



Warmer, wetter, hotter, drier – climate and health in London.

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Why adapt ?

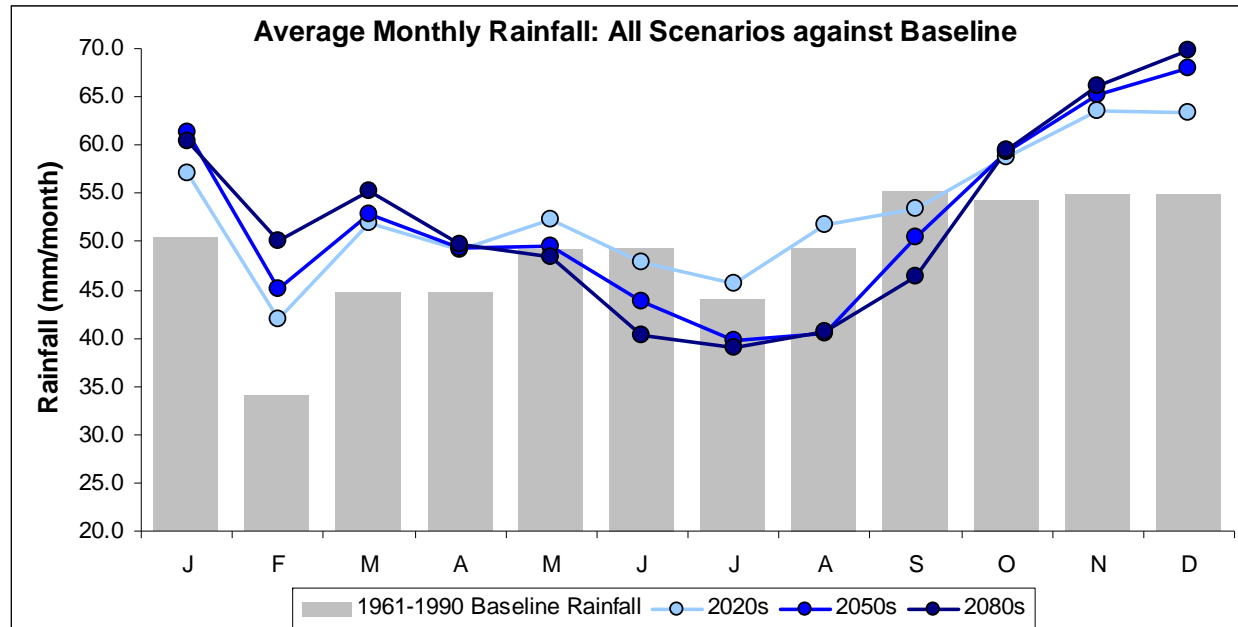


- We are not very well adapted to our existing climate.
- In the future, even the **average** weather will present challenges to our current ability to cope.
- London is particularly vulnerable to weather impacts.
- Adaptation actions can provide wider benefits to other urban issues.
- New / refurbished development must be designed for the climate it will experience over its lifetime to avoid costly retrofits.

Our future climate



LONDON
climate change
PARTNERSHIP



- Warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers.
- More frequent and intense extreme weather.
- Rising sea levels.

Purpose



To improve

1. Understanding of key London-specific impacts of climate change on health, and on health and social care:
 - Commissioning
 - Service delivery
 - Facilities
2. Understanding of where climate change adaptation responsibilities lie
3. Ability to mainstream adaptation in health and social care

Health outcome	Known effects of weather/climate
Heat stress, cold stress	Deaths from heart- and lung-related diseases increase with hotter and colder temperatures. Heat-related illnesses (heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke) and death increase during heatwaves.
Air pollution related morbidity and mortality	Weather affects air pollution concentrations. Weather affects the distribution, seasonality and production of air-transported allergens.
Morbidity and mortality resulting from weather disasters	Floods and windstorms cause direct effects (deaths and injuries), infectious diseases, long-term mental health problems, and indirect effects (temporary limitations on access to health and social care services).
Vector-borne diseases	Higher temperatures shorten the development time of pathogens in vectors and increase the potential transmission to humans.
Water- and food-borne diseases	Risk of bacterial pathogens increases with rising temperature. Increases in drought conditions may affect water availability and water quality due to extreme low flows. Extreme rainfall can affect transport of disease organisms into water supply.
Cataracts, skin cancers and sunburn	More cloud-free days and higher temperatures may encourage potential risk of over-exposure to UV radiation.

Direct and Indirect Impacts



- Climate change direct impacts e.g.
 - On health: heatwaves and increased incidence of deaths of older people (extreme weather)
 - On health inequalities: exacerbating health problems of people living in badly insulated housing (incremental change/wider determinant)
- Climate change indirect impacts e.g.
 - Flooding spoils crops (direct), reduced fresh food supply and poor nutrition (indirect)

Impacts on Health and Health Inequalities



- Consequences for individual and population health – mental and physical
 - Quality of life, environment and economy
 - Community resilience /emergency preparedness
 - Access to infrastructure and service provision
- Unequal impacts and response differentials: increased inequalities e.g. locations, age
- Exacerbated and new needs e.g. respiratory

Services and Facilities



- Extreme weather and incremental climate change impact on
 - Services: Access - patients and workforce; Supply chains; Infrastructure - ICT and energy; Buildings
 - People/Communities: Mobility; Drinking water; Air quality; Fresh food; Buildings (work, rest and play)

Key messages



- A robust health and social care sector is crucial to London's resilience
- The health and social care sectors are a massive estate owner and employer in London (and wider).
- People and communities have enormous capacity to make our systems resilient.
- We need to adapt to ensure a healthy and happy future for Londoners.
- The impacts of climate change will not be equal or fair and they may lead to new health needs.
- We have an opportunity for change.