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Determining Interventions

Outcome

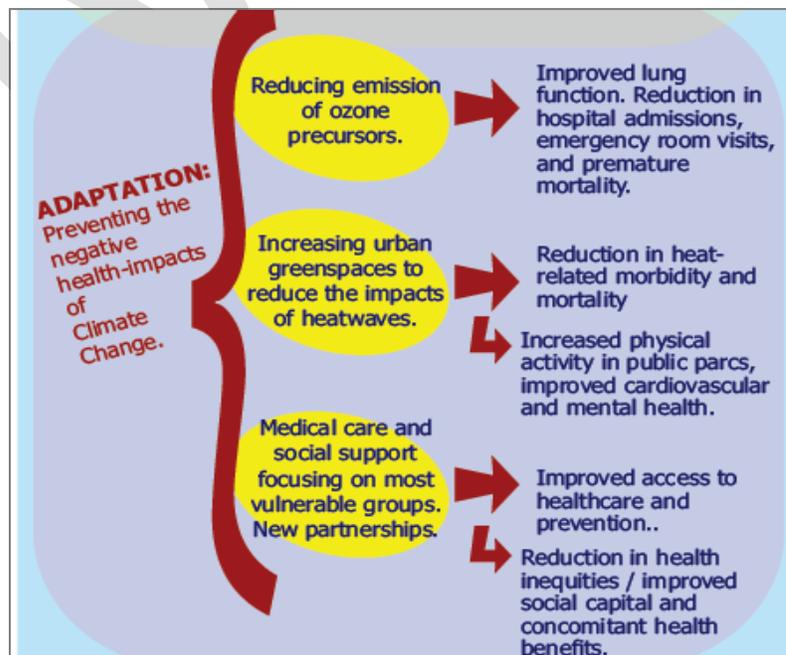
The purpose of the planning step in the BRACE Framework is to inventory interventions or “adaptation” measures appropriate for the climate and health concern(s) and impacts discovered in previous steps. This can be done by: (1) researching and compiling a range of health interventions for health impacts, (2) assessing capacity to deliver health interventions and (3) prioritizing actions most suitable for your climate adaptation efforts.

Consider

Organizational and Community Capacity: The ability to successfully implement any health intervention should be a critical consideration when planning for climate change. Some questions to guide your thinking might include:

- Does my organization have the jurisdictional authority to institute or enforce the adaptation measure?
- Do I have partnerships with the organization or community group best suited to implement this measure? If not, whom do I need to partner with?
- Does my organization have experience doing something like this?

Co-benefits: “Co-benefit” is the concept that many climate adaptation measures have benefits on multiple health outcomes or behaviors. For example: reducing urban-heat island effect (a contributor to heat-related illness) by increasing the availability of and access to urban green-spaces also creates more opportunities for safe physical activity (a strategy to reduce obesity). Identifying and prioritizing climate adaptation measures with multiple “co-benefits” helps create buy-in from other public



Examples of adaptation co-benefits

health partners and may help ensure climate adaptation measures are integrated into other public health planning processes.

Current work: Related to the idea of co-benefits is the notion that you and your community may already be doing climate adaptation work – it just may go by another name. For example: there may be a group in your community that promotes tree-planting through free tree giveaways and planned community events. It is important to identify and recognize existing community efforts during climate planning to prevent duplicative efforts and to identify the best way for your organization to engage in this work.

Process Tips

Use Public Health Competency Frameworks: Apply existing public health frameworks to climate and health issues to as a help reveal gaps that may exist and may become more consequential as the climate changes. See the “10 Essential Services” tool below for an example.

Look at other Adaptation Plans: Many communities around the world have already developed public health climate adaptation plans or have “health” components in their climate change plans. Reviewing existing plans, especially those from communities similar to yours, is a good place to start.

Research communities that you are projected to “look like”: Research communities with climates similar to what your community is projected to look like in the future. Pay special attention to how they manage health impacts similar to the ones you anticipate. What systems would you need to build or develop to have the same capabilities?

10 Essential Services Gap Analysis: As noted earlier in this toolkit, the 10 essential services of public health can be used as an organizing framework for preparing for and responding to the health effects of climate change. Applying this framework to any particular health effect is an exercise that will both identify activities you and your health department may already be doing and help highlight elements that need further planning. Remember, when using this tool, you are planning for the *projected* health impact according to your findings from steps 1 and 2.

Below is an example of how the 10 essential services framework applies to increased vector-borne disease brought on by climate change.

Essential Services	Current Activities	Ideas to build capacity
1. Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems	<i>We do not monitor health statuses in our community.</i>	<i>Build local capacity to monitor mosquito-related illnesses and detect changes early.</i>
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community	<i>Field staff investigate standing water and other breeding sites during their work.</i>	<i>A system for the public to report mosquito-breeding sites they have identified in the community.</i>

3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues	<i>We put out press releases at the beginning of each mosquito season.</i>	Build capacity to do education work directly with community members and groups.
4. Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems	<i>We have no connection to a community partnership.</i>	<i>Work with community groups to organize a volunteer group to remove standing water.</i>
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts	<i>We have organizational work plans related to how and when we do mosquito control.</i>	<i>Perform a community needs assessment related to vector-borne illnesses.</i>
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety	<i>We justify our work activities by citing the state vector control laws.</i>	<i>Create and pass a local vector abatement ordinance to strengthen our regulatory authority.</i>
7. Link people to needed personal health services & ensure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable	<i>We do not perform this function.</i>	<i>Develop relationships with our local safety-net health care providers and learn about how to link community members to those services.</i>
8. Ensure competent public and personal health care workforce	<i>Our vector control staff receives annual training related to their continuing education requirements.</i>	<i>Offer training for healthcare professionals on recognizing, treating and preventing mosquito-borne diseases.</i>
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.	<i>Our mosquito program receives an annual report from the state with the list of confirmed reportable vector-borne illnesses</i>	<i>A system to monitor reportable mosquito-borne illness diagnoses in real-time.</i>
10. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.	<i>Learn about best practices from colleagues and professional networks.</i>	<i>Dedicate a staff-person to monitoring how other vector control departments are managing emerging mosquito populations. (Especially those attributed to a changing climate).</i>