The background of the slide features a large, faint, circular seal of Rutgers University. The seal contains the text 'THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY' around the perimeter and a central emblem with a sunburst design.

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The Intersection of Climate Change & Health Inequities
NJSOPHE Annual Meeting

December 6, 2019

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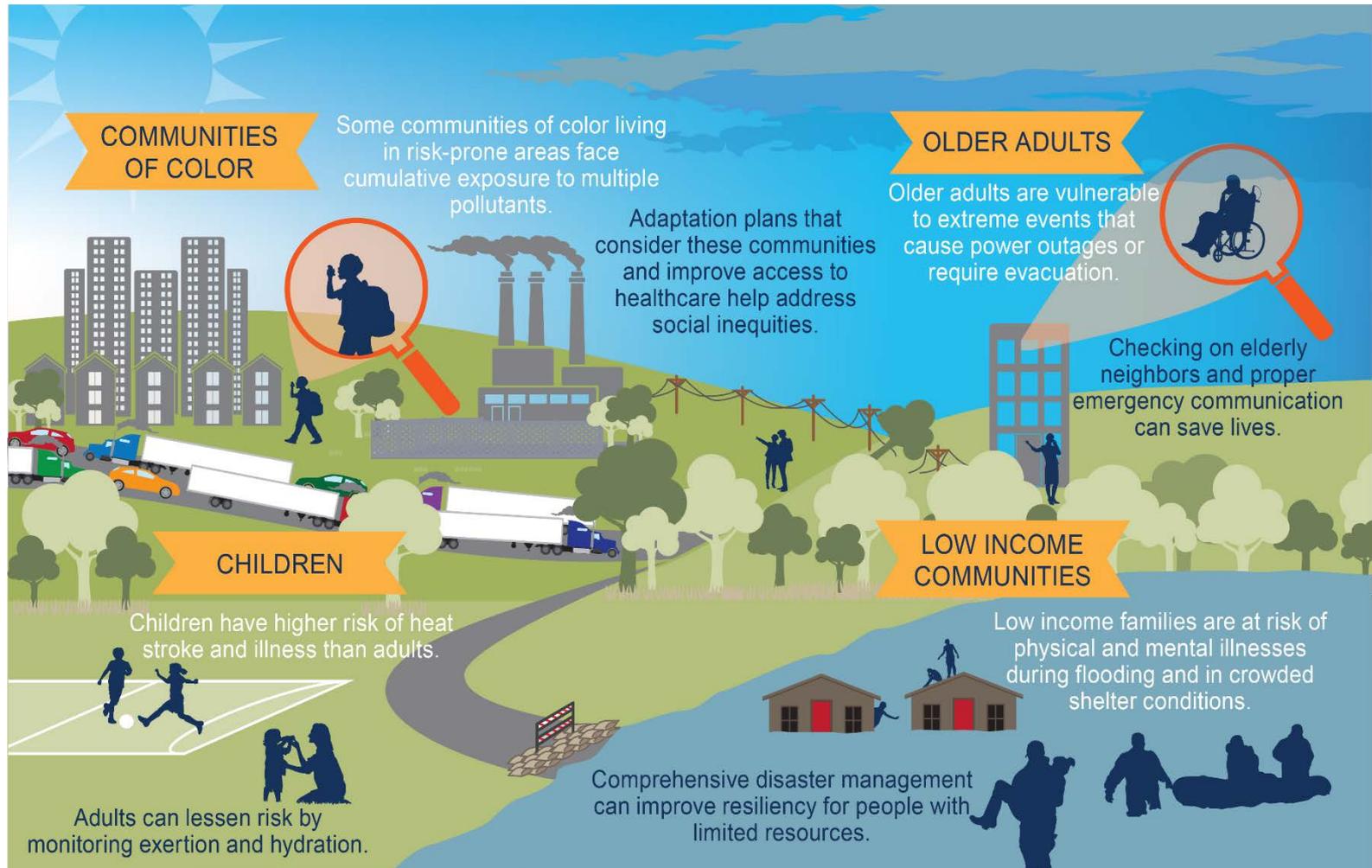
Key Message: Climate Change Affects the Health of All Americans



