

Peer Review Report

Review Report on Climate change, community action, and health in the anglophone Caribbean: A scoping review

Review, Public Health Rev

Reviewer: Pamela Ransom

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EVALUATION

Q 1 Please summarize the main theme of the review.

Research review on anglophone Caribbean small island states and research on community action, climate change and health.

Q 2 Please highlight the limitations and strengths.

- Strengths:
- Clear writing
- Careful methodology
- Interesting/ relevant topic
- The study used a varied range of databases.
- The study states clear limitations/boundaries.
- Specific and wide range of years delineated.
- Identifies the study type and design in the Table 2
- States framework guiding analysis.

Limitations

- A bit unclear in inclusion criteria (line 85/86) where community action fits—does mention of community-based stakeholders mean articles needed to focus on climate change response, or climate change and health related activities of these stakeholders?
- Study includes subject areas for inclusion but not specific search terms
- The scope of activities linking community action/climate change and health is a bit complex and intertwined with the broad field of climate adaptation. This is rather hard to follow in this type of broad literature review style article.
- Community- level organizational activities on health/climate may be documented more prominently in project-based reports, organizational websites, or sites of regional organizations focusing on climate rather than formal research studies of the type searched in this literature review (This is not a reason not to publish but is a limitation).
- Although discussion of methodology was detailed, it is still a bit unclear how some nuances of “community action” were managed as basis for exclusion of certain studies (see elaboration of this point in detailed comments report):

Q 3 Please provide your detailed review report to the authors, structured in major and minor comments.

Minor:

Line 39: Although it may not be in the Lancet consider noting that there are other issues such as heat stress making chronic conditions more problematic.

Line 48: Did a specific organization in the Caribbean sponsor or host the conference?

Line 66: change wording to How are climate change health and livelihoods interrelated.

Line 81: State number of databases searched.

Line 111: unclear why “government and community interaction” was included as part of data extraction. Useful to explain somewhere in article.

Line 309: comment on problems of depth of local institutional involvement in generalizing knowledge—can this be linked to a more specific recommendation?

Line 341: 341: In the section near line 341 the study has an interesting discussion of lack of inclusion or focus on health systems. It is also useful add here or consider returning to this in the discussion/conclusion and giving recognition somewhere in the article to the fact that health providers (and their organizations) are deeply embedded in the community and on the front lines of response and considering giving some recognition to studies that see health providers in the region making adjustments after begin confronted with managing health risks and changing health service requirements resulting from the complex impacts of droughts, rain, floods and hurricanes (see the interviews of Macpherson, C. C., & Akpinar-Elci, M. (2015). Study of health providers Caribbean heat threatens health, well-being and the future of humanity. *Public health ethics*, 8(2), 196–208.)

Major

Final reference list needs small corrections including alignment of citations, adding parentheses around year of publication etc.

Discussion/Conclusion:

Useful to consider strengthening the discussion or conclusion a bit more with linking future work on the theme to developments in the region such as the formation of The Climate and Health Network of Latin American convened by the Global Climate and Health Alliance, or perhaps add that to the timeline graphic.

Discussion should also highlight some missing elements that might have been surprising—for example did none of the studies focus on community action by women’s groups? Since women’s activism on climate has been central to various communities worldwide, this might be an important point to note.

In addition, the following few studies seem to have important recommendations related to community action which a final check might quickly review to ensure these were either not inappropriately skipped in the studies your review included or have useful points to consider noting as part of a stronger set of recommendations/conclusions on the health/community/ climate issues for the region.

Drewry, J., Oura, C. A., Adams, S., Bayley, L., Kotcher, J., & Ivey, M. (2022). Public understanding of climate change and health in the Caribbean: Results and recommendations from a 10-country perceptions survey. *The Journal of Climate Change and Health*, 6, 100155.

This study also includes respondent views on support for community action to address health effects of climate change. Consider adding that point as part of an issue in the discussion or conclusion?

Rawlins, Chen 2007. A Knowledge and Practices Study of the Issues of Climate Change Variability Impacts and Public Health in Trinidad and Tobago and St. Kitts Nevis—

This study discusses levels of community involvement.

Buchanan, J., Greene, N., Hanley, C., Hendrickson, S., Jenkins, R. G., & Whittaker, S. (2021, August). Differential Risk Factors of Climate Change, Health Vulnerabilities and Outreach Opportunities in the Eastern Caribbean. In *ISEE Conference Abstracts* (Vol. 2021, No. 1).

This St Kitts study highlights percent of public currently getting and trying to get help from community organizations related to climate health issues. This point seems important in terms of highlighting the extent to which this sector is adequately meeting needs.

PLEASE COMMENT

Q 4 Does the reference list cover the relevant literature adequately and in an unbiased manner?

Yes

Q 5 Does this manuscript refer only to published data? (unpublished data is not allowed for Reviews)

Yes.

Q 6 Does the manuscript cover the issue in an objective and analytical manner

Yes.

Q 7 Was a review on the issue published in the past 12 months?

No.

Q 8 Does the review have international or global implications?

Yes. In light of the current global importance of climate change there is a notable absence of attention to this region and the issue of community action in the literature; climate change is a critical issue to cover. Other researchers have identified the need to increase the research base regarding the impacts of climate change on the health of Caribbean populations. Findings on community action are central to funding and policy strategies on climate change at many levels including local, international and global.

Q 9 Is the title appropriate, concise, attractive?

The title is interesting, an appropriate length and concise

Q 10 Are the keywords appropriate?

Yes but delete capitalization of health

Q 11 Is the English language of sufficient quality?

Yes--a few small edits are suggested above

Q 12 Is the quality of the figures and tables satisfactory?

Yes.

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Q 13 → Quality of generalization and summary



Q 14 → Significance to the field



Q 15 → Interest to a general audience



Q 16 → Quality of the writing



REVISION LEVEL

Q 17 → Please take a decision based on your comments:

Minor revisions.