

# Latest information on climate change and health

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2500 scientific expert reviewers 900 contributing authors 450 lead authors from 130 countries 6 years 1 report 4 governmental approval sessions



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## Key messages

- The climate is changing
- It has already affected health;
- Projected climate change-related exposures are likely to affect the health status of millions of people;
- All regions in the world are affected;
- Adaptive capacity needs to be improved everywhere;
- Critically important will be education, health system development, access, information etc
- Review, development or adjustments of public health activities are necessary







Adapted from Confalonieri et al, 2007; Patz et al, 2000; McMichael et al, 2003

#### CO2 has not been this high in more than half a million years.



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[Adapted from Figure 6.3, ©IPCC 2007: WG1-AR4]

### CO<sub>2</sub> increases due to fossil fuel burning are the dominant cause of global warming

#### **Global and Continental Temperature Change**







## Retreat of glaciors



Ice melting





### Higher tree limits





Ticks in higher altitudes



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# Increase of frequency of extreme weather events

#### MULTI-MODEL AVERAGES AND ASSESSED RANGES FOR SURFACE WARMING



# Projected climate change related exposures



Water: By 2050, water availability is projected to decrease by 10-30% over some dry regions at mid-latitudes and in the dry tropics.



Food: At lower latitudes, especially seasonally dry and tropical regions, crop productivity is projected to decrease for even small local temperature increases (1-2°C), which would increase risk of hunger.



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Air quality: Future climate change may cause significant air quality degradation by changing the dispersion rate of pollutants, the chemical environment for ozone and aerosol generation and the strength of emissions from the biosphere, fires and dust.

IPCC, wg II SPM, 2007





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## The economic damage will be large



*Figure 20.3a:* (left): Damage estimates, as a percent of global GDP, as correlated with increases in glob mean temperature. Source: IPCC, 2001b. *Figure 20.3b:* (right): Damage estimates, as a percent of globa GDP, as correlated with increases in global mean temperature. Source, Stern et al. (2006).





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### August the 12<sup>th</sup> 2003 (Inserm, 2007)



# Climate change already contributed to 0.3-0.4% of the global burden of disease and premature deaths in 2000





### Millions of people will be at additional risk



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ROPE

## Mitigation - Adaptation

- Health co-benefits from reduced air pollution as a result of actions to reduce GHG emissions can be substantial and may offset a substantial fraction of mitigation costs
- Adaptation actions at different scales
  - Local, national, regional, international
  - Using opportunities

### Health system responses

- Reviewing and strengthening current primary and secondary prevention
- Integration across scales



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### **WHO Euro activities**

Providing leadership on matters critical to health and engaging in partnerships where joint

Two Ministerial Environment and Health Conference Declarations

**RC** resolution:

Shaping the research agenda

Articulating ethical and evidence-based policy options

**Providing technical support** 

Monitoring the health situation





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Global change and health

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