



Department
of Health

HOT TOPIC: CLIMATE CHANGE IN NEW YORK STATE

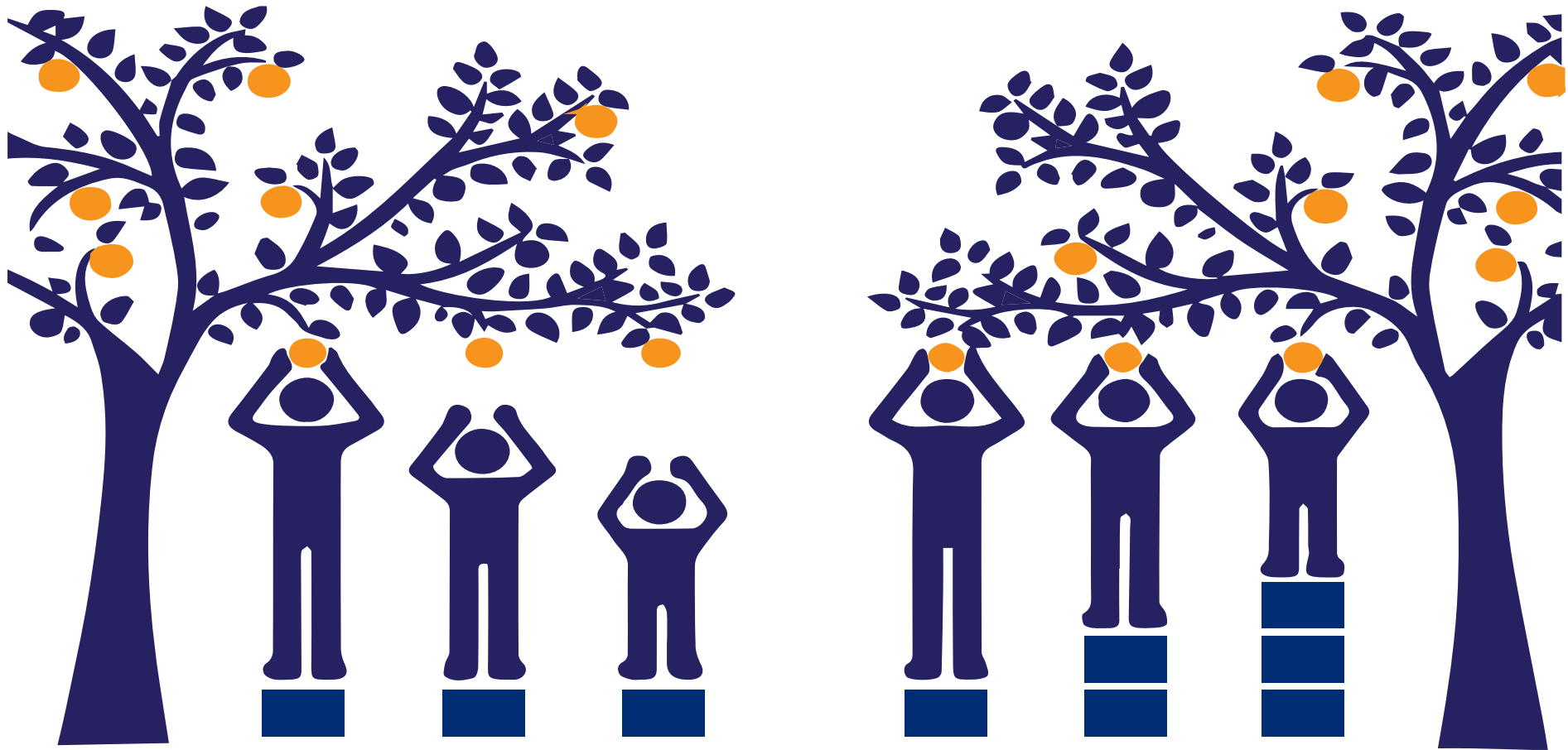
Dr. James McDonald, MD, MPH
Commissioner

OCTOBER 23, 2024 | NYSACHO ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT

DEFINITION OF HEALTH

“Health is a state of optimal physical, mental and social well-being.”

