



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Climate change is happening in Oregon.

Oregon's climate is changing and will continue to change in the years to come.

- Summers are getting hotter and drier.
- The last freeze of winter is occurring earlier, while the first freeze of fall is starting later. By mid-century, much of Oregon is projected to have 20 fewer days below freezing per year.
- More precipitation will fall as rain rather than snow, increasing the risk of floods and landslides.
- Oregon is likely to experience more extreme events like heat waves, wildfires and storms.
- Sea level rise and ocean acidification are expected to continue.

### Our health and safety are at risk.

Climate change affects our health in many ways.

Climate change threatens our access to clean air, clean water and healthy food.

Climate already affects health in Oregon.

- Changes are likely to lead to health impacts from drought, deteriorating air quality, wildfires, heat waves, water-borne disease, increased allergens and diseases spread by ticks and mosquitoes
- Climate change could also increase and worsen chronic diseases such as asthma and mental health issues such as depression and anxiety.
- Air pollution from increased ground-level ozone and wildfire smoke could worsen respiratory illness.
- Water sources can become contaminated from drought or flooding.
- Drought in Oregon or elsewhere could cause food insecurity, especially among vulnerable populations.
- Hospitalizations increase during extreme heat events.
- Wildfire smoke is a problem in many communities.
- In many rural communities, drought threatens family incomes and quality of life.

## Some communities will be affected more than others.

Climate change is likely to make health disparities worse.

Risk is higher among certain groups.

- Some populations, like communities of color and low-income households, already bear a disproportionate burden of disease.
- These groups face more exposures to hazards and have fewer resources to recover from climate change related impacts.
- American Indians risk further loss of cultural traditions, sustenance and way of life.
- Older adults are more at risk of heat-related illness and death.
- People in low-income urban neighborhoods are at greater risk of heat-related illness due to the urban heat island effect.
- People living on steep slopes are at risk of landslides and those living at the interface of wildlands are more at risk of wildfire.
- Residents on the coast are more at risk from extreme storms.
- Private well users may be at greater risk of water insecurity.
- People working outside, such as farmworkers and construction workers, are more at risk of negative health effects
- People working on the front lines of emergencies, including firefighters and first responders, are more at risk of injury and death.
- Children face cumulative impacts over their lifetime, which will be greater than those of earlier generations

## We can work together to protect our families and communities.

Oregon's Public Health Division is taking action to reduce risks.

Collaboration is essential to building our resilience.

Everyone has a role to play.

- Oregon's Public Health Division recognizes that climate affects health in many ways. We are working to further understand our risks and what we can do to prepare for the changes ahead.
- Addressing health disparities and prioritizing the needs of our most vulnerable communities will build Oregon's overall resilience.
- Taking action requires collaboration across agencies, sectors and cultures.
- Innovative solutions come from our many diverse communities.
- Adapting to climate change includes building local capacity and leadership in traditionally underrepresented communities.
- Everyone has a role to play in protecting and improving our quality of life in Oregon.
- Learn more at: [www.healthoregon.org/climatechange](http://www.healthoregon.org/climatechange)