

Vulnerability to climate change: Locating health equity during a slow-moving emergency



Photo Credit: Buse, 2005 | Athabasca Glacier

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Making the Links | Kelowna, BC
November 5-6, 2018

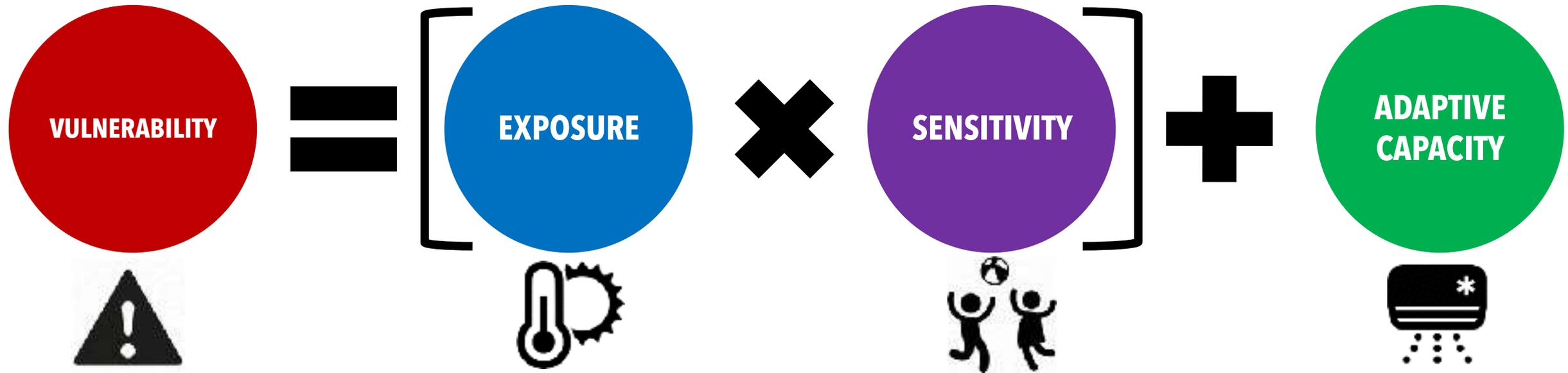


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Workshop Learning Goals

- What do 'vulnerability' and 'health equity' mean in relation to climate change?
 - Who is most vulnerable?
 - Why is it important to consider vulnerability when addressing the health impacts of CC?
- What is a vulnerability assessment and why are they needed?
- Examples of practice-based assessments
- Learning/sharing from one another

What is vulnerability?



VULNERABILITY is a function of interactions between climate-related **EXPOSURES** and physiological **SENSITIVITIES**, and the **ADAPTIVE CAPACITY** of individuals or populations to adjust to changing circumstances

Who is most vulnerable?



How is vulnerability related to health equity?



