

Closing the Climate Gap: Integrating Equity into Adaptation and Mitigation

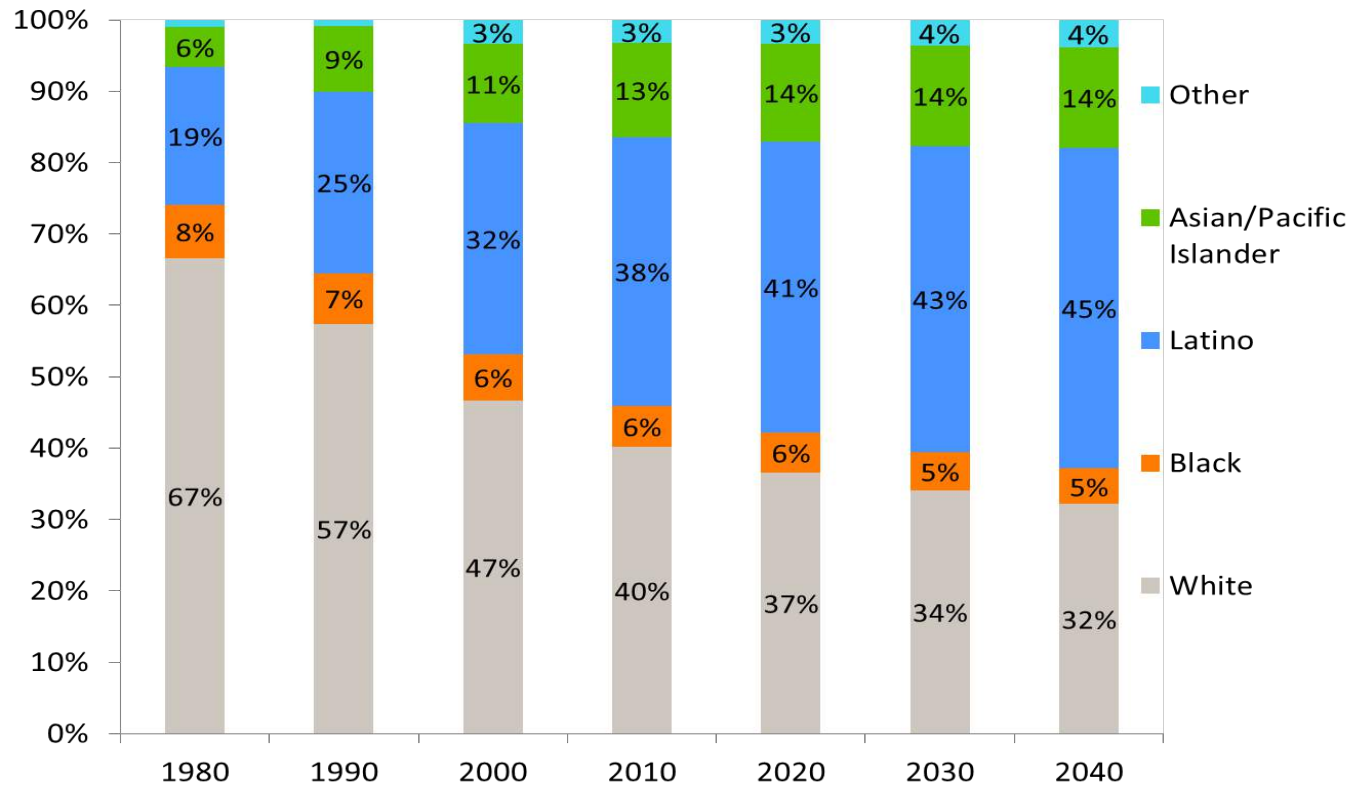


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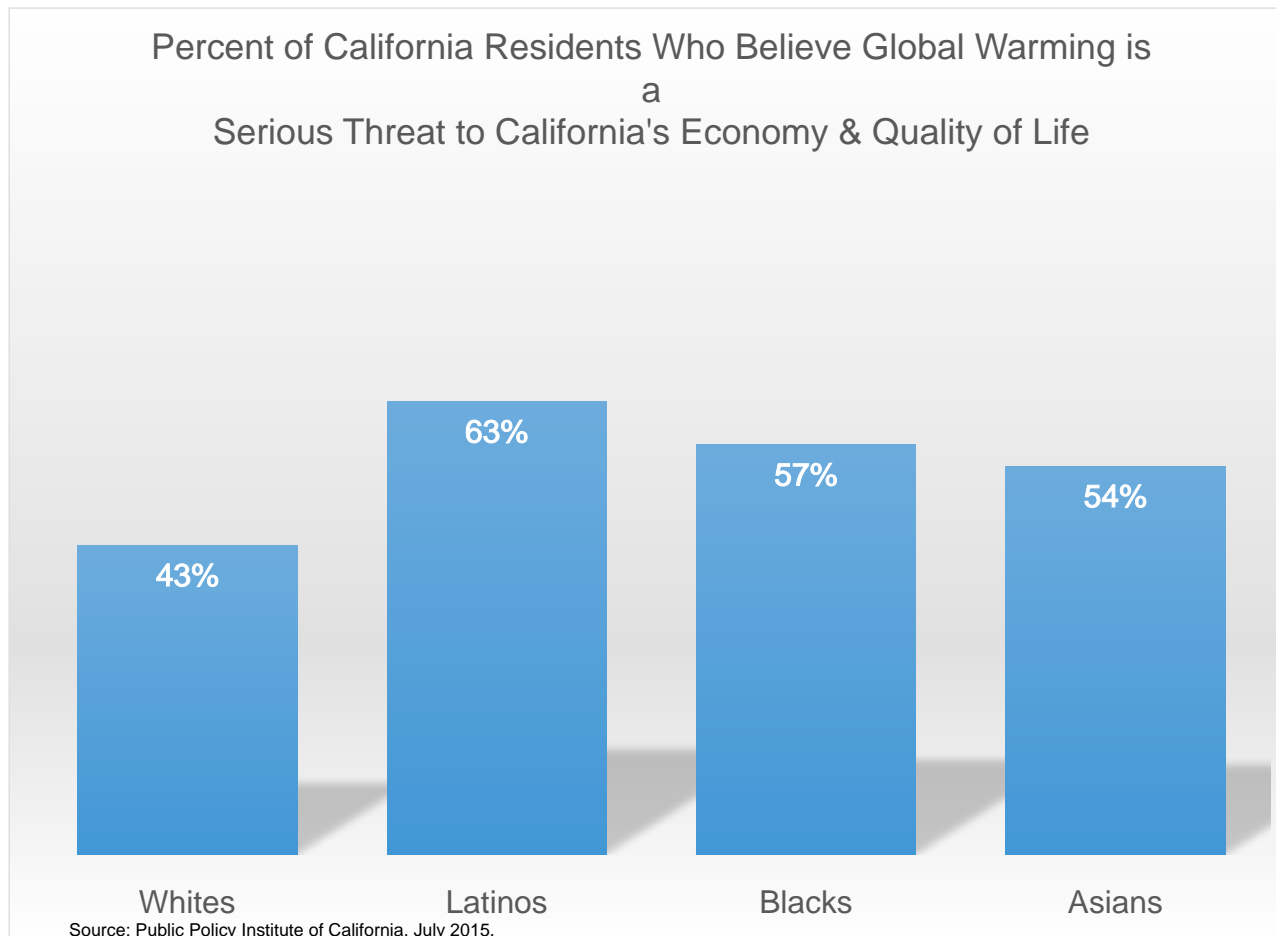
Changing Demographics Changes the Climate Policy Conversation...

Changing Demographics
California, 1980-2040



Source: USC PERE/Policy Link

Communities of color are a key constituency for climate policy



THE CLIMATE GAP

Inequalities in How Climate Change Hurts Americans & How to Close the Gap



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Minding the Climate Gap

What's at Stake if California's Climate Law Isn't Done Right and Right Away



Manuel Pastor, Ph.D. | Rachel Morello-Frosch, Ph.D., MPH | James Sadd, Ph.D. | Justin Scoggins, M.S.

FACING THE CLIMATE GAP

How Environmental Justice Communities are Leading the Way to a More Sustainable and Equitable California



Ellen Kersten, UC Berkeley
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The Climate Gap: People of color and the poor will...

