

Climate Change and Human Health

Prof. Peter Curson, University of Sydney
A Webber Training Teleclass

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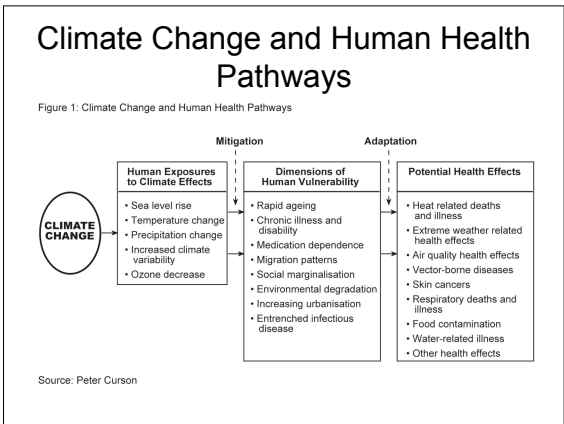
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What Will Climate Change Deliver?

- An increase in national average temperatures of between 0.4 and 2.0 degrees C by 2030 and 1.0 – 6.0 degrees C by 2070.
- More heatwaves, fewer frosts and drier winters.
- Changes in rainfall variability with possible reductions in average rainfall in Southern Australia and increases in the Tropical North. More rain in Western parts of NZ and less in East.
- More severe climate events such as cyclones, storms, floods and bushfires.
- Possibly more El Nino (ENSO) events – with more pronounced droughts and heavy rainfall events.
- Possible sea level rises (30-50cms in NZ).



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DIMENSIONS OF VULNERABILITY		
	2006	2051
Rapid Aging	2.7m 65+ (14%) 338,000 85+ (1.7%)	6.3m 65+ (27%) 1.6m 85+ (7%)
Disability and Handicap	3.6m 65+ severe handicap (18%) 500,000 <65 disabled	5m 65+ severe handicap 1.5m <65 disabled
Chronic Illness	2.0m osteoarthritis 3.3m asthma 2.4m hypertension 1.0m diabetes (25+) 3.3m at high risk of diabetes	4.5m osteoarthritis 6.0m asthma 5.0m hypertension 3.0m diabetes (25+)
Medication Dependence	88% 65-74 >92% 85+	92% 65-74 >96% 85+
Infectious Disease	Re-emerging epidemics Vector and water-borne Childhood etc., food-borne	More vector-borne infections More epidemics
Marginalisation	2.5m Below poverty line 5.1% Unemployed 12% Youth unemployed (15-19) 12.8% Child poverty	
Environmental Degradation	Waterways pollution Chemicals/Waste disposal Air quality	More environmental diseases
Retirement Migration	To warmer coastal areas of high risk	Continuing and intensifying
Increased Urbanisation	Increasing suburban densities Health air quality problems Isolation etc.	Continuing and intensifying

Recent Heat Waves

Location	Year	Approx. No. Deaths
Western Europe	2006	3,392*
Europe	2003	72,000#
India	1998	2,541^
USA	1995	670
USA	1993	200
USA	1966	500
Aust [Melbourne]	1959	145^
<hr/>		
Australia	1800-2005	4,500^

- * Netherlands 1,000; Belgium 940.
- # Italy 20,069; France 19,490; Spain 15,090; Germany 9,355.
- ^ Estimation. Total probably higher.

