

## **BRACE: Building Resilience against Climate Effects in Illinois**

PI: Samuel Dorevitch

CO-PIs: Linda Forst, David Ibrahim, Bernard Turnock

Illinois, a state that is both urban and rural, and spans Great Lakes and Mississippi River basin, has experienced significant morbidity and mortality due to extreme weather events such as flooding and extreme heat. As a consequence of changes in climate, a variety of adverse health outcomes are expected to increase in severity and undergo changes in distribution within the State. These include vector-borne diseases, acute exacerbations of respiratory disease, waterborne disease outbreaks, cardiovascular events, heat-related illness, as well as depression and anxiety in individuals impacted by extreme weather events. Under the proposed “Building Resilience Against Climate Effects in Illinois” (BRACE-Illinois), faculty and staff at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health (UIC) will, as bona fide agent of the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), develop a Climate and Health Adaptation Plan for Illinois. UIC will convene a sequence of working groups, each addressing a BRACE activity, comprised of individuals who work in local and state government agencies, particularly IDPH, to ensure that Climate and Health Adaptation Plan for Illinois is consistent with existing programs and can be successfully implemented. Additionally, online educational modules that address climate and preparedness will be developed for health departments, the health care sector, and the general public.