



#ClimateChangesHealth

California CLIMATE AND HEALTH

BACKGROUND

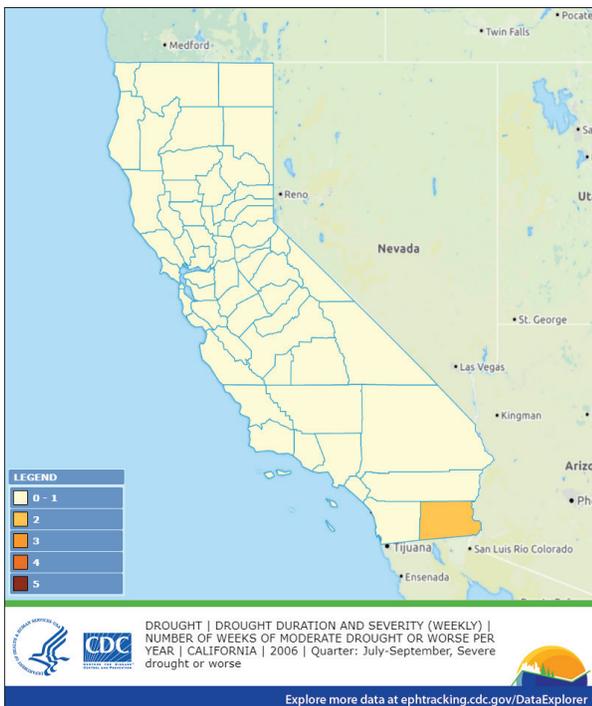
Burning fossil fuels, such as coal and gas, releases carbon dioxide. CO₂ builds up in the atmosphere and causes Earth's temperatures to rise. This extra, trapped heat disrupts many of the interconnected systems in our environment, posing risks to human health. Some impacts of climate change are already being felt throughout the United States. We need to safeguard our communities by protecting people's health from the effects of climate change.

ISSUE SUMMARIES

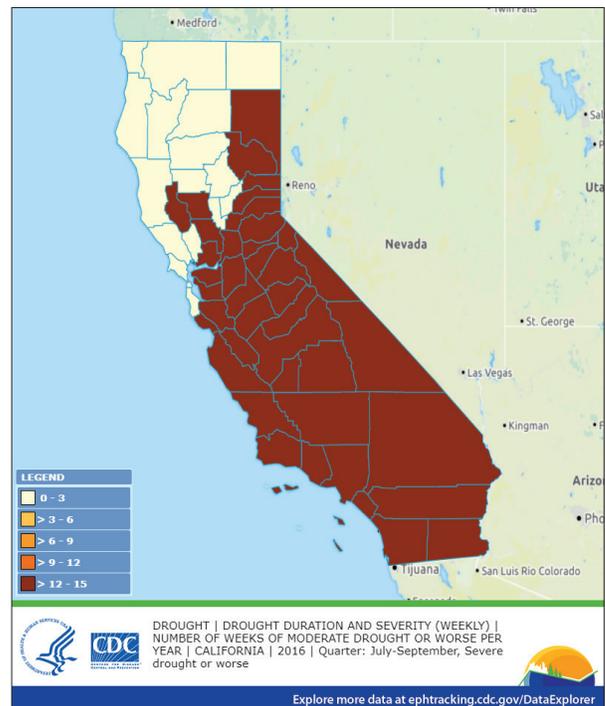
DROUGHT AND WILDFIRES

Droughts increase the likelihood of health hazards like wildfires, dust storms, extreme heat events, flash floods and degraded air and water quality. Drought threatens water supplies and ecosystems, contributing to increased food prices that disproportionately affect low-income individuals. Exposure to wildfire smoke and dust storms increases respiratory and cardiovascular hospitalizations, asthma, bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and medical visits for lung illnesses and respiratory infections.

CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, 2006



CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, 2016

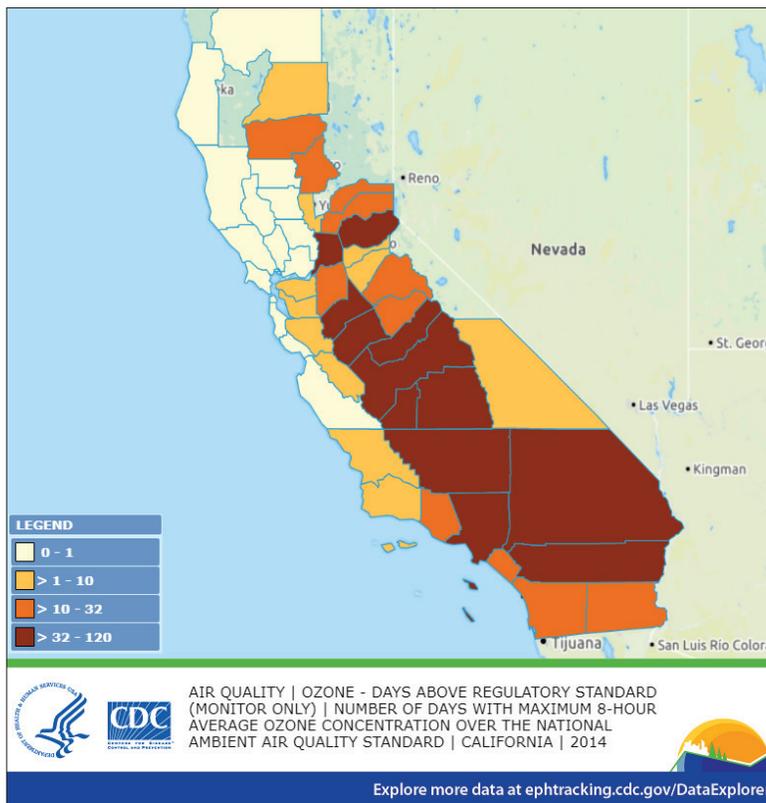


Source: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

AIR POLLUTION

Climate change is increasing ground-level ozone and other types of air pollution. Smog, air toxics, particulate matter and climate-changing gases such as CO₂ harm health. Smog makes it hard to breathe and worsens certain health conditions. Air toxics and particulate matter can cause increased hospitalizations, asthma, bronchitis, heart attacks, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and premature death.

NUMBER OF DAYS ABOVE OZONE REGULATORY STANDARD, 2014



Source: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

EXTREME HEAT

Extreme heat leads to increased hospitalizations and, sometimes, fatal health events. Children, the elderly, people with chronic diseases, low-income populations and outdoor workers are at the highest risk for heat-related illnesses. Extreme heat is also linked to increased aggression, raising the incidence of assaults, murders and suicides.

FAST FACTS



California averages 35 dangerous heat days per year. By 2050, it is projected to increase to almost 50 days per year.



California has 8 of 10 of the most polluted cities and the worst air quality in the U.S., causing respiratory illnesses.



Over 1 million Californians are categorized as especially vulnerable to extreme heat events



Los Angeles residents were exposed to unhealthy levels of ozone for 91 days in 2014.



Current and past climate action progress in **California prevents about 5,000 premature deaths each year.**