

## Climate Change and Child Health: Current Research, Future Opportunities, and Gaps in Knowledge

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The public health community now recognizes that climate change has far-reaching impacts on population health. Rising temperatures, severe storms, shifting patterns of precipitation, and sea level rise are projected to affect an increasing number of people through the end of the century, with both direct and indirect consequences for health. Children are uniquely vulnerable to the threats posed by climate change due a constellation of both biological and behavioral factors, including differences in physiology, metabolism, activity patterns, and diet relative to adults, as well as their dependence on caregivers. Yet despite the potential for heightened vulnerability among children and the need for adaptation strategies tailored to this population, research on the health impacts of climate change to date has been largely focused on adults. This symposium will highlight current research in the field of climate change and child health and identify opportunities and challenges in continued research and research translation for protecting children as global temperatures continue to rise. More specifically, talks in this session will review the current state of research on climate change and children's health, describe ongoing research projects in this field, and discuss the development and evaluation of adaptation strategies to minimize health impacts of climate change on this population. In addition, time will be reserved for a moderated discussion among presenters and audience members.

The study of the potential health impacts of climate change is a rapidly expanding branch of environmental epidemiology. We propose to use this symposium as a forum to reflect on the current state of climate and health research, with a particular focus on children, as well as to identify barriers to and opportunities for continued research and research translation in this area. As such, our proposed symposium is well-aligned with this year's focus on the future of environmental epidemiology.