Climate change exacerbates existing health inequalities

Those most unable to adapt are more likely to be vulnerable

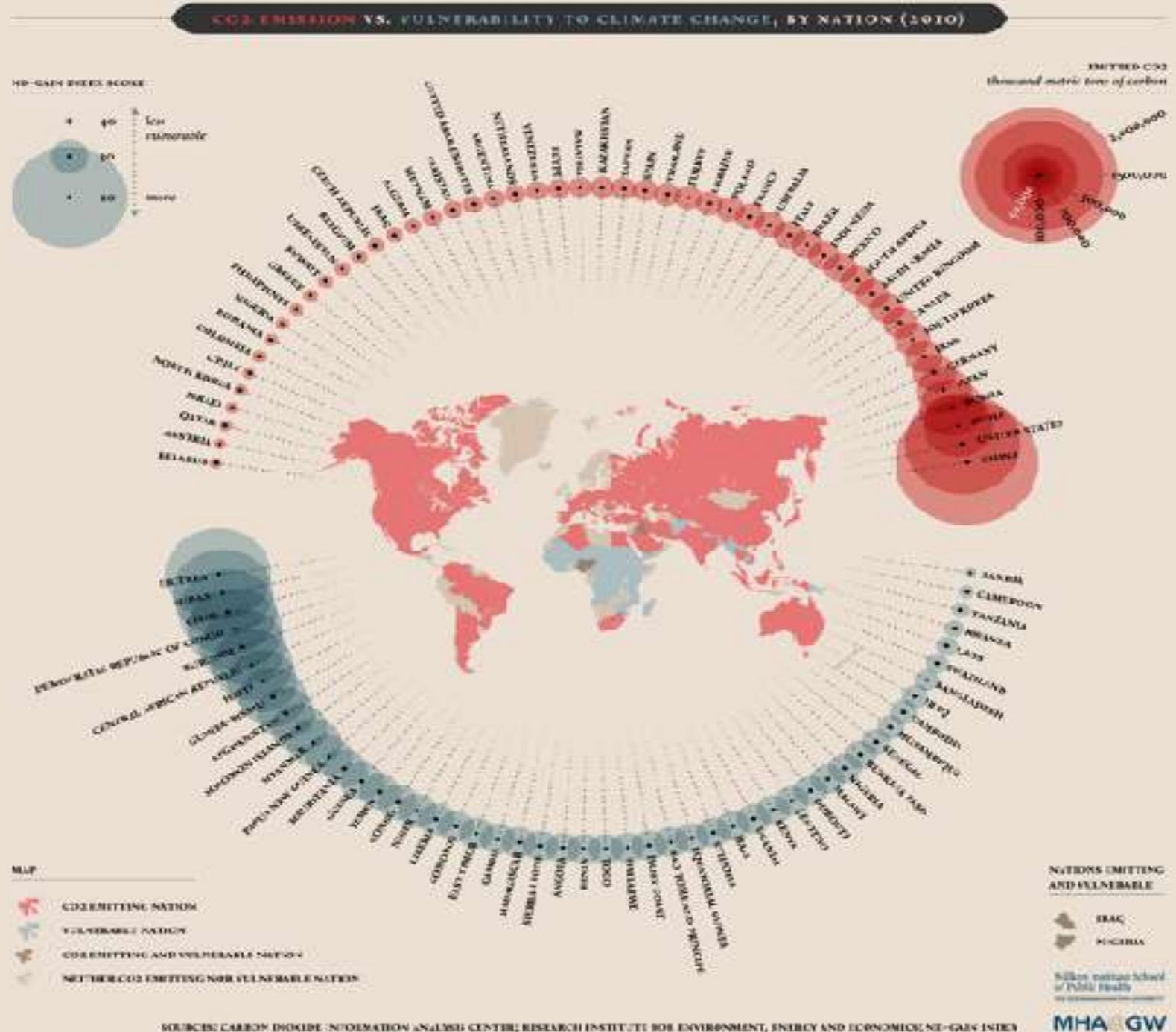
The most vulnerable are more likely to face other intersectional health challenges

