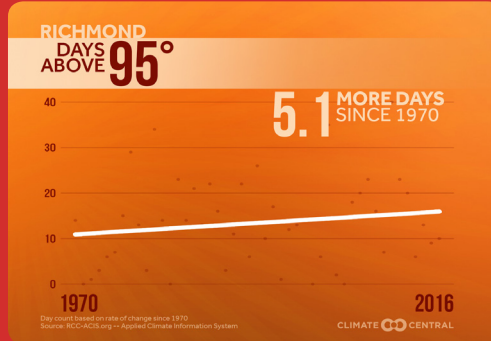




Health Impacts of Climate Change in Virginia

Summer heat is becoming more oppressive, putting Virginians at increasing risk of heat illness.

Student athletes, the elderly and outdoor workers are at particularly elevated risk.



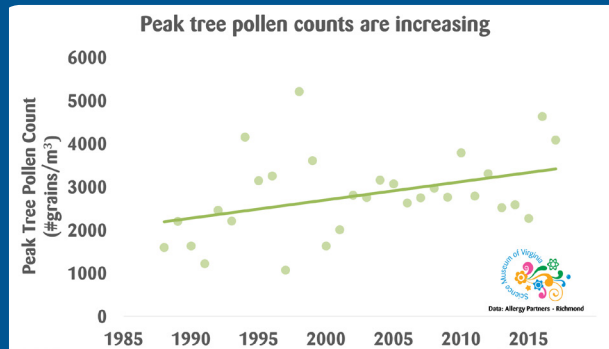
Between May and August of 2016, over 1,700 Virginians went to the ER for heat-related illness.

Virginia Department of Health

Vibrio infections are increasing. These bacteria cause gastrointestinal and skin infections. They thrive in warm seawater and can be transmitted through contaminated shellfish. As ocean temperatures have increased, so has the incidence of these infections.

Vibrio incidence was 43% higher in 2012 compared to 2006-2008. This is an increasing problem in Northeastern states. A large outbreak in summer of 2013 affected 104 people in 13 states, including Virginia.

Tree pollen season peaks **one week earlier** now in Richmond than in the late 1980s.



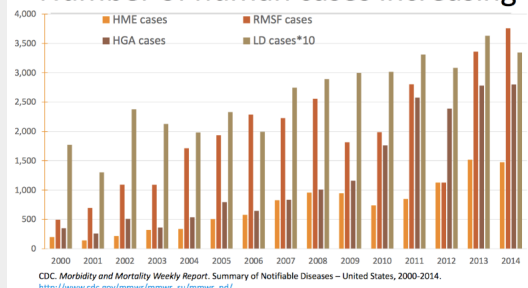
Over the past 30 years in Richmond, the peak tree pollen count has increased by over 50%. Higher tree pollen increases Emergency Department and Urgent Care visits for allergies.

Science Museum of Virginia Data Allergy Partners-Richmond

Warmer winters and earlier springs create more favorable conditions for tick and mosquito survival, reproduction and disease transmission.



Number of human cases increasing



Between 2006-2016 in Virginia, reported cases of Lyme Disease increased **3.6 fold** (357 to 1286), Spotted fever rickettsiosis including Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever increased **2.6 fold** (114 to 302) and Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis increased **13 fold** (8 to 103).