



NYC Health, Energy & Equity Action Challenge

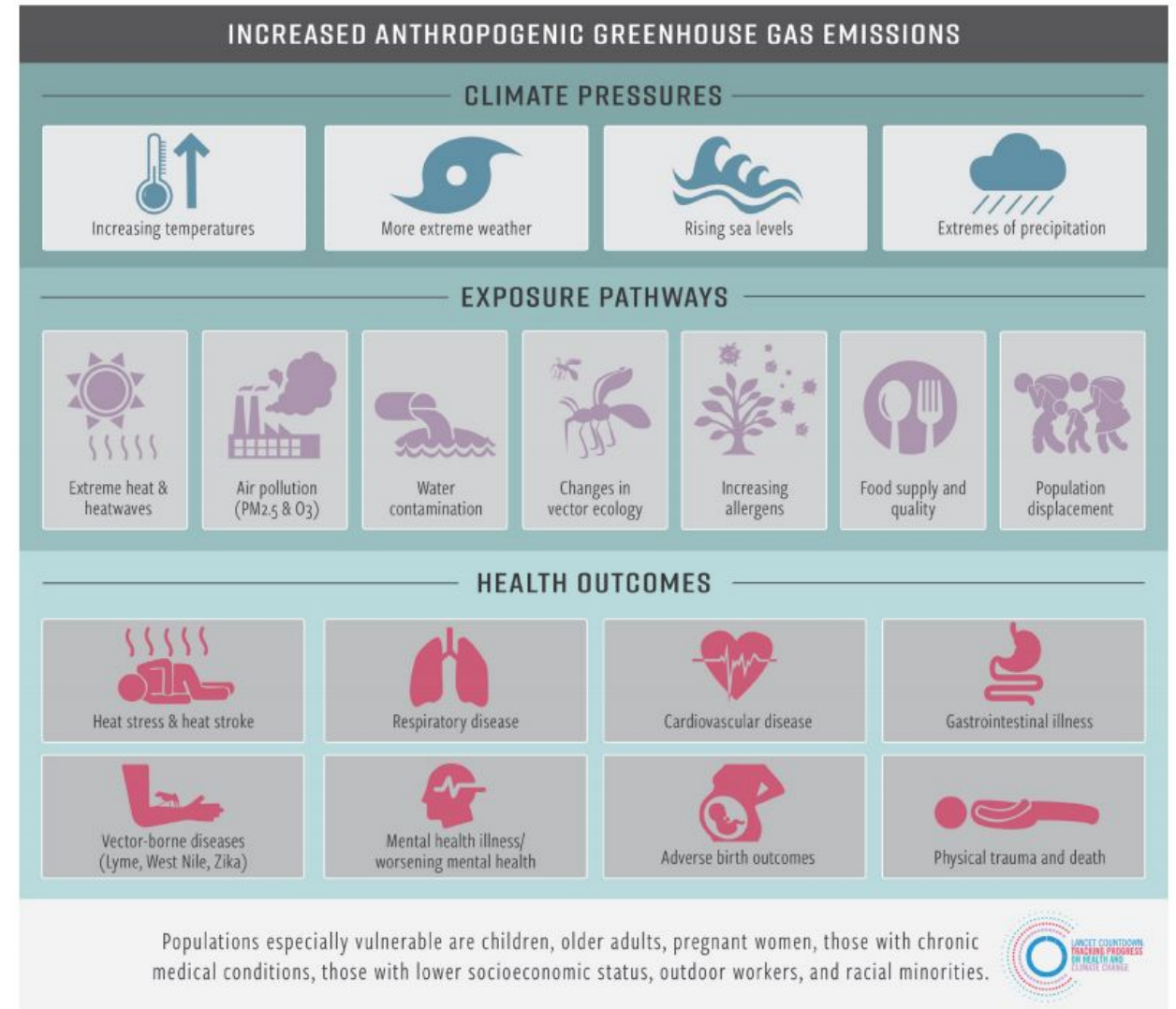
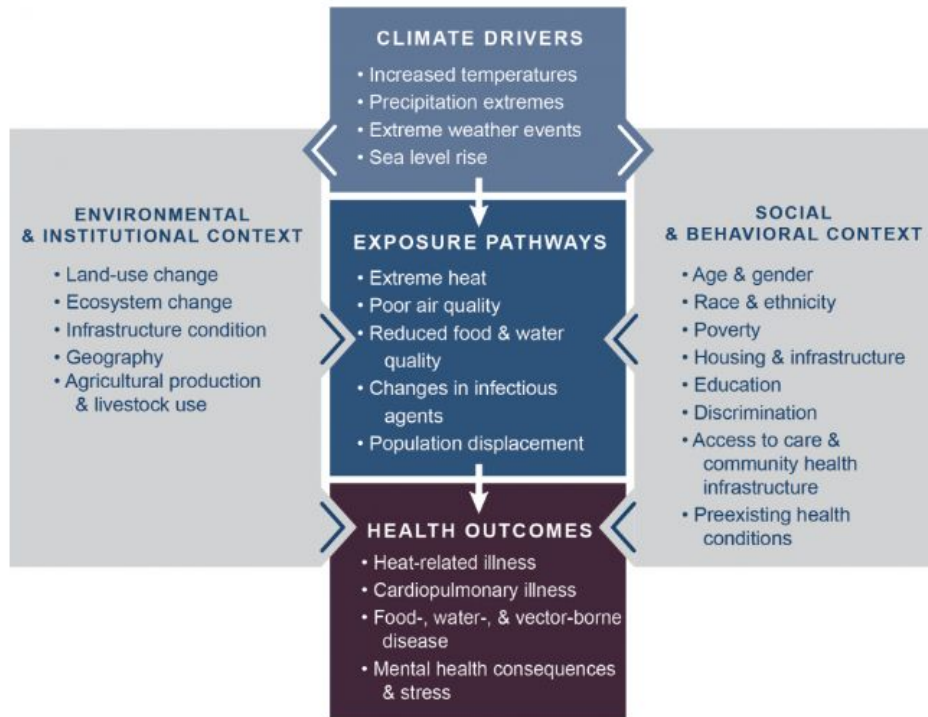
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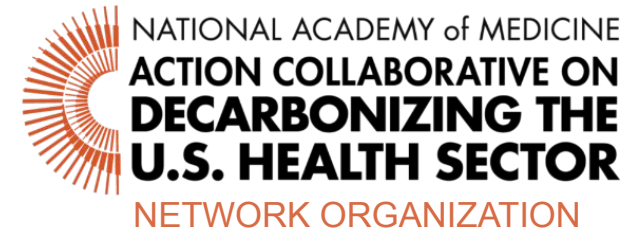
Climate Change is a Public Health Issue