Suffer higher mortality and health impacts

- More frequent and intense heat waves

Be exposed to higher air pollution levels

- Current pattern of pollution exposure & health inequality could become even worse

See the “spending gap” widen

- Pay a greater cost for basic necessities

Experience reduced economic opportunities

- Shifting job opportunities, greater job losses
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Disparate Impact of Heat-Related Mortality by Race/Ethnicity California, 1999-2003

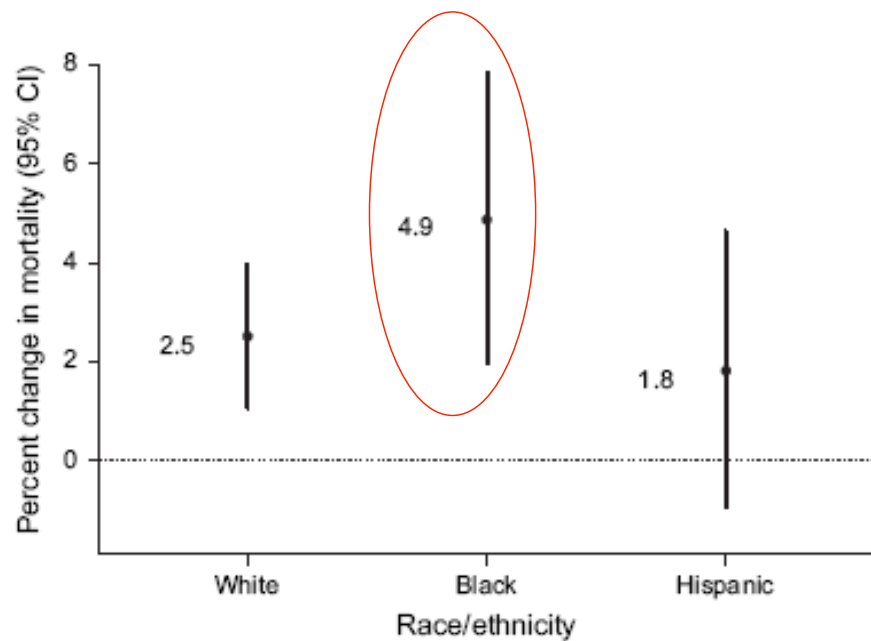
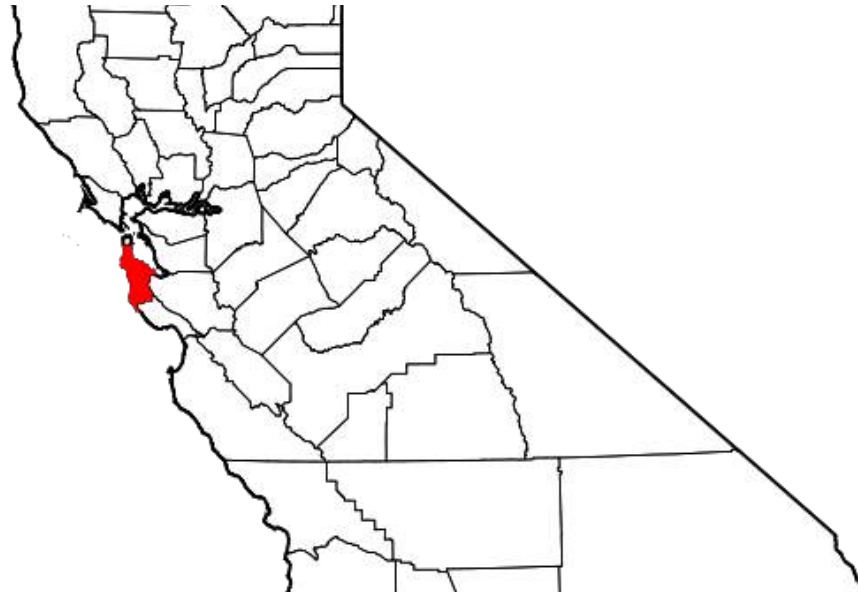


FIGURE 3. Estimated percent change associated with a 10°F (4.7°C) increase in mean daily apparent temperature and nonaccidental mortality by race/ethnic group in nine counties, California, May through September, 1999–2003. CI, confidence interval.



