

Climate Change: A Public Health Concern?

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What are the major public health concerns?

- Increase in the frequency and duration of extreme weather events.
- Changes in air and water quality
- Changes in the ecology of infectious diseases
- Special Vulnerabilities of children, the elderly and urban poor



Hurricane Floyd
NOAA-12 AVHRR HRPT
Multi-spectral False Color Image
September 12, 1999 @ 21:48 UTC



**EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS TO CONTINUE AND LIKELY INCREASE;
EFFECTS ON SOCIETY MORE INTENSE**

OUR MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS



The Urban Poor



The Elderly

<http://www.katrinahelp.com/hurricane-katrina-91.jpg>

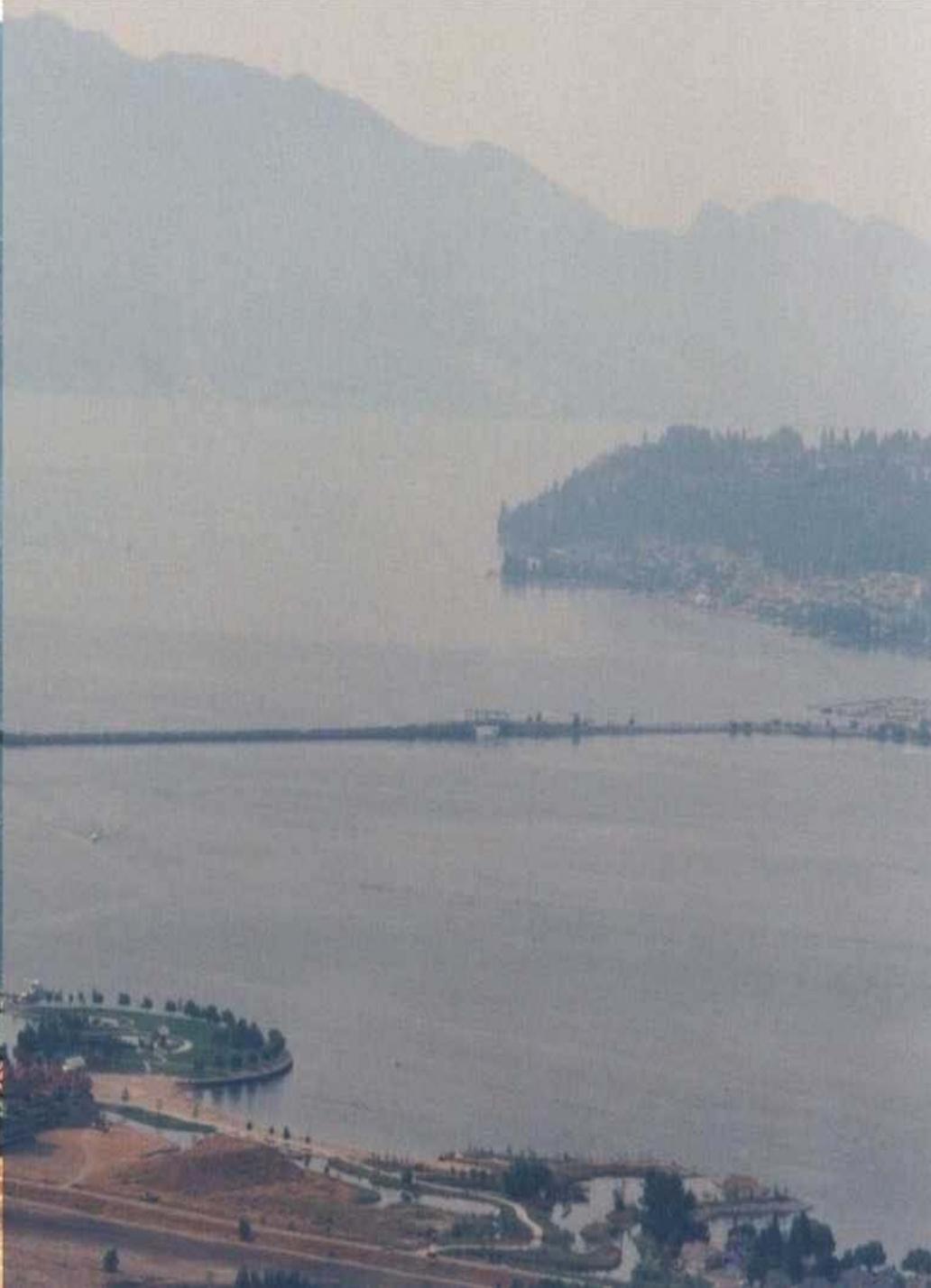
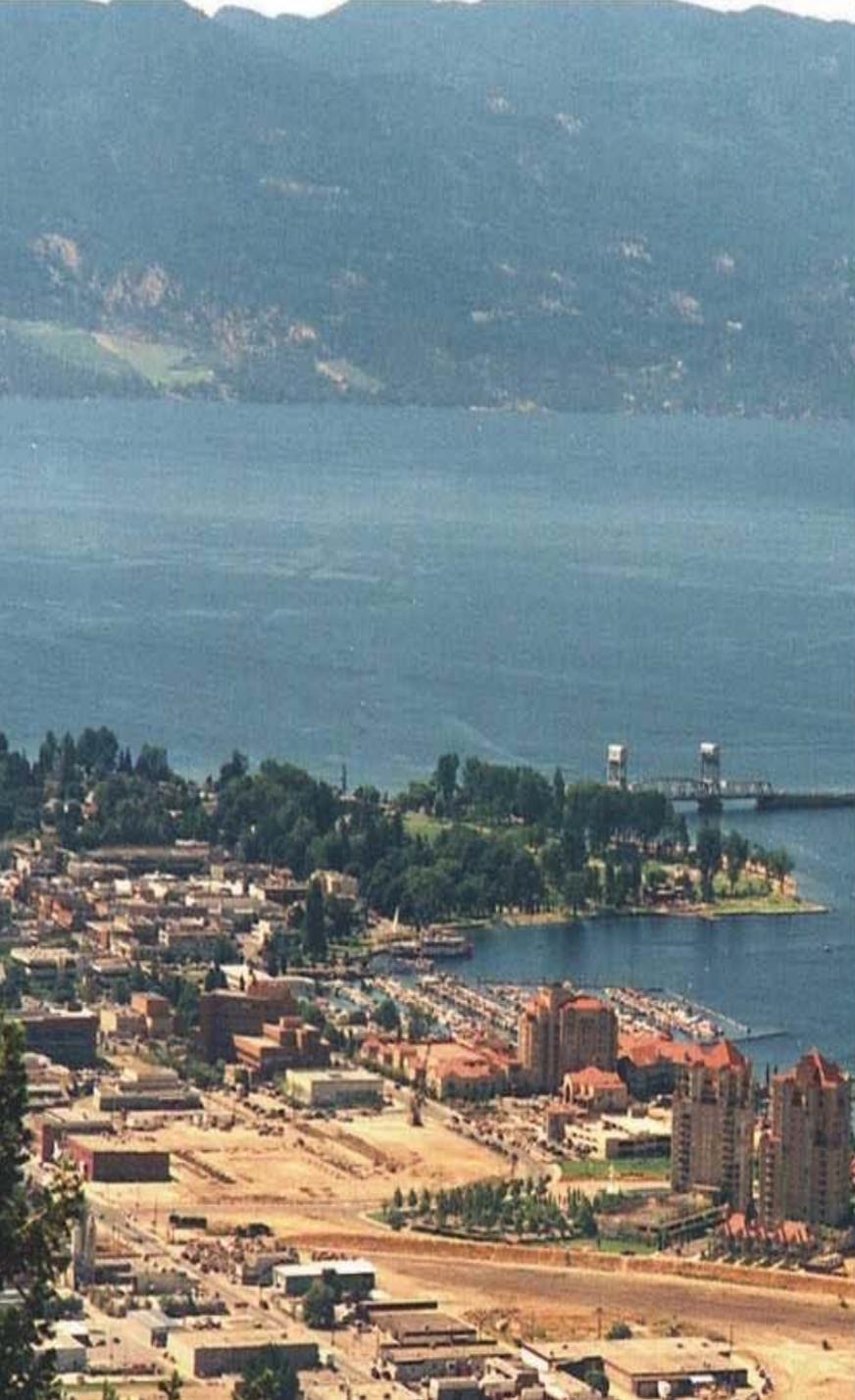


