Understanding Linkages Between Drought and Public Health

Over the last century, droughts have contributed to more deaths internationally than any other weather-related disaster.1 Droughts, however, are not commonly thought of as public health threats. The often-slow onset of drought, compared to other extremes, makes it difficult to identify the links between the physical characteristics of drought and societal impacts. Recent extreme droughts in the U.S. caused significant human health outcomes, including decreased water quantity and quality, coccidioidomycosis (Valley fever) outbreaks in the southwestern U.S., increased mortality rates, and adverse mental health outcomes as livelihoods are challenged.

NIDIS is collaborating with key partners to better understand the linkages between droughts and human health so communities can better prepare for and mitigate the public health impacts of droughts.

This session is co-convened by NIDIS with the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC). Invited speakers include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

SEEKING ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS

Investigating linkages between the physical drivers of drought and its impacts on human health.

Seeking submissions of related research as well as applications of such knowledge to reduce health impacts of drought. Research that connects to other related climate hazards (such as heat waves and wildfires) is also encouraged.

Click here for more information and to submit an abstract

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