Climate & Health News

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

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY PUBLIC POLICY CENTER upf. Universitat Pompeu Fabra Barcelona

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NEWS

Tackling transport congestion will constrain rights and freedoms

The right to mobility is regarded as an entitlement. But costs are increasing; we may approach a time when freedom of movement must be constrained. Public transport systems are finding it hard to keep pace with growing numbers. If cities are to remain viable entities, current patterns of mobility are unsustainable. – *Financial Times*

AFP Nick ButlerNSEPTEMBER 4, 2018

big cities. So by definition, a large number of the world's airports are in locations most at risk from rising sea levels, high tides, storm surges, extreme rainfall, or a combination of all four. -- *Bloomberg*

A flooded Kansai International Airport this week after Typhoon Jebi hit. Photographer: The Asahi Shimbun/Getty Images

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Water managers are unprepared for climate change

Water planning does not systematically take account of changing climate parameters: A survey of water utility managers found three groups: those who integrated climate into long-term planning; those who viewed climate change as "too unpredictable" for future planning; and those who had no interest or institutional support to consider climate change. – *NewsDeeply*

Lake Success, a reservoir and dam along the Tule River in California. Operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, it provides water

As climate warms, algae blooms in drinking water supplies

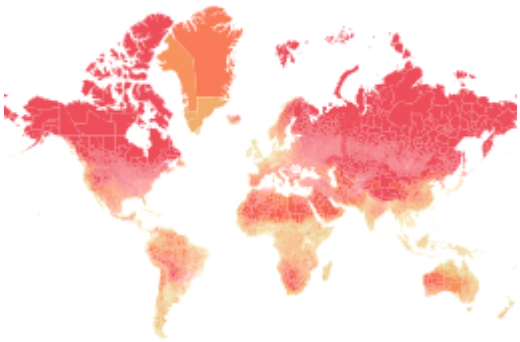
Algae has long posed a potential health threat to swimmers and boaters, who risk ingesting toxins while splashing around in a lake or river where a bloom is present. But more and more these days, health officials are grappling with the threat of algae to drinking water.-*NPR*

"Hothouse" Earth

A domino-effect of climate events could push Earth into a "hothouse" state according to a study from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impacts. Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, outgoing Director notes "…in future people will look back on 2018 as the year when climate reality hit." – *The Guardian*

Interactive Map: Climate in 2050

How bad could things become where you life if we continue on our current trajectory? Explore the map to see how temperatures will change in your area – and around the world – by the year 2050. – *The Revelator*



Map by dipika

Climate gentrification: the rich can afford to move – what about the poor?

A pattern of climate-driven gentrification is taking hold across the US, as those who are able to retreat from floods, storms, heatwaves and wildfires shift to safer areas, bringing soaring property and rental values with them. This trend has largely taken hold since 2000. – *The Guardian*

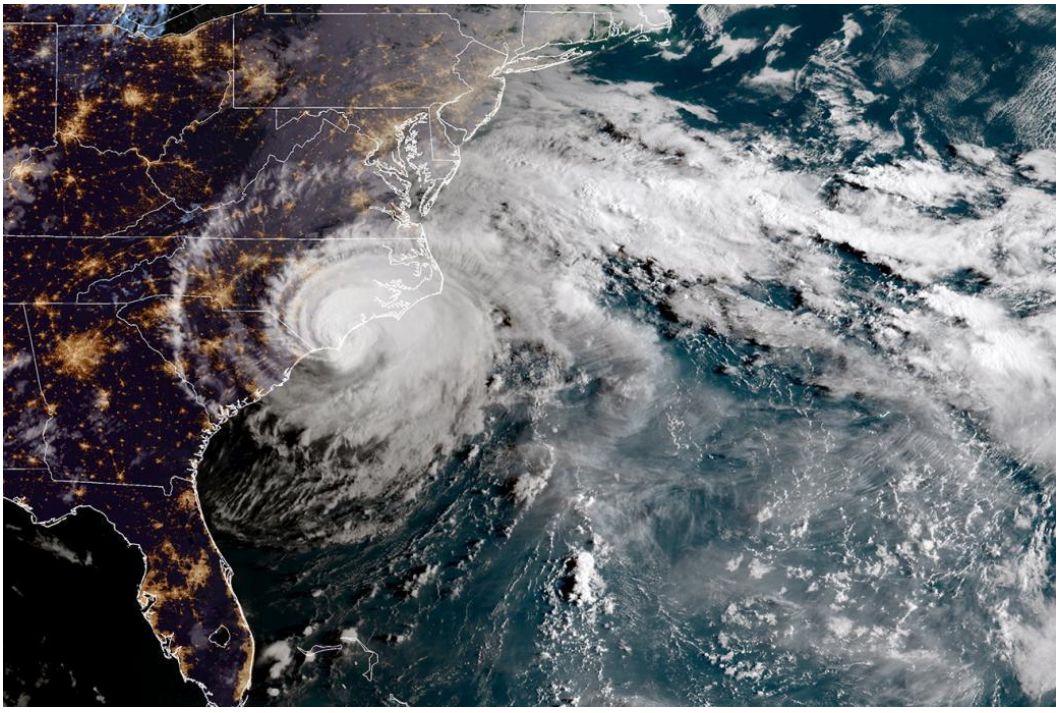
Poor city neighborhoods are often much hotter than wealthy ones

