



# Climate, Environment, and Human Health

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# Climate and Health Context

- Climate change is presenting new challenges and increasing existing challenges to ecosystems and human health
  - Example: heat increases cardiac, respiratory stress, mental health
  - Example: change to ecosystems impact cultural practices, foodways, mental health
- Many existing climate and health resources and frameworks lack Indigenous knowledges, experiences, and priorities

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# USET Context

- USET provides technical assistance in climate resilience and health program support; would like to improve assistance at the intersections of both
- Existing compatible technical skills – e.g. relevant health data, water testing (lead program), GIS
- New Tribal Public Health Preparedness and Resilience Project launched to Homeland Security and Emergency Services Committee
- This discussion: inform future collaborations and technical support (no specific projects or efforts underway currently)

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# Discussion

- What are some concerns regarding the environment and health that you are seeing in your Tribal Nation?
- What are some ways environmental changes are impacting wellness in your Nation?
- What are some impacts of climate change on...
  - Foodways? Air and water quality? Your department's work? Etc.
- What would a supportive partnership on these topics look like?
  - Between Tribal Nations and USET, between Nations, between USET departments, etc.

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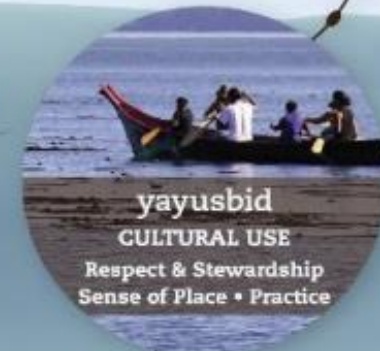
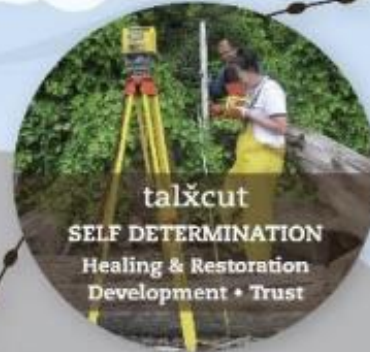
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# IHI

