

Climate and Health Resources: MISSOURI



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.

Most of Missouri has warmed 0.5°F to 1°F in the last century and floods are becoming more frequent. These, and other climate impacts, mean increasing risks to health. Examples of risks and actions for Missourians include:

- **Higher temperatures will increase heat-related illnesses, hospital visits, and deaths.** In Kansas City, St. Louis, and other large cities, 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:** Check on elderly neighbors or anyone else who may need assistance.

- **More frequent and intense heavy rainfall increases the risk of floods.** Floods can lead to injuries, deaths, and diseases. [Learn how you can take action to protect against floods](#), such as:
 - **Prepare:** Ask someone out-of-state to act as a “family contact” in case your family is separated.
 - **Respond:** Avoid driving or walking in or near flood waters, even after the flood or during cleanup.

- **Longer warm seasons mean that ticks will emerge earlier in the season.** Already common in the Midwest, Lyme disease infections will increase. [Learn how you can take action to protect against ticks](#), such as:
 - **Respond:** Check for and remove ticks promptly after coming indoors. Remember that pets may bring ticks into the house.
 - **Respond:** Wear protective clothing (such as high boots and long sleeves and pants), and consider using insect repellent.

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 MISSOURIANS

Resource Topic	Information	Source
Climate Change Impacts	Learn More: What Climate Change Means for Missouri	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
	Learn More: National Climate Assessment: Midwest	U.S. Global Change Research Program. 2014.
	Find Resources: EPA Region 7 (Midwest)	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Public Health Information	Find Resources: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services	State of Missouri
	Find Resources: Missouri Emergency Management Agency	State of Missouri