**Communication Materials on Climate Change, Health, and Occupational Groups**

***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 occupational groups**.

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 occupational groups.
* Shorter messages about risks to occupational groups.

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 and the Health of Occupational Groups (four pages) is available in web and print formats, in English, Spanish, and large font size. | <https://www.epa.gov/climate-impacts/communicating-vulnerabilities-climate-change-occupational-groups> |
|  | A **customizable PowerPoint template** with talking points can be used at conferences and meetings as a standalone presentation or added to existing slides. |
| \\betfile01\DATA1\Common\ERD\COOLIT-CLIMECON4_EPA-CCD\Task Orders\COOLIT 010 Support for Climate Communication Products - Health\task 5\fact sheet outreach\thumbnails for PPT and social media\Occupational_Thumbnail.jpg | **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> |
| **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 occupational groups.*

**Introductory Paragraph**

Certain occupational groups are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to where they work and the type of work that they do. 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 some occupational groups 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-occupational-groups>

**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.
* Certain occupational groups are vulnerable to climate change-related health impacts due to where they work and the type of work that they do. A new factsheet from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Climate Change and the Health of Occupational Groups* presents information on the factors that make some occupational groups more sensitive to environmental hazards related to climate change.
* Climate change is likely to affect the health of outdoor workers such as agricultural workers, commercial fishermen, construction workers, paramedics, firefighters, police, and other first responders, through:
* Increases in temperature
* Poor air quality
* Extreme weather
* Diseases transmitted by ticks and mosquitoes
* Industrial exposures
* Damage to infrastructure
* Workers exposed to hot indoor work environments (such as steel mills, dry cleaners, manufacturing facilities, warehouses, and other areas that lack air conditioning) are also at risk for climate change impacts such as extreme heat exposure or indoor air pollutants.
* Understanding the threats that climate change poses to human health can help us work together to lower risks and be prepared. It is important that employers understand the impacts of climate change so they can take steps to prepare for potential changes in the work environment and protect their workers.

**Shorter Messages**

* Some workers are vulnerable to climate change health impacts because of where they work and the type of work that they do. [go.usa.gov/xkspP](http://go.usa.gov/xkspP)
* Outdoor workers are among the first to be exposed to the effects of climate change. [go.usa.gov/xkspP](http://go.usa.gov/xkspP)
* Workers in hot indoor environments are also at risk for climate change impacts like extreme heat and indoor air pollutants. [go.usa.gov/xkspP](http://go.usa.gov/xkspP)
* It is important that employers understand how climate change affects the health and safety of their workers. [go.usa.gov/xkspP](http://go.usa.gov/xkspP)
* Military members stationed and deployed globally are often exposed to climate-related infections like dengue fever and malaria. [go.usa.gov/xkspP](http://go.usa.gov/xkspP)
* Military members who train in hot outdoor environments are at risk for heat-related illness. [go.usa.gov/xkspP](http://go.usa.gov/xkspP)