

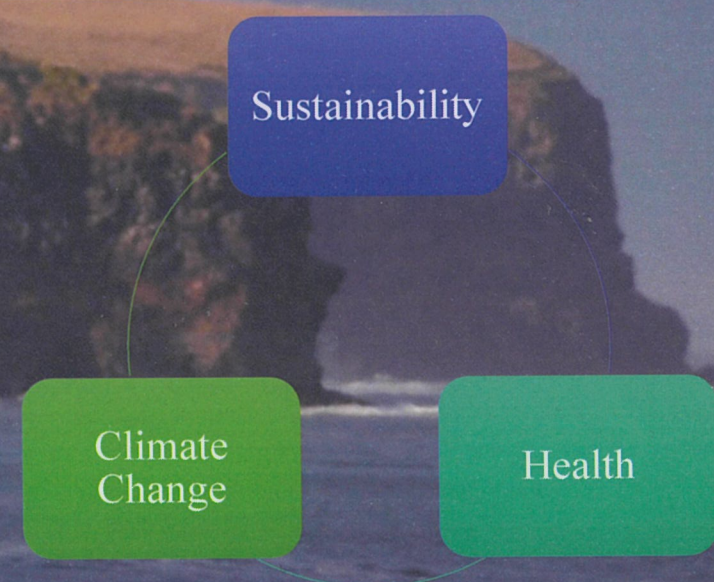
Responsibility of the nurse in recognizing and raising awareness of the threats that climate change has on health.

-Taylor Foster

Introduction:

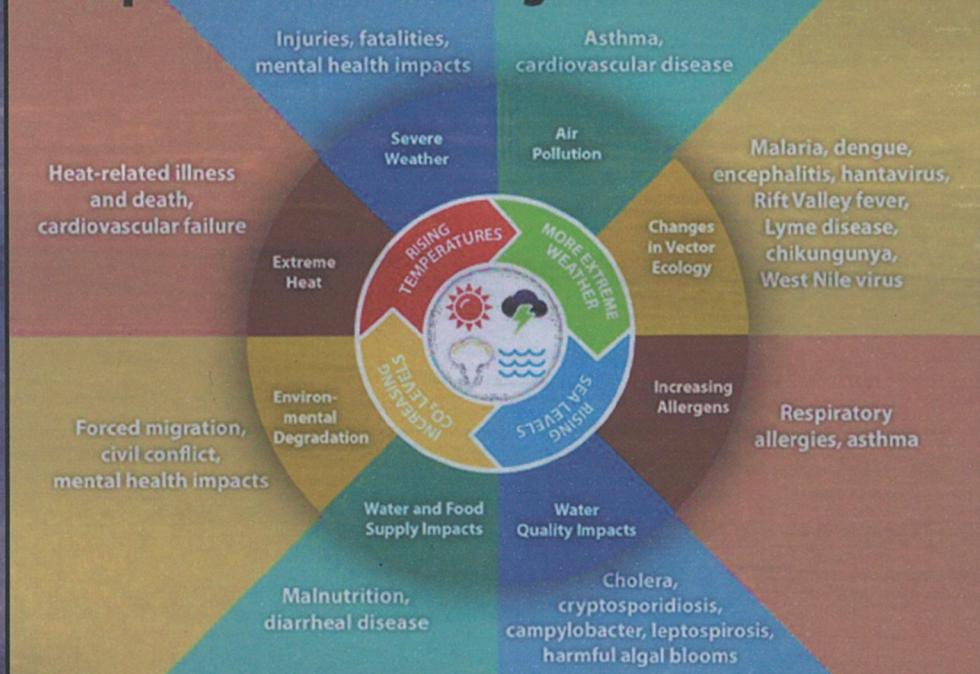
Climate change is one of the 21st centuries biggest health threats. It has been evident for years that human health and wellbeing is reliant on the integrity of the worlds environmental systems. The effects on health globally will have a variation of direct and indirect repercussions, with different populations and countries being effected individually (Bennett et al., 2016).

‘Responsibility of the nurse in recognizing and raising awareness of the threats that climate change has on health,’ is a question I formulated in order to educate health professionals, specifically nurses on the impact that climate change will have on health human globally and how as nurses and health professionals we can help to make a difference (Goodman, 2013).



(Goodman and Richardson 2010)

Impact of Climate Change on Human Health



(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2016)

Role and recommendations of the nurse in addressing climate change:

From the evidence gathered in this literature review it is evident that changes need to be made to enhance the relationship between climate change and the role of the nurse. (Barna, Goodman & Mortimer, 2012)

Nurses are often the forefront of health care and are in a trustworthy position to educate those around them some recommendations such as:

- Education towards student nurses, nurses and nurse educators on climate change and its effects of health
- Nurses can educate hospitals, but also throughout individualized communities.
- Policy development (Goodman, 2013).

