

Saguache County

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

| Social Factors | Health Conditions | Exposure Risk | Plans and Perceptions |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Highest Risk | High Risk | Moderate Risk | High Risk |

Sensitive Populations

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

Social Factors

| | Saguache County | Regional Average |
|---|---------------------|------------------|
| Groups sensitive to climate change in the county | Highest Risk | High Risk |
| Percentage of the population under age 5 | 5% | 5% |
| Percentage of the population under age 18 | 22% | 21% |
| Percentage of the population ages 65 and older | 22% | 21% |
| Percentage of the population that is Black or African American | 1% | 1% |
| Percentage of the population that is American Indian or Alaska Native | 2% | 1% |
| Percentage of the population that is Hispanic/Latino/a | 36% | 42% |
| Percentage with household incomes below the Federal Poverty Level | 18% | 20% |
| Percentage of the labor force that is unemployed (ages 16 and older) | 6% | 8% |
| Percentage of the population without a high school diploma (ages 25 and older) | 17% | 13% |
| Percentage of the population living in homes built before 1980 | 43% | 50% |
| Percentage of the population that speaks a language other than English at home (ages 5 and older) | 28% | 26% |
| Percentage of the population with a cognitive difficulty | 5% | 8% |
| Percentage of the population with an ambulatory difficulty | 9% | 11% |

Health Conditions

| | Saguache County | Regional Average |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Accessibility of health care and prevalence of health conditions sensitive to climate change in the county | High Risk | High Risk |
| Percentage of adults ages 18 and older who have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease | 4% | 7% |
| Percentage of adults ages 18 and older who have diabetes | 7% | 11% |
| Percentage of adults ages 18 and older who have asthma | 5% | 9% |
| Percentage of adults ages 18 and older who have cardiovascular disease | 3% | 5% |
| Percentage of adults ages 18 and older who are diagnosed with depression | 14% | 14% |
| Percentage of adults ages 18 and older who are obese | 33% | 26% |
| Percentage of the population without health insurance | 13% | 11% |
| Percentage of the population that did not get needed health care in the past 12 months | 22% | 22% |

Exposure Risk

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

Climate Exposures

| | Saguache County | Regional Average |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Environmental exposures and climate factors in the county | Moderate Risk | Moderate Risk |
| Number of extreme heat days (at or above 90 degrees Fahrenheit) | 0 | 0 |
| Percentage of land rated moderate to highest risk for possible loss or harm from a wildfire | 0% | 1% |
| Percentage of weeks that any percentage of the county's population is in severe, extreme, or exceptional drought | 77% | 57% |
| Percentage of population who live in a wildland-urban interface (WUI) | 75% | 90% |
| Community flooding risk | Moderate | Moderate |

Plans and Perceptions

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

Plans and Perceptions

| | Saguache County | Regional Average |
|--|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Current state of plans related to climate impacts and perceptions about the connection between climate and health in the county | High Risk | Moderate Risk |
| Percentage of the population that believes that global warming is currently happening | 74% | 74% |
| Percentage of the population that believes that the impacts from global warming will harm them personally | 50% | 51% |
| Percentage of the population that believes global warming will harm future generations | 71% | 72% |
| Percentage of the population that believes local officials should do more to address global warming | 59% | 59% |
| Percentage of the population that believes global warming is already harming people | 61% | 62% |
| 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 | No | 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: Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache 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>

