



LA REVue

The Official Student Newsletter for Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine
Department of Health Policy and Management. By Students, For Everyone!

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Climate Change in New Orleans

Heat, Saltwater, and What to Expect Next

By: Daisy Ellis

Climate scientists have known for decades that New Orleans is a city particularly vulnerable to climate change. Our low elevation and high rate of erosion put us in a greater danger of flooding events as sea level rise. Our low latitude and humid climate mean that as temperatures increase, vectors of disease like mosquitos will become more populous and have a lengthier breeding season. On top of this, we face hurricanes and a heavily socially vulnerable population, where chronic disease and poverty are common.

None of this is news to us, especially to those of us who have lived here for several (or many) years. However, this summer was one of the first to lay these impending changes out so starkly in front of us. From June to August, New Orleans experienced 13 days with absolute temperatures hotter than 100 degrees. About 2/3 of the days in July and August had 'feels like' temperatures of over 108 degrees according to the National Weather Service. This is not to mention that throughout the summer, it hardly ever rained. The heat and the drought combined to create an oppressive climate that meant even the strongest of ACs struggled to keep us comfortable, while animals, outdoor laborers, and our unhoused neighbors faced dangerous heat for weeks at a time. (Cont. on next page).

