

Climate Change and Public Health: the Threats and the Opportunities

Robin Salsburg
Senior Staff Attorney

*California Health Policy Forum
Addressing the Health Impacts of Climate Change: What Progress Is California
Making?*

Dec. 17, 2009

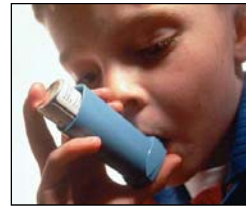
How climate change will impact health (1)

- **Extreme weather events**
 - ❑ **Heat waves**
 - ❑ **Floods / Droughts**
 - Storm severity
 - Water quantity and quality
 - Agriculture productivity
- **Sea level rise**



How climate change will impact health (2)

- **Degraded air quality**
 - **Wildfires**
 - **Ozone levels**
 - **Allergens - pollen**



3

How climate change will impact health (3)

- **Disease outbreaks**
 - **Vector-borne**
 - **Water-borne**



4

Adaptation / Preparedness Planning

- **Adaptation** (*preparation*)

Make adjustments to human and natural systems to respond to actual or expected climate impacts to minimize harm or take advantage of beneficial opportunities

- California Natural Resources Agency
- www.climatechange.ca.gov/adaptation/index.html

5

Mitigation / Prevention

- **Mitigation** (*prevention*)

Action to permanently eliminate or reduce the source of greenhouse gas emissions to eliminate or reduce the long-term risk and hazards of climate change to human life, property, and natural ecosystems

- California Air Resources Board
- www.arb.ca.gov/cc/cc.htm

6

Reduce CO₂ emissions AND improve health

- **Co-benefits strategy**
 - ❑ Improve health outcomes
 - ❑ Lower net costs of climate programs
 - ❑ Achieve short-term and local results
 - ❑ Increase approval of climate policies



7

Opportunities to improve public health

- **Reduce GHG from cars**
- **Increase physical activity**
 - ❑ Transportation infrastructure
 - ❑ Land use planning



8

PHLP's Climate Change Work



An Action Plan for Public Health – Initial Recommendations for Involving Public Health in Climate Change Policy

www.phlpnet.org/climate-change

Robin Salsburg
rsalsburg@phlpnet.org
510-302-3376