

Major Vulnerability Factors to Climate Impacts

<i>Income</i>	Low-income residents are more likely to face related factors including lack of air conditioning in hot climates, renting homes versus owning them, lack of citizenship status , lack of insurance (health, life, or property), lack of a high school diploma , and lack of access to a vehicle to evacuate .
<i>Language Barriers</i>	Inability to understand and speak English can be a barrier in receiving information about climate change and its impacts, getting involved with climate adaptation planning processes, understanding emergency announcements and instructions, or handling paperwork in applying for relief benefits.
<i>Racism</i>	Institutionalized racism imbedded in many social systems including zoning , infrastructure spending , access to neighborhood amenities , and quality of emergency response create disproportionate risk for people of color to most impacts of climate change.
<i>Health Conditions & Disabilities</i>	Asthma patients suffer more attacks in poor air quality resulting from increased ozone in heat waves or smoke from wild fires. Heart disease increases risk of mortality in heat waves. Limited mobility makes evacuation difficult. Residents who rely on electricity to refrigerate medications or to run medical appliances are at risk during power outages.
<i>Age</i>	Young children and the elderly (especially those living on their own) can be more susceptible to health problems from impacts such as heat waves, especially if they also suffer from health conditions. Pregnancy is also a risk factor in emergencies.
<i>Living Conditions/ Location (Housing or Workplace)</i>	Vulnerable locations include floodplains , areas with poor air quality , risks of wild fires or landslides , lack of trees and parks, high crime , or geographic isolation . Vulnerable conditions include buildings with poor construction or inadequate cooling systems, living in an institution (affects ability to evacuate, especially for incarcerated populations), renting versus owning a home, and homelessness .
<i>Occupation</i>	Residents who work outside during extreme weather, such as farmworkers or construction workers , are at disproportionate risk for mortality from heat waves.

Sources: Cooley et al. (2012), Jerrett et al. (2012), and Morello-Frosch et al. (2008).