**Communication Materials on Climate Change, Health, and Pregnant Women**

***Summary Points from the U.S. Climate and Health Assessment***

# Background

In April 2016, the United States Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) released a new assessment report about a growing threat to public health: climate change. Drawing upon decades of research on the physical science of climate change, [*The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment*](https://health2016.globalchange.gov/) presents information on the increased risks that climate change poses to human health.

The U.S. Climate and Health Assessment significantly advances what we know about the impacts of climate change on public health. It also highlights factors that make some individuals and communities especially vulnerable to these threats.

During public forums, scientific conferences, webinars and meetings, as well as in public comments submitted during the development of the U.S. Climate and Health Assessment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received multiple requests for summary materials that would help communicate the message that certain populations are disproportionately vulnerable to the health impacts of climate change. In response to these requests, EPA has summarized information from the U.S. Climate and Health Assessment focusing on impacts of climate change on the health on **eight populations of concern**:

* Communities with environmental justice concerns
* Indigenous peoples
* Pregnant women
* Children
* Older adults
* Occupational groups
* People with pre-existing health conditions
* People with disabilities

For each of these groups, EPA has compiled a suite of communication materials for use by stakeholders who are looking for concise, accurate language to aid conversations with their constituent groups on climate and health impacts. Communication materials specific to each of the populations listed above, as well as general summary messages on climate change, health, and populations of concern, can be found here:

<https://www.epa.gov/climate-impacts/climate-change-health-and-populations-concern.>

# How to Use These Materials

Public health workers, local and state government officials, educators, advocacy organizations, and community leaders have a critical voice in communicating important health information to the people who need it the most.

In response to request from stakeholders, EPA has prepared materials to help communicate key messages on the impacts of climate change on human health. The information in these materials is tailored for anyone interested in **environmental health risks to pregnant women**.

These communication materials, derived from the U.S. Climate and Health Assessment, include:

* A factsheet, in English and Spanish, available online and as a printable PDF.
* A customizable PowerPoint presentation.
* High-Resolution images.
* An introductory paragraph on vulnerable populations.
* Key points about risks to pregnant women.
* Shorter messages about risks to pregnant women.

Because the availability of good information leads to better public health and environmental protection, these materials are designed to be used or modified to inform conversations about climate change and health impacts to vulnerable populations. For questions or assistance, please email climatehealth@epa.gov.

# Electronic and Print Resources

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|  | **A Factsheet** onClimate Change, Health, and Pregnant Women (two pages) is available in web and print formats, in English and Spanish. | <https://www.epa.gov/climate-impacts/communicating-vulnerabilities-climate-change-pregnant-women> |
|  | A **customizable PowerPoint template** with talking points can be used at conferences and meetings as a standalone presentation or added to existing slides.  |
|  | **High Resolution Images** can be compelling when paired with other outreach materials. Images are sized for various uses and platforms. |
|   | A **clickable map** with examples of state-by-state health impacts and resources to prepare and respond to climate threats | <https://www.epa.gov/climate-impacts/climate-change-and-human-health-risks-your-state> |
| A **ten-question interactive online quiz-** challenge your friends on social media! | <https://www.epa.gov/climate-impacts/quiz-how-much-do-you-know-about-health-impacts-climate-change> |
| **Climate Change Impacts Website**  | <https://www.epa.gov/climate-impacts>  |
| **EPA Children’s Environmental Health Website** | <https://www.epa.gov/children>  |
| **cover.jpg** | **U.S. Climate and Health Assessment Chapter 9: Populations of concern** | <https://health2016.globalchange.gov/populations-concern> |

**Summary text**

*The language below can be used or modified for different formats or mediums, to communicate how pregnant women are especially vulnerable to the threat of climate change.*

