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Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Understand the linkages between climate change and health equity
- Identify resources, tools and approaches to help centre health equity into climate change activities, such as risk assessments and adaptation measures
- Identify case studies and examples of climate change adaptation measures that promote and advance health equity

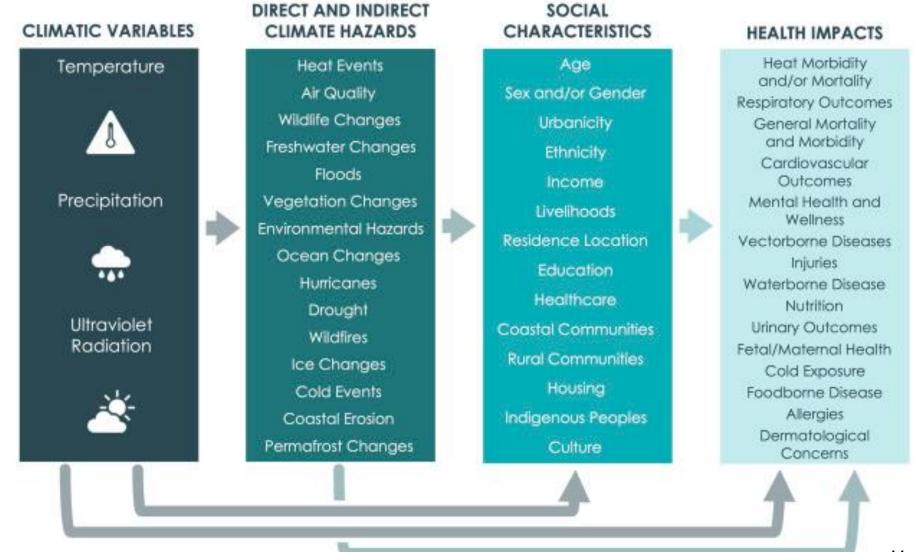
Health of Canadians in a Changing Climate: Advancing our Knowledge for Action

Addresses climate change risks to the health of Canadians, their communities and health systems to inform effective measures to build climate resilience.

Changing climate.ca



Climate change is already negatively impacting the health of Canadians and health risks will increase as warming continues



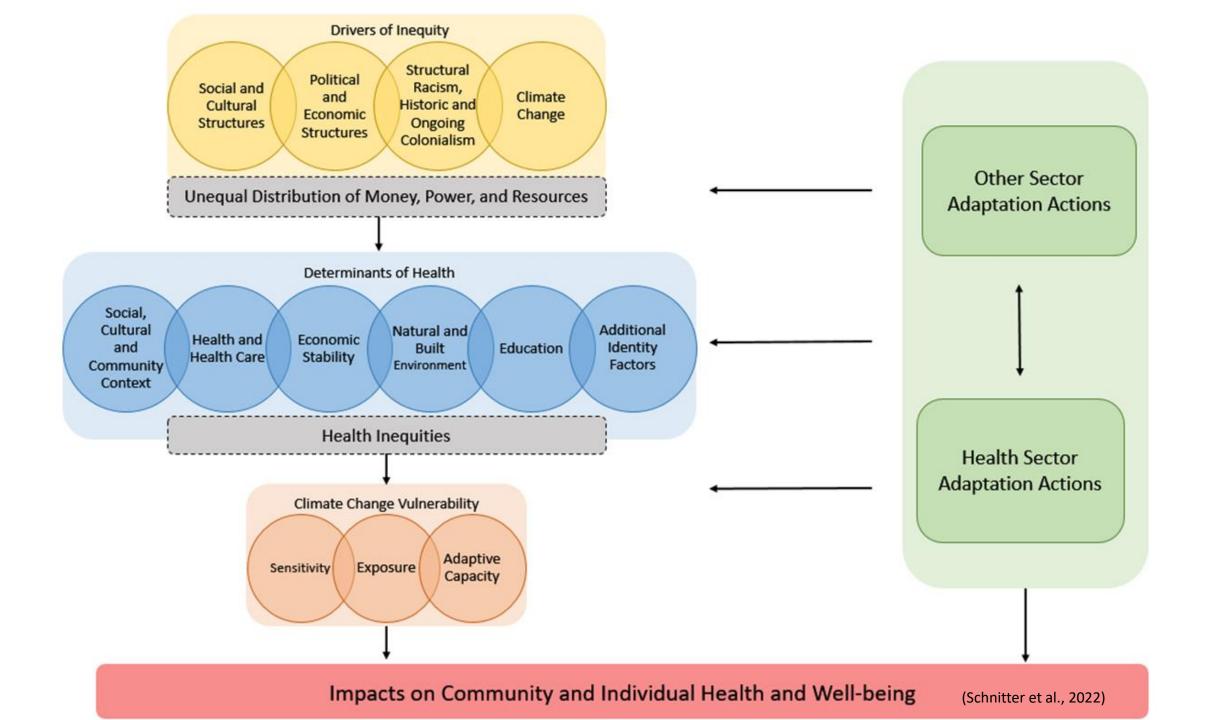
Inequities are systematic, avoidable, unfair and unjust

