

# Connecticut DPH State Health Assessment 2025

Resilient Connecticut Summit  
November 12, 2019



Connecticut Department of Public Health  
*Keeping Connecticut Healthy*



# State Health Assessment Process

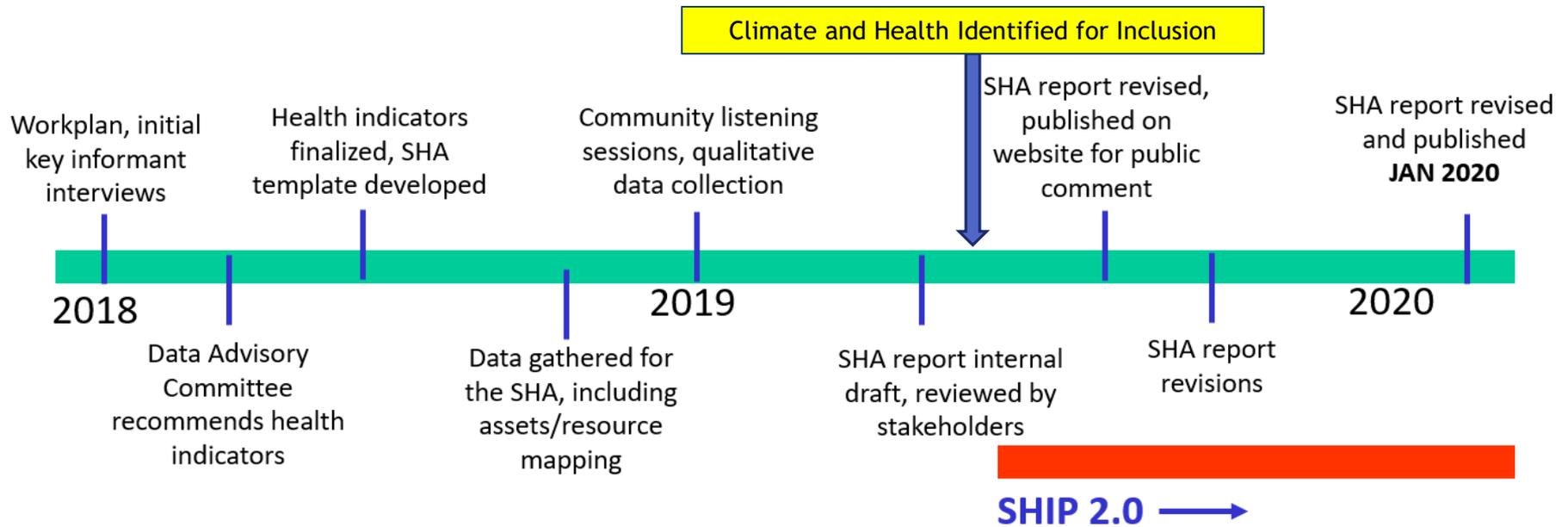
## What is a State Health Assessment?

- A collaborative process of collecting and analyzing data and information for use in:
  - Educating and mobilizing communities
  - Developing priorities
  - Garnering resources or using resources in different ways
  - Adopting or revising policies
  - Planning actions to improve health



