**Communication Materials on Climate Change, Health, and Indigenous Peoples**

***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 <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 indigenous populations**.

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 indigenous populations
* Shorter messages about risks to indigenous populations

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 Indigenous Populations (four pages) is available in web and print formats, in English and Spanish. | <https://www.epa.gov/climate-impacts/communicating-vulnerabilities-climate-change-indigenous-populations> |
|  | 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 Environmental Protection in Indian Country Website** | <https://www.epa.gov/tribal> |
| **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 climate change threatens the health of indigenous populations.*

**Introductory Paragraph**

Indigenous communities and tribes are diverse and span the United States. While each community and tribe is unique, many share characteristics that can affect their ability to prepare for, respond to, and cope with the impacts of climate change on 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 factors that make indigenous populations especially vulnerable 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-indigenous-populations>**.**

**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.
* Indigenous communities and tribes are diverse and span the United States. While each community and tribe is unique, many have shared characteristics that can affect their ability to prepare for, respond to, and cope with the impacts of climate change on health. A new fact sheet from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Climate Change and the Health of Indigenous Populations* presents information on the factors that make Indigenous peoples vulnerable to environmental hazards related to climate change.
* Some factors that contribute to vulnerability and risk of disproportionate impacts include:
  + living in rural areas or places most affected by climate change (like along the coast)
  + relying on surrounding environment and natural resources for food, cultural practices, and income
  + coping with higher levels of existing health risks when compared to other groups
  + having high rates of uninsured individuals who have difficulty accessing quality health care
  + living in isolated or low income communities with limited access to healthcare services
* Understanding the threats that climate change poses to human health can help us work together to lower risks and be prepared. Indigenous people have worked in regional networks, collaborated with scientists and academics, and leveraged Federal resources to limit vulnerabilities and build greater community resilience. Together, these actions can help to limit the negative effects of climate change on health.

**Shorter Messages**

* Climate change is expected to increase health risks due to water contamination for many Indigenous people. [go.usa.gov/xkspU](http://go.usa.gov/xkspU)
* Climate change will make it harder for Indigenous people to access safe & nutritious food including traditional foods. [go.usa.gov/xkspU](http://go.usa.gov/xkspU)
* Climate change is expected to increase health risks like asthma, allergies & COPD for Indigenous people. [go.usa.gov/xkspU](http://go.usa.gov/xkspU)
* Climate change threatens roads needed to access healthcare and emergency services in tribal communities. [go.usa.gov/xkspU](http://go.usa.gov/xkspU)
* A new EPA fact sheet discusses the impact of climate change on the health of indigenous populations. [go.usa.gov/xkspU](http://go.usa.gov/xkspU)