- Health differences are not random and are patterned across the population
- Health inequities are the result of how societies distribute resources, power and opportunities
- Health inequities stem from injustices, for example, historic and ongoing colonization and racism

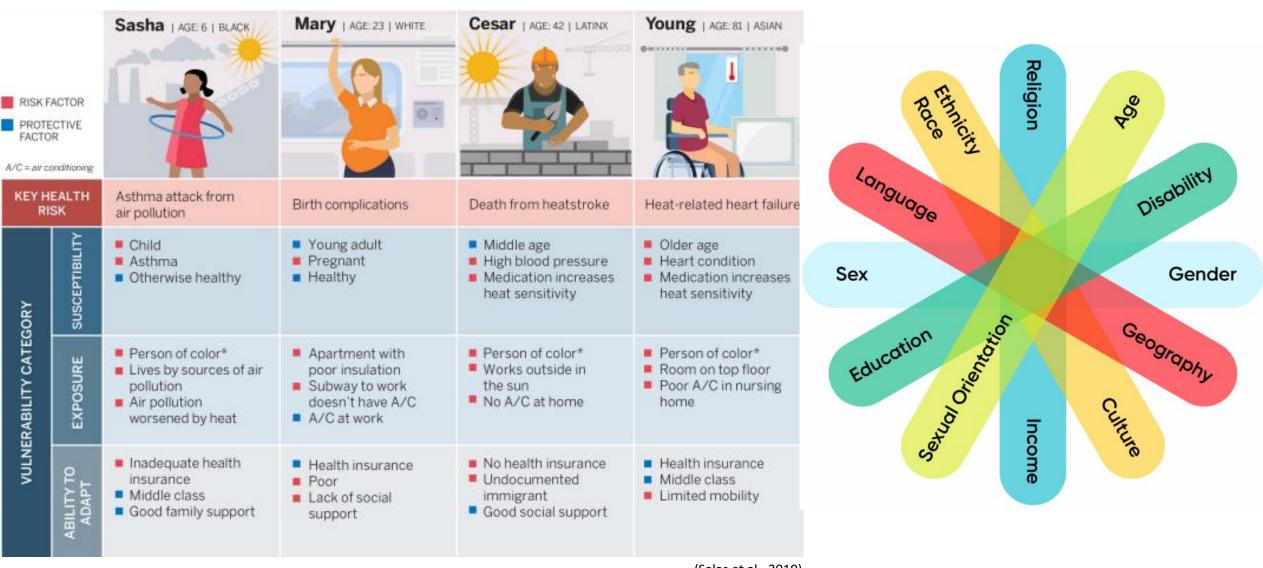
72.4 years The average life expectancy for residents in Inuit Nunangat^{†5} 12.3 The infant mortality rate per 1000 for Inuit infants in Canada.⁶ All Canadians 82.9 years The average life expectancy for all Canadians⁵ 4.4 The non-Indigenous infant mortality rate per 1000 for Canada.⁶