FOURTH NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENT

CHAPTER 14: HUMAN HEALTH

Key Message: Exposure and Resilience Varies Across Populations and Communities

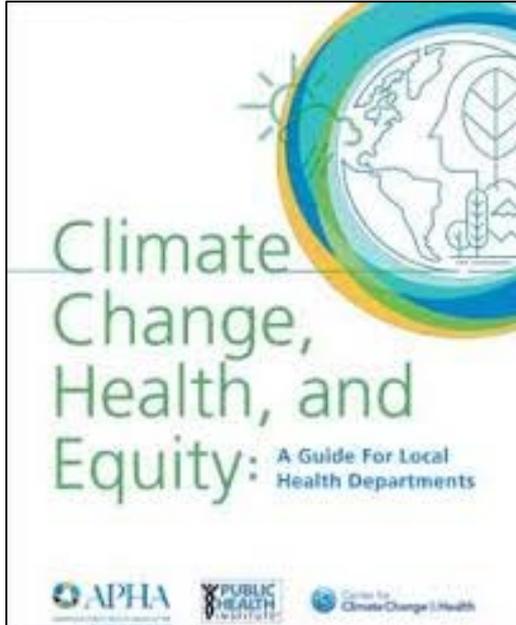


“**Health equity** means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care.”



Braveman et.al. 2017

“Climate change & health inequities are inextricably linked”



- *Climate Change disproportionately affects the health of low-income communities & communities of color.*
- *Climate change & health inequities share the same root causes.*
- *Addressing climate change and health inequities requires transformational change in our systems and communities.*



What else have we heard:

1. Underlying societal inequities are the biggest hurdle to achieving resilience.
2. Populations most affected by climate change lack a “seat at the table.”
3. Socially vulnerable populations and service providers perceive that resilience and recovery resources are inequitably distributed.
4. Government has a role to play but not the only role.
5. Most vulnerable populations are (generally) the ones contributing least to climate change.

Climate Change: An Exacerbator of Root Causes of Health Inequities

NATION & WORLD | Posted September 13 | Updated September 14

Deaths of 8 nursing home patients raise concerns about Florida's elderly

The home had no air conditioning because of Hurricane Irma, but it is across the street from an air-conditioned hospital.

BY TIM REYNOLDS AND TERRY SPENCER ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Key Message 2: Most Vulnerable at Most Risk

Climate change will, absent other changes, amplify some of the existing health threats the nation now faces. Certain people and communities are especially vulnerable, including children, the elderly, the sick, the poor, and some communities of color.



An Emerging Action Plan

1. Develop actionable data for state and local public health planning (State Health Improvement Plan, County Health Improvement Plans, State Resilience Plan, etc.). Link availability of actionable data to training and best practices for local health departments.
2. Assess health impacts of state climate resilience and mitigation policies, especially on most vulnerable populations (use of Health Impact Assessment). Develop tools that can be used by state and local decision-makers to consider equity as part of climate and health decision-making.
3. Advance climate policies that embrace a Health in All Policies approach. (i.e. Community based resilience and sustainable community energy planning that intersects strategies to address upstream social determinants of health.)

5. Build partnerships with clinicians to: activate support for climate policy; recognize increasing disease burden on patients; highlight climate change as an exacerbator of social determinants of health.
6. Mandate integration of health and climate change consideration into state and local planning efforts. Identify how climate change exacerbates social determinants of health in statewide goals/plans (State Health Improvement Plan, State Resilience Plan, State Development and Redevelopment Plan, etc.)
7. Integrate climate into health systems' planning efforts (Community Health Needs Assessments, resilience and emissions related to operations and procedures). Undertake a comprehensive health systems sustainability initiative.
8. Prepare the next generation of professionals in ways to think that are transformative and solution-oriented.

9. Enhance capacity of the state's public health community and organizations that represent populations/communities most affected by climate change to have strong voices in deliberations about state climate change policy and state health policy.
10. Establish mandates that are designed to direct program benefits and resources to populations and communities most affected by climate change (resilience and mitigation) such as:
 - clean energy upgrades;
 - Safe, healthy energy-efficient affordable housing
 - Subsidies to enhance low-carbon transportation mobility for under resourced communities.
11. Require coordinated interagency action at the state and local levels to address root causes of health inequities that increase some populations/communities' vulnerability to climate change.

12. Apply a foundational public health approach to statewide air quality planning. Rather than focusing on individual air pollutants, focus on overall health outcomes and communities that have health inequities. Develop a health outcome-based State Implementation Plan.
13. Conduct a Health Impact Assessment on the state Energy Master Plan to ensure that the EMP takes an integrated approach to addressing social determinants of health.
14. Develop best practices for state and local agencies on truly authentic participatory processes to engage populations and communities that are most affected by health inequities and climate change that are historically underrepresented in decision-making processes.
15. Undertake demonstration and pilot projects of innovations and document co-benefits (health, climate, economy, etc.).



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