EQUALITY DOESN'T MEAN EQUITY

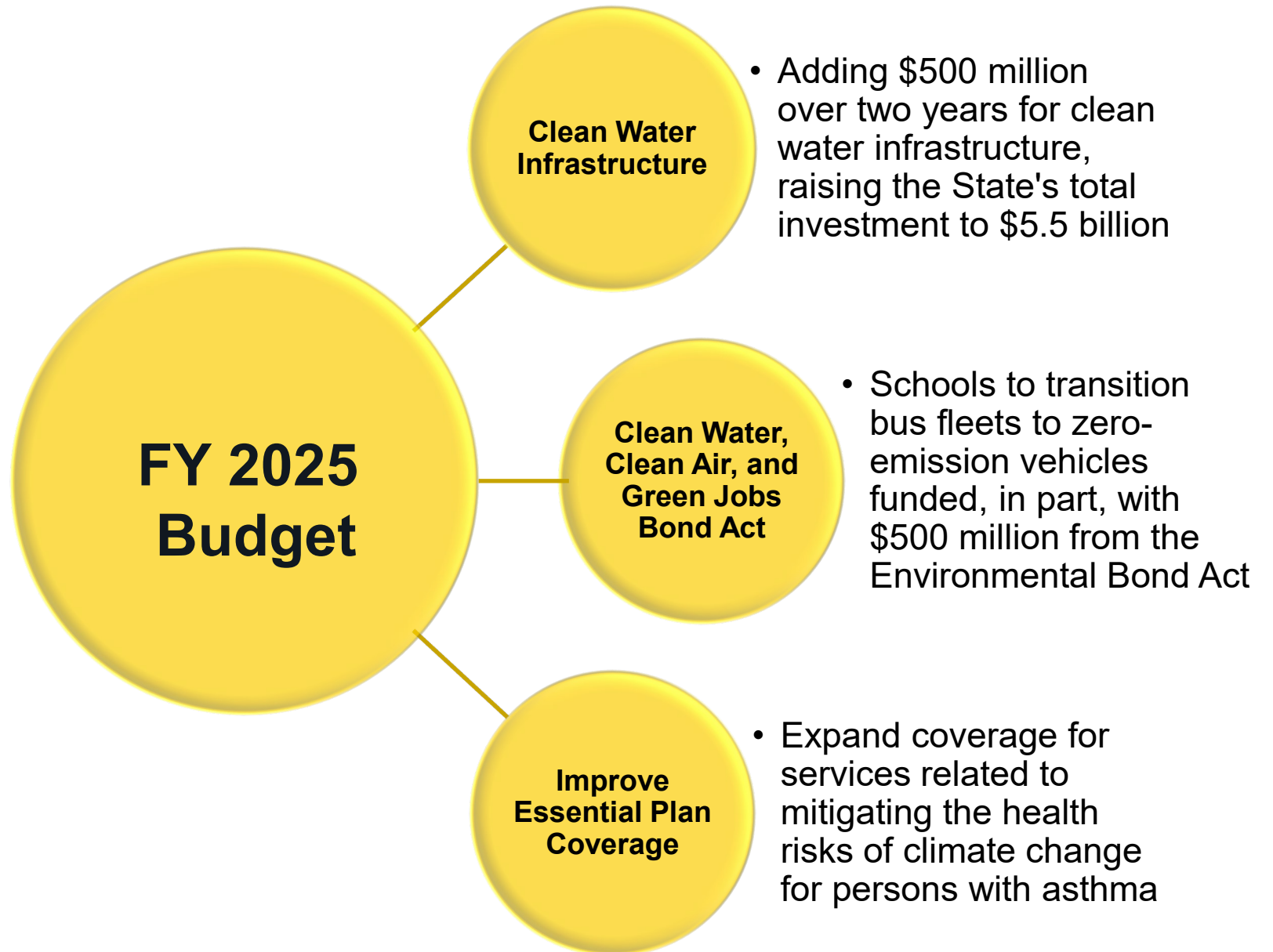


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New York State Priority: Climate Change



