

APHA and Global Climate Change: The Voice of Public Health

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ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE

finding the ways that work

APHA Policy 9510

“Concluding that the public health community needs to act by increasing research, education, prevention, monitoring, and assessment pertaining to long-term, intergenerational public health issues that may likely arise from climate and ecological change; “

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TUVALUAN KIDS HANG OUT AS EXTRA-HIGH TIDE FLOODS NEIGHBORHOOD.

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<http://www.worldviewofglobalwarming.org/images/TuvaluTideKids5TH.jpg>

APHA's three priorities

- Rebuilding the Public Health Infrastructure
- Eliminating Health Disparities
- Ensuring Access to Health Care



Hurricane Katrina (Cat-5)
NOAA-18 AVHRR 1 km
August 28, 2005 @ 1950 UTC



Percent of people living below twice the poverty threshold by Census block group in Orleans Parish



Feb 3, 2004 <www.gnocdc.org>

Data sources: Poverty rates (Census 2000), water & parish boundaries (Census Tiger files), neighborhood boundaries (adapted from City Planning Commission of New Orleans)

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September 7, 2005

http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/hurricanes/archives/2005/h2005_katrina.html

12 years later...

“Scientists calculate that significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions must begin to take place within 10 years for humans to have a chance at averting dangerous climate change”

“Addressing the Urgent Threat of Global Climate Change to Public Health and the Environment”

- Mitigation, tracking, adaptation and health co-benefits
- Cap on carbon
- Freedom from harm from climate change is a basic human right
- PH infrastructure and training
- Individual action
- Research must not delay action

Avenues for Action

- Annual meeting
- Public Health Week
- Education and training of members
- Congressional activities
- Collaborative activities
- Greening of the organization