



#ClimateChangesHealth

Southeast CLIMATE AND HEALTH

BACKGROUND

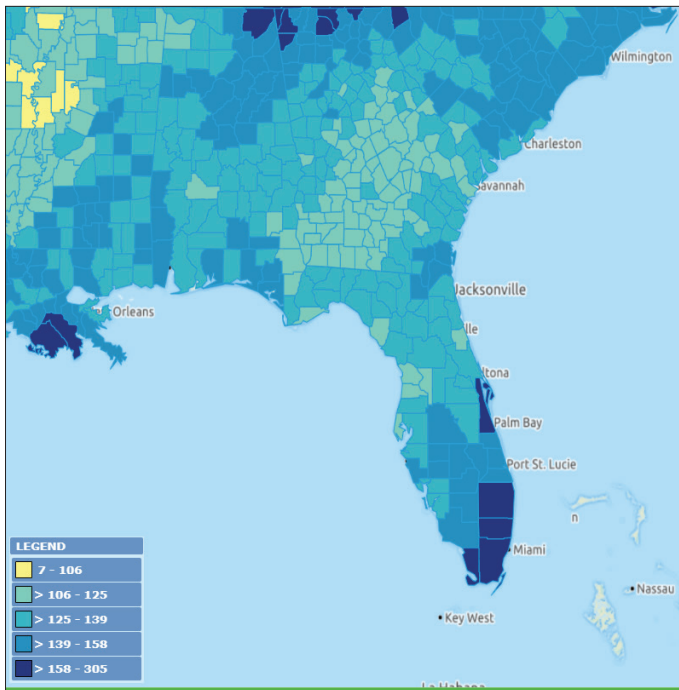
Burning fossil fuels, such as coal and gas, releases carbon dioxide. CO₂ builds up in the atmosphere and causes Earth's temperatures to rise. This extra, trapped heat disrupts many of the interconnected systems in our environment, posing risks to human health. Some impacts of climate change are already 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

EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

Warming temperatures lead to an increase in the frequency and severity of natural disasters, such as heavy rains and floods, hurricanes, landslides and heat waves. These events come with health risks, such as injury and death, as well as diseases related to food and water contamination and poor sanitation. Major weather events and their long-term impacts on a community can lead to mental wellness concerns and stress-related disorders.

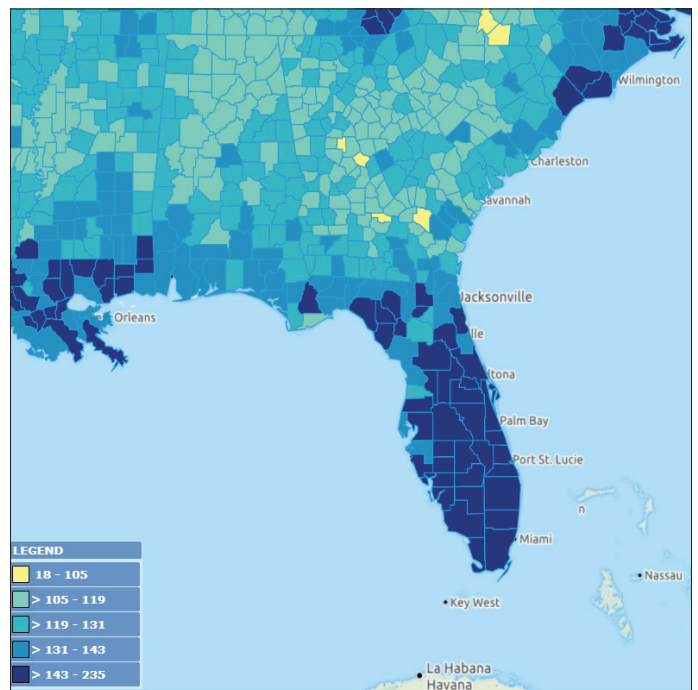
NUMBER OF EXTREME PRECIPITATION DAYS, 2006



