Integrating Adaptation into Public Health: Case of CA Dept of Public Health

Paul English, PhD, MPH
CA Dept of Public Health
Public Health is Integral Partner in Calif’s Climate Action Planning

- State Climate Action Team = 18 agencies including Public Health
- Public Health Workgroup looks at specific health sector issues/needs in mitigation and adaptation
- Public health reviews other sector’s planning
  - Human dimension of climate impacts
  - Land use and transportation
  - Emergency planning
  - Climate communications
  - Research priorities
California Adaptation Strategy

- Goals of Public Health

  Strategies:
  - increase awareness of potential climate change-related public health impacts,
  - improve surveillance and monitoring of climate risks and related outcomes,
  - maintain a robust public health infrastructure,
  - expand research,
  - optimize health co-benefits
  - promote healthy, equitable, and resilient communities that are able to mitigate and respond to climate change and protect vulnerable populations.

2009 Adaptation plan being updated in 2013; will feature more cross-sector strategies.
Integrating adaptation into ongoing planning efforts

■ First state to receive FEMA funding for disaster mitigation including climate impacts
■ Emergency management agency worked with broad cross-sector reps
■ Chapter on health and social vulnerability.
■ Tools help regional and local governments get started planning
  - integrate climate impacts into other planning efforts:
    - local general plans, water plans, coastal plans, agriculture, healthy community plans and, of course, disaster plans
Strategy 1: Assess Vulnerability

Racial and Income Disparities in Relation to Climate Change Vulnerability Screening (funded by ASTHO)

Source: English, et al Int J Climate Change 4(2) 2013
Strategy 2: Improve preparedness and resiliency; focus on vulnerable

- Extreme Heat Adaptation Guidance
  (Interagency)

Review land use and design elements for cooler buildings;
Porous pavements;
Urban greening;
Improve heat-health alert systems;
Protect energy grid;
Improve health surveillance;
Protect outdoor workers
Health Impact Assessment of CA’s Cap and Trade Policy

- Funded by PEW/RWJ Foundation
- Recommends part proceeds of Cap and Trade revenues to be devoted to improving community resilience to climate change risks

Source: AJPH, 102 (9) 2012

A Health Impact Assessment of California’s Proposed Cap-and-Trade Regulations

Maxwell J. Richardson, MPH, MCP, Paul English, PhD, MPH, and Linda Rudolph, MD, MPH
Strategy 3: Educate, Engage, and Develop State and Local Capacity

- **Climate Change Capacity Building Grant (ASTHO)**
  - Strategic Planning
  - Surveys of knowledge base on climate change of staff and external partners, including health officers
  - Trainings

- **BRACE grant (CDC)**
  - Engage with local health departments on vulnerability analyses, health risk assessments, and development of best practices for adaptation efforts
Strategy 4: Surveillance

- Leverage resources of CA Environmental Health Tracking Program (CDC) for heat death and illness surveillance

Emergency department visits due to heat in California in summer months, 2005–2010
Emerging *Regional* Adaptation Planning

- Regional entities are forming to leverage research, downscaling climate impacts, funding and developing common strategies/priorities
  - San Diego Reg’l Adaptation planning collaborative
  - LA Regional Climate Action Collaborative
  - Bay Area Regional Energy and Climate Resilience Group
  - Sacramento Regional Climate Collaborative (just forming)
Case Study:
San Luis Obispo County Dept of Public Health Services

- County-wide adaptation plan developed with Local Govt Commission and Kresge funding (2010)
- Local public health department got involved in community-wide planning sessions
- Identified key public health linkages
  - Healthy and sustainable community efforts
  - Food and nutrition, food security, local ag
  - Chronic disease prevention
  - Emergency preparedness
  - Vulnerable and special needs populations are key
Climate Mitigation and Health Co-benefits (links with adaptation)

- Presents strategies for integrating public health co-benefits into GHG reduction strategies set forth in local Climate Action Plans, including:
  - Transportation, Land Use,
  - Urban Greening, Food and Agriculture,
  - Residential Energy Use
  - Community Engagement
  - Vulnerable Populations, and
  - Climate Adaptation
Resources

• Climate change surveillance data:
  https://www.ehib.org/page.jsp?page_key=863

• Climate Action for Health:
  http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/CCDPHP/Documents/CAPS_and_H Health_Published3-22-12.pdf

• HIA for Cap and Trade:
  https://www.ehib.org/page.jsp?page_key=705

• Climate Change Vulnerability Mapping:
  https://www.ehib.org/page.jsp?page_key=703

• Local Climate Adaptation Planning Guide:
  http://resources.ca.gov/climate_adaptation/local_government/adaptation_policy_guide.html