**Communication Materials on Climate Change, Health, and Children**

***Summary Points from the U.S. Climate and Health Assessment***

# Background

In April 2016, the United States Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) released a new assessment report about a growing threat to public health: climate change. Drawing upon decades of research on the physical science of climate change, [*The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment*](https://health2016.globalchange.gov/) presents information on the increased risks that climate change poses to human health.

The U.S. Climate and Health Assessment significantly advances what we know about the impacts of climate change on public health. It also highlights factors that make some individuals and communities especially vulnerable to these threats.

During public forums, scientific conferences, webinars and meetings, as well as in public comments submitted during the development of the U.S. Climate and Health Assessment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received multiple requests for summary materials that would help communicate the message that certain populations are disproportionately vulnerable to the health impacts of climate change. In response to these requests, EPA has summarized information from the U.S. Climate and Health Assessment focusing on impacts of climate change on the health on **eight populations of concern**:

* Communities with environmental justice concerns
* Indigenous peoples
* Pregnant women
* Children
* Older adults
* Occupational groups
* People with pre-existing health conditions
* People with disabilities

For each of these groups, EPA has compiled a suite of communication materials for use by stakeholders who are looking for concise, accurate language to aid conversations with their constituent groups on climate and health impacts. Communication materials specific to each of the populations listed above, as well as general summary messages on climate change, health, and populations of concern, can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/climate-impacts/climate-change-health-and-populations-concern>.

# How to Use These Materials

Public health workers, local and state government officials, educators, advocacy organizations, and community leaders have a critical voice in communicating important health information to the people who need it the most.

In response to request from stakeholders, EPA has prepared materials to help communicate key messages on the impacts of climate change on human health. The information in these materials is tailored for anyone interested in **environmental health risks to children**.

These communication materials, derived from the U.S. Climate and Health Assessment, include:

* A factsheet, in English and Spanish, available online and as a printable PDF.
* A customizable PowerPoint presentation.
* High-Resolution images.
* An introductory paragraph on vulnerable populations.
* Key points about risks to children.
* Shorter messages about risks to children.

Because the availability of good information leads to better public health and environmental protection, these materials are designed to be used or modified to inform conversations about climate change and health impacts to vulnerable populations. For questions or assistance, please email [climatehealth@epa.gov](mailto:climatehealth@epa.gov).

# Electronic and Print Resources

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|  | **A Factsheet** onClimate Change, Health, and Children (four pages) is available in web and print formats, in English and Spanish. | <https://www.epa.gov/climate-impacts/communicating-vulnerabilities-climate-change-children> |
|  | A **customizable PowerPoint template** with talking points can be used at conferences and meetings as a standalone presentation or added to existing slides. |
|  | **High Resolution Images** can be compelling when paired with other outreach materials. Images are sized for various uses and platforms. |
|  | A **clickable map** with examples of state-by-state health impacts and resources to prepare and respond to climate threats | <https://www.epa.gov/climate-impacts/climate-change-and-human-health-risks-your-state> |
| A **ten-question interactive online quiz-** challenge your friends on social media! | <https://www.epa.gov/climate-impacts/quiz-how-much-do-you-know-about-health-impacts-climate-change> |
| **Climate Change Impacts Website** | <https://www.epa.gov/climate-impacts> |
| **EPA Children’s Environmental Health Website** | <https://www.epa.gov/children> |
| **cover.jpg** | **U.S. Climate and Health Assessment Chapter 9: Populations of concern** | <https://health2016.globalchange.gov/populations-concern> |

**Summary text**

*The language below can be used or modified for different formats or mediums, to communicate how children are especially vulnerable to the threat of climate change.*

**Introductory Paragraph**

Children are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change because of their growing bodies, their unique behaviors and interactions with the world around them, and their dependency on their caregivers. The United States Global Change Research Program’s (USGCRP) new report, [*The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment*](https://health2016.globalchange.gov/)*,* presents information on the factors that make children from infancy to adolescence more sensitive to environmental hazards related to climate change. More information about these impacts and disparities, as well as outreach and communication materials including a factsheet (in English and Spanish), summary key points, a customizable PowerPoint presentation, and high-resolution images, can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/climate-impacts/communicating-vulnerabilities-climate-change-children>.

**Key Points**

* Climate change affects the food we eat, the air we breathe, and the water we drink. It also leads to extreme weather events, like flooding, droughts, and wildfires. All of these impacts have an effect on human health.
* The United States Global Change Research Program’s (USGCRP) new report, [*The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment*](https://health2016.globalchange.gov/), presents information on the increased risks that climate change poses to human health and welfare and highlights factors that make some individuals and communities especially vulnerable.
* Children are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change because of their growing bodies, their unique behaviors and interactions with the world around them, and their dependency on their caregivers. A new factsheet from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Climate Change and the Health of Children* presents information on the factors that make children from infancy to adolescence more sensitive to environmental hazards related to climate change.
* Children are particularly sensitive to certain environmental exposures affected by climate change, like:
  + Air quality and exposures to allergens
  + Extreme heat
* Extreme weather events
  + Diseases carried by ticks and mosquitoes
  + Exposure to contaminated water
* Understanding the threats that climate change poses to human health can help us work together to lower risks and be prepared. To protect children against the negative impacts of climate change, caregivers should consider the age, stage of development, and health of the children in their care and work with health professionals, educators, and others in the community to minimize exposure to environmental risks.

**Shorter Messages**

* Children are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. To learn more, visit: [go.usa.gov/xkspk](http://go.usa.gov/xkspk)
* Children are vulnerable to climate change impacts due to their growing bodies, unique behaviors & dependency on caregivers. [go.usa.gov/xkspk](http://go.usa.gov/xkspk)
* Changes in air quality due to climate change may increase or worsen asthma & allergies for children. [go.usa.gov/xkspk](http://go.usa.gov/xkspk)
* More extreme weather events due to climate change lead to increased risks to the mental health of children. [go.usa.gov/xkspk](http://go.usa.gov/xkspk)
* Children’s growth & development make them more sensitive to environmental hazards related to climate change. [go.usa.gov/xkspk](http://go.usa.gov/xkspk)
* Children’s growth and development from infancy to adolescence makes them more sensitive to environmental hazards related to climate change. [go.usa.gov/xkspk](http://go.usa.gov/xkspk)