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Perspective

Role of Risk Factors Impacting the Global Health

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DESCRIPTION

Indirect implications of climate change on human health include undernourishment brought on by crop failures or a lack of access to clean drinking water, as well as direct effects such as extreme weather that can cause harm and fatalities. There are many dangers associated with climate change for population health. In terms of health risks, there are three main categories:(i) direct effects (such as heat waves and natural disasters), (ii) impacts mediated by changes in ecological systems and relationships (such as crop yields, mosquito ecology, and marine productivity), and (iii) more general (indirect) effects such as poverty, displacement, and mental health issues.

The following elements are especially related to how heat (rising global temperatures) affects health, vulnerable populations' exposure to heat waves, heat-related deaths, effects on physical activity, labour force potential, and mental health. Numerous infectious diseases that are climate-sensitive may become more prevalent in some areas, including cholera, waterborne diseases, diseases caused by vibrio bacteria, and diseases spread by mosquitoes. Injuries, illnesses, and air pollution from wildfires and other extreme weather events (floods, hurricanes, droughts, and wildfires) have a direct impact on people's health.

Migration and displacement caused by rising sea levels, food insecurity and under nutrition, decreased access to clean drinking water, increased harmful algal blooms in oceans and lakes, and increased ozone levels as an additional air pollutant during summer months are all additional health effects of climate change. Available evidence on the effect of climate change on the epidemiology of snakebite is limited but it is expected that there will be a geographic shift in risk of snakebite: northwards in North America and southwards in South America and in Mozambique, and increase in incidence of bite in Sri Lanka.

Globally, people are feeling the effects of climate change on their health, but disadvantaged populations are disproportionately affected, which increases their vulnerability to the effects of climate change, particularly in emerging nations. 15 Young children, along with the elderly, are most vulnerable to food shortages and high temperatures. The international public health policy community is growing more concerned about the effects of climate change on human health. The biggest global health danger of the twenty-first century is climate change, according to a 2009 article in the renowned general medical magazine The Lancet. In 2015, the World Health Organization issued a statement that reiterated this. The Australian Medical Association publicly declared a health emergency related to climate change in 2019.

Studies have found that communication on climate change is more likely to lead to engagement by the public if it is framed as a health concern, rather than just as an environmental matter. Along with other factors like migration, security, and societal repercussions, health is one way that climate change affects people.

Types of pathways affecting health

There are three primary paths, mechanisms, or dangers that link climate change to adverse health outcomes. Increased storms, floods, droughts, and heat waves as a result of changes in extreme weather.

- Indirect processes or risks are mediated by changes in the biosphere (for example, in illness burden and distribution of disease vectors, or in food availability, water quality, air pollution, land use change, and ecological change).
- The social dynamics (age and gender, health status, socioeconomic status, social capital, public health infrastructure, mobility and conflict status).

These health hazards "have social and geographic elements, are unevenly distributed throughout the world, and are impacted by social and economic growth, technology, and the availability of health services."

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