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NEW YORK STATE CLIMATE IS GETTING HOTTER, WETTER AND STORMS ARE BECOMING MORE SEVERE

According to the Assessment:

- Temperatures in New York State since 2000 have been higher than in any period in recorded history. Since 1901, average temperatures in New York State have increased by almost 2.6°F
- From 1901 to 2022, total annual precipitation in New York State increased by 10% to 20%. Precipitation also varies more widely from year to year
- Coastal storms are also becoming more destructive because sea level rise

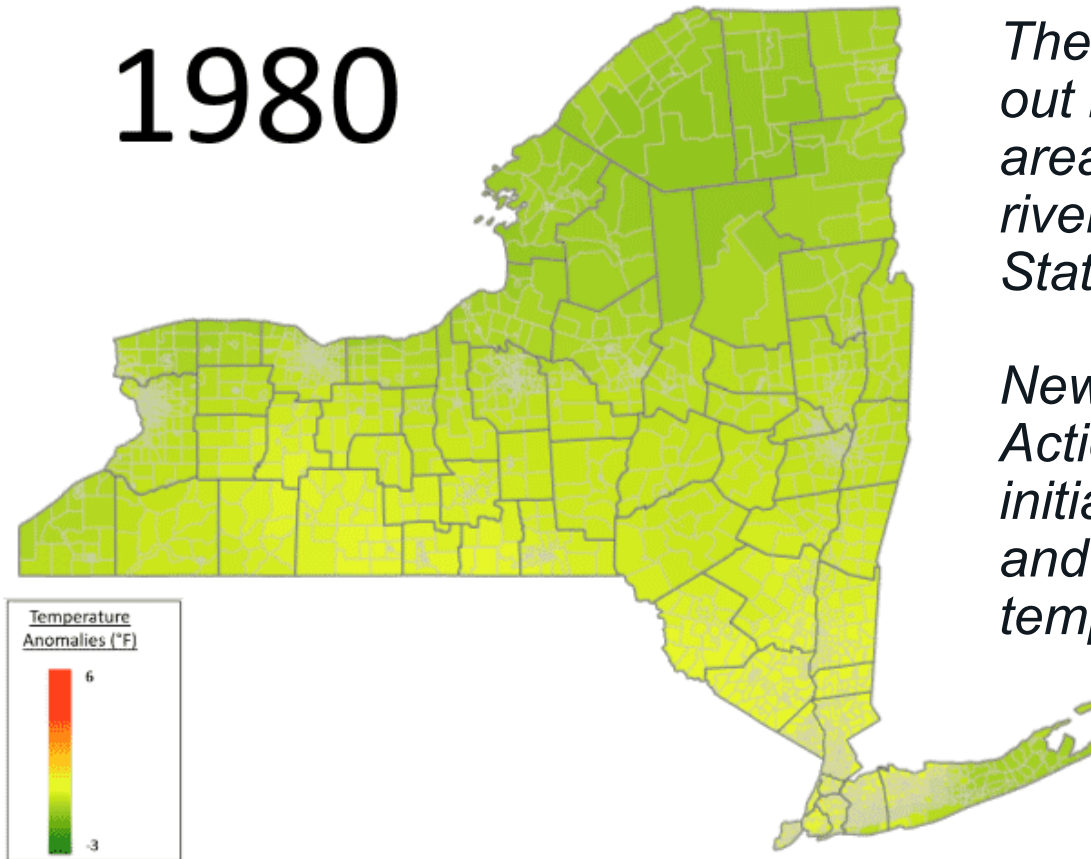


THE EFFECTS OF A CHANGING CLIMATE ON NEW YORK STATE

Increasing summertime temperatures:

*Over the last three decades average temperatures in have increased an average of **2°F**.*

1980



The NY SWIMS program will build out municipal pools in high-need areas, connect New Yorkers to rivers and lakes and invest in State parks and pools.

