

What's That Blowing in the Wind?

Bruce D. Snyder MD

2016

Heat Events



Vulnerable Populations:

Elderly persons 65 years and older - especially those who live alone

Children

Persons with chronic illnesses

Persons taking certain medications

Athletes

Outdoor workers

Homeless/ Poor – no AC

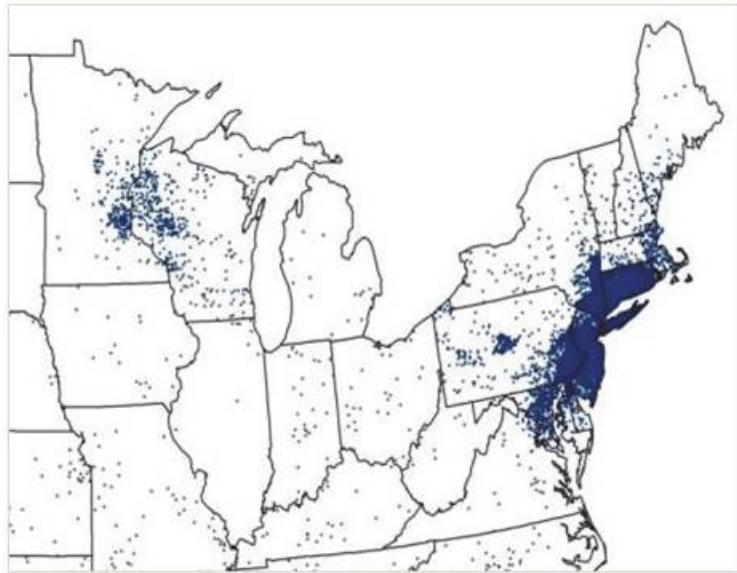
**During this heat wave please
remember to dress for the body you
have, not the body you wish you
had.**

qtations.com/16062

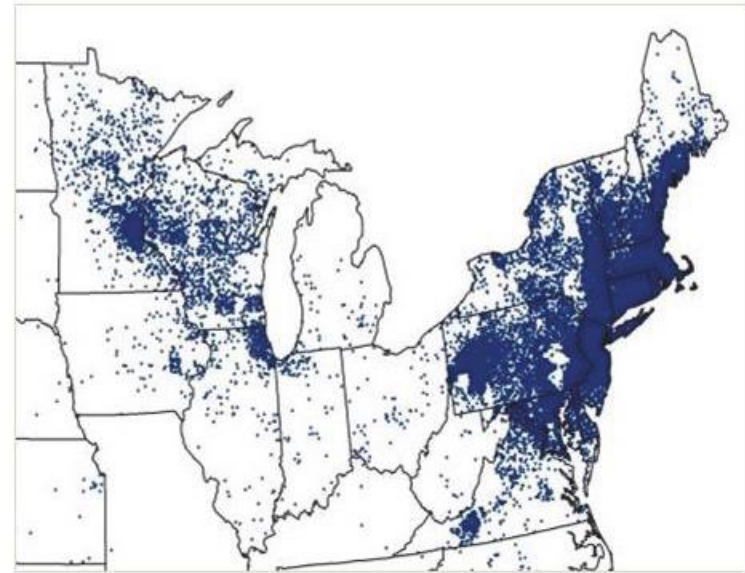
Enjoying the Weather!



Maps -reported cases of Lyme disease in 1996 and 2013 for endemic areas. Both the distribution and the numbers of cases have increased. (Figure source: CDC)



1996



2013



Asthma & Allergies

- **More Carbon Dioxide means more pollens; longer warmer wet seasons mean more time for us to breathe them in. Result - more allergies and asthma attacks.**
- **Rising temperatures have prolonged the Ragweed pollen season by as much as 11 to 27 days between 1995 and 2011 in central North America. MN - 16 days longer between 1995 and 2009.** National Climate Assessment 2014

2007 Whitewater River



Flooding

On average, the overall rainfall in Minnesota is increasing.

In Minnesota, the frequency of storms with 3 or more inches of rainfall has increased 104% in the last 50 years.

Examples of severe floods in Minnesota's history include:

- April 1997: Red River Valley
- August 2007: Southeast Minnesota
- June 2012: Duluth
- 2014 – Twin Cities



Air Pollution from Coal Plants and Traffic causes...

- *Over 2100 deaths/year.....

- *Almost 300 hospitalizations for heart and lung disease

- *About 400 ER visits for Asthma

- *12% of all deaths

Infants and Children

- **Risk of Developmental Disorders – behavioral problems and lower IQ - increased by air pollutants and mercury releases into our waterways**
- **Higher levels of air pollution increase the risk of infant mortality due to respiratory infections and disorders**

Flood waters surround the south side of Mercy Medical Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, early June 13, 2008.



EPA Clean Power Plan 2015

First limits on annual carbon emissions from coal plants. Projected to reduce 30% by 2030; ~ 730 M metric tons of annual carbon pollution equal to annual emissions from >150 million cars

Climate and health benefits worth an estimated \$55 billion to \$93 billion in 2030, including avoiding 2,700 to 6,600 premature deaths and 140,000 to 150,000 asthma attacks in children.

Cut toxic pollutants by >25% in 2030

Thank you!!