

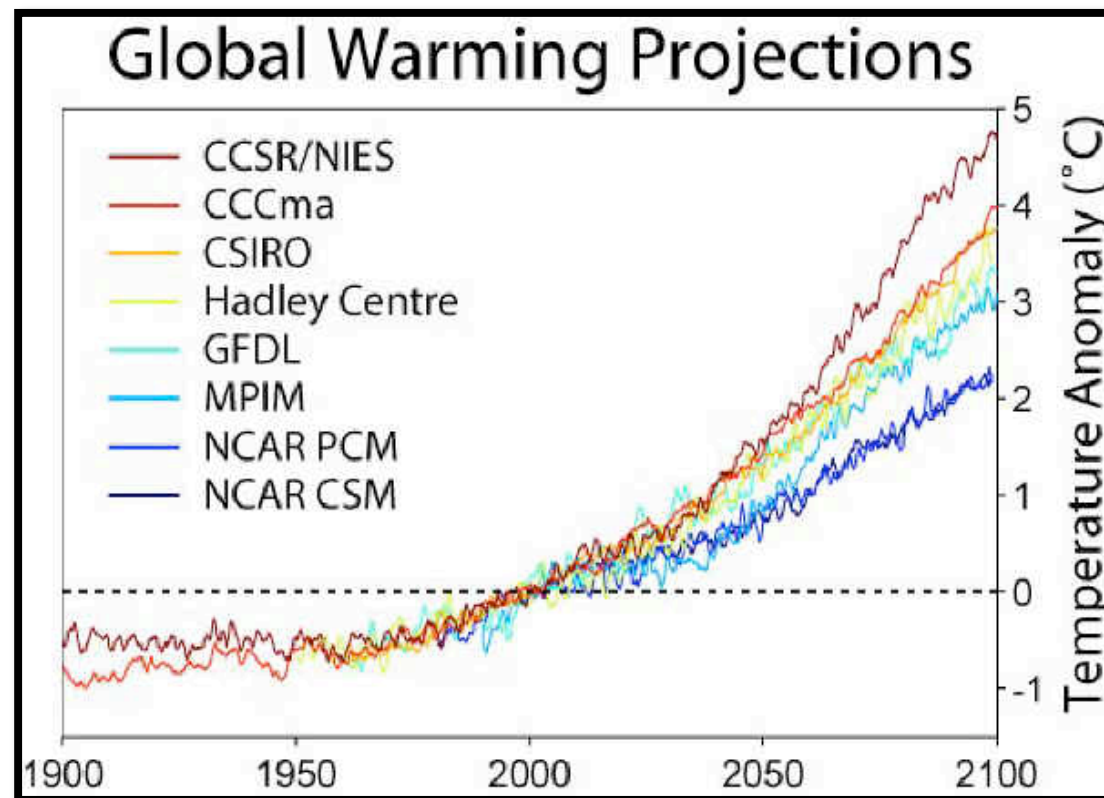
Ready for Change: Preparing Oregon's Public Health Agencies for the Impacts of Climate Change

A presentation by the Climate Leadership Initiative
OPHA Annual Conference 2010

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Public Health and Climate Change

“Unequivocal” evidence that the earth’s mean temperatures are rising



CDC Potential Health Impacts of Climate Change

Weather Event	Health Effects	Population Most Affected
Heat waves	Heat stress	Extremes of age, athletes, people with respiratory disease
Extreme weather events, (rain, hurricane, tornado, flooding)	Injuries, drowning	Coastal, low-lying land dwellers, low SES
Droughts, floods, increased mean temperature	Vector-, food-and water-borne diseases	Multiple populations at risk
Sea-level rise	Injuries, drowning, water and soil salinization, ecosystem and economic disruption	Coastal, low SES
Drought, ecosystem migration	Food and water shortages, malnutrition	Low SES, elderly, children
Extreme weather events, droughts	Mass population movement, international conflict	General population
Increases in ground-level ozone, airborne allergens, and other pollutants	Respiratory disease exacerbations (COPD, asthma, allergic rhinitis, bronchitis)	Elderly, children, those with respiratory disease
Climate change generally; extreme events	Mental health	Young, displaced, agricultural sector, low SES

CDC Policy on Climate Change and Public Health: <http://www.cdc.gov/ClimateChange/policy.htm>

Oregon Public Health Survey



- Objectives:
 - ◆ Assess current knowledge on health risks associated with climate change;
 - ◆ Assess current level of preparation to manage climate change associated health risks; and
 - ◆ Identify resource and training needs.
- Responses were received from 25 out of 35 counties with public health departments.

