



California Department of Public Health
Office of Health Equity

Climate Change & Health Equity Program

v.5/19

The **Climate Change and Health Equity Program (CCHEP)** envisions a state where all Californians thrive in healthy, equitable, and resilient communities. We work to achieve this by building health equity, advancing climate action, and improving living conditions through policies, systems, and environmental changes.

WHAT WE DO

Work across agencies and departments to **embed health and equity** into California climate change programs and policies.

Guide state investment and resource distribution to prioritize health equity and climate resilience.

Provide data, research, and tools to identify and reduce the health effects of climate change and maximize the health equity benefits of climate action.

Increase the capacity of public health departments and partner agencies to work on climate change and health equity.

Engage with stakeholders to increase communities' power in decision-making.



“The CCHEP work has changed the dialogue and added great value to how cities, counties and communities identify what’s most important. CCHEP provides tangible examples of how to define and implement climate resiliency and equity at various scales.”

- JUDY ROBINSON, SACRAMENTO COUNTY

The **Climate Change and Health Equity Program** influences grants, plans, and policies affecting land use, transportation, housing, energy, income & jobs, natural and working lands, emergency preparedness, and air and water quality.

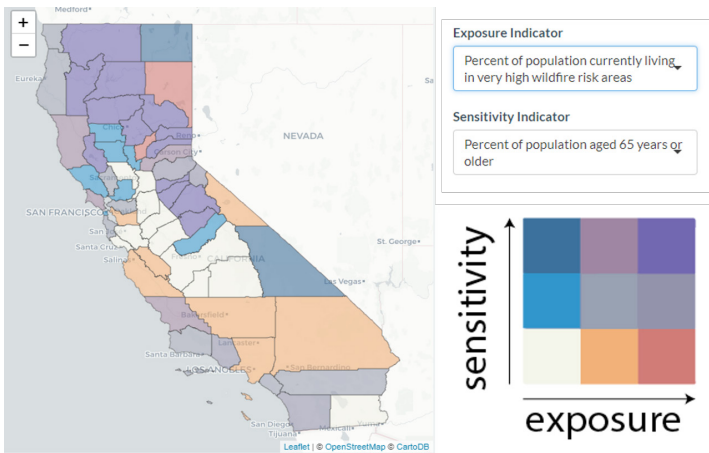
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided health and equity guidance to **over \$474 million in State grants** (e.g., *Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities Program, Transformative Climate Communities Program, Caltrans Adaptation Planning Grants*) to communities across California.
- Integrated health and equity into **State climate change plans and policies** impacting social determinants of health.
- Implemented the **California Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (CalBRACE) Project** which assists local health departments to prepare for health impacts of climate change.
- Created **tools for policymakers** to prioritize resources to vulnerable communities for improving their living conditions and resilience to climate impacts.
- Quantified the **potential health benefits** of transportation investments. This led to a state climate change policy goal to **quadruple walking** in California, and **increase cycling nine-fold**.
- Hosted **quarterly meetings of the California Climate Action Team - Public Health Workgroup** since 2009 to collaborate, inform, and plan action on the health equity impacts of climate change and climate strategies.



SPOTLIGHT: CALBRACE

The CalBRACE (California Building Resilience Against Climate Effects) Project works to identify how climate change is affecting Californians' health and to enhance resilience to climate change at the state and local levels. CalBRACE collaborates with state agencies, local health departments, and tribes across California to address climate change as a public health issue by providing technical assistance including tools, best practices, and planning templates.



Example from the CCHViz Tool Showing Vulnerability as Elderly Populations and Wildfire Risk



“The Climate Change & Health Equity Program is leading at the local, state and national levels. No other state program is having as much of an impact on climate change and health equity through policy technical assistance and development, data, and engagement with communities most impacted.”

- SARAH DE GUIA, CALIFORNIA PAN-ETHNIC HEALTH NETWORK

TOOLS

County Health Profile Reports

A report detailing the potential impacts of climate change for each of 58 California's counties
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OHE/Pages/ClimateHealthProfileReports.aspx>

CalBRACE Toolkit

A collection of resources to assist local health departments in adaptation planning
<http://bit.ly/CalBRACEtoolkit>

Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Indicators & Visualization

An interactive data visualization portal for indicators to help assess social vulnerability and adaptive capacity for climate change exposures in California
<https://discovery.cdph.ca.gov/ohe/CCHViz/>

Planning and Investing for a Resilient California

A guidance document for State agency planning in the face of climate change
<http://opr.ca.gov/planning/icarp/resilient-ca.html>

SPOTLIGHT: QUANTIFYING THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF ACTIVE TRANSPORT

In California, 8 out of 10 deaths are due to chronic diseases like heart disease, stroke, cancer, Type 2 diabetes, obesity and chronic respiratory ailments; and around 23,000 deaths per year are directly attributable to lack of physical activity. Many of these chronic diseases would be prevented or lessened if people were able to exercise more. The Integrated Transport and Health Impacts Model (ITHIM) compares different scenarios of walking, cycling, and public transit activity to show us how health outcomes, costs, and CO2 emissions may change for each scenario.

CCHEP collaborated with researchers using ITHIM to quantify the potential health impacts of increased walking, cycling, and transit using the 2020 Caltrans Strategic Management Plan goals and other state targets. The results found that on an annual basis, increases in active travel trips could save up to 5,541 lives, reduce health costs by \$3.6 to \$41 billion, and prevent nearly 100,000 years of living with a disability, mostly from reduced chronic diseases (Maizlish,2016). This analysis provided the basis for an ambitious active transportation goal in California's 2017 Scoping Plan.