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Climate & Health News

Newsletter of the JHU-UPF Public Policy Center Climate Change Working Group



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NEWS

[New study finds nearly 3,000 deaths in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria](#)

A new, definitive study from George Washington University finds that almost 3,000 people lost their lives—and highlights the government's failures before and after the storm. – *The Atlantic*



The U.S. flag, next to a damaged Puerto Rican flag, flies in the municipality of Yabucoa. (CARLOS GIUSTI / AP)

[“Hothouse” Earth](#)

people will look back on 2018 as the year when climate reality hit." – *The Guardian*

[With wildfires and hurricanes the price-tag of climate change is beginning to hit home](#)

So far, the proven economic impacts of climate change are relatively mild. But if natural disasters become increasingly destructive and these economic effects become more severe, the perception of climate risk could change quickly. – *Christian Science Monitor*



Flames burn near power lines in Sycamore Canyon near West Mountain Drive on Dec. 16, 2017 in Montecito, Calif. In California this summer, severe wildfires have intensified a political brawl over who should shoulder the liability. (Mike Eliason/Santa Barbara County Fire Department/AP)

[Coastal flooding could cost \\$1 trillion and affect over 3 million annually in Europe](#)

The annual cost of European coastal flooding could increase from \$1 trillion by the end of the century (from \$1.4 billion today) and affect over 3 million people (compared with 100,000 today), mainly due to sea-level rise according to a new study. – *yale360.edu*

[Europe faces increase in vector-borne disease](#)

Europe is facing a growing threat of tropical disease outbreaks, as rising temperatures linked to climate change cause illnesses brought by travellers to spread more easily, health experts warned. An increase in West Nile is the most recent. – *The Guardian*



Researchers predict the risk of transmission of dengue fever, Zika and other mosquito-borne disease will rise as climate change alters weather patterns. Photograph: Jeff Miller/AP

[Kerala floods leave hundreds of thousands homeless](#)

Rescue workers waded through filthy waters to help flood victims. – CNN



Young boys pull a makeshift raft made of banana trees through filthy flood water to rescue people in Peringara, Kerala, India. CNN

[800 million at risk in South Asia according to the World Bank](#)

Climate change could sharply diminish living conditions for up to 800 million people in South Asia, a region that is already home to some of the world's poorest and hungriest people, if nothing is done to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. – *The New York Times*

[Halfway to boiling - the city at 50°C](#)

It is the temperature at which human cells start to cook, animals suffer and air conditioners overload



Workers take a break at a building site in Kuwait City, where work is forbidden between noon and 4pm Guardian

[Over a billion struggle to say cool as Earth warms](#)

More than a billion people are at risk from a lack of air conditioning and refrigeration according to a new study. Countries at greatest risk include Brazil, India, China, Mozambique, Sudan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Indonesia and Bangladesh, urban areas in particular. – *Thomson Reuters*

[“Climate gentrification” in cities at higher risk from climate change](#)

A new study investigates the intersection of climate change and real estate, and finds that higher elevations bring higher values and will deepen urban inequality. – City Lab



A homeless man takes shelter at a bus stop in Miami Beach shortly before Hurricane Irma. Carlos Barria/Reuters

[Cities are piloting carbon credits to replace dwindling urban trees](#)

The US non-profit City Forest Credits is trying to generate funds to replace lost city tree canopy with

[Cyprus asserts itself as a hub for climate change](#)

The island of Cyprus is reshaping itself into a regional hub for climate-change research. The country lies at the meeting point of the Mediterranean, the Middle East and North Africa — areas where climate change is expected to take a heavy toll in the coming decades. -- *Nature*

SCIENCE

[Many different outcomes of '1.5 °C warmer world'](#)

The Paris Agreement includes the aim of pursuing efforts to limit global warming to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels. Here we show that trajectories towards a '1.5 °C warmer world' may result in vastly different outcomes at regional scales, owing to variations in the pace and location of climate change and interactions with mitigation, adaptation and vulnerability.

Seneviratne SI et al. 2018. The many possible climates from the Paris Agreement's aim of 1.5 °C warming. Nature, 558(7708):41-49.



Polar bears on sea ice: the loss of the Greenland ice sheet could disrupt the Gulf Stream, which would in turn raise sea levels and accelerate Antarctic ice loss. Photograph: Paul Goldstein/Cover Images

[Modeling heat-related deaths in the Eastern USA](#)

Researchers assessed heat-related excess mortality across the eastern USA to mid-century. Warmer average apparent temperatures cause 11,562 additional annual deaths due to cardiovascular stress in the elderly (>65 years) while higher minimum temperatures cause 8,767 additional deaths each year. The

Limaye VS et al. 2018. *Climate Change and Heat-Related Excess Mortality in the Eastern USA. Ecohealth.*

[Synergy between air pollution and heat in Europe](#)

Researchers studied synergy between air pollution and meteorology and impact on mortality in nine European cities. In the warm season, the percentage increase in all deaths from natural causes per °C increase in temperature tended to be greater during high ozone days, while interaction with PM10 was significant for cardiovascular mortality.

Analtis A et al. 2018. *Synergistic Effects of Ambient Temperature and Air Pollution on Health in Europe: Results from the PHASE Project. Int J Environ Res Public Health. 15(9) pii: E1856.*

[Heat impacts on young children in New York City](#)

Researchers explored the heterogeneity of risk of heat among young children (0-4 years) in New York City (NYC) hospitals. They found a significant risk of emergency department visits in young children with elevated maximum temperatures, with risk patterns varying based on age. Risk of injury was associated with higher temperatures

Sheffield PE et al. 2018. *Not so little differences: variation in hot weather risk to young children in New York City. Public Health. 2018 Aug;161:119-126.*



Young children cool off in a fountain in New York's Washington Square Park. CNN

[Review: Building mental health into climate vulnerability assessment](#)

Health authorities around the world are conducting climate change and health vulnerability and adaptation assessments; however, few explore impacts and adaptations related to mental health. Through a review

Hayes K & Poland B. 2018. *Addressing Mental Health in a Changing Climate: Incorporating Mental Health Indicators into Climate Change and Health Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessments*. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 15(9). pii: E1806.

Review: [Climate disasters and children's mental health](#)

The number of children affected by natural disasters is alarmingly high and can be expected to rise with climate change. Mental consequences including post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and others have been documented. This special issue focuses on how children can be prepared for natural disasters and the mental health aspects of such events.

Dyregrov A et al. 2018. *Children and natural disasters*. *Eur J Psychotraumatol*. 15;9(Suppl 2):1500823.



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