# State Health Assessment Process

## Proposed Timeline for Developing the SHA 2.0

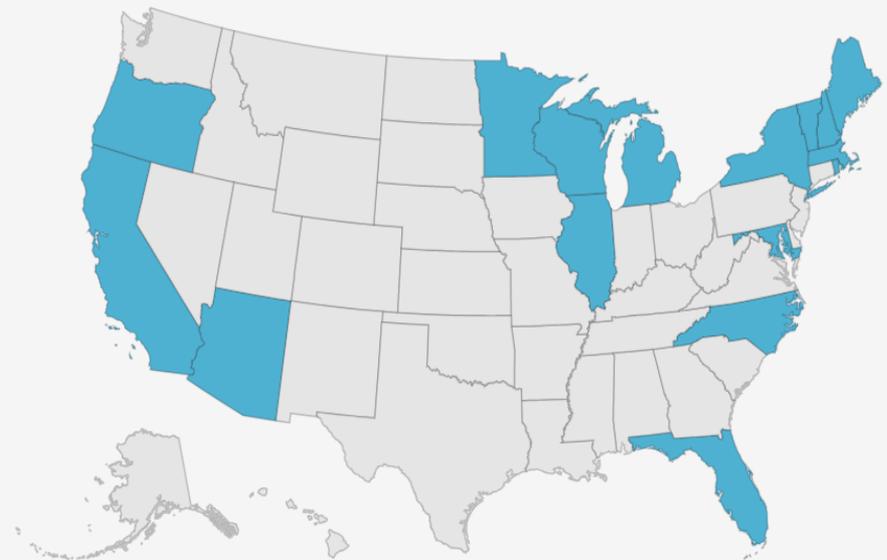


# CDC Support to States to Address Climate and Health

- Since 2010, CDC has funded 16 state and local health departments to address local impacts of climate change on health.

## Climate-Ready States & Cities Initiative Grantees

Currently Funded States & Cities



Select a State

Arizona

Go



### Vermont Climate and Health Profile Report

Building Resilience against Climate Change in Vermont

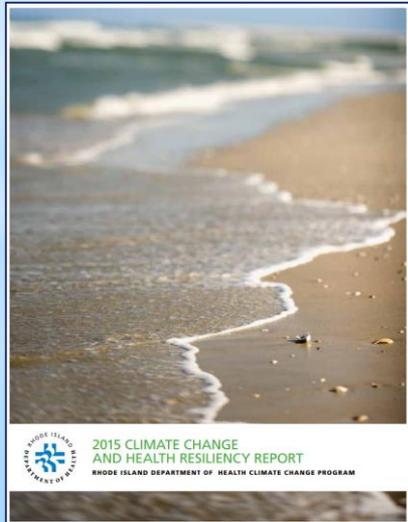
September 2016



VERMONT  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Division of Environmental Health

healthvermont.gov



# Climate and Health

## \*\*\*Public Comment Period is Open for the 2019 State Health Assessment\*\*\*

### CT DPH is seeking input and feedback from stakeholders and partners on the draft 2019 State Health Assessment!

The 2019 CT State Health Assessment is an update to Healthy Connecticut 2020 State Health Assessment released 5 years ago. This update provides partners, stakeholders, and policy-makers with current data on the health needs of our residents and the health disparities that exist among our vulnerable populations. Between November 1, 2019 through November 21, 2019, the public is invited to review the draft chapters of the assessment and provide their input on the report by completing a short [feedback survey](#) or by contacting [HCT2020@ct.gov](mailto:HCT2020@ct.gov) to share comments.

Keep in mind that we are looking for feedback related to content and context; the graphics and layout will be designed after we have incorporated your comments. Thank you in advance for your input!

[Introduction and Process](#) 

[Describing Connecticut's Demographics and Socioeconomic Context](#)  (includes mortality statistics)

[Maternal, Infant and Child Health](#) 

[Environmental Health](#) 

[Drinking Water](#) 

[Chronic Disease](#) 

[Infectious Disease](#) 

[Behavioral Health, Injury, and Trauma](#) 

[Health Systems](#) 

[Climate and Health](#) 

**[Provide Feedback Here](#)**

# Climate and Health

## CLIMATE AND HEALTH CHAPTER

### Executive Summary

The climate of Connecticut is changing and these changes pose risks to the health of our populations. Rates of emergency department (ED) utilization for heat-related illness are associated with annual rates of extreme heat days and differences in ED visit rates for heat-related illness are evident between race-ethnicity groups in our state. Another outcome associated with increasing temperatures globally is rates of infection with the pathogen *Vibrio*, and these rates have been on the rise in our state since the mid-1990s.

National assessments recognize populations most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change to include those with low income, some communities of color, as well as numerous other distinct vulnerable populations. National standards identify a vulnerability assessment as a necessary first step for state health departments to address the health impacts of climate change. Currently, those state health departments that undertake such assessments have dedicated programmatic support from CDC to address the health impacts of climate change in their populations.

Connecticut has not yet conducted a climate and health assessment to identify populations most vulnerable to climate change, nor does DPH have a dedicated program focused on climate and health. Coordination with other state agencies, local health directors, Connecticut universities, and non-governmental stakeholders will be important for addressing the impacts of climate change in Connecticut.