Oregon Public Health Survey Results

- Global climate change is a serious or very serious problem
- Many are knowledgeable about public health and climate change
- Expectation that climate change will have greater impact in the next twenty years
- There is a need for dedicated additional resources

Guidebook Development

Leading By Example

Emission Reductions in Public Health Agencies

A Climate Masters Guide
for the Public Health Sector

May 2010



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Leading by Example:

Emissions Reductions in Public Health Agencies

- Carbon emissions reduction challenge
- Stewards of public dollars
- Role model for communities



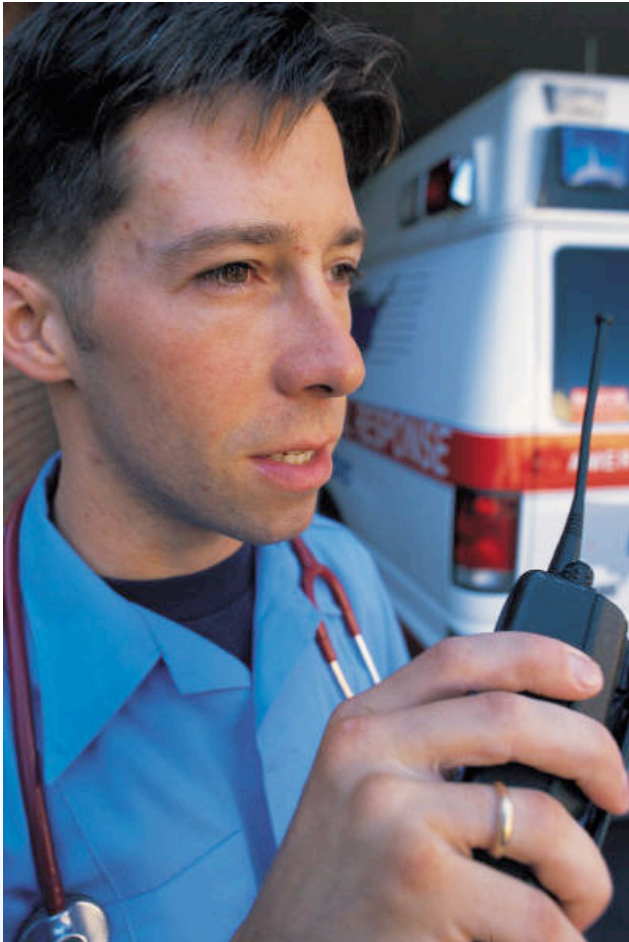
Ready for Change:

Preparing Public Health Agencies Climate Change

- Reducing risks and building resilience
- Integration and collaboration
- Employee and community recommendations



Roll Out Plans for Guidebooks



- Provide trainings for public health officials on climate change
- Continually improve guidebooks and workshops
- Train-the-trainers program for public health agencies

CDC Funded ODPH Project

- Develop revised HVA matrix and toolkit
 - ◆ Including HIA approaches to identify impacts of climate change on a population
- Develop HIA toolkit for climate change
 - ◆ Coupled with training curriculum, mentorship and technical assistance
- Develop Public Health climate change indicators for Oregon
 - ◆ Including training and education on preparedness for natural disasters in public health sector

Conducting HIAs on Climate Action Plans

- Eugene Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP)
- Public Health Recommendations
- Conducted HIA on Transportation Recommendations

<http://www.sustaineugene.com/eugeneclimate/>

Conclusion

Those of us working in public health should recognize that climate disruption affects promoting good health for us all. There is an opportunity now for us to lead by example and take some responsibility for the impact on the Earth's climate.

Dr. Mel Kohn, Oregon Public Health Division