New York State's Extreme Heat Action Plan identifies and supports initiatives to keep residents safe and prepare communities for rising temperatures.



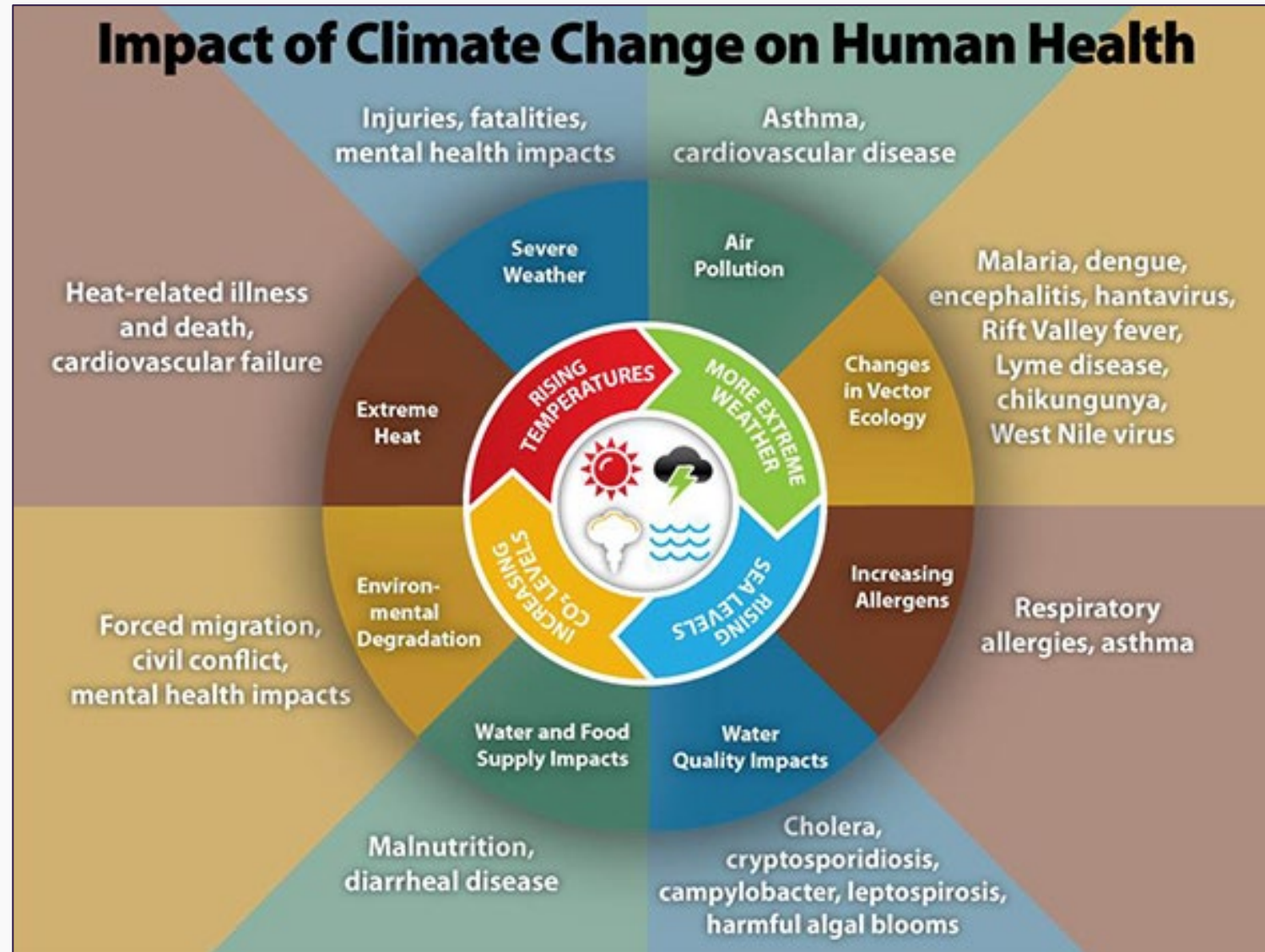
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www.health.ny.gov/environmental/weather/heat_story_map

