

Climate Change and Health Kings County Health Department



California Department of Public Health
Office of Health Equity
Climate Change and Health Equity Program
CaIBRACE Project

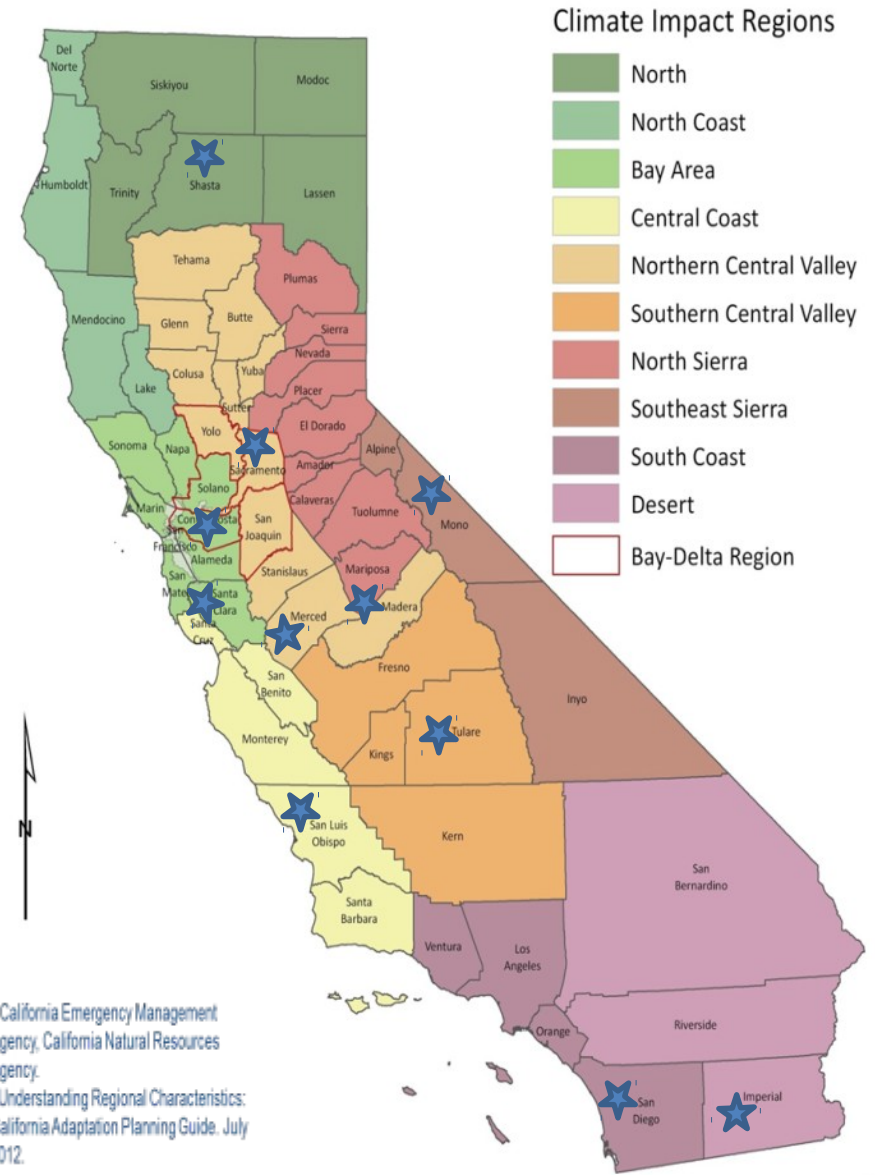
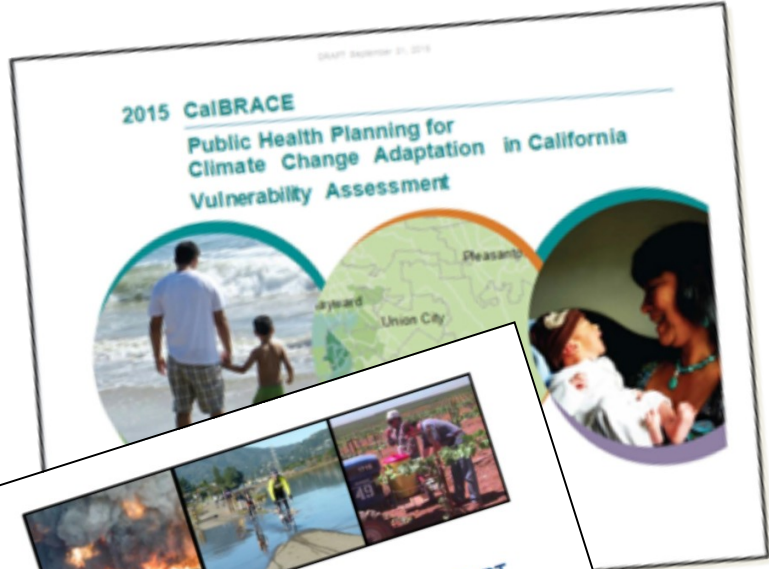


Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Kings County Health Department

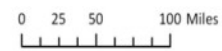
CaIBRACE

California Building Resilience Against Climate Effects



* California Emergency Management Agency, California Natural Resources Agency.
 Understanding Regional Characteristics: California Adaptation Planning Guide, July 2012.

Sources: CA Natural Res Agency



Created by: C. Schuldt 2



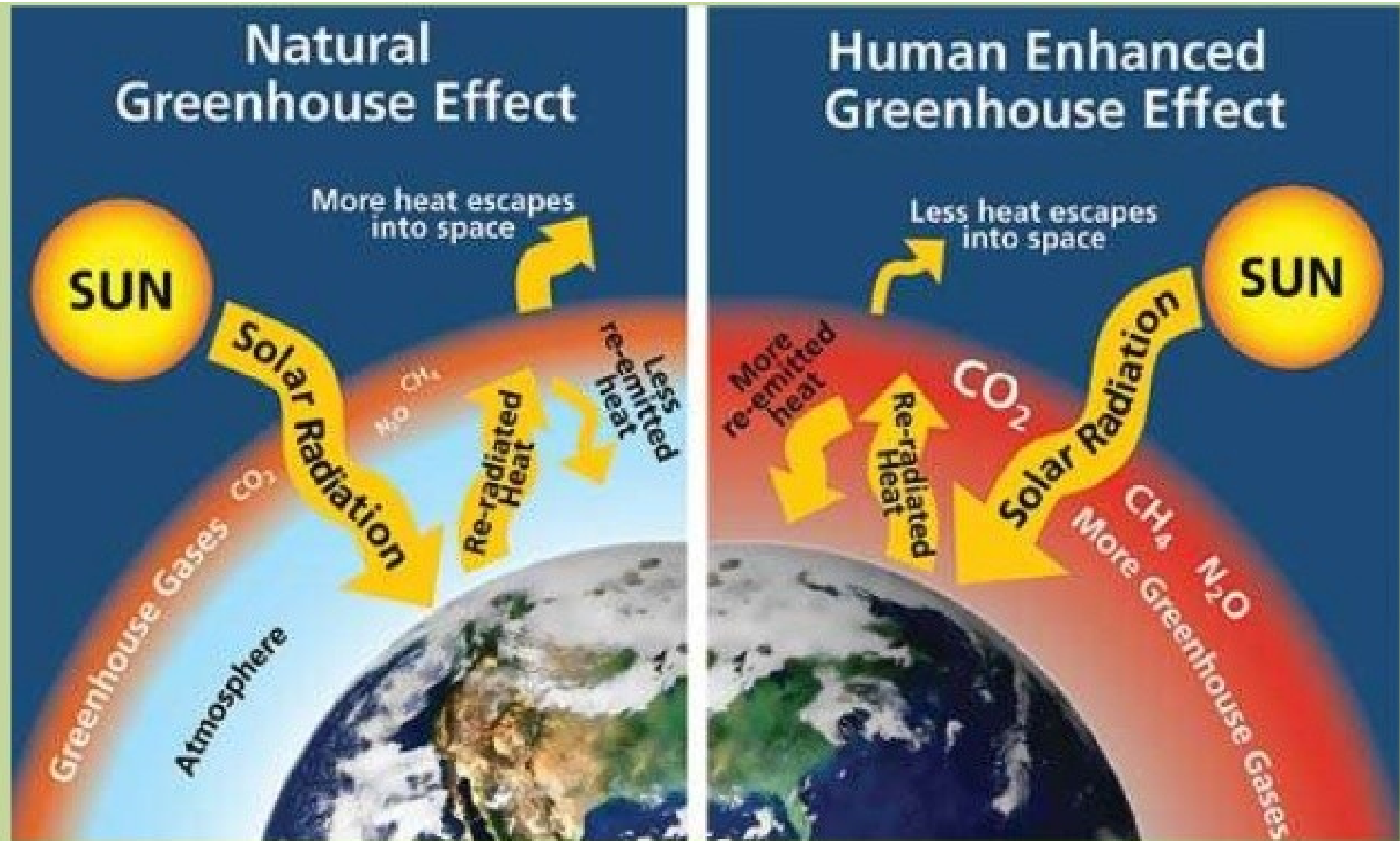
What is Climate Change?