Climate change can exacerbate existing health inequities, and these inequities can further increase the health risks from climate change





Differences in exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity result in some people being more severely affected by climate change



First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples are uniquely sensitive to the impacts of climate change

- Often live in communities on the front lines of climate change
- Relationships with and dependence on land, waters, animals, plants, and natural resources for their sustenance, livelihoods, cultures, identities, health and wellbeing
- Greater existing burden of health inequities
- Historic and ongoing effects of colonization
- Socio-economic and political marginalization

Indigenous knowledge systems and practices are key to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples' ability to observe, respond, and adapt to climate and environmental changes.



Who is at risk?

Populations commonly identified as higher risk include:

- Seniors and children
- Pregnant people
- People with chronic health conditions
- Low-income individuals
- People with disabilities
- Racialized populations
- First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples

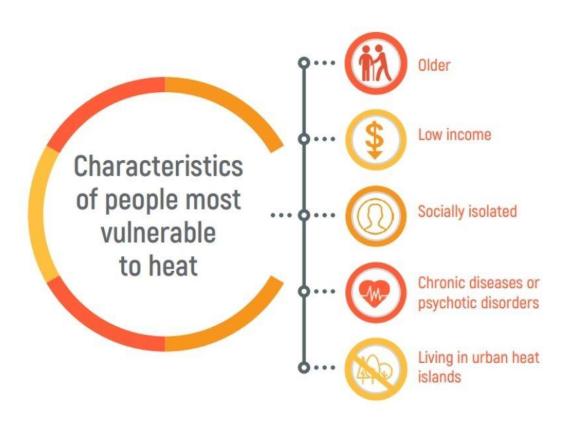
Other intersecting vulnerability factors:

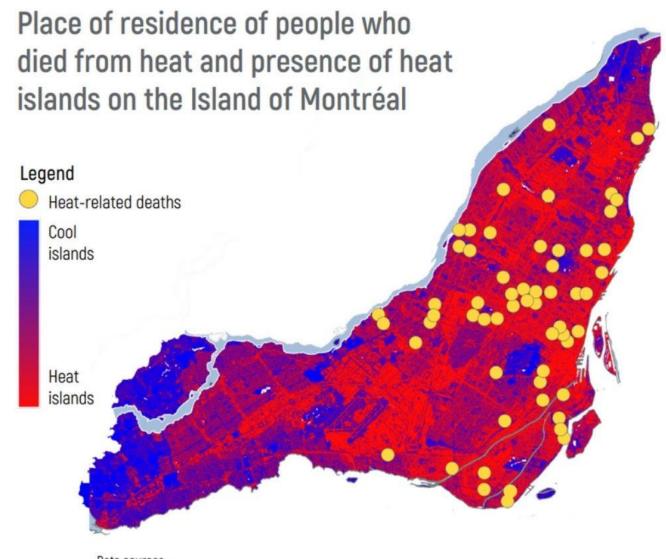
- Renters
- Those living in poorly designed dwellings
- Newcomers to Canada
- Socially isolated individuals
- People with mobility challenges
- Geographic location (e.g., coastal cities, urban heat islands)



DIFFERENCES IN VULNERABILITY TO EXTREME HEAT: **MONTREAL 2018**

- Extreme heat event in Montreal in 2018
- 66 individuals died from heat exposure





Îlots de chaleur / fraïcheur urbains et température de surface (Institut national de santé publique du Québec, 2018).



