

The homeless population is one of the most vulnerable groups to be affected by climate change. The amount of time they spend outside could increase their chances of exposure to climate change-related risks. Many individuals in this group have high rates of poorly controlled chronic disease, smoking, respiratory conditions, and mental illness that may increase their vulnerability.

IMPACT ON THE HOMELESS POPULATION

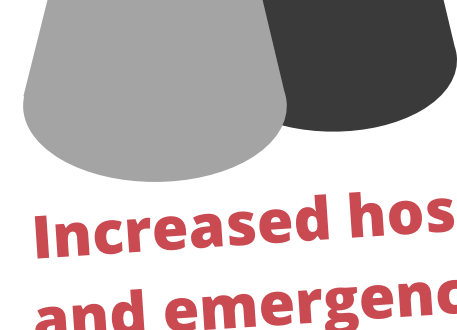
Increased frequency and intensity of Heat WAVES



Increased morbidity and mortality during heatwaves

Heatstroke
Heat exhaustion

Increased hospital admission rates for heart-related illnesses, kidney problems and cardiac dysrhythmia



Air Pollution

Increased morbidity and mortality secondary to underlying respiratory and cardiovascular conditions

Increased hospital admissions and emergency room visits for asthma

Chronic lung disease

Floods and storms



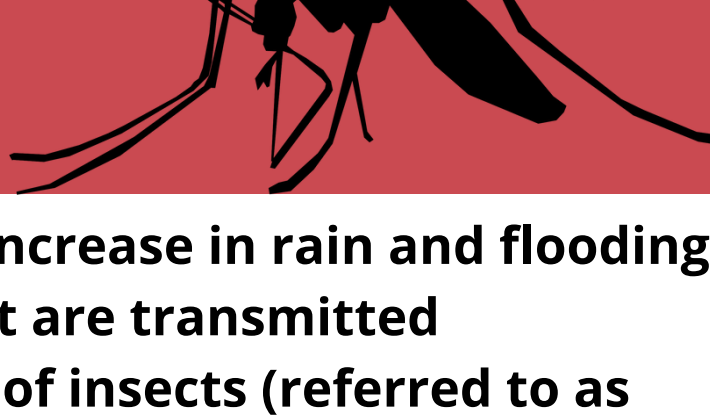
Increased mortality from floods and storms. Increased morbidity following floods and storms including:

ANXIETY

FOOD AND WATER-BORNE INFECTIONS, SUCH AS DIARRHEAL DISEASE

PTSD

Vector-Borne Diseases



Warming temperatures and an increase in rain and flooding promote diseases that are transmitted to humans through the bites of insects (referred to as vectors) like mosquitoes or ticks.

ZIKA VIRUS

MALARIA

DENGUE FEVER

LYME DISEASE

Mitigation vs Adaptation



Mitigation addresses the causes of climate change.

Adaptation is about managing the unavoidable consequences of climate change.



Focusing on **ADAPTATION** when working with patients experiencing homelessness can be more beneficial since they are already exposed to the hazards brought by climate change.



Taking a Clinical Approach



Patients experiencing homelessness might not be aware of the health risks of certain climate-related exposures. They might also lack access to weather and air quality alerts during extreme weather events.



Physicians and clinicians are trusted sources of information that can link climate change and health to provide patients adequate adaptation and mitigation strategies. (den Boer, 2016).



Including questions related to climate and health during assessments and providing individualized adaptation strategies to homeless patients might prevent further deterioration in their health (Ramin & Svoboda, 2009).

What you can do

to minimize the risks for patients who are homeless:

The AID method



Assess individual risks and provide education using a simple language.

You can explore their housing situation, living environment and health conditions that might be impacted by different climate events.

For more information about climate change-related health risks click [HERE](#)



Inform patients about any active severe weather alerts that might put them at risk and the recommended actions.

Patients experiencing homelessness might not have access to official weather alerts and the recommendations from the pertinent authorities.

For more information about weather related preparedness click [HERE](#)



Direct patients to available resources related to climate safety like cooling shelters, clean air shelters, warming shelters or any other resource available to them.

For more information about hazard mitigation plans and resources in NYC click [HERE](#)

Where can you find resources?

NYC resources are updated periodically based on the active seasons.



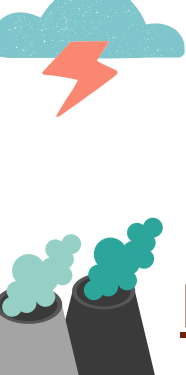
Call 311 - access to all New York City government services and information.



Download the Notify NYC app - New York City's official source for information about emergency alerts and important city services.

NYC Beat the Heat ([website](#)).

NYC Extreme Heat and your Health ([website](#)).



NYC Cold Weather ([website](#)).



Coastal Storm Preparedness ([website](#))

Know Your Zone ([website](#)).



NYC Outdoor Air Quality ([website](#)).

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