



CLIMATE SUMMIT

WHAT IF IT'S
A BIG HOAX AND
WE CREATE A BETTER
WORLD FOR NOTHING?

- ENERGY INDEPENDENCE
- PRESERVE RAINFORESTS
- SUSTAINABILITY
- GREEN JOBS
- LIVABLE CITIES
- RENEWABLES
- CLEAN WATER, AIR
- HEALTHY CHILDREN
- ETC. ETC.



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PITT

ASSESSING PUBLIC HEALTH'S ROLE IN CLIMATE ACTION

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climate**health**connect
The Center for Public Health & Climate Change



OUTLINE

- **Significance**
- **Research questions**
- **Methods**
- **Initial Findings**

SIGNIFICANCE



WHY SHOULD PH GET INVOLVED?WHAT'S AT STAKE?

- Slow climate change and reduce health impacts;
- **Create healthy communities;**
 - Improve air quality;
 - Increase physical activity;
 - Health-supportive amenities in **all communities;**
 - Prevent displacement and social isolation;
 - Improve housing quality;
 - Facilitate political engagement by impacted communities
- **Expanding definition, conception, and practice of PH**

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Re: Public Health's role and participation in Climate Change:

- What is the current state of involvement?
- Ideally, what should be the role?
- What are the barriers?
- What are the current opportunities?



RESEARCH METHODS:

- Semi-structured interviews (n=113)
 - PH sector engaged with climate change
 - PH sector engaged with climate change for reasons other than climate change (ie. Equity, co-benefits, etc).
 - PH sector not engaged with climate change
 - Non-PH sector working on climate change
- Focus Groups (n=2, with 9 and 13 participants)
- Interviews and FGs transcribed, entered into qualitative software (dedoose), coded
 - Dominant theme analysis
 - Reports for each domain of interest

INITIAL FINDINGS:
**RE: PUBLIC HEALTH'S ROLE AND PARTICIPATION IN
CLIMATE CHANGE:**

1. What is the current state of PH involvement?

- Minimal focus on climate change
- Engagement with co-benefits
- Few making the links between their PH work and climate change explicit.

QU.2: IDEALLY, WHAT SHOULD BE THE ROLE OF PH IN CLIMATE CHANGE WORK?

- Educator/Messenger
- Research and Surveillance
- Protection
- Mobilize, support, and advocate for policy, systems, and environmental change

QU. 3: WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS TO PUBLIC HEALTH ENGAGEMENT IN CLIMATE CHANGE WORK?

- Lack of information
- Lack of funding/resources
- Political barriers
- Organizational barriers
- The nature of climate change

QU.4: WHAT ARE THE CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES SUPPORTING PH ENGAGEMENT?

- Leverage existing partnerships
- Incorporate climate change into existing PH work
- Elucidate connections for public, public health, and decision-makers
- Use the health frame to engage the public and decision-makers
 - Messages should not overwhelm and demoralize people
 - Provide specific actions PH and health sectors can take

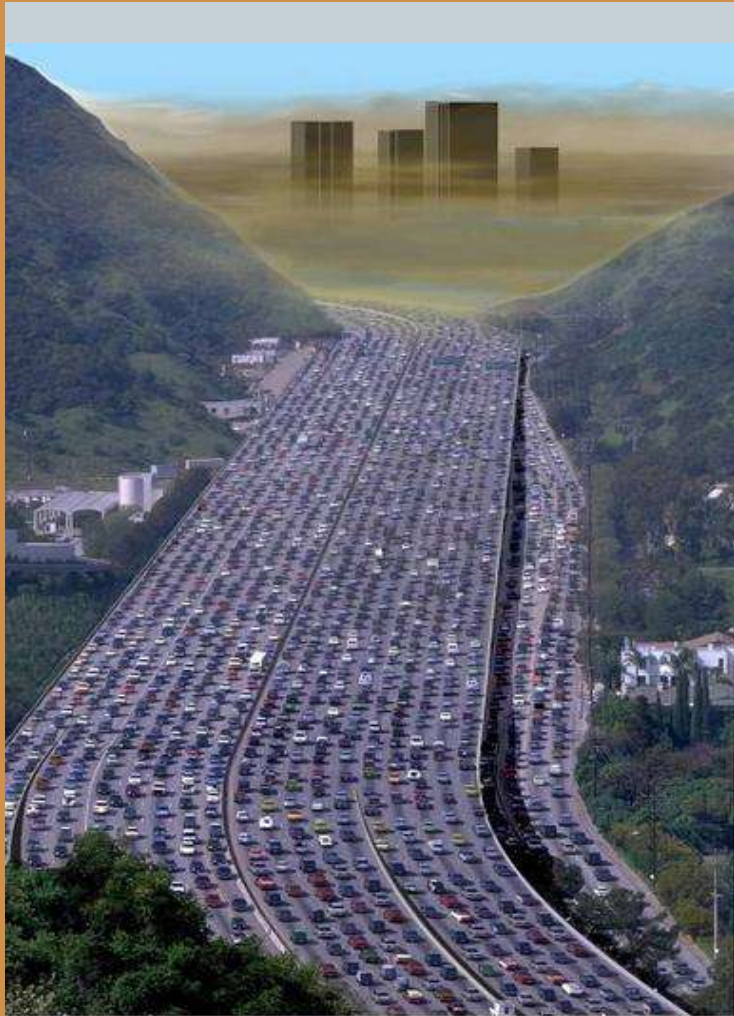
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FEEDBACK!



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