Our outdoor environment can affect our health. Once considered to be an issue of the future, today climate change is changing our environment and threatening our health. Climate change causes more frequent and intense heat waves. This can lead to heat-related illness and death, worsen air pollution, and exacerbate respiratory illnesses. Changes in the climate also lead to more frequent or intense extreme weather events, which can put people’s lives at risk.

55% OF LATINOS IN THE U.S. LIVE IN 3 STATES ALREADY EXPERIENCING SERIOUS EFFECTS LINKED TO CLIMATE CHANGE:

- historic drought in California
- record-setting heat in Texas
- increased flooding in Florida

Hotter, drier climates will increase the frequency of days with unhealthy levels of smog:

- Ground-level ozone, a component of smog, is an air pollutant that can cause asthma and other breathing problems, and increase the risk of asthma attacks for the 14% of Latino children that have ever been diagnosed with this condition.

More extreme storms can jeopardize public safety:

- Extreme weather events can disrupt crucial lifelines, such as water, energy, and evacuation routes.
- More than 50% of the U.S. population lives in coastal communities, which are at-risk of increased coastal flooding due to changes related to climate.

People who work outdoors are more vulnerable to heat-related illness. This includes many of the Latinos who make up roughly 1 in 4 workers in both the construction and agriculture industries.

- Extreme heat can cause many health issues:
- Young children and the elderly are especially at risk of heat stroke and dehydration because their bodies regulate temperatures less effectively.

Those who face poverty, health disparities, and other social inequities are the most vulnerable to climate change.

TELL CONGRESS TO SUPPORT STRONG CLIMATE STANDARDS AND PROTECT OUR HEALTH! edf.org/LULACsafeclimate