

Roundtable Discussion on Integrating Existing Vulnerability Assessments into Climate Change Adaptation Planning at the Local Level

Preparing for Climate Effects at the Municipal Level:
A Public Health Symposium

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

MIT Endicott House, Dedham, MA

Background

- Purpose of the Roundtable is to discuss various approaches and planning activities that state agencies and local health departments are engaged in to reduce health impacts on vulnerable populations
- Context :
 - MA Adaptation report identified the need to consider residents that are more susceptible to climate effects including children, the elderly, the disabled, low-income groups, those with pre-existing diseases, factors that contribute to disproportionate risks, and obstacles to resiliency (e.g., take protective/adaptive measures and recover after losses).
 - Step 1 of the BRACE framework includes the need to identify of populations potentially vulnerable to climate effects in order to assess potential risks to the population and identify interventions/adaptations to reduce risks
 - There are opportunities to coordinate with various state/local programs that consider vulnerable populations (e.g., emergency preparedness, vulnerability assessments)

General Questions for Discussion

1. Do you identify vulnerable populations in your planning process?
2. If so, what is your approach in defining vulnerable groups ?
3. What data sources do you use?
4. Are there other departments that have been key to early planning discussions ?
5. If a community is beginning to identify vulnerable populations, what are the first steps to consider?