European Heatwave 2003

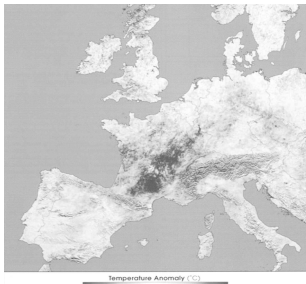
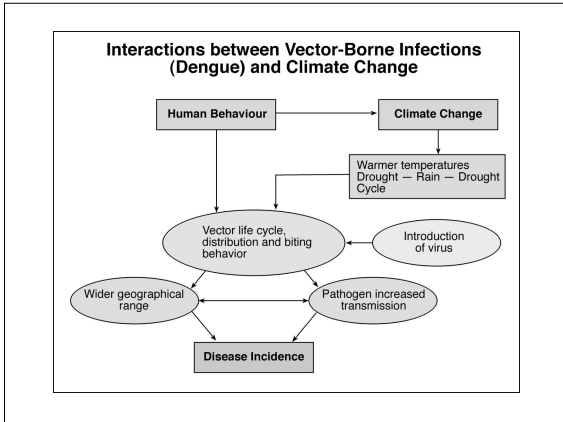


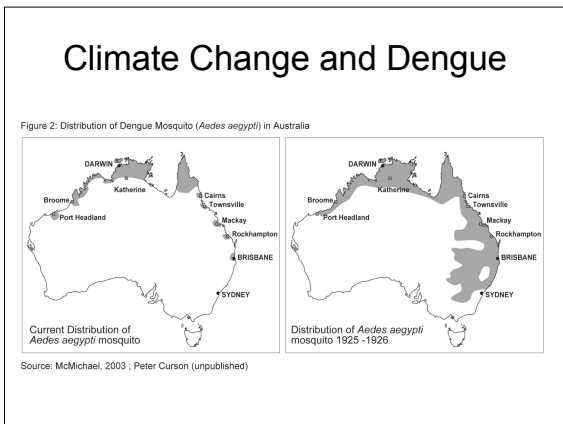
Figure 1. La vague de chaleur de 2003 : anomalie de température en Europe durant l'été 2003 (proposée des températures sur les mois de juillet, août et septembre) Source: NOAA, 10/07/2003

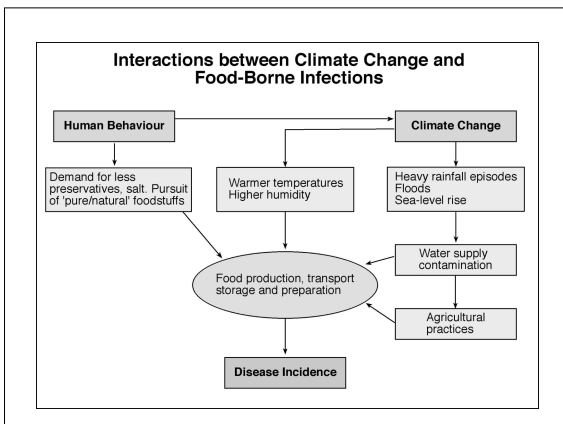
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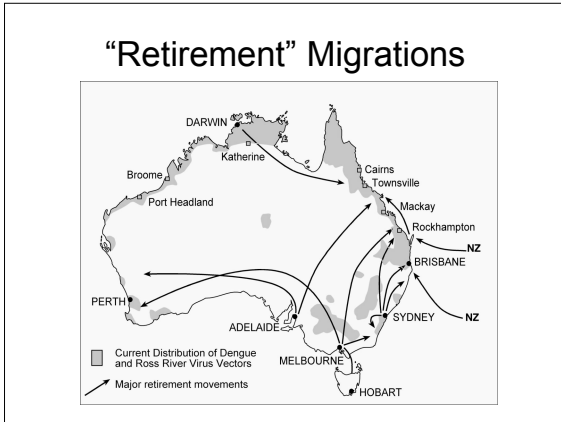




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The 2008 South Pacific Teleclass Series

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Climate Change and Human Health
with Prof. Peter Curson

April 16
**Antibiotic Resistance ...
Can We Hold Back the Tide**
with Dr. Mark Thomas

June 25
Peripheral Line Sepsis
with Dr. Steven McBride

August 13
**Live Broadcast from the
National Division of Infection Control Nurses
New Zealand**
Topic & speaker to be determined

October 15
Biofilms - When Bugs Get Clingy
Dr. David Hammer

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