Climate change adaptation measures meant to protect human health are not experienced in the same way across populations and communities



In the absence of careful planning, adaptation measures may have unintended outcomes that adversely impact some population groups or exacerbate existing inequities

Urban green space example:

- Low income and racialized communities have less access to tree canopy cover and public green spaces
- Increase in green spaces could also perpetuate gentrification and increase property values, which may lead to the displacement of low-income residents and small local businesses



Health equity should be an important focus of climate change and health vulnerability and adaptation assessments and related knowledge development activities

(Image: Pexels)

Polling Question

Has your organization undertaken any climate change and health activities, such as conducting vulnerability and adaptation assessments?

Local and regional health units are taking action to understand and reduce the health impacts of climate change

 35% of public health authorities have already or are in the process of conducting a climate change and health vulnerability and adaptation assessment

Considerations of health authorities when developing measures to reduce climate change risks to health:

- 86% consider the needs of populations at higher risk
- 37.3% consider implications for Indigenous Peoples
- 25.4% consider Indigenous knowledge and perspectives
- 17.9% consider sex and gender implications

Tools and resources can enhance the integration of health equity considerations in V&As and adaptation measures

Assessments and Sex and Gender-based Analysis Frameworks

Resiliency and Asset Mapping

Vulnerability Indices and Mapping

Climate Change and Health Projections

- Gender Based Analysis Plus (Government of Canada, 2019)
- Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Health Equity Impact Assessment tool (OMHLTC, 2012)
- Climate Change, Health, and Equity: A Guide for Local Health Departments (Rudolph et al., 2018)
- UCLA's Center for Health Policy Research Asset Mapping Toolkit (UCLA, n.d.)
- Vancouver Coastal Health's climate vulnerability index and mapping project (VCH, 2020)
- Public Health's California
 Building Resilience Against
 Climate Effects: Climate
 Change and Health
 Vulnerability Indicators
 (CalBRACE, 2018)

- Climate Change, Health, and Equity: A Guide for Local Health Departments (Rudolph et al., 2018)
- Ontario Climate Change and Health Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment Guidelines (Ebi et al., 2016)

Actions to address climate change through established public health roles to improve health equity

Role 1: Assess and report on climate change impacts and related health inequities

Role 2: Modify and orient GHG mitigation and adaptation activities to reduce health inequities

Role 3: Partner and collaborate with others to build climate-resilient communities

Role 4: Participate in policy development related to climate change

Assess and report on

a) the existence and impact
of health inequities, and
b) effective strategies to
reduce these inequities.

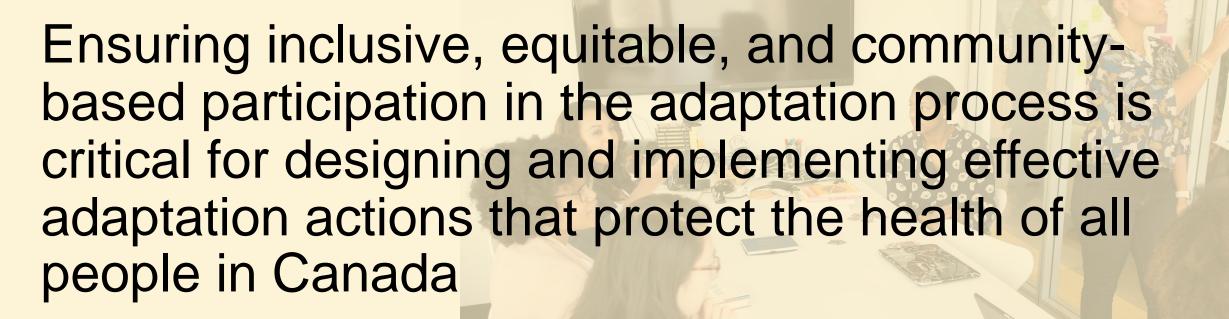
Lead, support and participate with other organizations in policy analysis and development, and in advocacy for improvement in health determinants and inequities.

PUBLIC HEALTH ROLES Modify and orient interventions and services to reduce inequities, with an understanding of the unique needs of populations that experience marginalization.^a

Partner with other
government and community
organizations to identify
ways to improve health
outcomes for populations that
experience marginalization.

