Children and Temperature: Taking Action Now

May 4, 2016
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Logic of Policy Brief on Temperature & Children’s Health

- Temperatures rising
- Rising temperatures impact children’s health
- One indirect path is through infectious diseases
- Zika is prime example
- Mosquito Aedes aegypti is main mode of transmission
- Administration proposal
Global Temperature Increases after 1950

**Graph showing the departure from long-term average, in degrees Fahrenheit, 1880-2014.**

**Source:** NOAA’s National Centers for Environmental Information, adapted from “The recent global surface warming hiatus: Fact or artifact of data biases?” Science, 2015

PAUL HORN / InsideClimate News
Odds of Extreme Heat Increased

Impact of Rising Temperature on Children

• Direct effects: mortality, illness, infant deaths
• Indirect effects; vector-born diseases
Role of Aedes Aegypti

• Entomologist Marten Edwards: “[Aedes aegypti] loves us; it loves our cities; it loves our blood.”

• Carries Zika, yellow fever, dengue fever, chikungunya

• Aedes aegypti as effective vector:
  ➢ Range widest ever; still expanding
  ➢ Breeds in and around standing water
  ➢ More rapid growth in gut
  ➢ Method of biting

• Margaret Chan, Head of WHO: The Zika virus has already spread “explosively” in the Americas
Obama Administration’s Response to Zika Threat