

# FACTS MA

FOSTERING ADVOCACY AND  
COLLABORATION THROUGH SCIENCE

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## Climate and Human Health

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### COMMITTEES

**House** Energy and  
Commerce Committee;  
Science, Space, and  
Technology Committee;  
Natural Resources  
Committee

**Senate** Environment and  
Public Works Committee;  
Commerce, Science, and  
Transportation Committee;  
Energy & Natural  
Resources Committee

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The [\*White House 2018 Budget Blueprint\*](#) was delivered on May 23, 2017 and calls for deep cuts and elimination of scientific agencies, including:

- The Department of Energy's Biological & Environmental Research (funds climate modeling research) - 43% cut
- NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (conducts climate-related research) - 22% cut
- NOAA's Air Resources Laboratory (researches mercury deposition, anthrax bioterrorism, and climate-related pollution) - Elimination
- USEPA's Energy Star Program (enables consumers to purchase energy efficient products) - Elimination

### What are the implications of passing the 2018 Budget for climate and human health?

The proposed budget would substantially reduce resources to monitor, evaluate, and mitigate the effects of climate change on human health.

### How does climate affect human health?

- Climate change is associated with increased frequency of extreme weather events, including droughts, heat waves, flooding, and storm surges.
- Extreme weather events increase or exacerbate respiratory illness, cardiovascular disease, and vector-borne diseases, including Lyme disease, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, and West Nile virus.
- Extreme weather events also reduce water quality and its use for safe drinking, food processing, recreation, commercial and industrial production, and energy generation.
- Changes in climate impact food production and storage, disrupting food distribution and human nutrition and increasing rates of foodborne illness.

### What are broader implications of passing the proposed budget?

We will lose valuable information and tools necessary to understand how human health, especially that of vulnerable populations including children and the elderly, is affected by climate change.

Efforts to prepare and establish mitigation measures to combat climate change may not be implemented in areas where they are needed to maintain healthy human populations.

Research in climate and human health depends on a foundation of collaboration among scientists, policy-makers, and land managers to prepare for extreme weather events that can make people sick or more susceptible to injury or death. Budget cuts will negatively affect these collaborative efforts.

## Sources

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