PARTNER WITH OTHER SECTORS

(Muzumdar, 2020; NCCDH, 2021)



Equitable participation and the inclusion of diverse voices

Residents and community based organizations have important knowledge of:

- the assets and resources available in their community
- local and traditional knowledge
- past health interventions and campaigns (successes and challenges)
- can leverage their networks to help with communication and outreach of V&A results



Examples of guidance materials and frameworks for inclusive and equitable community engagement:

- Community-based Adaptation to Climate-related Health Impacts Framework (Ebi & Semenza, 2008)
- Making Equity Real in Climate Adaptation and Community Resilience Policies and Programs: A Guidebook (The Greenlining Institute, 2019)
- Working Better Together: Collaborating with Inuit on Climate Actions in Inuit Nunangat: A Framework for Governmental and Non-Governmental Bodies (ITK, 2019)



Health equity can be increased and determinants of good health strengthened through adaptation



Opportunities exist to promote and advance health equity through adaptation efforts

 Interventions that address underlying drivers of vulnerability and improve determinants of health can increase resilience to climate change

Nurses for Cool and Healthy Homes



- Incorporate heat risk assessments into nurse home visits
- Energy assistance and health referrals are made including utility payment assistance, home energy improvement, and heat health information

InosiKatigeKagiamik Illumi: Healthy Homes in Nunatsiavut

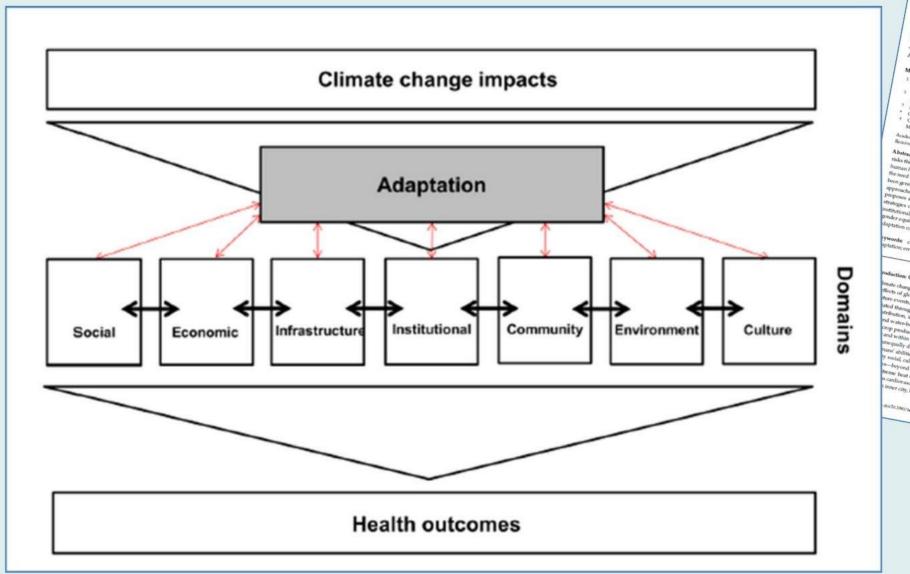


- Project aimed to develop climate-resilient housing infrastructure that was culturally-relevant, affordable, energy efficient, and reduced the health impacts from overcrowded dwellings and mold
- Community-driven housing design process

(Rudolph et al., 2015)

(ISC, 2019; Bennett, 2015)

EVALUATING ADAPTATION FOR IMPACTS ON HEALTH EQUITY





Polling Question

Does your work involve collaborating with partners and stakeholders outside of the health sector?

Communicating the Results of the CCHA 2022

National Collaborating Centre For Indigenous Health



Health Canada



ICLEI





Mobilizing Public Health Action on Climate Change in Canada

Annual Report of Canada's Chief Public Health Officer

Released October 2022

The Chief Public Health Officer of Canada's Report on the State of Public Health in Canada 2022



Thank You!

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