

Building Public Health Preparedness for Drought Through Stakeholder Engagement

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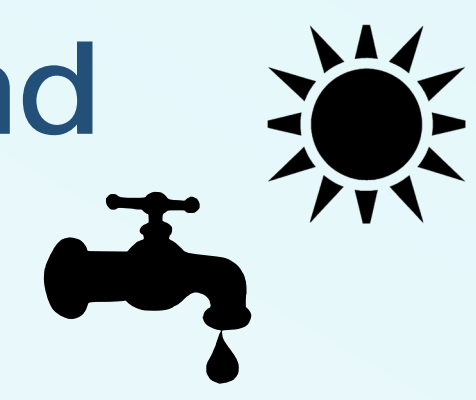
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Drought and Health

Drought is one of the costliest and deadliest climate-related disasters in the U.S.

Drought can intensify heat waves, reduce air quality, decrease water quality, and increase risk of wildfires.



Drought has been linked to numerous negative health outcomes including:

Infectious Diseases

Respiratory Issues

Cardiovascular Issues

Food Insecurity

Mental Health Issues

Numerous populations are shown to be susceptible to health impacts associated with drought. The outcomes and susceptibility varies based on geography and drought severity.

Stakeholder Engagement

In response to the increasing awareness of the linkages between drought and health, UNMC and NIDIS partnered on a series of stakeholder engagements aimed to:

- Assess the needs, gaps, and opportunities related to drought and health
- Build a community of practice in drought response

Workshops and Interviews

2019: National Drought & Health Summit – Atlanta, GA

2019-2022: Regional Drought and Health Workshops
St. Paul, MN | Tucson, AZ | Carolinas (Virtual)
Bozeman, MT | Portland, OR

2021-2022: State Health Department Interviews

A Roadmap for Advancing Engagement and Preparedness

This report intends to inform and direct efforts and investments in drought and public health by Federal, state, and local agencies, with the goal of mitigating the public health impacts of drought events.

Highlights – Key Recommendations

Partnership and Collaboration

- Continue to build drought/health community of practice
- Incorporate questions on drought impacts in community health needs assessments

Communication and Outreach

- Develop impact-based communication resources
- Develop drought and health toolkits for state and local health departments

Interdisciplinary Research and Applications

- Improve understanding of drought indicators and relationship to health outcomes
- Study past drought events to identify early warning signs of health impacts from drought

Planning and Preparedness

- Incorporate health impacts into drought vulnerability assessments and state/local plans
- Utilize tabletop exercises for drought events to prepare for health impacts



Drought and Public Health:

A Roadmap for Advancing Engagement and Preparedness

Access Full Report Here:



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