NEW YORK STATE IS A LEADER IN RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

- New York State's [Climate Act](#) is among the most ambitious climate laws in the nation and requires New York to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent by 2030 and no less than 85 percent by 2050 from 1990 levels.
- The Climate Justice Working Group has developed [criteria to identify disadvantaged communities](#) to ensure frontline and underserved communities benefit from our clean energy transition.
- The statewide [Community Air Monitoring Initiative](#) collected air quality data in 10 disadvantaged communities for one year ending in August 2023. Results are being shared with communities in the coming months.
- [Extreme Heat Action Plan](#) to coordinate State action in the planning and response to extreme heat.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS OUR HEALTH



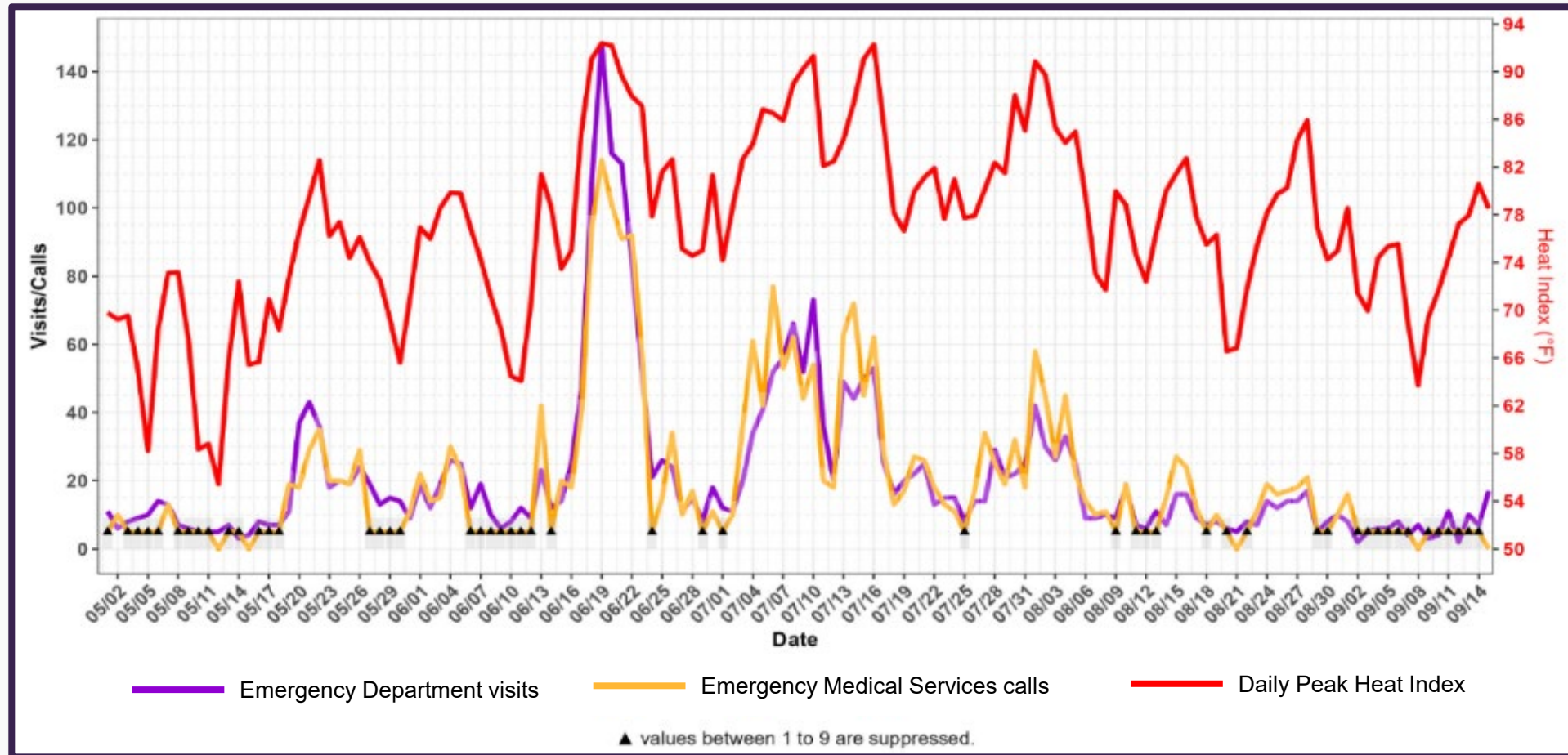
- 2024 record heat
- 2023 smoke from wildfires
- 2021 floods in New York City