Commitments

Health & Human Services (HHS) Climate Resilience & Carbon Neutrality Pledge

1. Reduce organizational emissions by 50% by 2030 and achieve net-zero by 2050, publicly accounting for progress on this goal every year
2. Designate an executive-level lead for the work on reducing emissions by 2023
3. Conduct an inventory of Scope 3 (supply chain) emissions by the end of 2024
4. Develop and release a climate resilience plan for continuous operations by the end of 2023, anticipating the needs of groups in their community that experience disproportionate risk of climate-related harm



Breathe it in.

Climate Change as an Accelerator



“Similar to other SDOHs, climate change worsens health, increases health care costs, disproportionately impacts vulnerable communities, and exacerbates the effects of other SDOHs”

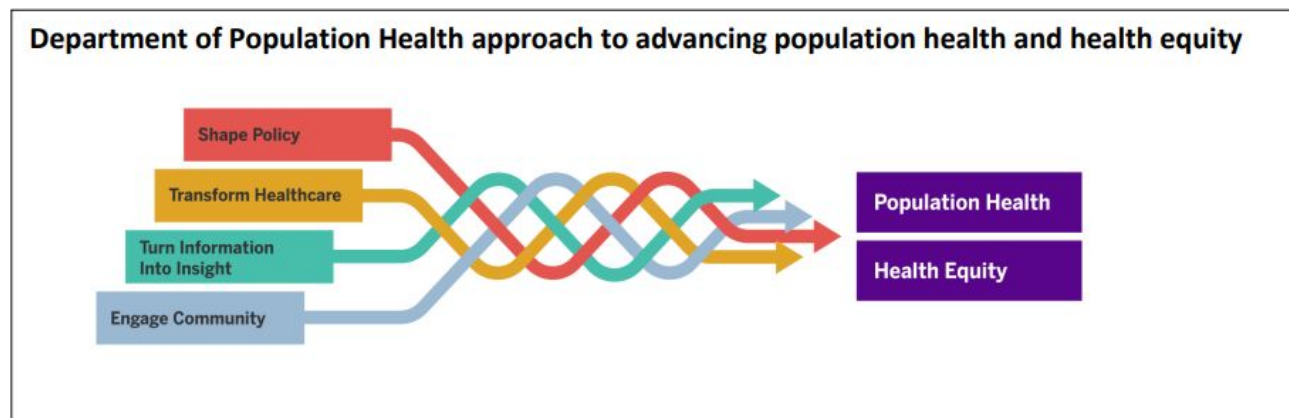
Ragavan MI, Marcil LE, Garg A. Climate Change as a Social Determinant of Health. Pediatrics. 2020 May;145(5):e20193169



NYU Langone Health's Approach

We identify and address key social determinants of health (SDOH) as part of our **community health needs and assets assessment**. This is especially important in **Sunset Park and Red Hook, Brooklyn**, which were selected as areas in need of services as evidenced by health disparities, risk factors, and utilization data.

Our services are carried out **through our Brooklyn hospital and Family Health Centers** whose network includes eight primary care health centers in Brooklyn and over 40 school- and shelter-based extension clinics.



We offer wraparound services and aim to connect patients to resources to help them address SDOHs.

Preventing Chronic Diseases

- Access to healthy foods through our food pantry and food box program
- Adult literacy classes and legal services
- Foster community-based partnerships to improve housing stability and quality of indoor environments
- Assistance signing up for public benefits

SDOH: Housing Insecurity

Types of Housing Instability and Related Health Conditions		
Housing Issue	Examples	Related Health Conditions
Homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total lack of shelter Residence in transitional or emergency shelters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased rates of chronic and infectious conditions (e.g., diabetes, asthma, COPD and tuberculosis) Mental health issues, including depression and elevated stress Developmental delays in children
Lack of affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe rent burden Overcrowding Eviction or foreclosure Frequent moves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stress, depression and anxiety disorders Poor self-reported health Delayed or diminished access to medications and medical care
Poor housing conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structural issues Allergens like mold, asbestos or pests Chemical exposures Leaks or problems with insulation, heating and cooling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asthma or other respiratory issues Allergic reactions Lead poisoning, harm to brain development Other chemical or carcinogenic exposures Falls and other injuries due to structural issues

Housing in Sunset Park

Nearly half of all Sunset Park renters experience rent burden (>35% of income on rent), with 1 in 3 renter households experiencing severe rent burden (>50% of income on rent).

Housing in Red Hook

Red Hook community members identified “home repairs” as the most essential service needed to improve health and wellbeing in Red Hook. Focus group participants cited needed home repairs, rent increases, and housing insecurity as key causes of stress, anxiety and depression.

Health Research & Educational Trust (2017). [Social Determinants of Health Series: Housing and the Role of Hospitals.](#)

Energy Insecurity as a Social Determinant of Health

- How do we empower hospitals to treat energy insecurity as another social determinant of health?
- What type of community-based action or services—renewable projects, weatherization, advocacy, utility relief—would be needed to reduce this SDOH’s impact on health?
- Hospitals can offer a trusted voice, access to vulnerable patients, stats on health issues—where could other stakeholders fill in the gaps?

Challenges for Hospitals

- Funding and personnel – these are activities outside of our four walls
- Hard to measure or tie specific health outcomes to interventions, which might be required for a health system for either its Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) or research.
- Can we help build community resiliency at the same time?
- What role, if any, can healthcare providers play in making sure energy insecurity doesn’t increase as we make the transition to a cleaner grid?

Problem Statement

To achieve New York's Climate, Health & Equity goals, a critical obstacle to collectively overcome in 12 months is to identify a pilot or intervention that helps hospitals address energy insecurity as a social determinant of health in a community also facing high rates of chronic disease prevalence.