Global Warming, Health Disparities, and Social Risk

History of great natural disasters and human-made events have underscored a new reality: interdependence. Relationships of global and local events are more evident than ever, in the public’s awareness of extreme weather, food scarcity, famine, political, and health emergencies. The interconnectedness of events across communities, country borders, and continents makes it difficult to envision a world where climate change is not a significant factor.

The health impacts of the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) illustrate the importance of global health as a core component of our nation’s health. The pandemic, with its possible reflection of the future, has captured the attention of people everywhere. The pandemic’s association with race and class is striking, with the highest rates of occurrence and death in communities of color, and older adults. Different factors contribute, including fundamental aspects of social determinants of health: the background of tragedy, video clips revealing prejudice and violence against Black citizens have triggered international outrage and passionate, far-reaching calls for the end of systemic racism and injustice in our society?

Our health and well-being are inextricably linked to the health of our planet. Health professionals are increasingly calling for action on climate change and how we must work in concert with our government leaders to address this existential threat. Climate change is contributing to the rise of infectious diseases. A 2015 study published in the Lancet found that climate change could double the number of infectious diseases prevalent in the United States by 2080. Climate change is also contributing to the spread of disease vectors, such as mosquitoes, ticks, and other arthropods, which can carry deadly diseases like malaria, dengue fever, and West Nile virus.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of climate change and health. The pandemic has exposed the vulnerability of our healthcare systems and the need for improved resilience. The pandemic has also underscored the need for equitable access to healthcare resources, particularly in communities of color. The pandemic has also brought attention to the importance of public health measures, such as vaccination, social distancing, and mask-wearing.

Climate change affects many aspects of our health, including mental health. Climate change can lead to increased stress and anxiety, as well as depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. Climate change can also lead to increased risks of suicide, as individuals and communities struggle to cope with the effects of climate change.

Climate change affects our mental health in other ways, as well. Climate change can lead to increased rates of substance use disorders, as individuals seek to cope with the stress of climate change. Climate change can also lead to increased rates of suicide, as individuals and communities struggle to cope with the effects of climate change.

Climate change affects our physical health, as well. Climate change can lead to increased rates of heat-related illnesses, as well as heat stroke. Climate change can also lead to increased rates of respiratory illnesses, as well as asthma and allergies.

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