El Paso County

What factors influence the risk of climate change to human health?

Social Factors	Health Conditions	Exposure Risk	Plans and Perceptions
Moderate Risk	**High Risk**	**Moderate Risk**	**Moderate Risk**

Sensitive Populations

Social factors, and health conditions that influence residents' climate-related health risks.

Social Factors

Groups sensitive to climate change in the county	El Paso County	Regional Average
	Moderate Risk	**Lowest Risk**
Percentage of the population under age 5	7%	4%
Percentage of the population under age 18	24%	17%
Percentage of the population ages 65 and older	12%	18%
Percentage of the population that is Black or African American	6%	2%
Percentage of the population that is American Indian or Alaska Native	0%	1%
Percentage of the population that is Hispanic/Latino/a	17%	9%
Percentage with household incomes below the Federal Poverty Level	10%	8%
Percentage of the labor force that is unemployed (ages 16 and older)	5%	4%
Percentage of the population without a high school diploma (ages 25 and older)	6%	3%
Percentage of the population living in homes built before 1980	40%	43%
Percentage of the population that speaks a language other than English at home (ages 5 and older)	12%	6%
Percentage of the population with a cognitive difficulty	6%	4%
Percentage of the population with an ambulatory difficulty	6%	5%

Health Conditions

Accessibility of health care and prevalence of health conditions sensitive to climate change in the county	El Paso County	Regional Average
	High Risk	**Moderate Risk**
Percentage of adults ages 18 and older who have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	5%	5%
Percentage of adults ages 18 and older who have diabetes	7%	5%
Percentage of adults ages 18 and older who have asthma	10%	8%
Percentage of adults ages 18 and older who have cardiovascular disease	5%	5%
Percentage of adults ages 18 and older who are diagnosed with depression	20%	16%
Percentage of adults ages 18 and older who are obese	25%	21%
Percentage of the population without health insurance	7%	8%
Percentage of the population that did not get needed health care in the past 12 months	24%	24%

Exposure Risk

Climate-influenced environmental exposures, including extreme heat, wildfires, and drought, that put Coloradans' health at risk.

Climate Exposures

Environmental exposures and climate factors in the county	El Paso County	Regional Average
	Moderate Risk	**High Risk**
Number of extreme heat days (at or above 90 degrees Fahrenheit)	23	5
Percentage of land rated moderate to highest risk for possible loss or harm from a wildfire	34%	30%
Percentage of weeks that any percentage of the county's population is in severe, extreme, or exceptional drought	45%	45%
Percentage of population who live in a wildland-urban interface (WUI)	64%	93%
Community flooding risk	Moderate	Major

Plans and Perceptions

Plans to address climate change impacts and local perceptions on climate change in the county.

Current state of plans related to climate impacts and perceptions about the connection between climate and health in the county	El Paso County	Regional Average
	Moderate Risk	**Moderate Risk**
Percentage of the population that believes that global warming is currently happening	70%	71%
Percentage of the population that believes that the impacts from global warming will harm them personally	45%	44%
Percentage of the population that believes global warming will harm future generations	69%	69%
Percentage of the population that believes local officials should do more to address global warming	55%	54%
Percentage of the population that believes global warming is already harming people	58%	57%
Has a county hazard mitigation plan	Yes	Yes, more than half have plans
Has a community wildfire plan	Yes	Yes, more than half have plans
County or most populated city has a climate action plan	Yes	Half or less have plans
Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy member	No	Half or less are members
Colorado Communities for Climate Action member	No	Half or fewer are members

*Regional averages include: Clear Creek, El Paso, Gilpin, Park, and Teller counties

Questions? Refer to the full report: Think Globally, Adapt Locally: Colorado Counties Health and Climate Index

https://www.coloradohealthinstitute.org/research/2022-climate-change-health-index

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