CLIMATE CHANGE | HISTORICAL EXTREME PRECIPITATION | NUMBER OF EXTREME PRECIPITATION DAYS | ALL COUNTIES | 2006 | Absolute Threshold: 0.01 Inches

Explore more data at ephtracking.cdc.gov/DataExplorer

NUMBER OF EXTREME PRECIPITATION DAYS, 2016



CLIMATE CHANGE | HISTORICAL EXTREME PRECIPITATION | NUMBER OF EXTREME PRECIPITATION DAYS | ALL COUNTIES | 2016 | Absolute Threshold: 0.01 Inches

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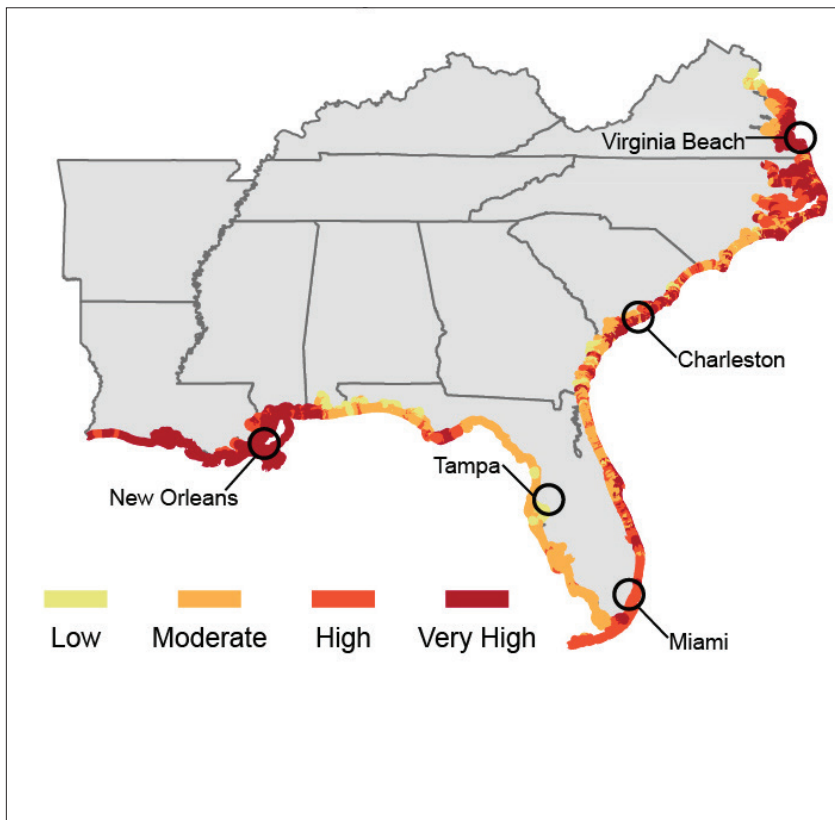
EXTREME HEAT

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.

SEA LEVEL RISE

As climate change causes sea levels to rise, saltwater floods into freshwater resources and contaminates safe drinking water. Low-income communities face greater challenges from resulting food insecurity and safe drinking water access and often lack the resources to recover from disasters resulting in property loss.

VULNERABILITY TO SEA LEVEL RISE



Source: U.S. Global Change Research Program

FAST FACTS



Climate change increases the frequency and severity of Category 5 storms like Hurricane Michael. Michael struck the Florida panhandle and led to over 45 deaths.



In 2009, Florida had the first case of Dengue fever in the U.S. in over 75 years. Twenty-seven more cases followed in a year-long outbreak.



In 2015, six major cities in the coastal Southeast experienced all-time records of coastal flooding that cost over \$2 billion in damages and increased risk of injury and disease.



Worsening heat waves are impacting 61% of major Southeastern cities, increasing the rate of heat-related hospitalizations and deaths.



In 2016, more than 130 million gallons of untreated raw sewage overflowed into St. Petersburg, Florida, after a flood.