Vulnerability and climate justice

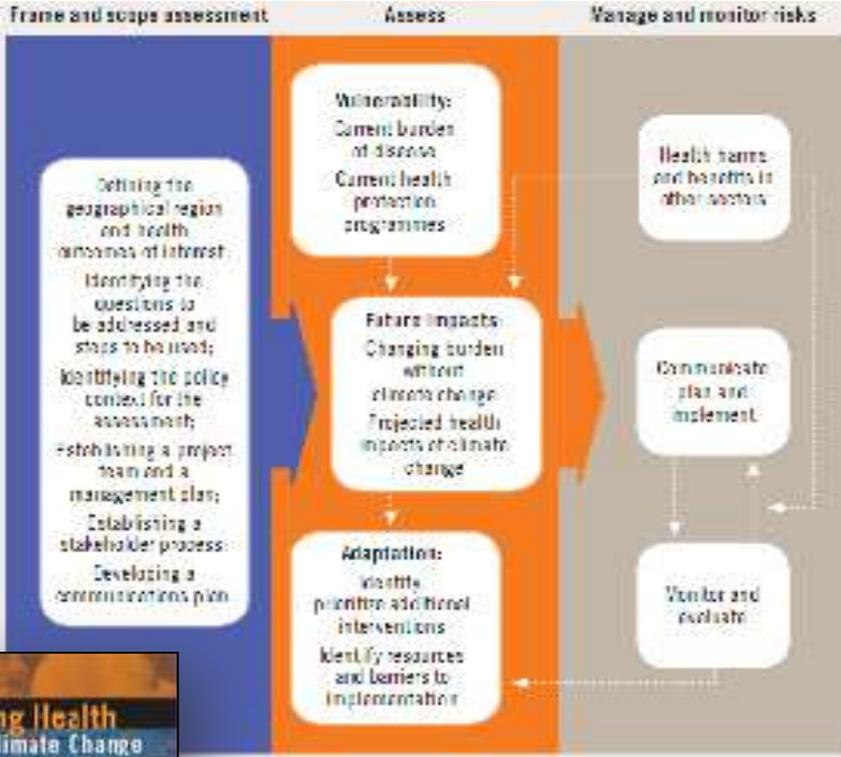
Inter-nation equity

Intergenerational equity

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The 'how'/'why' of assessing health vulnerability



Canadian Journal of Public Health
<https://doi.org/10.17269/s41997-018-0118-6>

COMMENTARY

Why should public health agencies across Canada conduct climate change and health vulnerability assessments?

Chris G. Buse¹

TO OPTIMIZE THE PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE

INTERVENTIONS

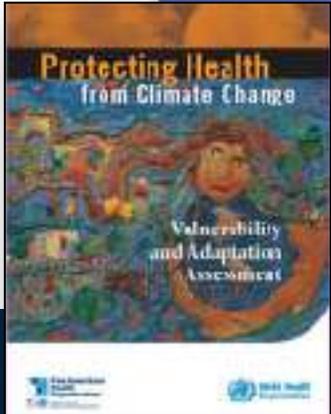
RELATIONSHIPS

CO-BENEFITS

BASELINE

EQUITY

CREDIBILITY



WHO (2013) *Protecting Health from Climate Change*

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Optimizing the Public Health response means enhancing generalized resilience to climate impacts

'Bouncing Back'

and/or

'Bouncing Forward'