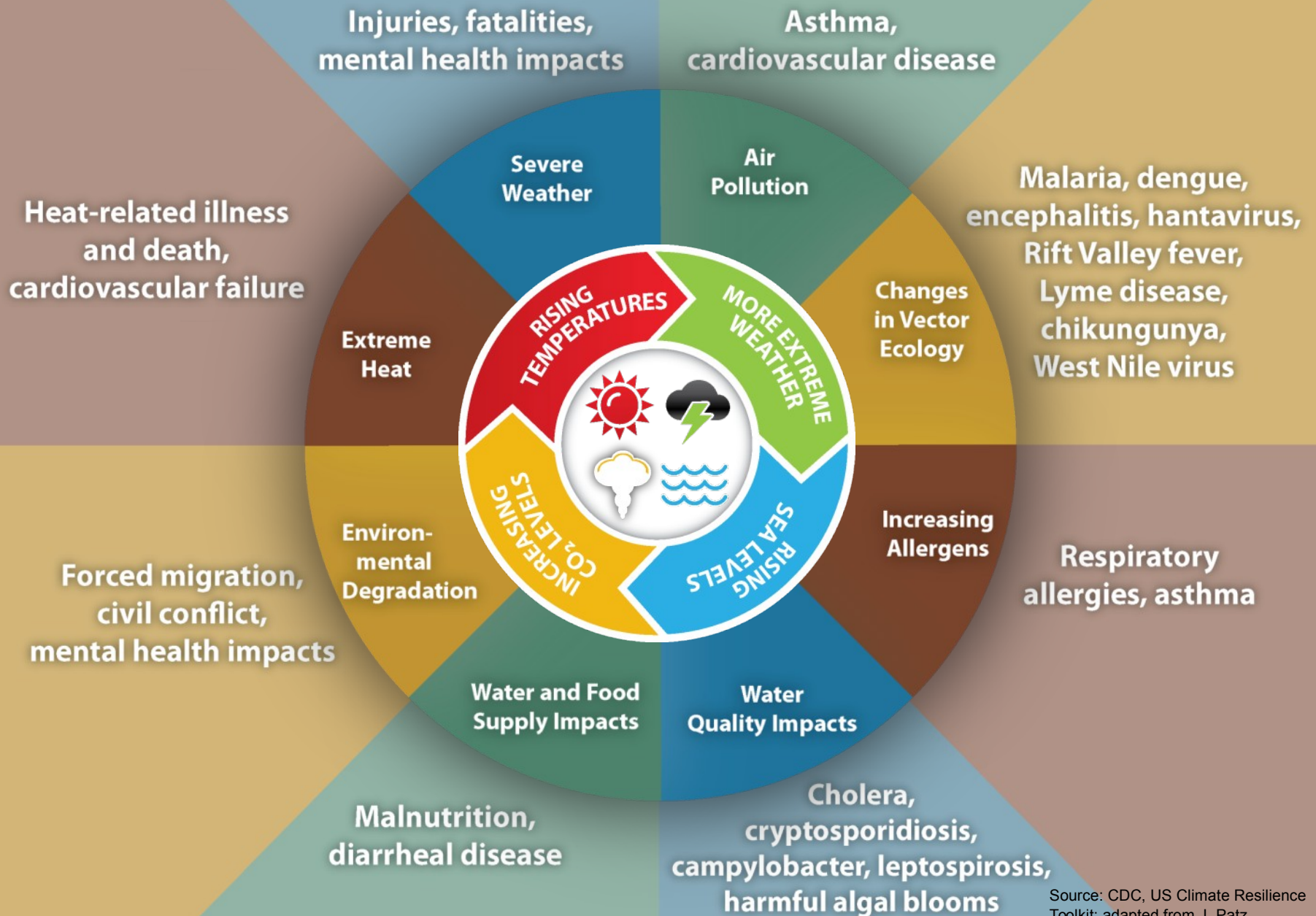
- Climate Change refers to more intense weather patterns that last for longer periods, and the impact those changing patterns have on our environment.
 - “More intense weather patterns for longer periods” = heavy rain leading to increased flooding, heat waves, long periods of drought, longer and more intense hurricane season.
 - “Changes to the environment” = rising ocean temperatures, melting glaciers, forest die-off

