Agency Update: Climate Change and Health

John M. Balbus, MD, MPH
Senior Advisor for Public Health
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

AMS Policy Forum
Washington, DC
April 2, 2014
Overview

- Interagency Workgroup on Climate Change and Human Health (under Global Change Research Program)
  - Membership
  - MATCH
  - Interim Assessment Report

- Department of Health and Human Services and the President’s Climate Action Plan
  - CDC Climate Ready Cities and States Initiative
  - Sustainable and Climate Resilient Healthcare Facilities
Climate Change and Human Health Workgroup (CCHHG) Membership

Co-chairs:
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Representatives:
- Department of Defense (DOD)
- Department of State (DOS)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Homeland Security (DHS)
- National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA)
- U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
CCHHG Workstreams

- **Adaptation** – support for the Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force

- **Assessment and Indicators** – technical input, stakeholder engagement, and sustained assessment activities for the National Climate Assessment

- **Communication, Education, and Engagement** – coordination with USGCRP on outreach to public health stakeholders

- **Data Integration** – development of Metadata Access Tool for Climate and Health (MATCH)

- **International** – review of international adaptation plans and assessments, and engagement with global health community

- **Joint Research and Application** – development of a climate change & human health research application community
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Interim Assessment Report on Human Health

- **An Interagency Product**
  coordinated by the Interagency Workgroup on Climate Change and Human Health (CCHHG) and written by federal experts (NIH, CDC, NOAA, EPA, USDA, DOE, and others)

- **A Scientific Assessment**
  of existing research on the impacts of observed and projected climate change on human health in the United States, with a strong focus on impact quantification

- **An Interim Report**
  with an estimated publication date in late 2015 – after the Third NCA and before the Fourth NCA. It will build upon current draft NCA and 2008 US CCSP climate and health-focused Synthesis and Assessment Product (SAP 4.6).

- **A Product with High Visibility**
  Climate impacts on human health was identified as a high priority topic for a Special Report. The report is featured in the President’s Climate Action Plan.
## Draft timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MILESTONE</th>
<th>PROPOSED TIMEFRAME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Register Notice</td>
<td>February 7, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Forum</td>
<td>March 13, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of first Public Comment Period</td>
<td>March 31, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop Final Author Teams</td>
<td>April 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drafting the Special Report</td>
<td>April - October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for Scientific Literature to be submitted to peer review for inclusion in the assessment</td>
<td>October 31, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Draft Complete</td>
<td>January 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer Review</td>
<td>February 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Review</td>
<td>May 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internal Agency Reviews</td>
<td>Fall 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projected Completion of Special Report</td>
<td>Late 2015</td>
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The President’s Climate Action Plan—June 2013

The President’s Plan Will
Prepare the U.S. for the Impacts of Climate Change

We’ve Made Great Progress

There’s More Work to Do
Moving forward, the Obama Administration will help states, cities, and towns build stronger communities and infrastructure, protect critical sectors of our economy as well as our natural resources, and use sound science to better understand and manage climate impacts.

Support Climate-Resilient Investments
at the community level by removing policy barriers, modernizing programs, and establishing a short-term task force of state, local, and tribal officials to advise on key actions the federal government can take to support local and state efforts to prepare for climate change.

Rebuild and Learn from Superstorm Sandy
by piloting innovative strategies in the Superstorm Sandy-affected region to strengthen communities against future extreme weather and other climate impacts and building on a new, consistent flood-risk-reduction standard established for the Sandy-affected region, agencies will update their flood-risk-reduction standards for all federally-funded projects.

Launch an Effort to Create Sustainable and Resilient Hospitals
in the face of climate change through a public-private partnership with the healthcare industry.

Provide Tools for Climate Resilience
including existing and newly developed climate preparedness tools and information that state, local, and private-sector leaders need to make smart decisions.
1. Forecasting Climate Impacts and Assessing Vulnerabilities

2. Projecting the Disease Burden

3. Assessing Public Health Interventions

4. Developing and Implementing a Climate and Health Adaptation Plan

5. Evaluating Impact and Improving Quality of Activities
Focal Points of Healthcare Facility Resilience

- Building site- within coastal or riverine flood zone
- Building envelope- existing infrastructure built to outdated standards
- Placement of energy, IT, water infrastructure- old practice to place below grade or flood elevations
- Back-up power supplies- on-site diesel generators= issues of maintenance and quantity of fuel reserves
- Reliance upon community flood protection and/or thermal energy infrastructure
Contents of the Resource Packet

• 3 Part Background “Guide”
  – Case statement and definitions
  – Current understanding of risks and state of resilience
  – Ideas and case studies of how to move forward

• 5 Part Framework for Healthcare Facility Resilience
  – Best practices for assessment, resilience planning across domains- building, infrastructure, staff and vital resources, etc.

• Guide to Developing and Implementing a Plan
• Guide to Additional Resources
• Bibliography
Draft timeline for vetting and distribution

• First Quarter, CY2014:
  – Development of Resource Packet
  – Sharing with HHS-ASPR Critical Infrastructure Protection Program’s Coordinating Councils
  – Identification of workgroups to review, revise, finalize

• Second Quarter, CY2014
  – Review, sharing with stakeholder groups

• Third Quarter, CY 2014
  – Finalization of contents

• Fourth Quarter, CY 2014
  – Web Publication of first version of Resource Packet
SCR Exemplars

Spaulding Rehab Hospital, Boston

- LEED Gold level facility
- Resilience measures
- Rooftop electrical and backup systems
- “Protective reef”
- Operable windows
- Drought-tolerant landscaping

- Boston’s Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital

Was climate-proofed for about a half-percent of total building costs.

Electrical equipment is on the roof in case of flooding.

Windows open, so patients don’t overheat if air conditioning fails.

The ground floor is raised 30 inches above the current 500-year flood level and 42 inches above the 100-year flood level.
Thank you!

Contact:  John M. Balbus, MD, MPH
john.balbus@nih.gov
http://www.niehs.nih.gov/geh