



Sustaining health in our changing climate: Adaptation and resilience at Kaiser Permanente

Review [California AB 1305 compliance disclosures](#) on our greenhouse gas emissions reduction efforts.

At Kaiser Permanente, our mission includes protecting the health and safety of our members and the communities we serve. As the nation's largest integrated nonprofit health care organization, we recognize our obligation to reduce environmental contributors to disease and illness. Through our commitments to innovation and conservation in our operations including building design, supply chain, energy and water use, community health, and partnership, we collaboratively lead the health care sector in stewarding the environments where we live, work, play, and deliver care.

We recognize that the impacts of pollution and climate change are being felt now. Our physicians and nurses treat patients experiencing health challenges related to environmental hazards, while our operational leaders continuously monitor and respond to climate threats in our service areas. Across the nation, environmental threats to health are escalating. Climate-related events such as wildfires, ice storms, heavy rains and flooding, hurricanes, and extreme heat have impacted many areas where we operate.

Kaiser Permanente's approach to climate action centers on protecting and promoting the health of our members and communities, and this includes supporting climate resilience. Kaiser Permanente has a long-standing practice of monitoring and addressing patient and community vulnerabilities to the social and environmental determinants of health.

Kaiser Permanente is proud to have committed to the [HHS White House Health Sector Climate Pledge](#) to support climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience across our operations.

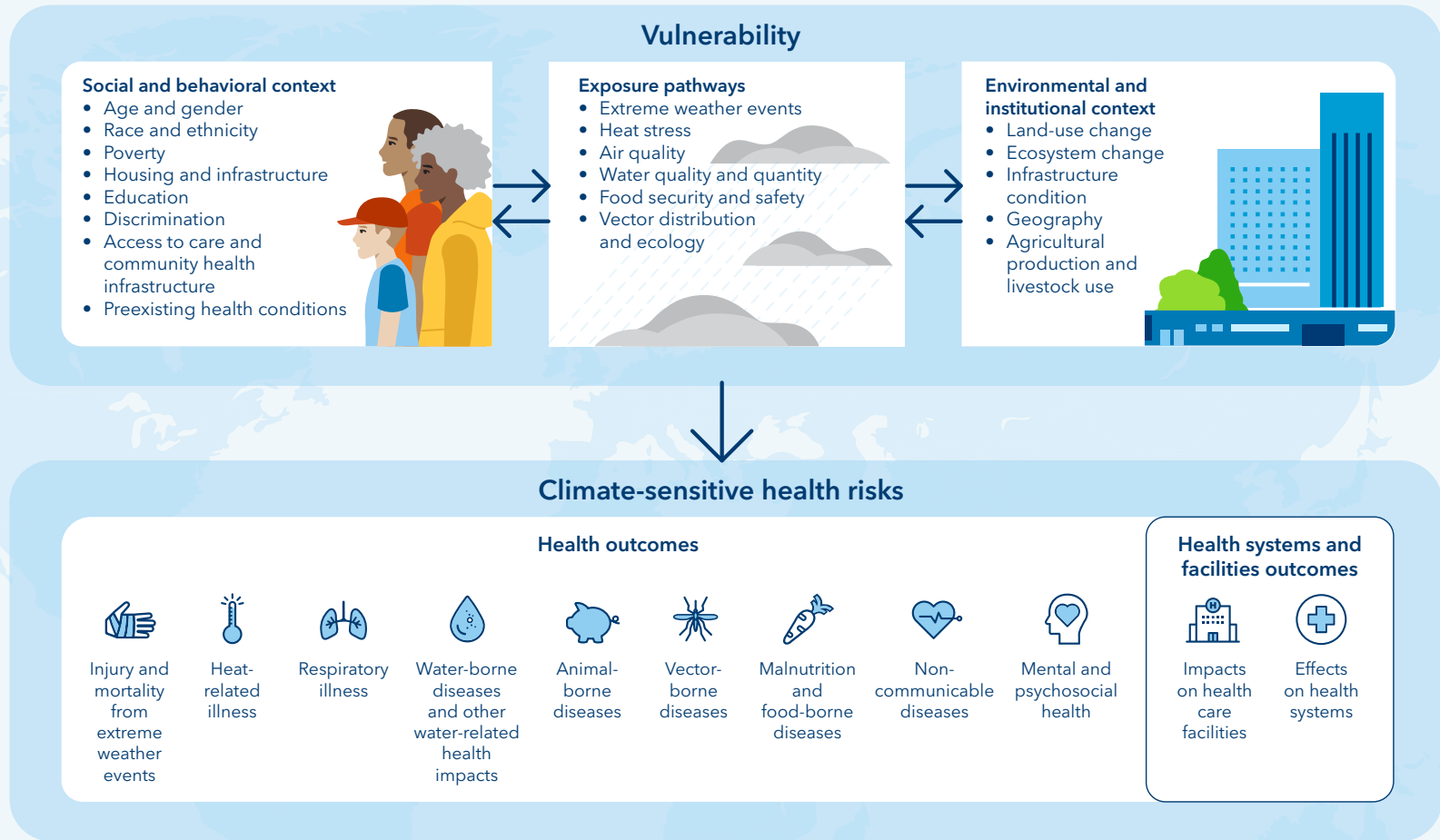
Engaging and prioritizing equity in our communities

