

Climate Justice &
Public Health in
Minnesota
Equitable Solutions
to the Climate Crisis

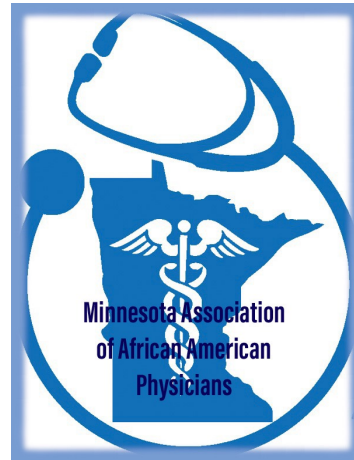
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Climate Justice & Public Health in Minnesota - Equitable Solutions to the Climate Crisis - Policy Recommendations ... Endorsed by:



Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate



Minnesota Public Health Association



TWIN CITIES MEDICAL SOCIETY



MINNESOTA DOCTORS FOR HEALTH EQUITY



MINNESOTA Psychological Association

Underlying Racial Disparities in Health

Compared to white Minnesotans, Minnesotans who are Black Indigenous, or people of color experience:

Higher incidence of:

- Infant and maternal mortality
- Heart disease
- Cancer
- Asthma
- Diabetes and other chronic illnesses

Shorter life expectancy

- Average lifespan is 81 years for white Minnesotans, 74 years for Black, 61 years for American Indian Minnesotans
- Black and American Indian infants are twice as likely to die before first birthday than white infants

Impacts of climate change on health

Fossil fuel pollution responsible for estimated 8.7 million premature deaths/year. PM 2.5 alone linked to 350,000 premature deaths annually.

Health effects of climate change such as extreme heat, severe storms and flooding, wildfires, drought, vector-borne diseases, and air pollution are increasingly impacting the physical and mental health of Minnesotans.

Underlying socioeconomic conditions, health disparities and disproportionate exposure to pollution place BIPOC and low-income communities at highest risk from climate change, with fewer resources to adapt to and recover from climate events.

Social vulnerability to extreme weather events

Factors that limit resilience when extreme weather events occur:

- living in poverty
- living in an area of concentrated poverty and/or racially segregated housing
- having an underlying chronic health condition or disability
- language barrier
- housing instability
- being unemployed
- having lower levels of education



Air Pollution

- Higher exposure for MN communities of color, due to living near traffic and industrial pollution.
- Exposure linked to hypertension, heart problems, asthma exacerbations, stroke, chronic kidney disease, reduced birth weight and premature death.
- Extreme heat days result in more ground level ozone which is linked to asthma exacerbations, adding increased health burden to communities already experiencing higher rates of asthma.

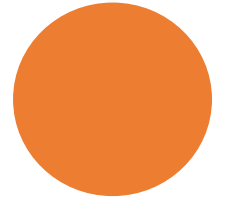


Food security

- Disruptions in food production and distribution mean reduced access & higher prices, impacting people already living in food deserts
- Effects on Indigenous people whose access to wild and cultivated traditional foods is critical to local economies and culture
- Intense rain events, drought, and adverse effects from warmer temperatures affect the financial viability of the farming economy and the health and mental health of Minnesota farmers

Chemical disasters

- Location of toxic waste and industrial sites in communities of color places their health at risk from routine chemical emissions, as well as from extreme weather events that could release toxic substances into water, air, or soil, causing both acute and cumulative health impacts.



Effects on Mental Health

- Extreme weather events cause trauma, anxiety, PTSD.
- Majority communities of color are particularly susceptible to climate stressors, because of existing trauma from violence, poverty and racism.

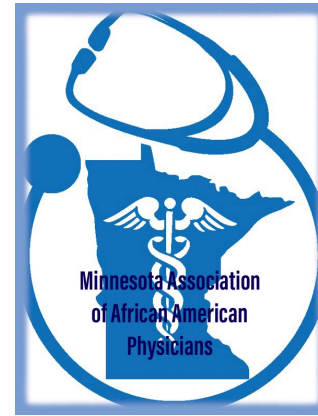


Climate justice policy recommendations endorsed by 7 health care groups

- Prioritize policies that address underlying racial and social inequities
- Create an inclusive carbon-free economy that provides clean/green jobs and resources for healthy communities
- Work in partnership with EJ communities to create specific, long-term projects
- Support state, local, tribal, and community level adaptation plans and investment in climate resilient resources and infrastructure to protect EJ communities.



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MEDICAL SOCIETY



MINNESOTA
Psychological Association

Minnesota Chapter

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