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RESEARCH METHODS TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON HEALTH

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ABSTRACT

The WHO definition emphasizes that assessing health impacts requires more than merely predicting future incidence of specific diseases. Deleterious effects of altered climate on the foundations of public health need to be considered in addition to changes in specific diseases. This paper deals with research methods to assess the impact of climate change on health. It outlines the selection of time scales and conceptual model towards researching the transmission of diseases consequent upon climate change. This paper makes a comprehensive discussion on application of spatial analogues, geographical analysis/mapping, geographic information systems, use of remotely-sensed images and numerical models towards studying the impact of climate change on human beings. This paper points out the impact of climate change on human health with respect to impact assessment of vector-borne diseases and impact assessment for water-related diseases. Further the application of autonomous adaptation, predictive modeling of global climate change and health, empirical-statistical models and process-based or biological models has been brought into discussion. This paper concludes with some interesting findings along with policy suggestions

KEYWORDS: health, climate change, water-borne diseases, malaria, temperature, rainfall