### CHANGES TO OUR CLIMATE

### FOUNDATIONAL WORK ON CLIMATE AND HEALTH

### WEATHER-RELATED MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY

### AIR AND WATER QUALITY

### VECTOR-BORNE DISEASE AND FOOD SAFETY

### VULNERABILITY

### OUR OPINIONS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

# Climate and Health

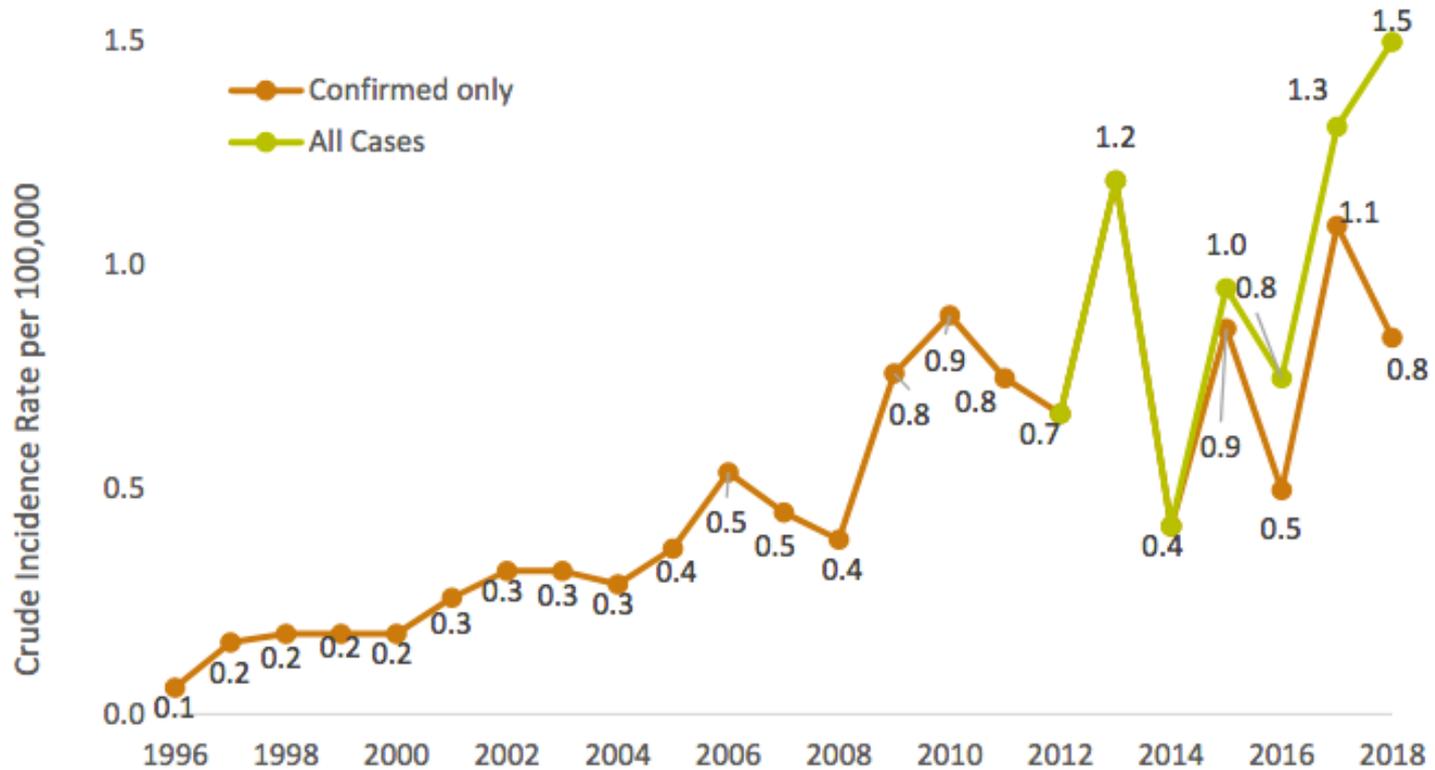
**Figure 4: Annual age-adjusted rates for total population of ED visits for heat-related illness by year, Connecticut, 2000-2018 and Number of Days with Heat Index > 95 degrees F, averaged over counties, Connecticut, 2000-2016**

Connecticut Emergency Department Visit Dataset, 2000-2018 and Environmental Public Health Tracking Network, 2000-2016