climate.nasa.gov

What is Climate Change?



Human Health Impacts of Climate Change



Why is Climate Change Important to Public Health?

“A Climate win is a Health win. By working together across sectors promoting the co-benefits on climate, health and equity of sustainable development, sustainable production and consumption, and waste reduction, we can create a climate for health”



Cristina Tirado, Director of the PHI Center for Public Health and Climate Change

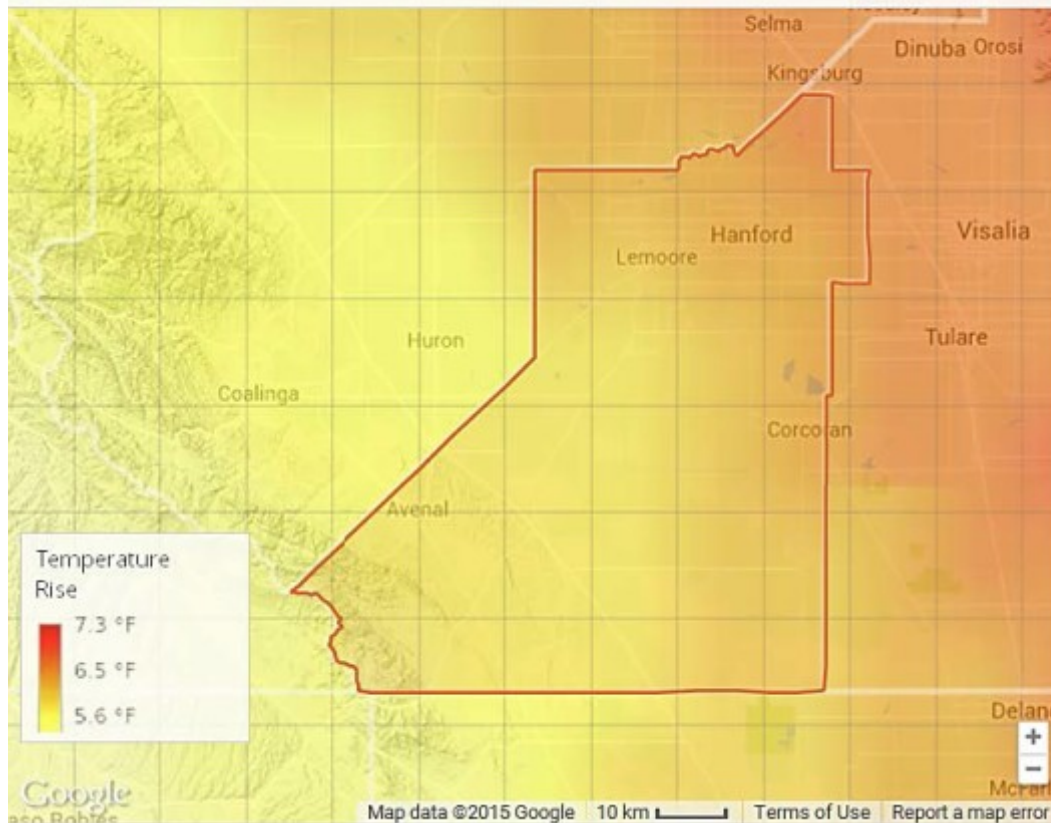
[Public Health Grand Rounds: Climate Change and Health – From Science to Practice](#)