Children



**Rising
Temperatures
Worsen Air
Pollution**

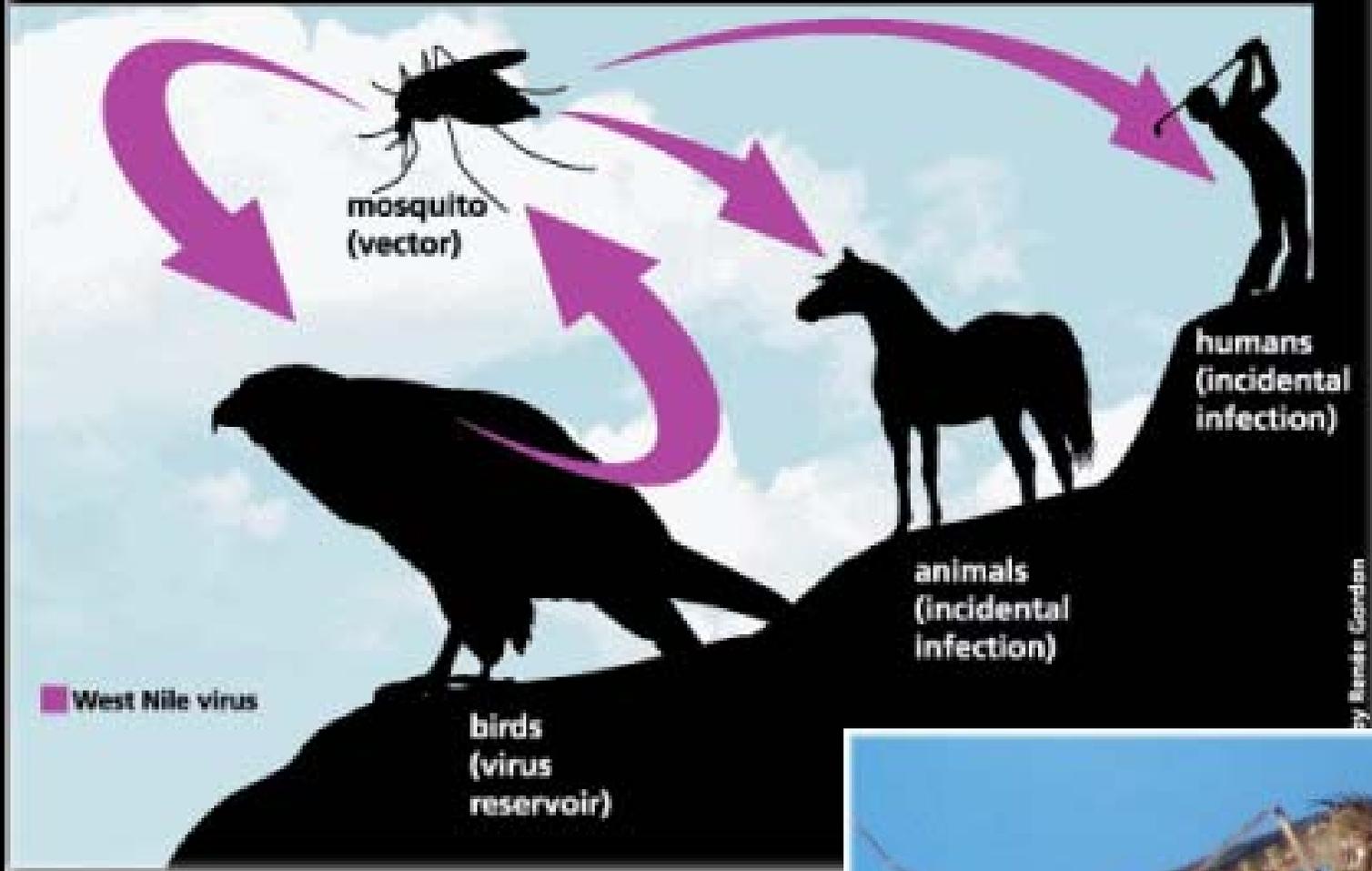




WATER QUALITY CONCERNS



West Nile Virus Transmission Cycle



CHANGES IN THE ECOLOGY OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES



Is there the evidence?

- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- Centers for Disease Control and Protection
- Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, Ocean and Climate Change Institute
- Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center, Oak Ridge National Laboratory
- Pew Center on Climate Change
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Scientific Literature

Individual Collective & Solutions

Individual Choices:

- Purchase energy-efficient appliances and cars
- Use public transportation when available
- Reduce, reuse, and recycle

Collective:

- Create and implement local, state and national policies that will lead to fewer carbon emissions from cars & power plants, good public transportation, sustainable communities, and renewable energy

Why do nurses care?



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