Climate change and preventive medicine

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Abstract:
Thermal stress, food poisoning, infectious diseases, malnutrition, psychiatric illness as well as injury and death from floods, storms and fire are all likely to become more common as the earth warms and the climate becomes more variable. In contrast, obesity, type II diabetes and coronary artery disease do not result from climate change, but they do share causes with climate change. Burning fossil fuels, for example, is the major source of greenhouse gases, but it also makes pervasive physical inactivity possible. Similarly, modern agriculture’s enormous production of livestock contributes substantially to greenhouse gas emissions, and it is the source of many of our most energy-rich foods. Physicians and societies of medical professionals have a particular responsibility, therefore, to contribute to the public discourse about climate change and what to do about it.

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Resource Description

Exposure: weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Ecosystem Changes, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Quality, Food/Water Security, Sea Level Rise, Temperature

Extreme Weather Event: Flooding, Hurricanes/Cyclones, Wildfires


Temperature: Extreme Heat, Fluctuations

Geographic Feature: resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location: resource focuses on specific location
Global or Unspecified

**Health Co-Benefit/Co–Harm (Adaption/Mitigation):**

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

A focus of content

**Health Impact:**

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Cancer, Cardiovascular Effect, Diabetes/Obesity, Infectious Disease, Mental Health/Stress, Morbidity/Mortality

- **Cardiovascular Effect:** Other Cardiovascular Effect
  - **Cardiovascular Disease (other):** Coronary Artery Disease

- **Infectious Disease:** General Infectious Disease, Vectorborne Disease
  - **Vectorborne Disease:** Mosquito-borne Disease
    - **Mosquito-borne Disease:** Dengue, Malaria

- **Mental Health Effect/Stress:** Other Mental Disorder

**Medical Community Engagement:**

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

**Mitigation/Adaptation:**

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

  - Mitigation

**Model/Methodology:**

type of model used or methodology development is a focus of resource

  - Exposure Change Prediction

**Resource Type:**

format or standard characteristic of resource

  - Policy/Opinion

**Timescale:**

time period studied

  - Long-Term (>50 years)