



Climate Change, Workers and Health: Impact on Latinos

Arturo Vargas Bustamante, PhD MPP
Professor of Health Policy & Management
avb@ucla.edu

Climate Change and Latinos

- At 18.5% of the U.S. population, Latinos currently represent the largest minority population.
- Latinos are projected to double in size by 2050 making this demographic particularly susceptible to the adverse consequences of climate change
- Latinos are already more vulnerable to the adverse consequences of changing weather patterns due to their place of residence and employment

Climate Change, Residence and Work

- Approximately 55% of Latinos live in three states that are experiencing extreme weather events: California with a historic drought, Texas with record-breaking heat, and Florida with sea level rise and flooding.
- Latinos are also more likely to work in industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, and construction that are already facing the consequences of climate change.

Climate Change and Health

- Health and well-being are directly affected by climate change through environmental factors such as extreme weather events (i.e. heat waves and floods) and air pollution.
- Approximately 1 in 2 Latinos live in counties that frequently violate standards for ground-level ozone, a key component of smog that worsens asthma and other respiratory conditions.

Climate Change and Health

- Previous research shows that Latinos on average breathe **63% more** particulate air pollution than they create through their economic activities and consumption, compared to non-Latino whites who breathe **17% less** particulate air pollution than they create (PNAS, 2022)
- Combined with the suboptimal access to and use of health care among Latinos, environmental exposure to extreme weather events and air pollution has important health consequences

Climate Change and Health

- Lung disease,
- Heart attacks,
- Strokes,
- Asthma,
- Different types of cancer.

Climate Change and Health

- Polling data suggests that Latinos (70%) are significantly more likely than non-Latino whites (44%) to attribute global warming to human activity and to support action to protect the environment.
- As Latinos make up an increasing share of the U.S. voting population, policymakers should respond to the engagement of Latinos on climate change issues by implementing policies and programs that aim to mitigate climate change.



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