# Climate and Health

**Figure 11: Crude Incidence Rate of Vibrio Infections by Year, Connecticut, 1996-2018**  
 Foodnet Fast<sup>36</sup> 1996-2018



# Climate and Health

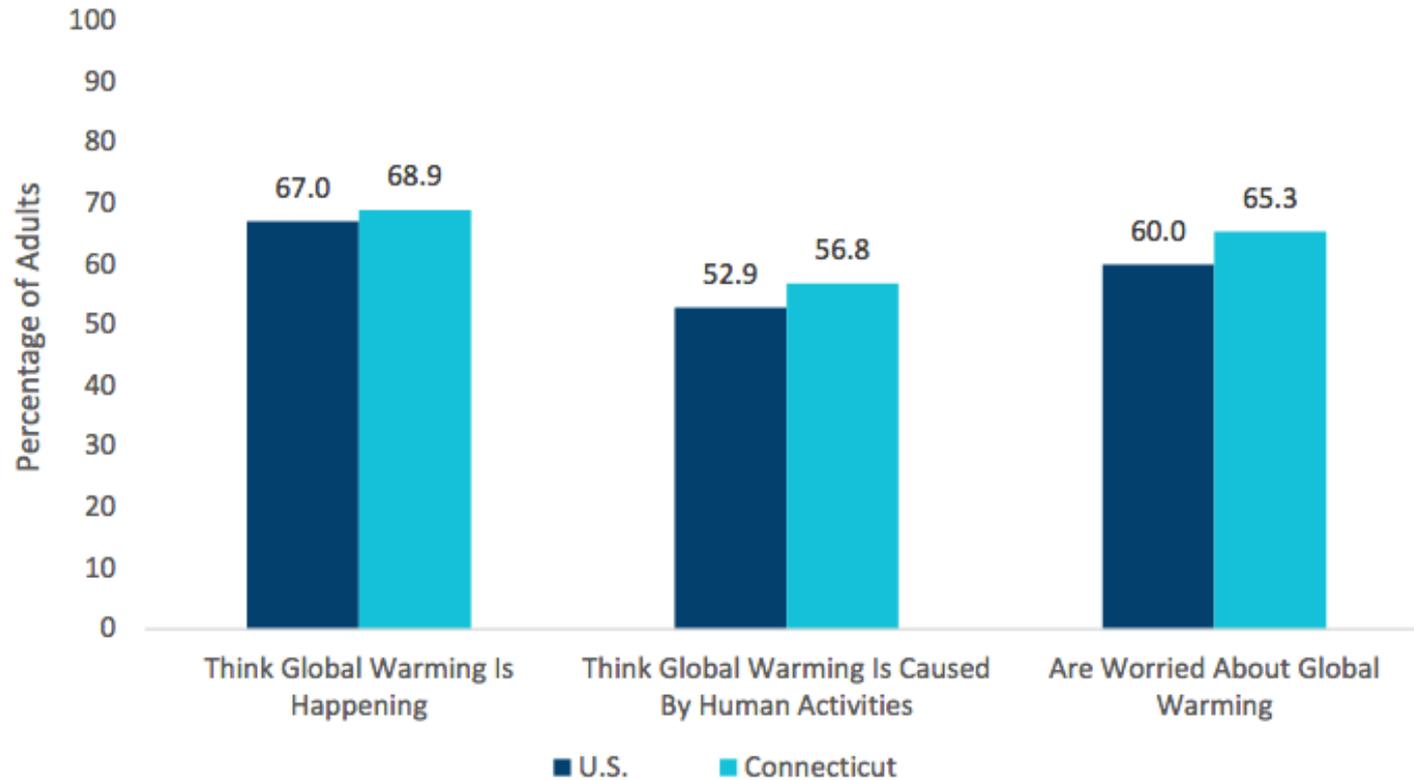
**Figure 9: Percent of Bacterial Exceedance Samples from Marine Beaches by Year, Connecticut, 2003-2018**

DPH Recreation Program, 2003-2018



# Climate and Health

**Figure 13: Attitudes and Beliefs of Connecticut Adult Residents About Climate Change, 2019**  
Yale Program on Climate Change Communication<sup>43</sup>





# Public Comment Period is Open for the 2025 State Health Assessment

- Between November 1, 2019 through November 21, 2019
- Review draft chapters of the assessment
- Provide input on the report by completing a survey or contacting [HCT2020@ct.gov](mailto:HCT2020@ct.gov) to share comments
- Draft State Health Assessment can be found at:  
<https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/State-Health-Planning/Healthy-Connecticut/Healthy-Connecticut-2025>

# CT State Health Improvement Plan

## Healthy Connecticut 2020



## 2 State Health Improvement Plan

In 2014, based on findings of the first State Health Assessment, the Health Connecticut 2020 State Health Improvement Plan was released.

