Planning for Climate Impact in Public Health Policy:

Opportunities and Challenges

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Opportunities

Public Health related planning happening in New Jersey

- NJ State Health Improvement Plan: *Healthy New Jersey 2030*
- Community Health Needs Assessment: Hospitals/healthcare systems
- Community Health Improvement Plan: Local health departments; county-based
- Local Health Assessment & Action Plan: Sustainable Jersey
  - NEW: First Step in obtaining Gold Star in Health Certification; municipality-based
- Hazard Vulnerability Analysis: Emergency Management Agencies; multiple levels (State/county/local)
- Health Impact Assessment
Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Standards for Community Health Assessments and Community Health Improvement Plans

• Comprehensive, broad-based data from a variety of sources
  • Quantitative (primary and secondary)
  • Qualitative

• Documentation of the existence and extent of health disparities

• Participation by a wide-range of community partners representing various sectors of the community
Challenges

• Content of these plans is determined by availability and choice of data

• Given that:
  • How to incorporate health equity?
  • How to incorporate climate concerns?

• Particularly – How do we incorporate the impacts of climate change on health equity?
Climate Factors Impact on Health & Well-Being

• Heat & Heatwaves
• Storms
• Drought
• Flooding/Sea-Level Rise
• Air Pollution
• Vector Borne Diseases / Zoonoses (One Health)
• Wildfires
• Safe Drinking Water
• Food Security
• Safe Shelter
• Mental Health
• Access to Healthcare and Social Support & Infrastructures
Data Sources for Planning

• Quantitative Data
  • Mortality/Morbidity
  • NJ State Health Assessment Data (SHAD)
  • Hospital Patient Data
  • Health-Related Behaviors – BRFSS

• Qualitative Data
  • Community Surveys
  • Patient Surveys
  • Key Informant Interviews
Availability of Data: Sufficient Or Not?

• For health equity: YES

• For climate change assessment: LIMITED

• For climate change impacts on health equity: ????
Resource: Center for Climate Change & Health

Climate Change, Health, and Equity: A Guide for Local Health Departments - Center for Climate Change and Health (climatehealthconnect.org)
Examples from the Guide

• Denver - Addressing Heat Vulnerability
• Minneapolis – Supporting Community Resilience
• Portland, OR – Healthy Environments Data Indicator Project
• New Orleans – Building Community Networks
• Philadelphia – Climate Change & Health Advisory Group
• San Francisco – Climate and Health Adaption Framework
• Seattle – Climate Health Action Team
Resource: Georgetown Climate Center

• Equitable Adaption Legal and Policy Toolkit

Equitable Adaptation Legal & Policy Toolkit » Public Health Planning Tools - Georgetown Climate Center

• Models cited in the Toolkit:
  • Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative – Climate Change Guides
  • Oregon Health Authority – Climate Health Impact Assessments
Summary

• Better data on climate change impacts at the local level

• Community Engagement
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