**Introductory Paragraph**

Most women have healthy pregnancies and healthy babies. However, climate change can threaten the health of pregnant women and increase health risks for the baby. The United States Global Change Research Program’s (USGCRP) new report, [*The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment*](https://health2016.globalchange.gov/)*,* presents information on the environmental hazards that affect the health of pregnant women and babies. More information about these impacts and disparities, as well as outreach and communication materials including a factsheet (in English and Spanish), summary key points, a customizable PowerPoint presentation, and high-resolution images, can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/climate-impacts/communicating-vulnerabilities-climate-change-pregnant-women>

**Key Points**

* Climate change affects the food we eat, the air we breathe, and the water we drink. It also leads to extreme weather events, like flooding, droughts, and wildfires. All of these impacts have an effect on human health.
* The United States Global Change Research Program’s (USGCRP) new report, [*The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment*](https://health2016.globalchange.gov/), presents information on the increased risks that climate change poses to human health and welfare and highlights factors that make some individuals and communities especially vulnerable.
* Most women have healthy pregnancies and healthy babies. However, climate change can threaten the health of pregnant women and increase health risks for the baby. A new factsheet from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Climate Change and the Health of Pregnant Women,* presents information on the environmental hazards that affect the health of pregnant women and babies.
* Climate change can worsen environmental hazards that threaten the health of pregnant women. For example, climate change increases the frequency and severity of extreme heat events, which can lead to dehydration and kidney failure in pregnant women. Severe weather events may also make it difficult for pregnant women to get the specialized health care they need. Pregnant women with severe hurricane experiences may be at significantly increased risk for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression. Climate change can also worsen air pollutants, which can cause respiratory illness in and lead to low birth weight or preterm birth.
* Understanding the threats that climate change poses to human health can help us work together to lower risks and be prepared. It is important that pregnant women and their families understand potential exposures and work with their clinicians to minimize exposure to environmental risks so they can protect their health and the health of their babies.

**Shorter Messages**

* Most women have healthy pregnancies and babies. However, climate change threatens the health of pregnant women and increases health risks for the baby. [go.usa.gov/xkspv](http://go.usa.gov/xkspv)
* A new EPA fact sheet discusses effects of climate change on the health of pregnant women. To learn more, visit: [go.usa.gov/xkspv](http://go.usa.gov/xkspv)
* Climate change can worsen environmental hazards that threaten the health of pregnant women. [go.usa.gov/xkspv](http://go.usa.gov/xkspv)
* Climate change causes extreme heat events which can lead to dehydration and kidney failure in pregnant women. [go.usa.gov/xkspv](http://go.usa.gov/xkspv)
* Severe weather events may make it difficult for pregnant women to get the specialized healthcare they need. [go.usa.gov/xkspv](http://go.usa.gov/xkspv)
* Air pollutants can cause respiratory illness in pregnant women and also lead to low birthweight or preterm birth. [go.usa.gov/xkspv](http://go.usa.gov/xkspv)

**Shorter Messages (Spanish)**

* La mayoría de las mujeres tienen embarazos y bebés sanos. Sin embargo, el cambio climático amenaza la salud de las embarazadas y aumenta los riesgos para el bebé. [go.usa.gov/xkspv](http://go.usa.gov/xkspv)
* Una nueva hoja informativa de EPA expone los efectos del cambio climático en la salud de las embarazadas. Para saber más, visite: [go.usa.gov/xkspv](http://go.usa.gov/xkspv)
* El cambio climático puede agravar los peligros ambientales que amenazan la salud de las embarazadas. [go.usa.gov/xkspv](http://go.usa.gov/xkspv)
* El cambio climático ocasiona eventos de calor extremo que pueden causar deshidratación e insuficiencia renal en las embarazadas. [go.usa.gov/xkspv](http://go.usa.gov/xkspv)
* Los eventos climáticos inclementes pueden dificultar el acceso de las embarazadas a la atención médica especializada que necesitan. [go.usa.gov/xkspv](http://go.usa.gov/xkspv)
* Los contaminantes del aire pueden ocasionar enfermedades respiratorias en las embarazadas y también bajo peso al nacer o nacimientos prematuros. [go.usa.gov/xkspv](http://go.usa.gov/xkspv)