

Protect Health from Climate Change

Reducing the pollution that causes climate change can have both immediate and long-term health benefits.



Climate change is a major threat to public health.

- Climate change is already harming Americans' health. Worsened air quality from wildfire smoke, increased risk of higher ozone pollution, stronger extreme weather events, and increased spread of infectious diseases put health and lives at risk. The impacts are expected to worsen.
- Everyone's health could be impacted, but some groups are particularly at risk of suffering from the health harms of climate change. Children, the elderly, people who work outside, individuals with preexisting health conditions, low-wealth communities and people of color often experience disproportionate health harms stemming from climate change.

Leading health and medical experts are calling for action.

- [Major national health and medical organizations](#), including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Public Health Association, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America and the American Lung Association, are calling for action to protect the public from the health impacts of climate change.
- More than 1,700 [health professionals from all 50 states](#) signed a declaration calling for action to address climate change on behalf of their patients and communities.

Addressing climate change is a public health opportunity.

- Reducing the pollution that causes climate change is a win-win because it can reduce other dangerous pollutants at the same time. For example, shifting to clean, renewable energy and investing in energy efficiency reduces carbon emissions from dirty power plants, as well as other pollutants that trigger asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death.



- Climate solutions can clean up these harmful emissions in all communities and must not continue to leave communities near pollution sources to bear a greater health burden.
- In addition to reducing emissions, the nation should invest in adaptation so communities can prepare for and withstand the health impacts they experience today and in the future.
- Any policy to address climate change must not weaken or delay the Clean Air Act.

For more information

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