Climate Impacts for Kings County

Extreme

Heat

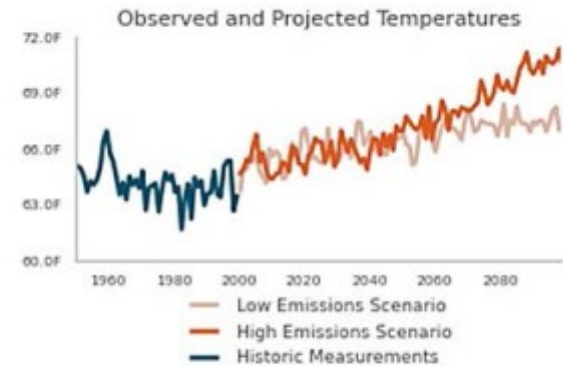
Projected changes in annual average temperatures for the high emissions scenario



KINGS COUNTY

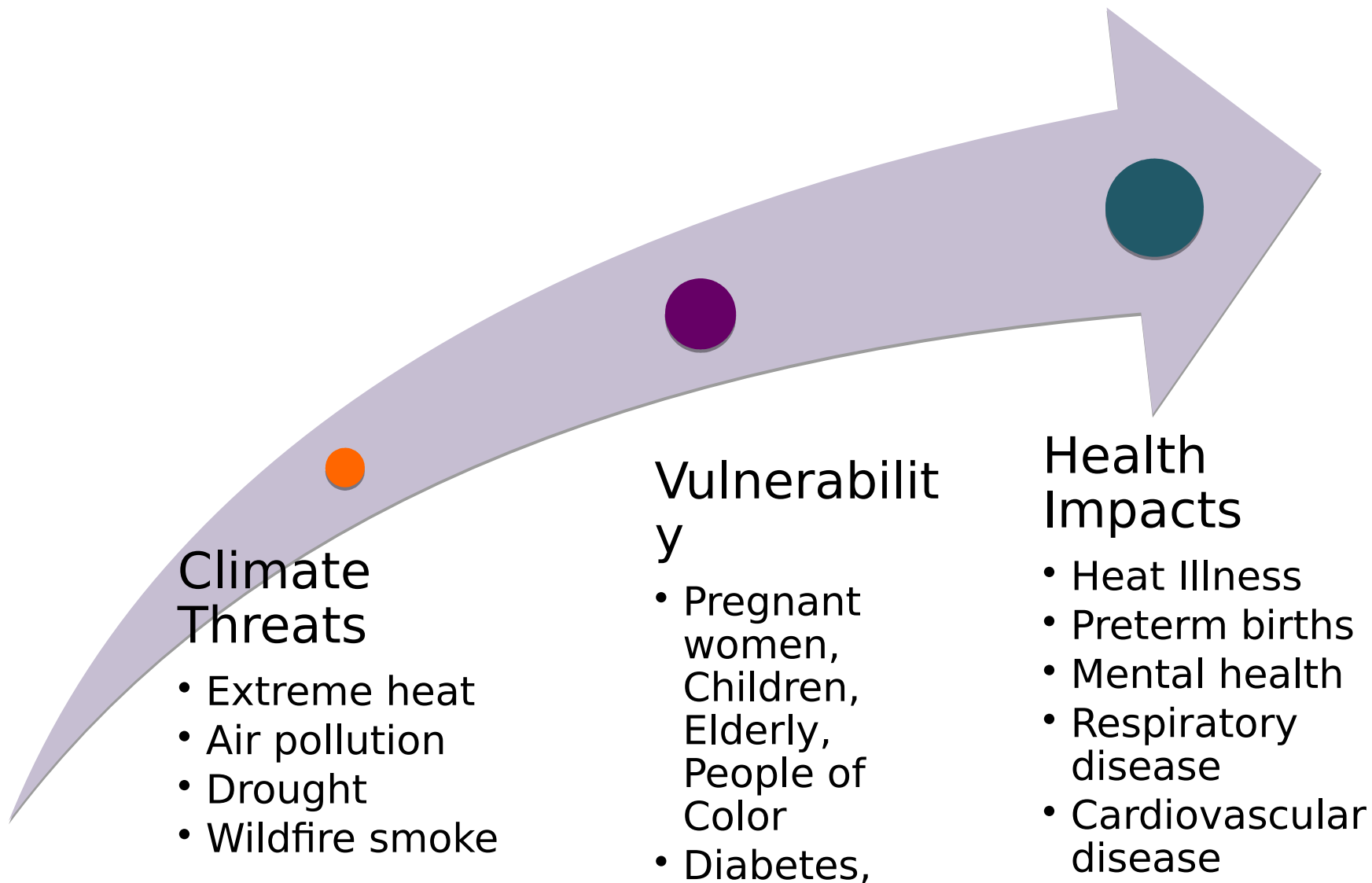
The information in the chart below corresponds to the selected area on the map (outlined in orange).

Historical Average	64.0 °F	
Low-Emissions Scenario:	67.5 °F	+3.5 °F
High-Emissions Scenario:	69.8 °F	+5.8 °F



disclaimer

Climate Change is a Health Equity Issue



Climate change affects everyone.

Who is most Vulnerable?

People at greater risk include:
children, seniors, people with chronic
diseases, outdoor workers, people living in
poverty, and some communities of color

Climate Change & Health Inequities

- Climate change will impact all people, but **the most vulnerable suffer the most**
- Climate change **magnifies existing health inequities**
- Climate change is a threat multiplier, amplifying existing risks.



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Kings County Child and Maternal Health

- Preterm birth 11.5% (2010), 8.0% (2013)



- 9.8% Current asthma rate (age 0-17)
- 17.5% Overweight for age (age 2-11)
- ~39.8% Overweight or obese (age 12-17)

Solutions and Public Health Interventions

- Encourage WIC participants to make climate and health friendly food choices
- Integrate climate and health friendly food messages into nutrition related strategies and programs.
- Educate children about gardening. Support local farmer's markets, farm stands, community gardens, and land use policies.