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NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HEAT SURVEILLANCE REPORT

Heat-Related Emergency Department Visits, Emergency Medical Services Calls and Daily Peak Heat Index



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heatreports.health.ny.gov

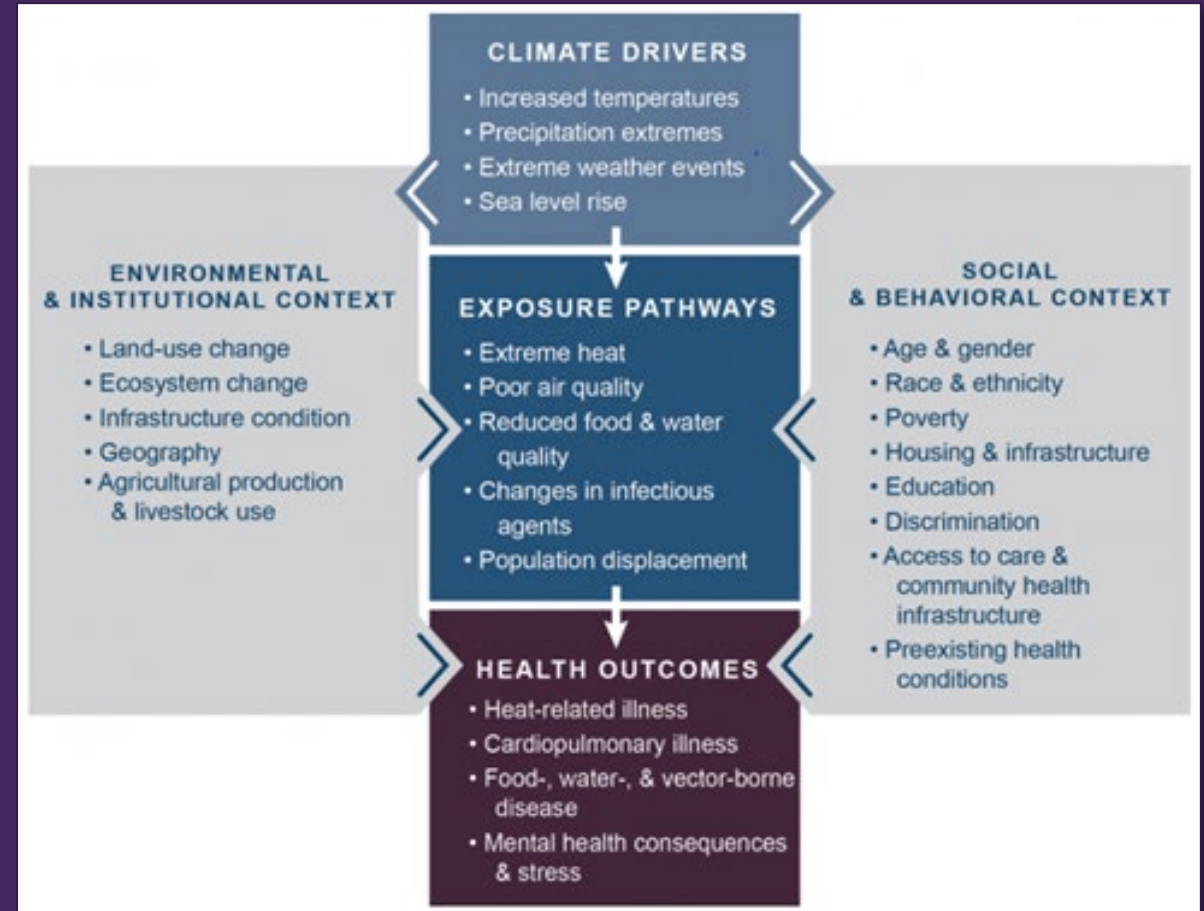
WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DOING?

