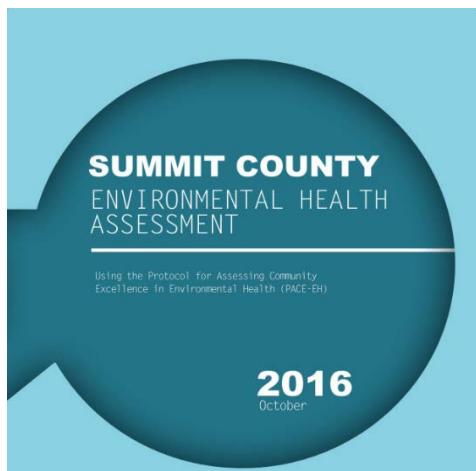


Local Health Departments are preparing for the Health Effects of Climate Change

Summit County Public Health, Akron, Ohio

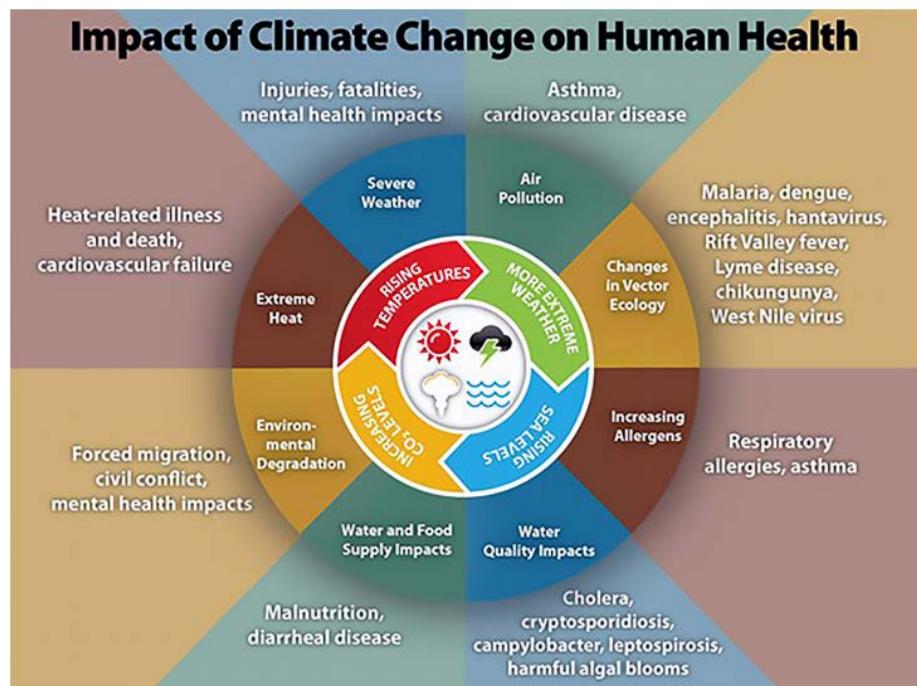


Climate Change in Summit County

The projected impacts on the northeast Ohio region are much more moderate than many other regions. The projections are that annual rainfall may remain the same or slightly higher, but that rainfall may show more extremes, fewer rain events with higher rainfall leading to possible localized flooding and erosion. One such event hit our main offices 2 years ago. A rainfall of 4 inches in one hour flooded our building with over a foot of water causing over one million dollars in damage. Likewise temperature extremes are expected to become more frequent.

Background

Summit County, Ohio lies just south of Cleveland, Ohio. Akron is the largest municipality in the county with just over 200,000 residents. The county as a whole has a population of 541,000. Two-thirds of the county is in the Lake Erie water shed and one-third in the Mississippi River tributary, the Ohio River basin.



Goal

Increase climate change preparation and mitigation through community engagement as a high priority environmental public health initiative.

Objectives

- Use the newly developing annual environmental health report to highlight indicators relating to climate change as part of the score card.
- Identify and celebrate community and business actions that work to slow, prevent or reverse our local contribution to climate change.
- Integrate climate change into the Health in All Policies charter being adopted by our county and some of our local jurisdictions.
- Educate the public as to what practical measure can be taken to reduce our carbon footprint.
- Work with Summit County Emergency Management Agency to plan for extreme temperature and localized flooding events.



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Public Health

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The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice with local health departments.

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