



WELCOME TO THE HPHA CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

Coordinated by the Hawai'i
Public Health Association

Thursday, Oct. 23, 2014
Hawaii State Capitol, Room # 325



Who is HPHA?

- An association of community members, public health professionals and organizations dedicated to improving public health
- Established in 1945, HPHA has over 600 members statewide & in the Pacific
- Mission is to promote public health in Hawai'i through leadership, collaboration, education and advocacy
- Vision is health equity in Hawai'i and the Pacific and a strong public health workforce able to effectively respond to health challenges

Stakeholder Meeting Objectives

- Learn more about other key stakeholders and what they/their organization is doing to address climate change and health;
- Share data, key resources and sources of information to become better informed on this issue;
- Discuss potential actions and initiatives that might be co-shared
- Discuss potential policy actions that are planned/pending relating to climate change
- Develop partnerships to address the climate change issues in a more effective manner



Overview: Climate Change & Health Initiative



- In 2013, HPHA's leadership began discussing the public health response to climate change and its impacts on health
- In 2014, HPHA applied for and received a \$10,000 grant from its national organization, the American Public Health Association, to establish and implement a public policy project, called **Health in All Policies (HIAP)**
- Our overall aim is to address the social determinants of health by focusing on climate change and its consequences on health outcomes, through adoption of new state policy
- HPHA plans to work with the new State Interagency Climate Adaptation Committee & other key stakeholders to draft & submit legislation to address climate change policy-based social determinants of health and health equity

HPHA Survey on Climate Change & Health Conducted Online via Survey Monkey



Conducted Aug-Sept 2014 (N=85)

- HPHA sought input from Hawaii public health professionals & other key stakeholders statewide regarding which specific aspects of climate change were anticipated to be **most problematic** for Hawaii and its residents
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change-IPCC (*A Human Health Perspective on Climate Change: A Report Outlining the Research Needs on the Human Health Effects of Climate Change, 2010*) was utilized to **identify categories and definitions of health impacts expected from climate change**

Climate Change and Health Survey Findings and Conclusions

Climate Change is a Public Health issue


- Approximately **58%** of public health professionals responding were "very concerned" about the potential impacts of Climate Change & Health on Hawaii residents or felt that it was the number one health issue today
- Just over **29%** of those responding were "somewhat concerned" about the potential impacts of Climate Change & Health



Climate Change and Health Survey Findings and Conclusions

The potential impacts of Climate Change on Health in Hawaii need more attention

- Approximately **66%** of those responding felt that the impacts of Climate Change on Health in Hawaii has received “little to no attention” to date
- Less than **6%** felt that the impacts of Climate Change on Health have received “a lot or too much attention”



Climate Change and Health Survey Findings and Conclusions

In terms of human health consequences, the Climate Change & Health risks for Hawaii (based on IPCC risk factors) are:

#1: Asthma, Respiratory Allergies and Airway Diseases (ranking average of 9.5/12)


#2: Foodborne Diseases & Nutrition (ranking average of 8.6/12)

#3: Heat-Related Morbidity & Mortality (ranking average of 7.6/12)

#4: Cancer (ranking average of 7.42/12)

Other higher-ranking consequences identified included:

- Cardiovascular Disease & Stroke (7.1/12)
- Vector-borne & Zoonotic Diseases (6.8/12)
- Waterborne Diseases (6.2/12).




Climate Change and Health Survey Findings and Conclusions

Rationale provided for public health professionals' responses to Q.3 regarding human health consequences of Climate Change:

A total of **64** comments were received, and most focused on the following:


- **Current & future/projected Climate Change impacts in Hawaii & the Pacific** (i.e. increased heat & vog, Ag & crop impacts, fewer trade winds, storms, droughts)
- **Public health system response** concerns and infrastructure concerns
- **Socio-economic and age disparities** re: impacts
- **Vulnerability of island communities** and populations
- **Water and food security** concerns



Climate Change and Health Survey Findings and Conclusions

Public Health Professional's primary recommendations to policymakers to address top-ranked Climate Change & Health Risks focused on:


- **More/better tracking of water and air quality**
- **Increasing & improving disease monitoring & investigation**
- **Protecting beaches, shoreline and ocean resources**
- **Improving mental health services response to stress**
- **Improving and increasing agricultural capacity/sustainability to grow food**
- **Helping to mitigate effects of global warming**
- **Improving community education/response re: climate change & health**
- **Improving recycling efforts and capacity**
- **Increasing community use of renewable energy resources.**



Climate Change and Health Survey Findings and Conclusions


Two primary roles for the public health community were identified as:

- Work with policymakers on addressing potential impacts of climate change on health (**38%**)
- To educate and inform the public regarding potential/pending threats to health (**35%**)



Climate Change and Health Survey Findings and Conclusions

- Public health professionals want to help address Climate Change & Health, but many feel that they lack the expertise, knowledge and/or skills to do so
- Current perceptions of Climate Change & Health factors appear to be based on personal knowledge and perceptions, rather than a more coordinated public health response
- Public Health needs to discuss these emerging/perceived threats to determine a coordinated effective response
- Public health professionals appear to be ready to step up and do their part, if provided the education, skills and resources



Baseline Data Collection to Address Climate Change & Health Factors

- HPHA proposes to monitor specific health conditions relating to climate change that fit ICD-9 codes to determine if significant changes occur over time (Sentinel Monitoring)
- Conditions may include: asthma, respiratory & other airway diseases, heart and stroke, hypertension, food security, waterborne diseases, zoonotic diseases, heat-related morbidity and mortality
- Monitoring role may require additional support

Next Steps...

- Further discussions and info-sharing
- More information and resource gathering
- Potential policy/legislative action/s
- **Other, subject to this discussion today**

