# SOLVING THE CLIMATE CRISIS

The Environmental and Energy
Study Institute

House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis: Health Recommendations

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#### **EXPOSURES**

- Longer and hotter warm season
- Heat waves



- Heat-related illness
- Respiratory and heart diseases
- Death
- Burns from wild fires



# EXTREME RAINFALL AND DROUGHT



#### **EXPOSURES**

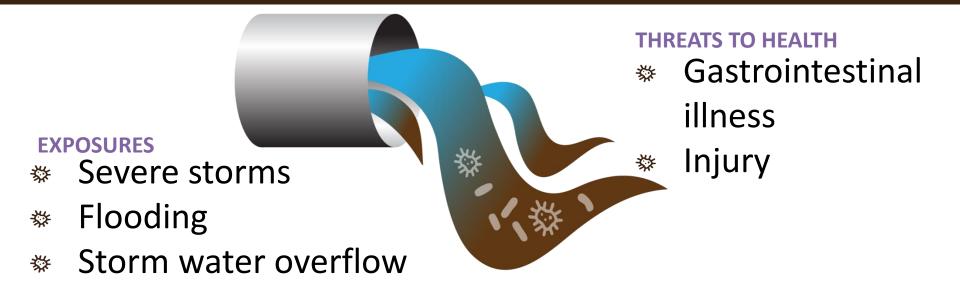
- Severe storms
- Flooding
- Wildfires
- Mold



- Injuries
- Asthma
- Heart disease
- Mental health



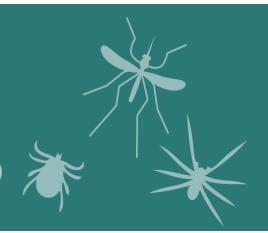
# WARMER WATER AND FLOODING INCREASE THE RISK OF ILLNESS AND INJURY





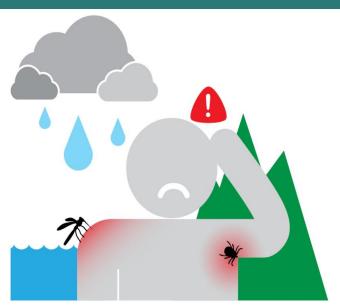
CLIMATE CHANGE INCREASES
THE NUMBER AND GEOGRAPHIC RANGE OF DISEASE-CARRYING

# INSECTS AND TICKS



#### **EXPOSURES**

- Increased vectors
- Warmer weather
- Expanded territory
- Shorter winters
- Standing water
- Deforestation



- Lyme disease
- West Nile virus
- Zika virus



### CLIMATE CHANGE DECREASES THE QUALITY OF THE

# **AIR WE BREATHE**



#### **EXPOSURES**

- Ambient air pollutants
- Pollen
- Wildfire smoke
- Mold



- Asthma
- Allergies
- Heart diseases
- Death







- Strengthen planning to address climate risks to public health
  - Federal health agencies
  - State, local, territorial, and tribal health departments
- Improve data collection on climate-related health impacts
  - Including disproportionate impacts on frontline communities
  - Enhance programs to reduce these health burdens





- Ensure resilient public health supply chains
  - Increase supply chain planning and strengthen national shipping and distribution networks
- Enhance U.S. global leadership on climate and health

Strengthen U.S. participation in the World Health Organization

& the Global Health Security Agenda





- Support community preparedness for the health impacts of disasters
  - Increase funding for federal health preparedness programs
  - Help medically vulnerable populations
- Increase the planning and preparedness of hospitals and health infrastructure
  - Require the use of climate-informed building codes and standards
  - Support resilience planning and construction



- Strengthen the resilience of veterans health systems
  - Hospitals, housing, and supply chains
- Address the mental health implications of climate change
  - Expand access to mental health services for acute needs after disasters, for students and youth worried about the climate crisis
  - Expand access for communities facing chronic pollution and climate impacts



# **About APHA**

APHA is a global community of public health professionals and the collective voice for the health of the public. APHA is the only organization that combines 140 years of perspective, a broad-based constituency and the ability to influence federal policy to advocate for and improve the public's health.

- Founded April 18, 1872
- 501C(3) & Nonpartisan
- Over 50,000 individual & affiliate members

