

Climate and Health Resources: GEORGIA



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 Georgia, sea level is rising about one inch every decade. This and other climate impacts, like more very hot days, mean increasing risks to health. Examples of risks and actions for Georgia residents include:

- **Higher temperatures will increase heat-related illnesses, hospital visits, and deaths.** In Atlanta and other large cities, the urban heat island effect will make heat events worse. [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.

- **Higher temperatures and other weather changes will increase levels of ozone pollution** (a component of smog), increasing health risks like asthma-related hospital visits. [Learn how you can take action to protect against poor air quality](#), such as:
 - **Prepare:** Check news or [airnow.gov](#) for the local air quality index.
 - **Respond:** Reduce outdoor activity when pollution levels are high.

- **Increasing levels of harmful algae and bacteria may make eating fish and shellfish less safe.** These contaminants cause infections or stomach illnesses. [Learn how you can take action to ensure food safety](#), such as:
 - **Prepare:** Check for health department notices before fishing or harvesting shellfish.
 - **Respond:** Keep seafood chilled to less than 38°F. Discard any perishable food if your refrigerator has lost power for longer than four hours.

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 GEORGIA RESIDENTS

Resource Topic	Information	Source
Climate Change Impacts	Learn more: What Climate Change Means for Georgia	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	Learn more: National Climate Assessment: Southeast	U.S. Global Change Research Program. 2014.
	Find Resources: EPA Region 4 (Southeast)	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Public Health Information	Find Resources: Georgia Department of Public Health	State of Georgia
	Find Resources: Georgia Emergency Management Agency	State of Georgia