

The Effect of Climate Change on Californians' Health: A Storytelling Project to Elevate the Voices and Lived Experiences of Californians

About the storytelling project

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Climate Change and Health Equity Branch's Climate and Health Storytelling Team is seeking to interview willing participants from across the state of California who have experienced health impacts from climate change for a project called "The Effect of Climate Change on Californians' Health." Interviews will be turned into short videos to raise awareness of the real and current impacts of climate change on health – particularly among people facing injustice– and possible adaptation solutions that foster resilient and equitable communities. The videos will be incorporated into an ArcGIS StoryMap – a web-based platform that visually displays information in multiple formats (e.g., narrative, video, photos, maps) in a way that is interactive and engaging ([see StoryMap example](#)). We will make the StoryMap publicly available on the [Climate Change and Health Equity Branch's webpage](#) to better inform the public about the impact climate change can have on health right here in our State.

Interview participants

We would like to interview people from a wide array of demographic, racial, ethnic, and cultural groups and from different occupations, who have experienced health impacts from climate change. This includes older adults, people who are pregnant, people with physical or mental disabilities, California Native Americans, individuals living in historically redlined districts, people experiencing homelessness, farmworkers, and first responders, among others. This also includes people who have chronic health conditions (allergies/asthma, chronic heart disease, diabetes, or neurologic disorders, etc.) that may be worsened by climate change or infectious disease conditions (such as Valley Fever, West Nile Virus, Dengue Fever, Legionnaires disease) that have been linked to climate change.

How health can be impacted by climate change

Your physical health and mental health can be impacted by climate change in many ways including but not limited to exposure to harmful algal blooms (HABs), extreme heat, wildfire smoke, drought, poor air or water quality, extreme weather events, and infectious diseases that are spreading into new geographical regions due to the changing climate.

How the interview will be conducted

A CDPH videographer and staff member will meet the participant at an agreed-upon time and location to conduct the interview. Prior to the interview, the participant will be briefed on the interview topic and/or provided with a list of interview questions. Interviews can be conducted in English or Spanish and we will work with participants to provide further accommodations (such as ASL interpretation), as needed. Interviews are anticipated to last between 60-90 minutes.

Consent and protection of privacy

By signing up to take part in an interview, participants consent to have any and/or all of the verbal content captured in the interview included in the StoryMap. We will accommodate requests from participants who prefer to not have their faces shown on camera, by using only their voices. We want to portray interviewees in a positive light and will work with them to edit or omit content, if requested. We kindly request that these requests are made before or at the time of the interview.

Compensation

Interviewees will be compensated for their time via a \$35 gift card.