In line with our commitment to improving health equity in a transparent, rigorous, and collaborative manner, Kaiser Permanente conducts and publishes Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNAs) across the communities we serve every 3 years. The CHNA process focuses on holistically understanding how social and environmental drivers of health – including financial security, access to safe housing and nutritious food, and a healthy environment – affect communities. To support a broad understanding of local environmental health needs, our [Community Health Data Platform](#) includes climate-related information, including respiratory hazards, coastal and river flooding risk, drought risk, heat wave risk, road network density, and tree canopy cover. These CHNAs help inform our impact investments, grants, donations, and partnerships aimed at addressing the health outcomes associated with climate change and other environmental factors. See more information on our community-based partnerships in our [Sustainability report](#).

Kaiser Permanente also communicates with health plan members and communities about environmental contributors to disease as part of our efforts to promote healthy environments. We promote health equity and address social factors that impact health by screening members for social needs, connecting them to community-based resources, and providing care and services suited to their personal circumstances.



Climate change



Adaptation of World Health Organization and Environmental Protection Agency graphic
 Overview of climate-sensitive health risks, their exposure factors, and social/behavioral and environmental/institutional context.

Prepare and respond: Operational resilience

Kaiser Permanente proactively assesses and addresses climate vulnerabilities in infrastructure and operational processes. Our strategy is informed by qualitative and quantitative scenario analyses related to climate change, including climate change-related risk studies and reports issued by government agencies and other organizations, to assess their potential impact on our business.

We evaluate our hospitals, medical office buildings, and administrative facilities to understand our risk exposures. By collaborating with internal resources and external vendors, Kaiser Permanente's corporate risk management department focuses on quantifying the catastrophic risks presented to our organization. In addition to peer group analysis, Kaiser Permanente uses probabilistic results of proprietary catastrophe models from our external partners.



In 2018, we installed the [first California state-approved solar microgrid](#), and we are committed to expanding this innovation into more of our facilities. As of 2023, our renewable energy program has installed more than 60 megawatts of solar generation at over 100 facilities, and over 100 megawatt-hours of battery storage. We will be adding battery storage to many of our solar projects to reduce demand on the power grid, save money, and increase resilience. Additionally, we have launched a program to convert eligible natural gas-powered boilers to heat pumps, which can serve as batteries in times of need.



Kaiser Permanente follows a hazard vulnerability analysis process from The Joint Commission and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services emergency management requirements. We maintain crisis planning and response teams for all crisis events, including any climate-related crises. Our Healthcare Continuity Management (HCM) team provides updates on resilience including emergency management and business continuity efforts across regions and business units. The HCM team maintains vigilance by tracking and responding to all threats to the organization, including earthquakes, wildfires, severe weather events, civil unrest, and labor-related issues. The HCM team also provides support to the National Command Center, Regional Command Centers, and Local Command Centers throughout the year.

Connected communities

Kaiser Permanente understands that collaboration within and across organizations and sectors is critical for effective climate-related adaptation and resilience.

Our leaders routinely partner with fellow health care organizations and external agencies to prepare for and manage emergencies, including participating in health care coalitions such as the [county-sponsored coalitions](#) within California. In addition, Kaiser Permanente is a member of broader health care planning groups such as the California Emergency Management Committee, the Hospital Incident Command System National Advisory Committee, and the National Healthcare System Emergency Management Forum.

Interdisciplinary planning, oversight, and evaluation

We have taken a leading role in supporting the National Academy of Medicine's Action Collaborative on Decarbonizing the U.S. Health Sector (Climate Collaborative), a public-private partnership of health leaders committed to addressing the environmental impact of our health system while strengthening its sustainability and resilience. We also work closely with nonprofits, such as Health Care Without Harm, to advocate for environmental stewardship in the health care industry. See more information on our environmental resilience partnerships in our [Sustainability report](#).

At Kaiser Permanente, environmental stewardship is integrated into our leadership structure. Kaiser Permanente's Enterprise Risk Management is governed by our executive management and board of directors. The program has a strategic and multi-year lens. It provides a holistic view of risks, including external, operational, and strategic. Climate change is included as a key factor for external risks, including trends impacting health.

Our Healthcare Continuity Management team provides updates on resilience including emergency management and business continuity efforts across regions and business units. Kaiser Permanente also maintains crisis planning and response teams for all potential crisis events, including any climate-related crises. Kaiser Permanente's Sustainability and Responsibility Council advises our board of directors. Our Sustainable Resources Council is accountable for achieving KP's ambitious waste, water, energy, and carbon neutral goals. Together, these groups are responsible for our disaster planning, infrastructure investments, supply chain reliability, and community partnerships. They hold line of sight to considerations such as emergency planning, facility and energy management, clinical operations, purchasing, information technology, and waste management.