Implications of climate change on human health:

Due to the continuing growth of climate change there will be a huge variation of direct and indirect health implications.

Direct health effects of climate change will be related to the ever-changing geographical distribution such as mortality due to;

- Heat/cold waves
- Floods/droughts
- Cyclones etc.

Indirect implications may be proven more difficult to manage;

- Increased health problems due to water and vector borne diseases
- Water and food contamination
- Malnutrition
- Mental health issues
- Skin cancers due to UV radiation
- Social and economic distribution
- Cardio-respiratory diseases and allergic diseases

(Bennett et al., 2016)

Conclusion:

Using evidence based research allowed me to determine what the true health consequences are of climate change and the responsibility of the nurse in recognizing and raising awareness of these threats. Climate change is a matter that needs to be further educated as it is, and is continually going to be an immense part of the future of health care for individuals, families, communities and internationally.

References:

- Bennett, H., Jones, R., Keating, G., Woodward, A., Hales, S., & Metcalfe, S. (2016). *Health and equity impacts of climate change in Aotearoa-New Zealand, and health gains from climate action [Special Article]* - *New Zealand Medical Journal*. Nzma.org.nz.
- Barna, S., Goodman, B., & Mortimer, F. (2012). The health effects of climate change: What does a nurse need to know? *Elsevier*, 32(7), 765–771.
- Goodman B, Richardson J (2010) Climate change, sustainability and health in UK higher education: the challenges for nursing. In Jones P, Selby D, Sterling S (Eds) *Sustainability Education: Perspectives and Practice Across Higher Education*. Earthscan, Abingdon, 109-131.
- Goodman, B. (2013). Role of the nurse in addressing the health effects of climate change. *Nursing Standard*, 27(35), 49-56.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.7748/ns2013.05.27.35.49.e7374>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,. (2016). *Impact of Climate Change on Health*. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/effects/>

Question:

Ability of the nurse in recognizing and raising awareness of the impact that climate change has on health.

PICOT	Information relating to question	Explanation
Population	My population for this research question targets all health professionals but specifically on the role of the nurse and nurse educators.	Nurses should be educated and prepared for the increasing impact and changes that climate change will have on health throughout the world. Nurses need to be educated by academics who have knowledge and understanding of the implications of climate change.
Exposure (intervention)	Nurses who will be exposed to the future changes of health caused by climate change.	I will look at articles that explain the relation of nursing and climate change and what we as nurses can do to help prevent and prepare for the changes to come in health care system.
Comparison/Control	I will compare what healthcare services will look like if nurses and other health professionals don't prepare or take action on the effects of health globally due to climate change.	Since my report focuses on why we need to make changes in the health profession to adapt to climate change, I will use comparison articles that will display the ricocheting effects that climate change will have on health globally.
Outcome	The outcome of my research will be to conduct a strong argument as to why health professionals, specifically nurses need to be educated and prepared for the changes in health that climate change will globally.	By reviewing a wide range of research articles on how climate change will effect health care globally as well as health care professionals, will allow me to understand the implications and look into what can be done to prepare nurses for the ricocheting effects climate change will have.
Time	Its effect on the 21 st century and years to come	Its effect on the 21 st century and years to come

Rationale:

Researching this dynamic and present-day topic educated me on not only the effects that climate change will/is having on human health, but also the changes that will need to be made for health professionals. It was evident that in my literature review that although many health professionals are aware of the effects of climate change, many feel unprepared and uneducated on the matter. (Polivka et al., 2012). The poster presentation has allowed for me to distribute and refine the complex information that I have gathered in my literature review into an aesthetically pleasing image. By keeping the poster simple with a variation of bullet points, paragraphs and images enables a wide range of people to view and learn about this current topic. The ideal target audience would be nursing educators, nursing students and nurses in practice. This literature review and poster was developed to educate, inform and make those who read it think about their own sustainably, and how their everyday living may be effecting their future health. (Anåker, Nilsson, Holmer & Elf, 2015)

References:

Anåker, A., Nilsson, M., Holmner, Å., & Elf, M. (2015). Nurses' perceptions of climate and environmental issues: a qualitative study. *J Adv Nurs*, 71(8), 1883-1891. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/jan.12655>

Polivka, B. J., Chaudhry, R. V. & Mac Crawford, J. (2010). Public health nurses' knowledge and attitude regarding climate change. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 120(3), 321-325.