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Climate & Health News

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



Volume 1 Issue 2 February 2016

*Science and news organized
by major category:*

HEAT
AIR
STORMS
VECTORS
WATER
CITIES VULNERABILITY
ADAPTATION
CO-BENEFITS

*Climate and Health News, Jan-Feb 2016**

VECTORS
[Lyme disease US](#)
[Zika South America and
Caribbean](#)
[Zika](#) overview (Bloomberg)
[Zika Brazil](#)
[Zika](#) overview (Washington
Post)

STORMS

Climate and Health in the News This Month

Climate change and health is a fast-emerging and changing field. And every day, cities are demonstrating new ways of leading, both in adapting to climate challenges to public health and health services and showing the way on mitigation of greenhouse gases. Our goal is to share the latest science, news, and events, at the outset among the members of our Group, and eventually more broadly as we gain partners.

The climate and health news has been full of stories about Zika this month, see some of the most informative ones in the links to the left. Last month's science and news also included interesting reports of climate adaptation in Copenhagen, Ljubljana, Lima, and Los Angeles, among other cities.

There are two events that the Group would like to share with you this month. The first was a day-long series of events with former Congressman Henry A. Waxman that took place on January 21. A morning session included Baltimore City Representatives and the Climate Change Work Group members from Barcelona and Baltimore in a discussion that explored areas of mutual interest to the two cities. An afternoon public seminar entitled "[The Paris Agreement on Climate Change: Public Health in the Balance](#)," then followed, with guest Todd Stern, Special Envoy for Climate Change at the U.S. State Department, among the panelists. Finally, the day concluded with the webcast "[The Clean Air Act as Model Policy: A Conversation with Henry A. Waxman](#)."

We would also like to bring to your attention that the Climate Change and Wellbeing Working Group has been invited to prepare a session for the 2016 [Barcelona Resilience Week](#), addressing Cities, Climate Change and Health. It will be an opportunity for members of the group to network with other cities and to present on the topics of climate change and health, vector control, and the recently published CREAL study on HEWs. Among participating cities will be Barcelona, San Francisco and Rio de Janeiro. Stay tuned for more news on this event next month.

[Preparedness](#)

that you can access here, where we will also soon be sharing best-practice tools and resources for cities.

HEAT

Finally, we look hearing from you! Send us your comments, news stories, links to useful resources, and blog posts.

[Wildfires and wellbeing](#)

[insurance](#)

Thank you, gràcies, gracias, merci,
Mary, Colleen & Anna

CITIES

[Reducing car use](#)

[Ljubljana](#)

[Copenhagen](#)

**Source: Selected from "The Daily Climate" News Roundup; click underlined link to go to news article.*

Recent and upcoming events

Oct. 2, 2015. [Climate and Health Summit, JHSPH – Baltimore.](#)

Nov. 30-Dec. 12, 2015. [COP 21 Meeting, UNCCC – Paris.](#)

Dec. 16, 2015. [Climate Change: Health and Disease Threats, Harvard – Boston.](#)

Jan. 21, 2016. Centennial Scholars Series: [The Paris Agreement and Climate Change: What Does Public Health Have to Do With It?](#)

Mar 14-18, 2016. [Barcelona Resilience Week](#)

Mar 15-16, 2016. [The Sustainability Summit, The Economist – London](#)

May 5-6, 2016. [Climate Action 2016, UNFCCC – Washington DC.](#)

May 10-13, 2016. [Adaptation Futures 2016: Practices and Solutions, PROVIA – Rotterdam](#)

July 6-8 2016. [Resilient Cities 2016, ICLEI – Bonn](#)

Nov 30-Dec 2, 2016. [C40 Mayors Summit, C40 – Mexico City.](#)

New Climate and Health Science*

[Using Uncertain Climate and Development Information in Health Adaptation Planning.](#) To aid health adaptation decision-making, there are increasing efforts to provide climate projections at finer

the same, which is not very probable... **ADAPTATION**

[Understanding Perceptions of Climate Change, Priorities, and Decision-Making among Municipalities in Lima, Peru to Better Inform Adaptation and Mitigation Planning](#). Climate change poses multiple risks to the population of Lima, the largest city and capital of Peru, located on the Pacific coast in a desert ecosystem. These risks include increased water scarcity, increased heat, and the introduction and emergence of vector-borne and other climate sensitive diseases. To respond to these threats, it is necessary for the government, at every level, to adopt more mitigation and adaptation strategies... **CITIES, ADAPTATION**

[Planning for climate change: The need for mechanistic systems-based approaches to study climate change impacts on diarrheal diseases](#). Increased precipitation and temperature variability as well as extreme events related to climate change are predicted to affect the availability and quality of water globally. Already heavily burdened with diarrheal diseases due to poor access to water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, communities throughout the developing world lack the adaptive capacity to sufficiently respond to the additional adversity caused by climate change. ... **WATER-BORNE, ADAPTATION**

[Increases in the climate change adaption effectiveness and availability of vegetation across a coastal to desert climate gradient in metropolitan Los Angeles, CA, USA](#). Urbanization has increased heat in the urban environment, with many consequences for human health and well-being. Managing climate change in part through increasing vegetation is desired by many cities to mitigate current and future heat related issues. However, little information is available on what influences the current effectiveness and availability of vegetation for local cooling... **CITIES, VULNERABILITY**

[Climate change adaptation in the reorganized UK public health system: a view from local government](#).
CITIES, ADAPTATION

[County-level heat vulnerability of urban and rural residents in Tibet, China](#). Tibet is especially vulnerable to climate change due to the relatively rapid rise of temperature over past decades. The effects on mortality and morbidity of extreme heat in Tibet have been examined in previous studies; no heat adaptation initiatives have yet been implemented. We estimated heat vulnerability of urban and rural populations in 73 Tibetan counties and identified potential areas for public health intervention and further research... **HEAT, VULNERABILITY**

[Impact of climate change on human infectious diseases: Empirical evidence and human adaptation](#). Climate change refers to long-term shifts in weather conditions and patterns of extreme weather events. It may lead to changes in health threat to human beings, multiplying existing health problems. This review examines the scientific evidences on the impact of climate change on human infectious diseases... **INFECTIOUS, ADAPTATION**

[Public health adaptation to climate change in large cities: a global baseline.*](#) Climate change will have health risks from climate change in cities are compounded by rapid urbanization, high

ADAPTATION

[Burning fossil fuels: impacts of climate change on health.*](#) A recent, sophisticated granular analysis of climate change in the United States related to burning fossil fuels indicates a high likelihood of dramatic increases in temperature, wet-bulb temperature, and precipitation, which will dramatically impact the health and well-being of many Americans, particularly the young, the elderly, and the poor and marginalized. **HEAT, VULNERABILITY**

[Extreme weather-driven disasters and child health.*](#) Extreme weather events such as heat waves, extreme precipitation, and storm surges are likely to become more frequent and intense with climate change. Extreme weather-driven disasters (EWDDs) cause a substantial burden of childhood mortality and morbidity worldwide. We reviewed the published literature on EWDDs and their health impacts on children. **STORMS, ADAPTATION**

**Source: New entries in PubMed during December 2015; click on underlined link to go to journal article abstract. Those with asterisk (*) published in the International Journal of Health Services Special Section on Climate Change and Health.*



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