



Climate Change and Health at HKPR

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Outline

- The Climate-Health Connection
- HKPR Climate Change Health Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment – Phase 1
- Vulnerability
- Climate Change and Health in HKPR District
- Climate-Health Adaptation
- What's Next

The Climate-Health Connection

Global – 2022 Lancet Report on Health and Climate Change

- “At this critical juncture, an immediate, health-centered response (to climate change) can still secure a future in which world populations can not only survive but thrive.”

Canadian – 2022 Chief Public Health Officer’s Report

- “...given that climate change threatens the livability of the planet, compounds existing health issues, and widens health inequities, it must be a public health priority.”

The Climate-Health Connection

continued

Ontario – Ontario Public Health Standards

- “The board of health shall assess health impacts related to climate change.”
- “Boards of health shall monitor the impacts of climate change within their jurisdictions...”

Local – HKPR Climate Change Health Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment

- “Adaptation to climate change is most effectively carried out at the local level” (Dr. John Liu)

Climate Change Health Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment – Phase 1



Extreme temperatures



Extreme weather and natural events



Vector-borne diseases



Safe food and water



Air quality



Exposure to solar ultraviolet radiation

Climate Change Health Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment – Phase 1 continued

- Who is most vulnerable?
- Historic/current/future climate
- Current burden of illness
- Projected future health impacts
- Programs at HKPR and in the community that contribute to adaptation



What contributes to vulnerability?

Exposure + Sensitivity + Adaptive Capacity = Vulnerability



Changing Climate and Health Impacts in HKPR

- More ED visits due to heat-related, food, waterborne illnesses
- Injuries due to floods & extreme weather events
- Worsening of chronic illnesses
- Increased risk of poor birth outcomes
- Increased risk of Lyme and other vector borne diseases
- Increased risk of lung cancer, worsening of respiratory illnesses
- Increased incidence of skin cancer
- Increased impacts on mental health

HKPR Work Contributing to Adaptation

Monitoring & surveillance of ticks and mosquitoes

Recreational water testing

Public outreach education and skill building

Advocating for healthy policy

Emergency Planning

Poverty reduction work



Climate-Health Adaptation

Effective climate-health action requires collaboration across multiple sectors

Requires recognition of the links between climate change and health

Requires effective knowledge sharing – how to translate evidence into action

Public health leadership is required to advance climate-health adaptation, to “...collaborate across sectors for transformative action and intersectoral co-benefits”

Collaborative Climate-Health Action

- Climate change plans
- Land use and community design policies and planning
- Transportation planning
- Emergency planning and preparedness
- Poverty reduction
- Agriculture and food initiatives
- Education and awareness raising



Next Steps

Develop Communications Plan:

Goal 1 – Awareness: Share findings and raise awareness of links between climate change and health.

Goal 2 – Partnerships: Continue to build and strengthen community partnerships.

Develop:

Adaptation Action Plan (AAP)

Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (AAP)

Developing the AAP will include	Status
Input from cross-departmental <i>Internal Climate Change Working Group</i>	Continual
Literature review	In progress
Partner and community engagement	June - September
Analysis and synthesis	October – November
Draft report completed	December 2023

What can you do?

Share Executive Summary and key findings with your colleagues and constituents



Help build awareness of links between climate change, health and municipal priorities





‘Healthy People, Healthy Communities.’

Thank-you

For more information call us at 1-866-888-4577, write us at info@hkpr.on.ca, or visit us at hkpr.on.ca



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