- The plan is data-driven with baselines and targets to help us monitor progress.
- Implementation of evidence-based strategies related to policy, advocacy, communication, partnership development and education providing opportunities for aligning efforts and sharing approaches.

# State Health Improvement Plan



## Connecticut Public Health Data Explorer



### Healthy Connecticut 2020 Performance Dashboard

Just as a car's dashboard provides the driver with a quick view of how the car is functioning, the **Healthy Connecticut 2020 Performance Dashboard** displays in a simple visual format, how the residents of Connecticut are faring in health improvement target areas such as heart disease, obesity, obtaining vaccinations, exposure to environmental risks, and many more as identified in [HealthyConnecticut 2020 State Health Improvement Plan](#). The plan is carried out by the Connecticut State Health Improvement Coalition and seven action teams. You can learn more at [Connecticut State Health Improvement Coalition](#).

Disparity ratio between infant mortality rates for non-Hispanic blacks and non-Hispanic whites in Connecticut. (HCT2020)

Data Source: CT DPH, Vital Statistics, Registration Report Table 12



The Performance Dashboard is built on the concepts of *Results Based Accountability™* and specifically displays:

- **Population Indicators** (e.g., proportion of children in third grade who have dental decay) identify the health status of Connecticut residents for which DPH, other state and local agencies, and community partners all share responsibility.
- **Performance Measures** (e.g., number of children with dental sealants) tell us whether DPH interventions that affect population indicators (e.g., proportion of children in third grade who have dental decay), are achieving objectives, and if our agency's actions are helping to improve health.
- **Strategies** -are those that DPH and its partners are using to improve health to meet targets for improvement.
- **Current Year Priority Strategies and Actions** – are detailed for those strategies that were selected by the SHIP Action Teams to receive attention in the current year and were more fully developed in the form of Action Agendas. These are linked to selected priority strategies throughout the dashboard – in the strategy section.

The Dashboard currently displays data and information on a subset of population indicators from [Healthy Connecticut 2020](#). Ongoing data development and implementation will continue throughout until 2020. Links to the Dashboard for each health improvement area and to relevant sections of the Plan are given in the data table.

# The Next Five Years

## Planning has begun for Healthy Connecticut 2025

- On September 20, 2019, partners came together to consider a selection of findings from the draft State Health Assessment 2.0 (SHA 2.0) and take the first step in planning for future health improvement priorities to be included in the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP 2.0).
- There was much discussion of health equity and the need to focus on social determinants of health.
- The areas of focus will be determined collaboratively with stakeholders from across the state.

# State Health Improvement Plan

## What are the Social Determinants of Health?

*Healthy People 2020* identifies the social determinants in 5 main buckets with subcategories in each, as follows:

1. Economic Stability
  - Employment, Food Insecurity, Housing Instability, Poverty
2. Neighborhood and Built Environment
  - Access to Healthy Foods, Crime and Violence, Environmental Conditions, Quality of Housing
3. Health and Healthcare
  - Access to Healthcare, Primary Care, Health Literacy
4. Social and Community Context
  - Civic Participation, Discrimination, Incarceration, Social Cohesion
5. Education
  - Early Childhood Education and Development, Enrollment in Higher Education, High School Graduation, Language and Literacy

# Conclusion

- The five-year State Health Assessment is an integral part of agency activities and is required for us to maintain accreditation.
- Climate and Health are being assessed for the first time in the 2025 State Health Assessment, and the public comment period runs until November 21st.
- Serving as a Coalition member allows a direct voice on the extent to which climate and health are addressed as part of the 2025 and future State Health Assessments.
- Many epidemiologists within DPH welcome collaboration to address health impacts of climate change.