CLIMATE CHANGE AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

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#climatechangeshealth
Climate Associated Health Impacts: Children as a Vulnerable Population

Virginia Clinicians for Climate and Health
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Region 3
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THE LIKELIHOOD OF INCREASING MAGNITUDES OF WARMING INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD OF SEVERE AND PERSVASIVE IMPACTS
Climate Change and Health
Children are not little adults

- Drink more water per unit of body mass
- Eat more food per unit of body mass
- Breath more air per unit of body mass
- Have longer “shelf-life”
- Developing organism with stages of vulnerability
- Differing metabolism
Impact of Climate Change on Human Health

- Injuries, fatalities, mental health impacts
- Asthma, cardiovascular disease
- Heat-related illness and death, cardiovascular failure
- Malaria, dengue, encephalitis, hantavirus, Rift Valley fever, Lyme disease, chikungunya, West Nile virus
- Forced migration, civil conflict, mental health impacts
- Respiratory allergies, asthma
- Extreme Heat
- Air Pollution
- Changes in Vector Ecology
- Increasing Allergens
- Severe Weather
- Water and Food Supply Impacts
- Water Quality Impacts
- Cholera, cryptosporidiosis, campylobacter, leptospirosis, harmful algal blooms
- Malnutrition, diarrheal disease
- Increasing CO2 Levels
- Rising Sea Levels
- RISING TEMPERATURES
- MORE EXTREME WEATHER
- RISING CO2 LEVELS
Impact on Reproductive Health and Birth Outcomes
Congenital Zika syndrome is a pattern of birth defects in babies infected with Zika during pregnancy.
Impact on Children’s Health
Thank You!
POPULATIONS VULNERABLE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

OLDER PEOPLE AND THOSE WITH CHRONIC ILLNESS

OUTDOOR WORKERS

JANET EDDY, MD, MEDICAL DIRECTOR, BON SECOURS CARE-A-VAN
AGE AND CHRONIC ILLNESS

- Aging impairs regulation of body temperature
- Vulnerability to the effects of climate change is increased by many factors
- Extreme heat events increase ED visits and hospital admissions
- Meds that increase risk
- Disability and immobility impede evacuation
- Interruption in medical treatment posed by disasters
DAY LABORER
Hiring Area

TRABAJADORES
Area para Empleo
OUTDOOR WORKERS

• Brutal Virginia summer weather
• Workers at the mercy of their employers
• Heat tolerance varies in individuals
• Workers with medical/mental health conditions
• Ozone, FPM, allergen exposure
• Tick and mosquito exposure
• Disaster workers
MITIGATION STRATEGIES

- Increased access to air conditioning; cooling stations
- Increased green spaces
- OSHA campaign
- Educating our patients and communities
Low-income Communities, Communities of Color and A Changing Climate

1. What is New Virginia Majority
2. Our Strategies
3. Coalition Building
4. Environmental Justice is A Nervous Area of Climate Work
5. The Virginia Environmental Justice Collaborative
6. The Governor’s Advisory Council on Environmental Justice (EO73, 2017)
7. Campaign to address Coal Dust
8. HJ32: Coal Dust from Moving Trains
9. Resources: EPA’s NEJAC & VEJC

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QUESTIONS?

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