The Department is seeking strategies to reduce impacts of climate change:

- Building Resilience Against Climate Effects funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Environmental Public Health Tracking grants
- 2025 climate- and health-themed Performance Incentive Program
- Minigrant programs in 2023 and 2024, with plans to continue

Informed policy changes by the National Weather Service to decrease the thresholds for sending heat warnings to the public

We're hoping that today can serve as a forum for discussion and think around how climate change impacts environmental health.



ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING

New York's Environmental Public Health Tracking Program focuses on tracking environmental and health patterns and trends.

About Tracking

Tracking Data

Tracking Resources

Tracking Projects

Timely Topics



Tracking Data: Environmental Public Health Tracker



Air Pollution



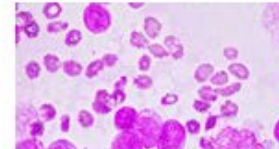
Asthma



Birth Defects



Birth Outcomes



Cancer



Carbon Monoxide



Childhood Lead



COPD



Drinking Water



Heat Stress



Heart Attacks



Occupational Health



Radon

health.ny.gov/environmental/public_health_tracking

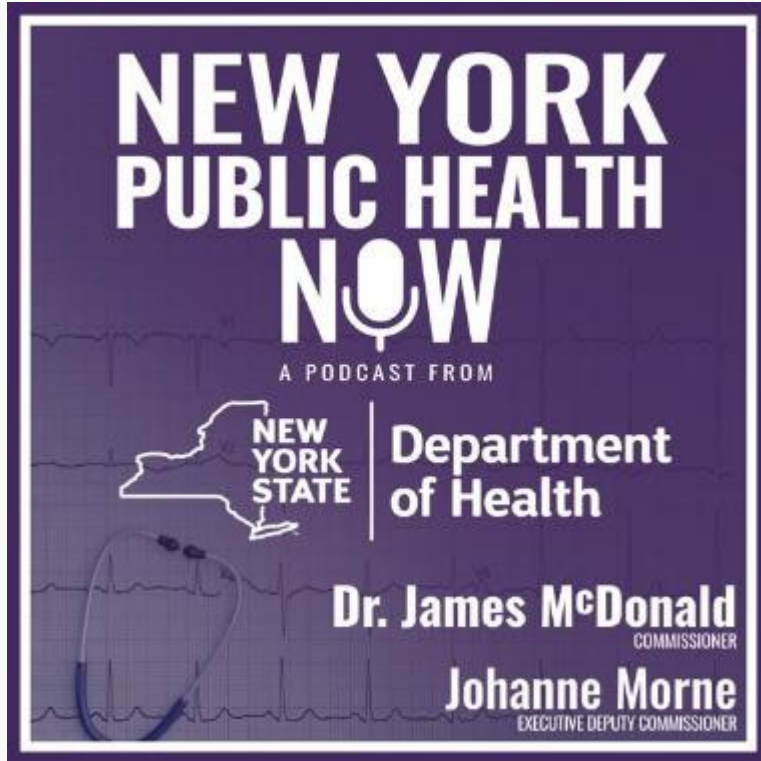


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OUR PODCAST



Available on all major platforms:

- Apple Podcasts
- YouTube Podcasts
- Overcast
- Spotify

health.ny.gov/podcasts

