Climate Changes Mental Health and Well-Being
Moab woman contracts West Nile fever

Nance says it's the less severe form; Salt Lake resident has 'potentially deadly' form of the virus

By Doug McMurdo
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The Moab Mosquito Abatement District said a Moab woman in her 50s has contracted the less severe form of West Nile virus. Manager Libby Nance in an email said the woman, who lives south of town, was diagnosed at a clinic in Moab, which was confirmed by the Utah Department of Health.
Injuries, fatalities, mental health impacts

Asthma, cardiovascular disease

Heat-related illness and death, cardiovascular failure

Malaria, dengue encephalitis, hantavirus, Rift Valley fever, Lyme disease, chikungunya, West Nile virus

Forced migration, civil conflict, mental health impacts

Changes in Vector Ecology

Respiratory allergies, asthma

Extreme Heat

Air Pollution

Extreme Weather

Increasing Allergens

Environmental Degradation

Severe Weather

Severe Heat

Water and Food Supply Impacts

Water Quality Impacts

Malnutrition, diarrheal disease

Cholera, cryptosporidiosis, campylobacter, leptospirosis, harmful algal blooms
PHYSICAL HEALTH
- Injuries/fatalities
- Vector-borne disease
- Heat stroke
- Asthma
- Allergies
- Chronic lung disease
- Cardiovascular disease
- Malnutrition
- Reduce fitness

MENTAL HEALTH
- Depression, stress, and anxiety
- Strains on social relationships
- Complicated grief
- Substance abuse
- Post-traumatic stress disorder
- Loss of personal identity
- Helplessness and fatalism

SOCIAL
- Economic inequality
- Availability of healthcare
- Social cohesion

VULNERABILITIES
- Geophysical impacts
- Physical infrastructure

INDIVIDUAL
- Age, ethnicity
- Gender

COMMUNITY HEALTH
- Increased personal aggression
- Disrupted sense of belonging
- Loss of community cohesion
- Increased violence and crime
- Social instability
I'm a recreational scuba diver who's very distressed by the gradual but devastating changes to the ocean environment as sea temperatures rise. I've been diving for over 30 years and have traveled to Palau following a warming El Nino. Crumbling gray rubble had replaced the vibrant fields of coral I'd expected to see.

I've gone diving around the globe to Indonesia, Africa and Tahiti, to name a few. Everywhere the story is the same. Coral is disappearing in the tropics. Schools of sardines which feed marine mammals and fish are languishing in the Galapagos. The Fjords of Norway are too warm for herring to feed, forcing them into the open ocean and displacing orcas who feed on them.

To help others understand, imagine going to Yellowstone only to find the forests and wildlife mostly obliterated. Ocean life is experiencing something similar.

Nonpartisan scientists (those not affiliated with fossil fuel industries) tell us these changes are mainly caused by excess fossil fuel use. I urge us to join together, in a nonpartisan fashion, as our communities have done with other natural calamities, to solve this problem so our world can sustain life in all its glorious forms.

LeRoy Anderson
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