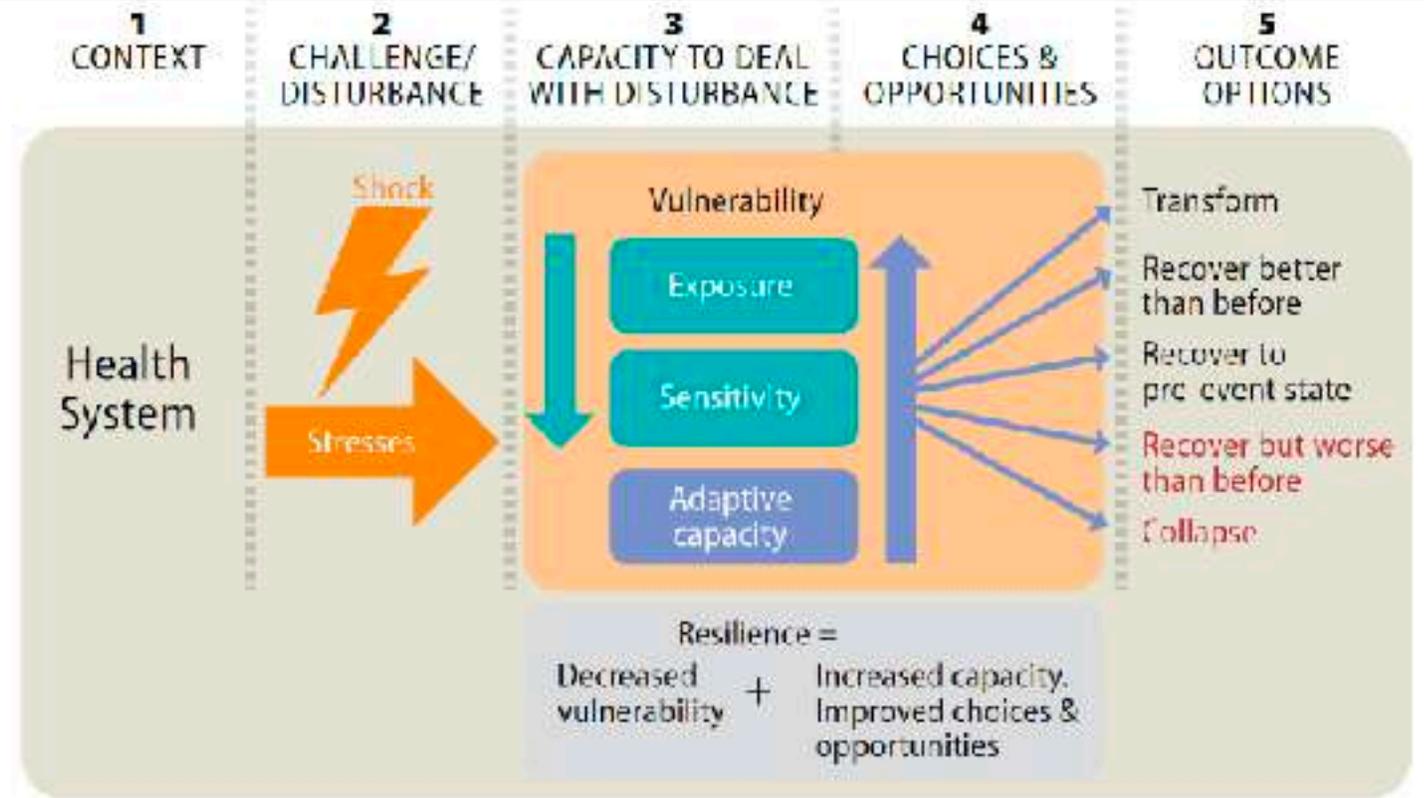


Figure 6 Climate change not only increases risks of disease, it will also bring acute shocks and long-term stresses to health systems. A systems based approach to decreasing vulnerability and increasing adaptive capacity can ensure continued health progress despite a changing climate (11).

Thanks

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Additional Resources

Climate Change, Health and Equity: A guide for local health departments (American Public Health Association):

- https://www.apha.org/-/media/files/pdf/topics/climate/guide_section1.ashx?la=en&hash=2ADD9E5229247C1CE16053B2394D92503AD693D6

Climate change and health equity (Wellesley Institute)

- <http://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Cities-Climate-Change-Health-Equity-WIJune-2018-fv.pdf>

Climate change adaptation and health equity (prepared for Toronto Public Health)

- http://www.climateontario.ca/doc/ORAC_Products/TPH/Climate%20Change%20Adaptation%20and%20Health%20Equity%20-%20Background%20Report.pdf

Climate change and health equity program (California Department of Public Health)

- <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OHE/Pages/CCHEP.aspx>

Equity Focussed Assessment Tools (Uvic)

- <https://www.uvic.ca/research/projects/elph/assets/docs/Health%20Equity%20Tools%20Inventory%202.0.pdf>

Climate change and health equity (Public Health Institute)

- <http://climatehealthconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/ClimateChangeHealthEquity.pdf>

Social dimensions of climate change (Book – Free from World Bank)

- <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/2689/520970PUB0EPI11C010disclosed0Dec091.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Climate Change Climate Resilience Toolkit (US Gov)

- <https://toolkit.climate.gov/topics/human-health>

Discussion: Gather in a small group (6-8) and have someone volunteer to report back on behalf of your group to the rest of the room

(~10 minutes) Go around your table with each person responding to the following question:

- Can you share an example of how your work (or specific projects are you aware of) addresses issues of health equity and/or health inequalities related to climate change?

(~10 minutes) Discuss amongst your group:

- Was anything common to the projects/initiatives shared by your group?
- What practices/projects/approaches seem most promising in terms of promoting health equity?