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### OVERVIEW OF THE YUROK TRIBAL HEALTH PRIORITY PLANNING AREA

The health priority planning area assessment focuses on how changes to water quantity and quality may impact Tribal members' health. Eight diseases were selected for this assessment; in every case we found an increased risk due to climate change.

In the table below, diseases are grouped into three categories: Water Resources, Mental Health, and Subsistence Diet. In most cases, not all Tribal members will be affected equally. Population groups at increased risk are identified on the left side of the table. Each row highlights the diseases likely to affect that group.

	WATER RESOURCES			MENTAL HEALTH		SUBSISTENCE DIET		
	Waterborne Pathogens	Rashes	Shellfish	Mental Health & Extreme Weather Events	Multi-Generational Trauma	Diabetes	Cancer	Heart Disease
								
 Infants and Children								
 Pregnant Women								
 Adults								
 Elders								
 Subsistence/Commercial Fishers								
 Gatherers								
 Ceremonial Participants								

# CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTIONS RELATED TO HEALTH

Of the many changes expected to occur across the region, increasing temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and ocean changes are all particularly important in determining the overall health risk for Tribal members. Both primary and secondary impacts from these changes may increase the risk and prevalence of each of these diseases. A few examples are provided below.

## Waterborne Pathogens

Heavier downpours will increase run-off and move bacteria such as E.Coli from the land into creeks, streams, and rivers.

## Rashes

Warmer water temperatures increase the likelihood for freshwater Harmful Algal Blooms.

## Shellfish

Warming stream, river, and ocean temperatures, will increase the likelihood of harmful algal blooms that make it unsafe to consume shellfish.

## Diabetes

Ocean acidification may undermine the marine food web and further decrease the abundance of salmon and other subsistence species.

## Cancer

Warming stream, river, and ocean temperatures degrades water quality and may limit important habitat for subsistence species, making them less available for consumption.

## Heart Disease

Increasing frequency and intensity of wildfires can increase air pollution and exacerbate heart disease.

## Mental Health &

### Extreme Weather Events

Heavier precipitation events can increase flooding, destroy property, and limit access to important natural and cultural resources.

## Multi-Generational Trauma

All changing climate conditions disrupt the Yurok way of life continuing and worsening depression and alcoholism.

## EIGHT HEALTH PATHWAY SUMMARIES

To tell the story of how changing climate conditions can affect health, pathway diagrams were developed for each of the eight diseases. These diagrams describe how climate change could positively or negatively impact health risk and connect the many social and environmental exposures that influence this risk. To help lessen the impacts of these diseases, each pathway diagram is accompanied by a list of institutional and individual adaptation strategies. These strategies recognize the important physical and cultural connections to the Klamath River and the natural resources of the region that are intimately intertwined with the lifeways and wellbeing of the Tribe.



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