Addressing Air Quality Issues

- Promote active transportation friendly policies
- Participate in a no idling campaign
- Reduce indoor mold and air pollution
- Inform people about air quality risk through a FLAG or RAAN program
- Encourage green or climate friendly cleaning products
 - Beneficial for the environment
 - Improves indoor air quality and reduces possible allergens or asthma triggers



Behavioral and Social Health

- Climate anxiety, especially among youth
 - Species extinction and habitat loss
 - Uncertainty about the future
 - Pre-traumatic stress syndrome
- Climate change can leave adults and children with depression and feelings of hopelessness

Behavioral and Social Health

- Heat and its effects, such as drought, can cause or increase stressors
 - Food insecurity
 - Increased aggression and less social cohesion
 - Reduced or loss of employment
 - Higher utility bills
 - Having to relocate under duress
 - Changes to familiar landscapes

Solutions and Public Health Interventions

- Encourage Mental Health First Aid Programs
 - Psychological first aid programs for people struggling with PTSD
 - Having professionals trained in these programs can make a difference when addressing impacts
- Make information on cooling centers available in multiple languages and through multiple channels
 - Prioritize accessibility and timeliness
 - Remove barriers that cause inequities for vulnerable populations

Elderly, Disabled, and Other Populations

- Can have difficulty accessing services and support, especially during emergencies
- More at risk during extreme heat, air quality, and extreme weather events



Solutions and Public Health Interventions

- Educate about heat illness and prevention to older adults through existing programs
- Partner with organizations serving older adults to be prepared during low air quality/high heat days and extreme weather events
- Integrate and expand emergency preparedness planning to better include older adults, especially those who are living alone
- Promote climate safe homes for elderly people
- Connect seniors with LiHEAP energy and other subsidy programs

Reducing Climate Change While Improving Health



Photos: CDC, NHTSA

Communicating Climate Change



OUTSIDE IN CALIFORNIA
WE TAKE HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE PERSONALLY

OUTSIDE IN KINGS



OUTSIDE **IN** KINGS

WE TAKE HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE PERSONALLY



We care

about healthy living in Kings County. That is why we are concerned about climate change.

Now is the time to come together as a community and talk about how climate change is affecting our well-being. The good news is, many actions that help limit climate change also improve the health of our families and community.



Climate Change Affects Our Health

Climate change threatens our health now and will impact our way of life in the future. We can see some of these changes today in the United States and right here in Kings County.



You Can Take Action
to be Healthy and
Climate Friendly

Adaptation Co-Benefits from Cooling Strategies

- Increasing tree canopy, green spaces and parks,
- Improve access to cooling centers and water in heat events



- **Increase - Improve**
 - Heat warning system
 - Cooling Centers
 - Places to be active
 - Improved aesthetics
 - Social support

Reduce – Public Health Impacts

- Heat stress
- Asthma/allergy
- Depression
- Cardiovascular incidents
- Increased opportunities for exercise

- Heat island effect
- Energy consumption
- Lower energy costs
- Reduce air pollution
- Reduce storm water run-off
- Decrease flooding risk

Health Benefits of Local, Sustainable Food Systems

Activities: buying local, community gardens, farmer's markets, home-gardens



Reductions – environmental impact

- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Pesticide use
- Synthetic fertilizer use
- Food miles
- Antibiotic use
- Water pollution (nitrates)
- Air pollution
- Biodiversity loss
- Soil erosion
- Unsustainable H2O consumption

Discussion - CalBRACE Assessment Questions

Which of the following capabilities or services from CDPH would be most helpful to accelerate and strengthen local climate change and resilience efforts?

- Building support for policies for climate and health action in the county and region.
- Identifying and helping to secure funding for local and regional climate and health projects and/or developing or articulating partnerships to make more efficient use of existing multi-sector resources.
- Ensuring health equity awareness and objectives are embedded in plans
- Providing consultation, technical assistance, data and information on climate and health, and best practices.
- Providing support to stakeholder networks and initiatives that are working on specific topics (e.g. vulnerable communities, public health accreditation, ACA hospital preparedness requirements, resilient communities, Health in All Policies).
- Educating diverse constituencies about climate and health goals, needs and activities for preparedness and resilience.
- Educating health staff, medical providers and health sector

Final Questions

- What other needs would you like public health to address in relation to expanding capacity for climate change and health work in our county?
- What are the resources needed and assets available for public health to address some of the strategies and interests discussed?

Thank you!



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