




Climate Change and Aging

WHAT THE MASTER PLAN ON AGING CAN DO

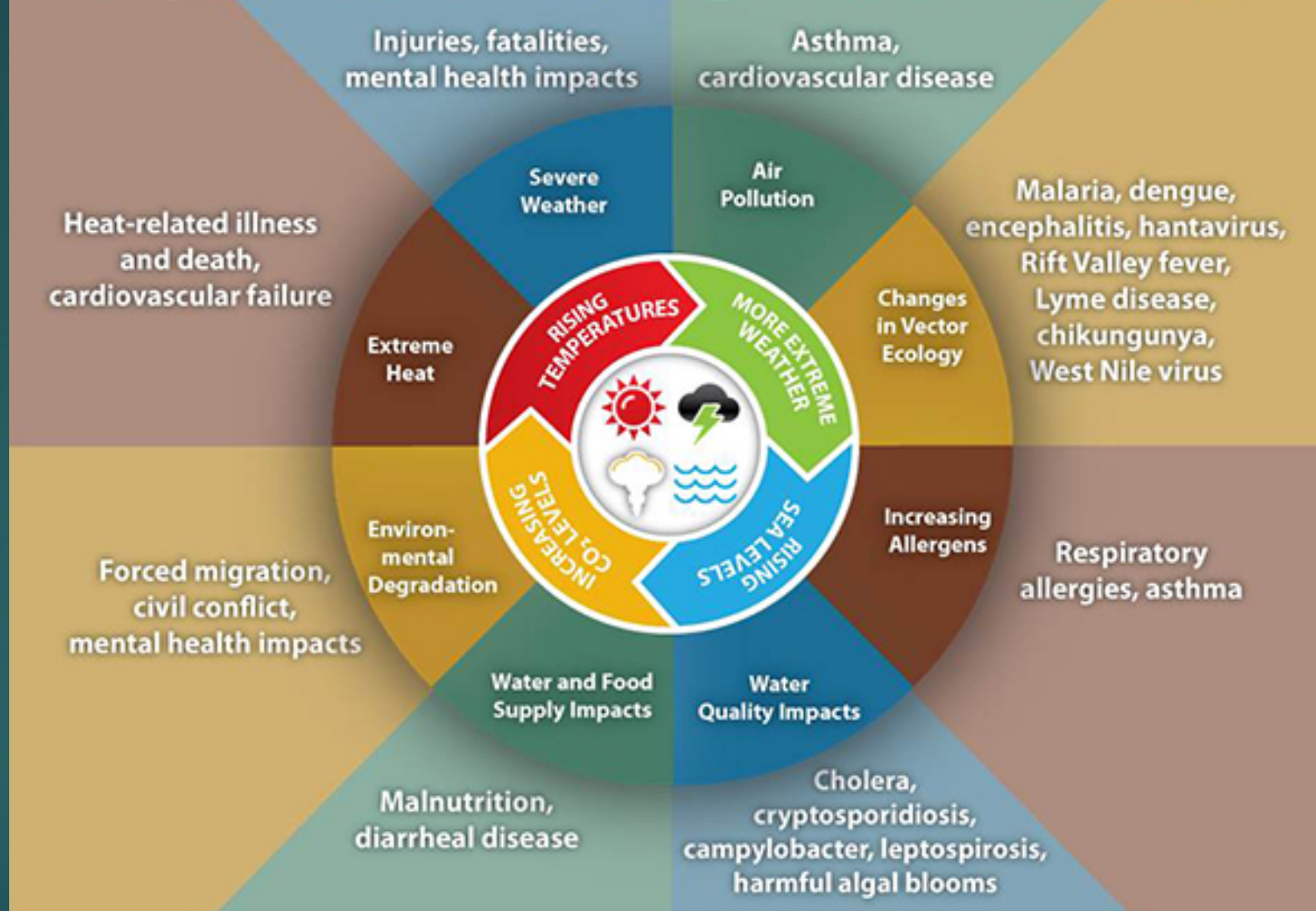
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Climate change represents an inevitable, massive threat to global health that will likely eclipse the major known pandemics as the leading cause of death and disease in the 21st century.

Dr. Dana Hanson, the president of the World Medical Association

Impact of Climate Change on Human Health



Major Climate Issues

Affecting Older Adults and People with Disabilities

- ▶ Rising temperatures, volatile weather events, wildfire, smoke, flooding, pollutants
 - ▶ Extreme heat – heat stroke, heart issues
 - ▶ Decreased air quality – cardiovascular and neurological problems
 - ▶ Power outages
- ▶ Disparate impacts on populations, esp. brown and black; disabled
- ▶ Impact on nature and its healing effects
- ▶ + COVID

Major Climate Issues

Impact on Equity

- ▶ Disparate impacts on populations, esp. brown and black; disabled
- ▶ Agriculture and service jobs outdoors in hottest parts of the state
- ▶ Red-lined and poorer neighborhoods
 - ▶ Hotter
 - ▶ Closer to freeways and sources of pollution
 - ▶ COVID outcomes worse
- ▶ Fewest resources to mitigate the impacts, i.e., air conditioning, air purifiers, ability to move to better locations
- ▶ Immigration from climate impacted areas

Big Picture:

What Can Master Plan for Aging Do?

- ▶ Climate change may be largest health issue facing our constituents
- ▶ Link MPFA to Governor's climate change strategy, Call out that link in our presentations
- ▶ Aging and Disability advocates add support of carbon neutral/reduction policies to our legislative agendas
 - ▶ Educate constituents about the importance and impact of climate change to our communities
 - ▶ Adopt green policies to reduce non-renewable and carbon footprints
 - ▶ Zoning decisions to promote green dense senior housing development near transit centers

MOST IMPORTANT THING WE CAN DO:

Green the Aging and Disability Network

- ▶ **Educate clients, staff, and boards** about impact on them and what they can do
- ▶ **Prepare them** for what to do in extreme heat, power outages, evacuations
 - ▶ Agencies can develop strategies to **buy sustainable materials, lower energy use, change energy sources to renewable, avoid toxics**
 - ▶ Encourage our own **move away from gas and oil use : to electric**
 - ▶ **Encourage and incent telecommuting, walking, biking, and public transportation to work, move to electric vehicles and solar, green buildings**
- ▶ **Most IMPORTANT:** Work with **partners and political leaders** like the Governor to **change policy and economy for California**