Clackamas

moderate/great deal of personal harm

Think global warming will cause a little/no

Think global warming will cause a

55.2%

37.3%

2018

55.7%

38.9%

2020

Yale Climate Opinion Survey

60.0%

33.0%

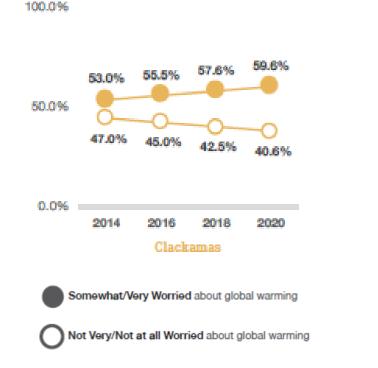
2014

personal harm

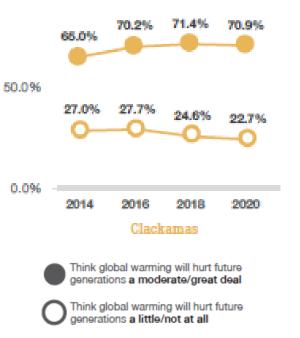
100.0%

50.0%

0.0%



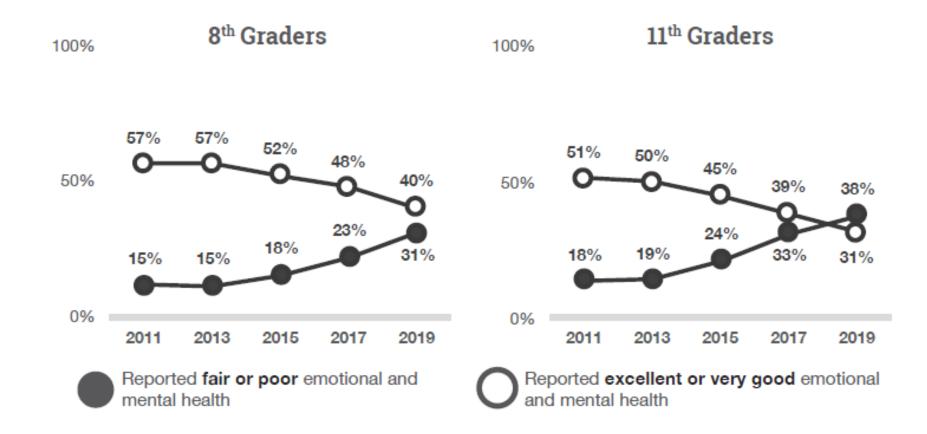
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Mental Health and Climate Change Landscape

Student Self-Rating of General Emotional and Mental Health

Oregon Healthy Teen Survey



Solutions + Division Climate Agenda



Public Health Modernization

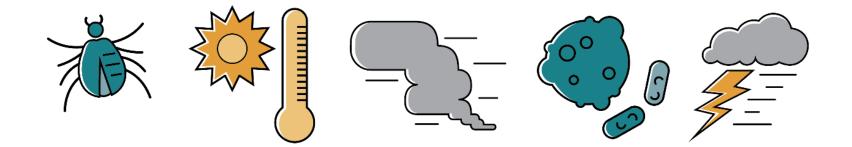
- 2021-2023 deliverables:
 - Local or regional health equity assessment
 - Local or regional all-hazards preparedness plan with community partners
 - Local or regional climate adaptation plan



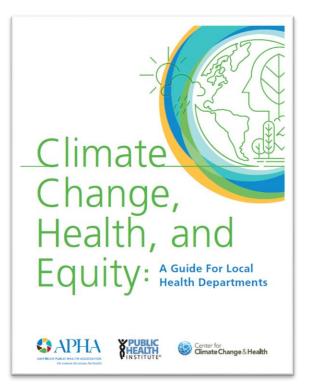
Clackamas County Public Health Division Climate <u>draft</u> work plan

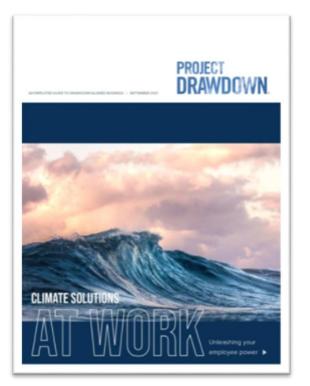
- Build capacity and alignment in the public health division and H3S to address climate change
 - Climate and health literacy training
 - New staff/roles
 - H3S department coordination
- Develop a division priority agenda
 - Integrate climate and health lens across departments
 - Develop climate and health policy agenda
 - Deepen community partnerships to build climate resilience
 - Engaging in regional climate efforts
- Continue engaging with the Climate Exchange and Climate Action Plan

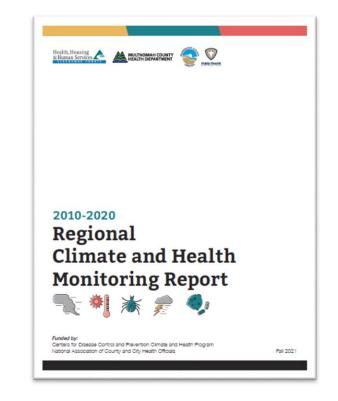
Comments? Questions? Ideas?



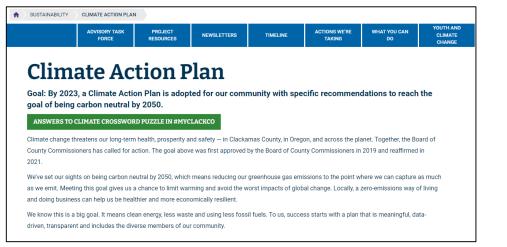
Resources







Resources



<u>Clackamas County</u> <u>Climate Action Plan</u>



EcoAmerica Climate for Health (And free online ambassador training!)