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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"Unequivocal" evidence that the earth’s mean temperatures are rising
## CDC Potential Health Impacts of Climate Change

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

[ 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

Ready for Change
Preparing Public Health Agencies for the Impacts of Climate Change

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May 2010
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/
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