Planning for the Health Impacts of Climate Change

A NACCHO Demonstration Project 2009-2010
Planning for the Public Health Impact of Climate Change

Quiz Bowl
Quiz Bowl

According to WA state law, during a declared disaster the Local Health Jurisdiction Health Officer has the authority to manage health-related resources.

a) True
b) False
Quiz Bowl

During a declared disaster, the local Public Health Jurisdiction is responsible for providing safe food and drinking to disaster victims.

a) True  
b) False

Local Public Health is responsible for water and food safety, but is not responsible to provide these resources during a disaster.
Quiz Bowl

What is the most frequent form of severe weather experienced in this region?

a) Heat Waves
b) Flooding
c) Droughts
The last severe heat event in Western Washington was over 10 years ago.

a) True
b) False

Last July the northwest experienced a heat wave. At least two deaths were attributed to that event (not in Thurston).
Quiz Bowl

Which of the following can occur as a result of a severe weather event:

a) Disruption of critical infrastructure such as water and power
b) Limited availability of food
c) Hampered communication via cell phone, land lines and internet
d) Limited access to needed health resources
There is no connection between climate and infectious disease.

a) True  
b) False

Changes in weather affect the habitat and life cycles of potential disease vectors such as mosquitoes and ticks.
Quiz Bowl

Warmer weather can affect the safety of locally grown food.

a) True

b) False

Vibrio parahaemolyticus is one of the organisms that can cause food poisoning from eating uncooked shellfish; levels increase in warmer water.
Quiz Bowl

Which of the following can be a result of sea level rise along in this Region?

a) Flooding of coastal areas
b) Salt water contamination of fresh water supplies and soils
c) Overflow of combined storm water and wastewater sewers
Quiz Bowl

Air pollution can trigger which type of attack:

a) Shark
b) Panic
c) Asthma
Quiz Bowl

Which two of the items listed below are true about psychological first aid during a disaster.

a) Provides crisis intervention during a disaster response
b) Is a mobile inpatient psychiatric facility for use during a disaster
c) Was an integral part of the December 2008 flood response in Thurston and Lewis Counties
Quiz Bowl

In this Region, which demographic group is least likely to be prepared in a disaster?

a) Senior Citizens
b) Young adults
c) Families with young children
Quiz Bowl

What was a leading cause of death in the weeks and months following Hurricane Katrina?

- a) Disease from unsafe food and drinking water
- b) Exposure to the elements
- c) Lack of surgical services
- d) Availability of prescription medications
Quiz Bowl

During a health emergency which of the following is the lead agency for response and recovery?

a) Providence St. Peter Hospital
b) County Emergency Management
c) Local Public Health
Planning for the Public Health Impact of Climate Change

Projected Health Impacts of Climate Change in the South Puget Sound
Climate Trends

1. Warmer Temperature
2. Changing Precipitation Patterns
3. Rising Sea Level
Warmer Temperature

Even slight rise means:
- more heat waves
- poor air quality
Heat Waves

- Our region is not accustomed to heat

- Impacts:
  - Young and old
  - Those with respiratory/other chronic diseases
  - Pregnant women
  - Those working outdoors
Heat waves are already the most deadly weather-related exposure in the U.S., and account for more deaths annually than hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and earthquakes combined.” (CDC)
Air Quality

- Smog
- Dust
- Fire – fine particles
- Pollen
Air Quality

- Asthma
- Respiratory disease
- Heart attacks
Changing Precipitation Patterns

- More concentrated precipitation
- More flooding, mudslides, erosion
Flooding

- Psychological stress
- Contaminated food and water
- Barriers to health services & medications
Sea Level Rise
More water...

- Mold
- Changing habitat - hantavirus
- Vector borne diseases – West Nile Virus
Thank you...

- Do you see connections between this and the work that you do?
- Comments...questions...ideas?