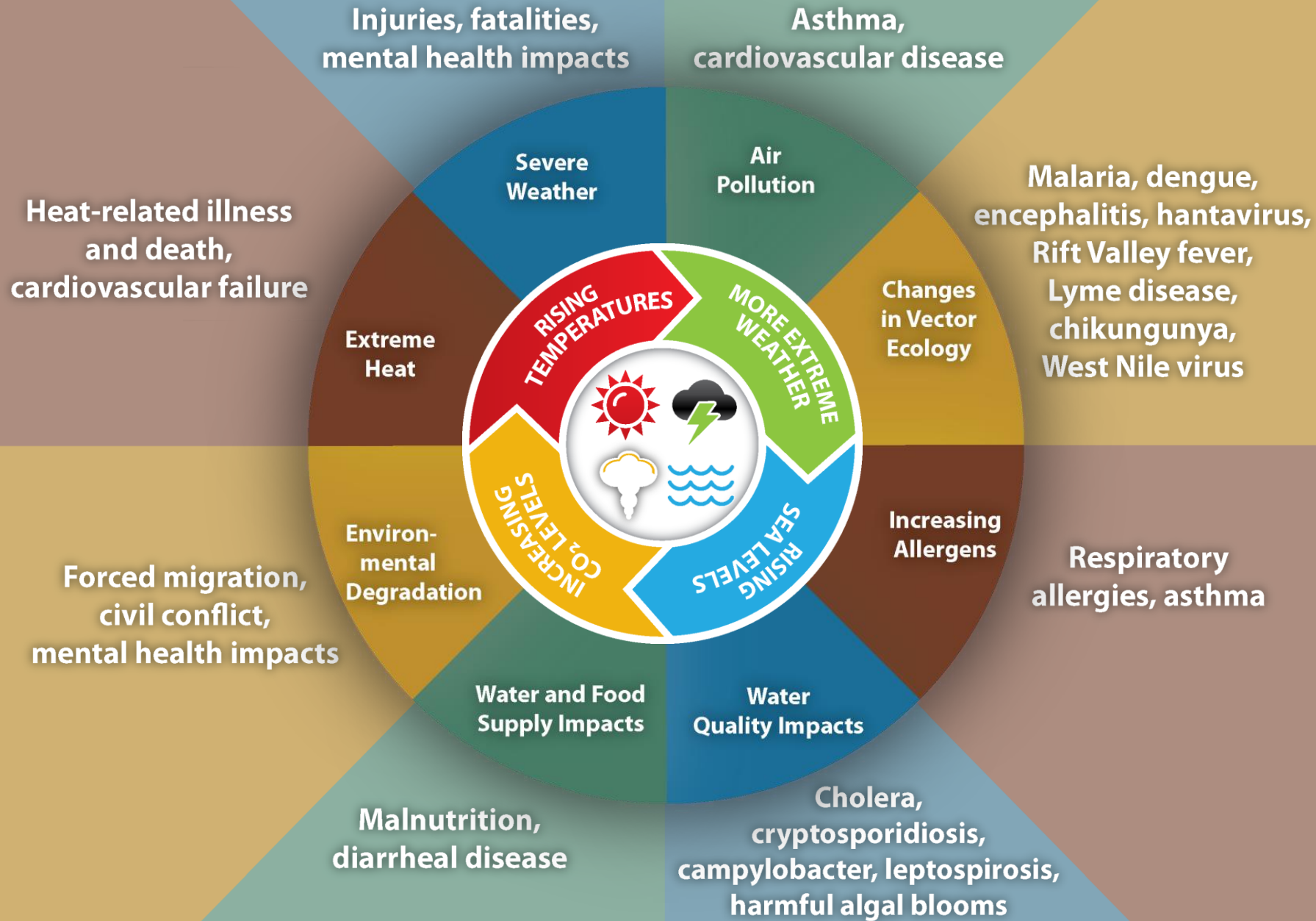
## INDIGENOUS HEALTH INDICATORS



Source:  
STACC  
Report

Figure 11. Swinomish Indigenous Health Indicators. This infographic depicts a scene on the beach that demonstrates all six

# Impact of Climate Change on Human Health



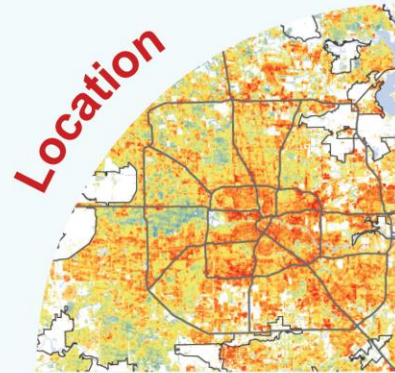
Source: CDC  
<https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/effects/default.htm>



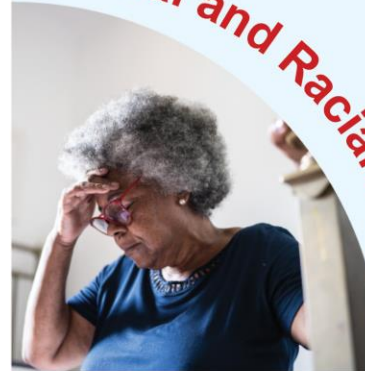
# Heat and Health Equity



- Historically redlined communities (BIPOC and low-wealth communities) are often hotter than other neighborhoods.
- Access to cooling centers is more limited in some areas.



## Social and Racial Factors



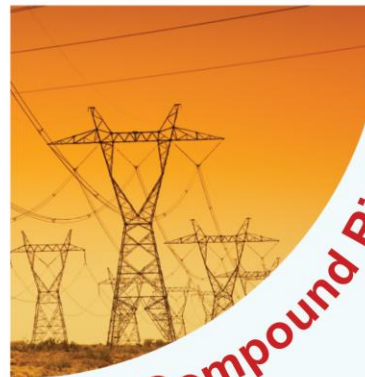
- Certain populations are more vulnerable to extreme heat and have less access to healthcare.
- Socially isolated individuals may have less access to cooling centers.



- Energy costs and the costs of repairs limit the ability to afford air-conditioning.
- Low-wealth residents often live in homes that provide less protection against extreme heat.



## Economics



## Compound Risks



- COVID-19 protocols reduced the accessibility and effectiveness of cooling centers.
- Disadvantaged populations are more at risk for heat-related illnesses during power outages.

Source:  
NCA5