

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
Approved June 9, 2016  
Not Approved \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP  
Approved September 14, 2016  
Not Approved \_\_\_\_\_



**ILLINOIS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
RESOLUTION NO. 2**

**IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON HEALTH 2016**

**Statement of IPHA Position:** *Climate change is a public health problem that requires planning, policies, and actions to reduce harmful health and ecological impacts.*

---

**WHEREAS**, our state, country, and world are experiencing climate change that impacts health; and

**WHEREAS**, climate changes have affected Illinois counties to varying degrees and all counties have vulnerable populations, which may change and grow over time; and

**WHEREAS**, over the past 25 years, Illinois has experienced effects of climate change due to an increase in extreme weather events such as the 1993 Mississippi River floods, the 1995 Chicago heat wave, the drought of 2012, the spring floods of 2013, and the changing distribution of disease vectors and vector-borne diseases<sup>12</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, Illinois has experienced significant morbidity and mortality due to extreme weather events such as extreme heat and flooding<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, populations that are already particularly vulnerable such as communities of color, the elderly, young children, and low-income populations, will bear an increased burden of negative health impacts of climate change<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, both natural and man-made atmospheric influences, such as increases in greenhouse gas emissions, precipitation, ambient temperatures, and humidity may disrupt the human environment and threaten the health and vitality of human communities<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, state experts in climatology have identified several climate trends that affect Illinois in particular, such as rising annual temperatures and more extreme precipitation patterns that may result in heavier rainfall and increased damage from storm activity<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, changes in precipitation patterns pose an economic threat to Illinois' agricultural sector and other industries that could impact global crop yields; and

**WHEREAS**, there is evidence that warmer weather leads to increased risk of heat-related illnesses such as heat stroke, heat exhaustion, or even death, and greater incidence of both known and emerging vector-borne diseases<sup>5,6</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health (UIC) has been granted Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) program funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention intended to help select states prepare for and adapt to climate and extreme weather events in order to lessen or prevent adverse health outcomes<sup>2,7</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the prevention approach of public health is crucial to ensuring that climate change has a limited impact on public health and safety and ascertains that preparedness will remain a central focus in efforts working toward community resiliency in the face of climate change<sup>8</sup>.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Illinois Public Health Association**

1. Calls on policy makers and state leaders to comprehensively approach the ecological impacts of climate change on health, including the use of mitigation and adaptation strategies at the local and state levels; and
2. Supports leadership by the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health, Illinois Department of Public Health, and other entities to study, analyze, provide data, and recommendations, training, technical assistance, and funding in support of efforts to address the negative impacts of climate change on state and local communities; and
3. Encourages its partners and members to establish plans and programs that involve their communities in using public health prevention strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate changes; and
4. Pledges to help its members readily access resources regarding climate change from credible sources, including the American Public Health Association and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as organizations named above.

References:

---

<sup>1</sup> University of Illinois at Chicago Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Division. Adapting to Climate Change in Illinois: The Public Health Perspective. Accessed at <http://braceillinois.uic.edu>.

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About estimated range of *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* in the United States, 2016 maps. <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/vector/range.html>

<sup>3</sup> BRACE: Building Resilience against Climate Effects in Illinois. Accessed at <http://iesp.uic.edu/files/2015/07/DorevitchBRACE.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> American Public Health Association. August 2014. Fact Sheet, *Get the Facts: Climate Change is a Public Health Issue*. Accessed at [http://www.apha.org/~media/files/pdf/topics/environment/apha\\_climate\\_chg\\_phissue\\_4d.ashx](http://www.apha.org/~media/files/pdf/topics/environment/apha_climate_chg_phissue_4d.ashx).

<sup>5</sup> University of Illinois at Chicago Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Division. Mosquitoes, Ticks, & Disease. Accessed at <https://braceillinois.uic.edu/climate-change-health/mosquitos-ticks-disease/>.

<sup>6</sup> Luber, G., & McGeehin, M. (2008). Climate change and extreme heat events. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 35(5), 429-435.

---

<sup>7</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015). CDC's Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) Framework. Accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/brace.htm>.

<sup>8</sup> American Public Health Association. April 2011. *Climate Change: Mastering the Public Health Role, A Practical Guidebook*. Accessed at [https://www.apha.org/~media/files/pdf/factsheets/climate\\_change\\_guidebook.ashx](https://www.apha.org/~media/files/pdf/factsheets/climate_change_guidebook.ashx).