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“DISEASE DANGER DAYS” ON THE RISE

New report: Most cities see increase in mosquito risk-zone days

(Princeton, N.J.) — The number of days when mosquito bites are the most dangerous is increasing across much of the United States, representing a greater risk for transmission of mosquito-borne diseases, according to [Climate Central](#)'s new report [U.S. Faces a Rise in Mosquito ‘Disease Danger Days’](#).

“Rising temperatures due to human-caused climate change are playing a major role in the viability and range of mosquitoes’ survival, elevating the risk of transmission of vector-borne diseases like dengue, West Nile, Zika and other viruses,” said Jennifer Brady, Climate Central senior data analyst and contributor to the report. “We analyzed temperature data for more than 200 cities, and most of them are seeing an increase in what we are calling ‘disease danger days,’ days with a heightened risk for disease transmission,” added Brady.

To examine the role temperature is playing in disease transmission from mosquitoes, Climate Central analyzed the number of days each year in the spring, summer, and fall with an average temperature between 61 degrees and 93 degrees Fahrenheit. This is the range for transmission of diseases spread by mosquitoes of the *Aedes* or *Culex* type. Of the 244 cities analyzed, 94 percent are seeing an increase in the number of days considered optimum for spreading disease.

Other findings include:

- Reno, Nevada experienced the greatest jump in number of disease danger days with an increase of 52 days
- Three California cities rank numbers two, three, and nine on the list of biggest increases in disease danger days
- Of the possible 275 days analyzed each year, Honolulu and San Juan fall in the disease transmission zone for the entire stretch

“Climate change poses about the largest health impact that there can be,” said Dr. Jonathan Patz, director of the Global Health Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He added, “While some diseases will decrease because it will get too hot in areas for certain ticks and mosquitoes, overall the negative effects of climate change on vector-borne diseases far out way any positive effects.”

Because of the many different kinds of mosquitoes and their ability to carry a number of different diseases, the World Health Organization calls mosquitoes one of the deadliest creatures in the world.

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[Climate Central](#) communicates climate science, effects and solutions to the public and decision makers. Its interdisciplinary work is conducted by a team whose backgrounds include natural and social sciences, data analysis, journalism, and other fields.