

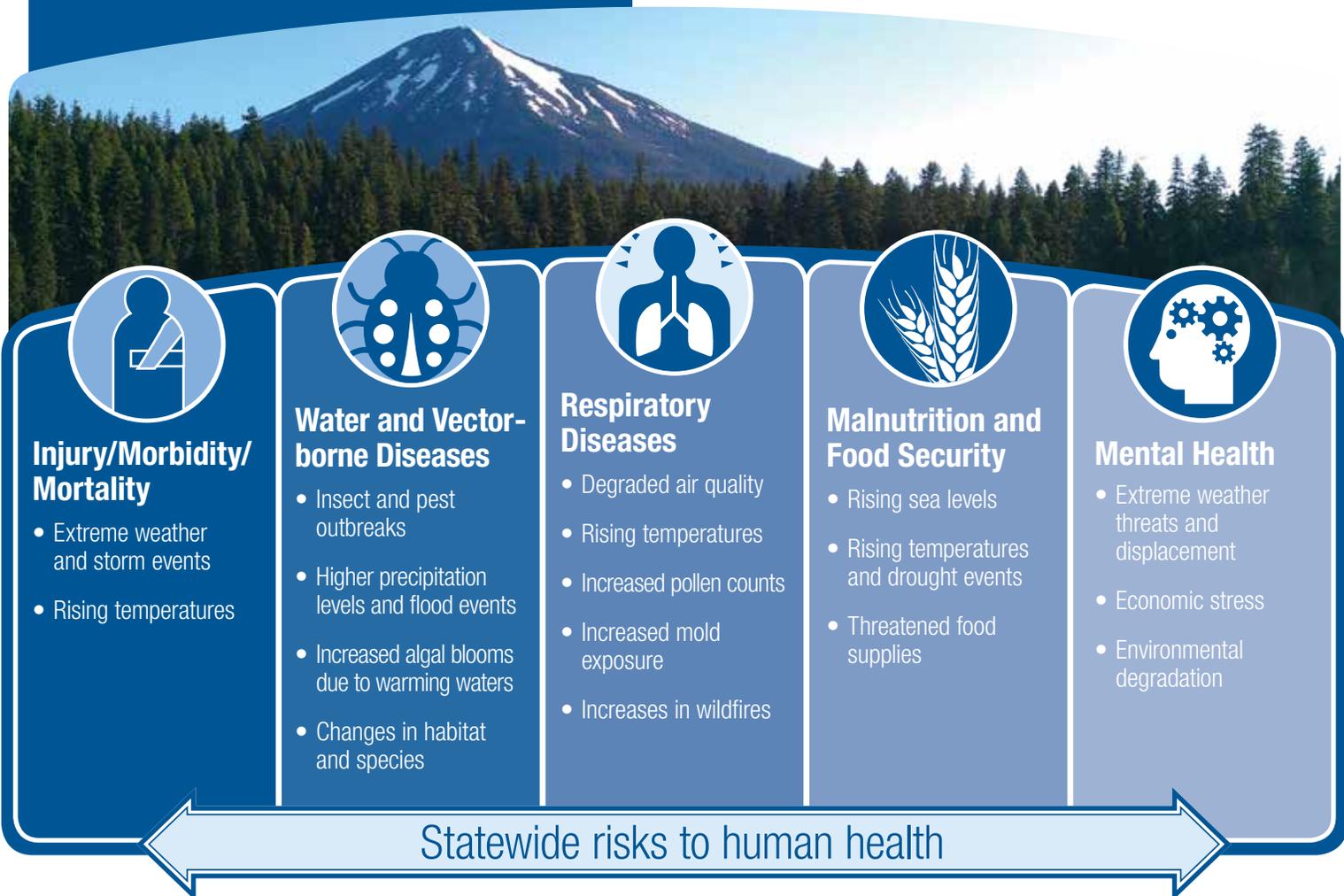
Climate and Health Action Plan

The effects of climate change already can be seen in Oregon's marine environments, forestlands, agriculture, and transportation infrastructure. It is likely that more severe impacts from climate change will begin to affect the state, including the overall health of its residents.

As part of a two-year collaboration, Jackson County and the Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division worked to develop a climate change adaptation plan to protect the health of its community. *The Centers for Disease Control's five-step Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) framework was implemented, which allowed Jackson County to provide an overview of local climate change and health projections, and for the development of possible interventions that would allow communities and identified vulnerable populations to adapt to predicted changes.*

Role of public health

Jackson County Health and Human Services (JCHHS) is ideally suited to coordinate and plan local adaptation strategies to address the potential health impacts of climate change. Much of what Jackson County Health Department does contributes to the assessment of our local vulnerabilities. Monitoring communicable diseases and outbreaks, emergency preparedness planning, and environmental health messaging and oversight are core functions of public health. Public health staff and managers worked with external advisors and stakeholders to define the projected climate outlook for Jackson County at mid-century. (See reverse side for local county risks and plans.)



Statewide risks to human health

Key local climate variables



What this may mean for human health in Jackson County:

- **Decreased air quality** — increases in asthma, allergies and heart and lung disease related to frequent wildfire smoke;
- **Decreased water quality and quantity** — potential contamination of groundwater;
- **Potential increases in water, food and vector-borne diseases;**
- **Mental health issues and social stress.**

Recommended actions

1. Collaboration and coordination

Building alliances and partnerships will be an important strategy. Communication is essential among persons, agencies, private businesses, schools, hospitals, clinics, transportation agencies, planners and the community at large.

2. Air quality actions

Develop improved avenues and methods for educating the community about the health impacts of wildfire smoke events. Explore avenues of partnership with local and state agencies to protect the public from air pollution.

3. Water actions

Partner with local water stakeholders to explore how climate change will affect water quality and quantity.

4. Climate and health web page

Develop a local climate and health Web page to include climate adaptation and mitigation strategies with up-to-date information on how our climate is changing in our state and county.

For more information and/or the full report, phone Jackson County Health and Human Services at 541-774-8200.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is one of nine agencies across the country that received a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Environmental Health (CDC-NCEH) as part of the Climate-Ready States and Cities Initiative. This program is intended to help agencies address the public health effects of climate change related events. The Climate and Public Health Program is part of the Public Health Division of the Oregon Health Authority.