



California Department of Public Health
Office of Health Equity

Climate Change & Health Equity Section

The **Climate Change and Health Equity Section (CCHES)** 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 capacity of public health depts. and partner agencies to work on climate change and health equity.

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

DATA & TOOLS

CDPH Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Indicators & Visualization

Assessing social vulnerability and adaptive capacity for climate change exposures in California

<https://discovery.cdph.ca.gov/ohe/CCHVt/z/>

CDPH County Health Profile Reports

Projecting climate impacts for each CA county

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OHE/Pages/ClimateHealthProfileReports.aspx>

CDPH CalBRACE Toolkit

Assisting local health depts. in adaptation planning

<http://bit.ly/CalBRACEtoolkit>

CDPH Healthy Mobility Options Tool (ITHIM CA)

Quantifying health benefits of active transportation

<https://skylab.cdph.ca.gov/HealthyMobilityOptionTool-ITHIM/>

Planning and Investing for a Resilient CA

Guiding State planning in the face of climate change

<http://opr.ca.gov/planning/icarp/resilient-ca.html>

California Heat Assessment Tool (CHAT)

Projecting extreme heat impacts on CA communities

<https://cal-heat.org/>

California Healthy Places Index (HPI)

Exploring local factors that affect life expectancy

<https://healthyplacesindex.org/>

KEY MESSAGES

- Climate change is one of the greatest public health threats of our time.
- Those facing inequities are hurt first and worst.
- Climate change policies can impact social determinants of health, and represent a significant opportunity to improve population health and health inequities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided health and equity guidance to **over \$565 million per year in State grants** (e.g., *Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities Program, Transformative Climate Communities Program, Caltrans Adaptation Planning Grants*) to communities across CA.
- Supported State agencies in implementing climate legislation and executive orders around clean energy (SB 350), land use / transportation (SB 375, SB 150), climate adaptation (EO B-30-15, AB 2722) healthy housing and weatherization (AB 1232), climate adaptation (AB 1482), and more.
- Integrated health and equity into **State climate change plans and policies** impacting social determinants of health. Examples: CA Scoping Plan (State GHG Emissions Reduction Strategy), State Hazard Mitigation Plan, State Climate Adaptation Strategy, and more.
- 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 **public meetings of the CA 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.