

Climate change and health: scoping review of scientific literature 1990-2015

Glenn Verner

N Herlihy¹, A Bar-Hen^{1,2}, G Verner^{1,3}, H Fischer⁴, R Sauerborn⁴, A Depoux^{1,5}, A Flauhault^{1,6}, S Schütte¹

¹Centre Virchow-Villermé for Public Health Paris-Berlin, Université Sorbonne Paris Cité, Paris, France

²Laboratoire MAP5, Université Paris Descartes, Paris, France

³French School of Public Health, Paris-Rennes, France

⁴Institute of Psychology, University of Heidelberg, Heidelbergm Germany

⁵Groupe de recherches interdisciplinaires sur les processus d'information et de communication (EA 1498), Université Paris Sorbonne-Celsa, Paris, France

⁶Institute of Global Health, University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland

Contact: niamh.herlihy@parisdescartes.fr

Introduction

For 28 years, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has been assessing the potential risks associated with man-made climate change. Though interest in climate change and health is growing, the implications arising from their interaction remain understudied. Generating a greater understanding of the health impacts of climate change could be a key step in inciting some of the changes necessary to decelerate global warming. A long term and broad overview of existing scientific literature in the field of climate change and health is currently missing in order to ensure that all priority areas are being adequately addressed. In this paper we outline our methods to conduct a scoping review of published peer-reviewed literature on climate change and health between 1990 and 2015.

Methods

A detailed search strategy will be used to search both the PubMed and Web of Science databases. Specific inclusion and exclusion criteria will be applied in order to capture the most relevant literature in the timeframe chosen. Data will be extracted, categorized and coded to allow for statistical analysis of the results.

Results

A searchable database of climate change and health publications will be developed and a manuscript will be compiled for publication and dissemination of the findings. We anticipate that this study will allow us to map the trends observed in publications over the 25 year time period as well as identify gaps in climate change and health research.

Conclusions

The threats posed by climate change to human health may be reduced by research and investments in climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. Our long-term review of the literature on climate change and health may serve as a first step in establishing the foundations for a scientific research agenda for

the future of our health in the presence of a rapidly changing global climate.

Key messages:

- This research was established to review published literature on climate change and health by conducting a scoping review and systematically categorizing the literature within a database
- There are numerous health benefits arising from climate mitigation and adaptation strategies and so it is of critical importance that the health impact is accounted for in future investment decisions