Position Statement on Mental Health and Climate Change

Approved by the Board of Trustees, March 2017
Approved by the Assembly, November 2016

“Policy documents are approved by the APA Assembly and Board of Trustees. These are . . . position statements that define APA official policy on specific subjects. . .” – APA Operations Manual

Position:
The American Psychiatric Association (APA) recognizes that climate change poses a threat to public health, including mental health. Those with mental health disorders are disproportionately impacted by the consequences of climate change. APA recognizes and commits to support and collaborate with patients, communities, and other healthcare organizations engaged in efforts to mitigate the adverse health and mental health effects of climate change.

Authors:
Robert J. Ursano, M.D., Chair, APA Committee on Psychiatric Dimensions of Disaster, Joshua C. Morganstein, M.D., Robin Cooper, M.D.