As Washington DC sweats through yet another wave of oppressively hot days, heat has become one more way to measure inequality in a city already defined by it. Like educational attainment, wealth

Washington Highlands is one of the neighborhoods deemed most vulnerable to “heat island” effects. Resident Cheryl Johnson is on dialysis and uses a walker, and spending time outside on very hot days is risky for her. (Marvin Joseph/The Washington Post)

How global warming is turbocharging monster storms like Hurricane Florence

Big storms with massively heavy rainfall are on the rise. “Attribution” science, which borrows ideas from epidemiology and seeks to isolate specific assigns risks to specific weather events, is helping to identify why. – Newsweek



Hurricane Florence drew strength from the warm surface waters of the Atlantic Ocean, lingered over North Carolina for days and dropped massive amounts of rain. Scientists attribute 50 percent of its total rainfall to the effects of global warming.NOAA/GETTY

activists, scientists, business leaders, entertainers and politicians from more than 100 nations gathered for a three-day summit on global warming. – *SF Chronicle*

Dinamam Tux, with Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB) chants as he participates in the RISE for Climate, Jobs, and Justice march on Market Street on Saturday, September 8, 2018, in San Francisco, Calif. Thousands marched through the streets of San Francisco, just days before the Global Climate Action Summit next week.Photo: Yalonda M. James / The Chronicle

Solutions: *Cities lead the way on curbing emissions*

New data suggest that major cities are making substantial strides to stem their emissions. Twenty-seven cities, including Warsaw, Barcelona and Sydney, saw CO2 peak in 2012 and then go into decline. As well as moving to green energy, the cities have provided affordable alternatives to private cars. -- *BBC*

Solutions: A new use for Google Maps: calculating a city's carbon footprint

The Environmental Insights Explorer calculates emissions from buildings, car trips, and public transport to illustrate how a city's sustainability efforts are faring. – Fast Company

[Photo: Google]

Solutions: Huge fans, burning biomass may help store carbon

New research from the World Resources Institute joins a growing chorus of scientists, climate action groups, and others calling for a worldwide effort to remove fossil fuel pollution from the air to prevent climate change from spiraling out of control. – *Bloomberg Environment*

SCIENCE

A new approach to climate and health indicators

Improved climate and health indicators are needed for (1) vulnerability and exposure to climate-related hazards; (2) current impacts and projected risks; and (3) adaptation processes and health system resilience. This paper describes an approach to climate and health indicators.

Ebi et al. 2018. Monitoring and Evaluation Indicators for Climate Change-Related Health Impacts, Risks, Adaptation, and Resilience. Int J Environ Res Public Health. 15(9). pii: E1943.

What governments can do to reduce vulnerability to health impacts from climate change

Unprecedented global changes in climate have given rise to an increase in extreme weather. While all populations are at risk for associated adverse health outcomes, some are at greater risk because of vulnerabilities resulting from exposure to risk-prone areas, sensitivity due to underlying health conditions, and limited adaptive capacity. We discuss current governmental public health responses, including vulnerability assessment, adaptation plans, public health emergency response, and public health agency accreditation.

CHESNOT A wind turbine installed in Paris ahead of the Cop21 climate conference in 2015

A new urban vector-borne disease research consortium

This paper describes the collaboration and partnership of the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the "VEctor boRne DiseAses Scoping reviews" (VERDAS) Research Consortium as they joined efforts in supporting the development of a series of scoping reviews that highlight priority research gaps and policy implications to address vector-borne and other infectious diseases at the urban level.

Otmani et al. 2018. Supporting and strengthening research on urban health interventions for the prevention and control of vector-borne and other infectious diseases of poverty: scoping reviews and research gap analysis. Infect Dis Poverty. 7(1):94.

Heat exposure varies greatly across cities

Environmental heat is a growing public health concern in cities. To provide evidence for building community resilience to extreme heat, we assess how US outdoor urban heat exposure varies by city, demography, and activity. We find higher outdoor heat exposure among the elderly and low-income individuals; cities with the most extreme temperatures do not necessarily have the highest outdoor heat exposure.

Hoehne et al. 2018. Heat exposure during outdoor activities in the US varies significantly by city, demography, and activity. Health Place. 54:1-10.

Rick Richo carries water to his home from a nearby water filling station during the midday heat in Phoenix, Arizona.

Photograph: Joshua Taff for the Guardian

Review: Arboviruses

The worldwide invasion of arthropod-borne viruses (arboviruses) in recent decades is responsible for emerging public health threats, which are enhanced with climate change. This review focuses on some of the common families of mosquito-borne arboviruses and their threat to human health and discusses their genome organization and worldwide spread.

Sukhralia et al. 2018. From dengue to Zika: the wide spread of mosquito-borne arboviruses. Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis.

Review: Schistosomiasis and climate change

The impact of climate change on schistosomiasis, a blood-fluke affecting more than 250 million people mainly in tropical and subtropical countries, is currently unknown, but likely to vary. We identify studies reporting on impacts of climate change on the agents of schistosomiasis, and provide an updated synthesis of the current knowledge about the climate change-schistosomiasis relationship.

Stensgaard et al. 2018. Schistosomes, snails and climate change: Current trends and future expectations. Acta Trop

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