Most major actions to prevent worsening climate change will happen at the State, National or International level



Most actions to address the impacts or prevent worse impacts will happen locally



We are already feeling the overwhelm from climate impacts locally



We have mosquitos that can carry dengue fever

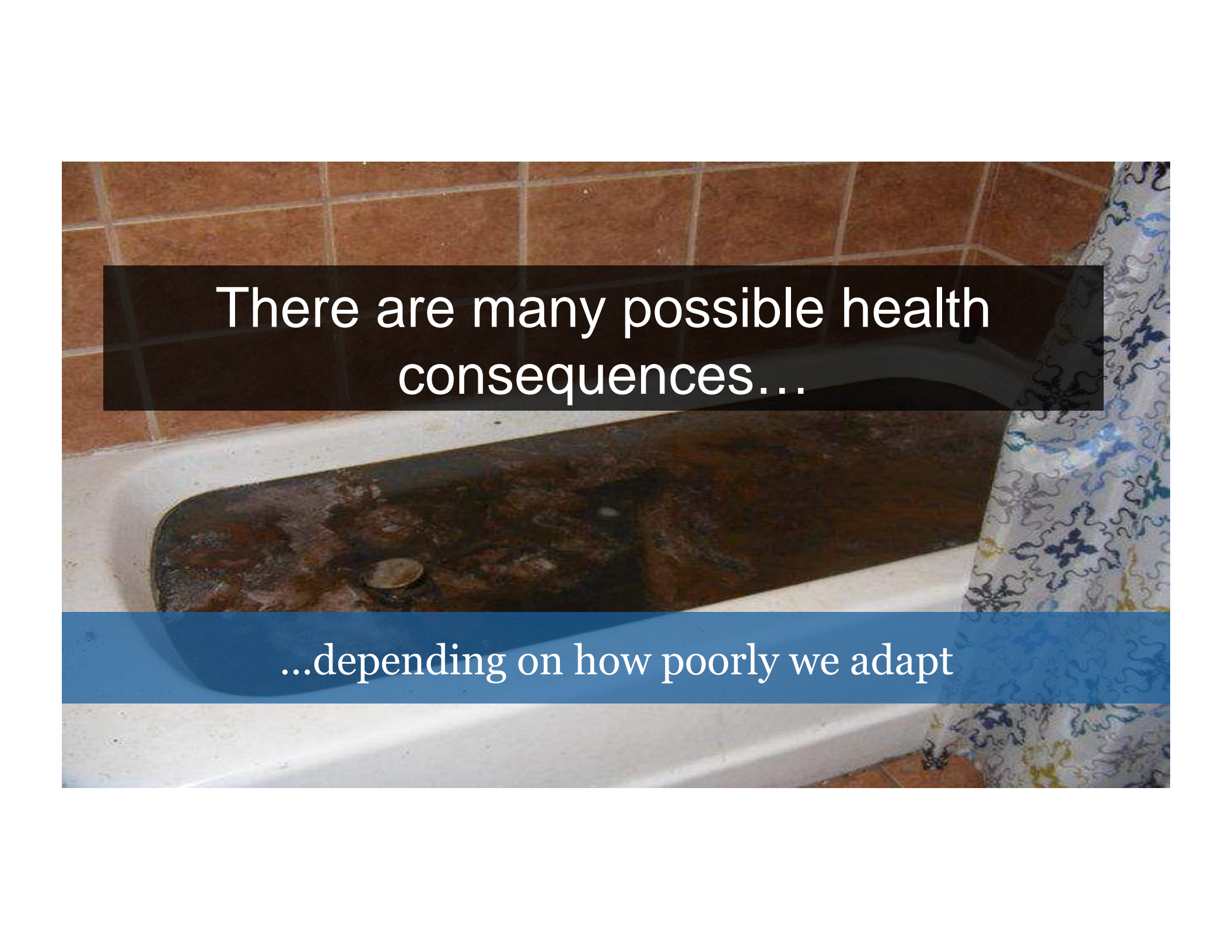
We have homes that have run out of water



We have had enormous floods and displacement

There are many likely and known health consequences





There are many possible health consequences...

...depending on how poorly we adapt

What we need, locally....

- Relative magnitude of various impacts... we can't do it all
- Impact to public systems – those with the least ability to protect themselves are the same people who we serve
- Local impacts, very local, even more local



Questions to be addressed

How will climate change & mitigation/adaptation efforts affect Bay Area communities differently?

What are the incentives/disincentives for communities to engage in climate change planning?

How can climate change mitigation/adaptation policies support social equity goals?

Approach:

- Characterization of neighborhood vulnerabilities and resilience to climate change
- Assessment of the relationship between neighborhood vulnerability characterizations and areas targeted by climate change mitigation/adaptation programs
- In-depth evaluation of physical and social environmental context
- Revision of scientifically-valid and transparent measures for neighborhood and regional needs assessment

