

La Plata County

What factors influence the risk of climate change to human health?

Social Factors	Health Conditions	Exposure Risk	Plans and Perceptions
Moderate Risk	High Risk	Highest Risk	Lowest Risk

Sensitive Populations

Social factors, and health conditions that influence residents' climate-related health risks.

Social Factors

	La Plata County	Regional Average
Groups sensitive to climate change in the county	Moderate Risk	Moderate Risk
Percentage of the population under age 5	5%	5%
Percentage of the population under age 18	19%	19%
Percentage of the population ages 65 and older	16%	23%
Percentage of the population that is Black or African American	0%	0%
Percentage of the population that is American Indian or Alaska Native	6%	4%
Percentage of the population that is Hispanic/Latino/a	13%	12%
Percentage with household incomes below the Federal Poverty Level	9%	10%
Percentage of the labor force that is unemployed (ages 16 and older)	4%	4%
Percentage of the population without a high school diploma (ages 25 and older)	4%	7%
Percentage of the population living in homes built before 1980	36%	44%
Percentage of the population that speaks a language other than English at home (ages 5 and older)	9%	10%
Percentage of the population with a cognitive difficulty	3%	5%
Percentage of the population with an ambulatory difficulty	4%	7%

Health Conditions

	La Plata County	Regional Average
Accessibility of health care and prevalence of health conditions sensitive to climate change in the county	High Risk	Moderate Risk
Percentage of adults ages 18 and older who have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	6%	6%
Percentage of adults ages 18 and older who have diabetes	7%	7%
Percentage of adults ages 18 and older who have asthma	8%	8%
Percentage of adults ages 18 and older who have cardiovascular disease	6%	6%
Percentage of adults ages 18 and older who are diagnosed with depression	19%	14%
Percentage of adults ages 18 and older who are obese	20%	19%
Percentage of the population without health insurance	8%	9%
Percentage of the population that did not get needed health care in the past 12 months	26%	26%

Exposure Risk

Climate-influenced environmental exposures, including extreme heat, wildfires, and drought, that put Coloradans' health at risk.

Climate Exposures

	La Plata County	Regional Average
Environmental exposures and climate factors in the county	Highest Risk	Highest Risk
Number of extreme heat days (at or above 90 degrees Fahrenheit)	10	14
Percentage of land rated moderate to highest risk for possible loss or harm from a wildfire	66%	41%
Percentage of weeks that any percentage of the county's population is in severe, extreme, or exceptional drought	100%	91%
Percentage of population who live in a wildland-urban interface (WUI)	97%	97%
Community flooding risk	Major	Moderate

Plans and Perceptions

Plans to address climate change impacts and local perceptions on climate change in the county.

Plans and Perceptions

	La Plata County	Regional Average
Current state of plans related to climate impacts and perceptions about the connection between climate and health in the county	Lowest Risk	Moderate Risk
Percentage of the population that believes that global warming is currently happening	76%	71%
Percentage of the population that believes that the impacts from global warming will harm them personally	48%	45%
Percentage of the population that believes global warming will harm future generations	74%	70%
Percentage of the population that believes local officials should do more to address global warming	58%	54%
Percentage of the population that believes global warming is already harming people	63%	58%
Has a county hazard mitigation plan	Yes	Yes, more than half have plans
Has a community wildfire plan	Yes	Yes, more than half have plans
County or most populated city has a climate action plan	Yes	Half or less have plans
Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy member	No	Half or less are members
Colorado Communities for Climate Action member	Yes	Half or fewer are members

*Regional averages include: Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, and San Juan counties



Questions? Refer to the full report: Think Globally, Adapt Locally: Colorado Counties Health and Climate Index

<https://www.coloradohealthinstitute.org/research/2022-climate-change-health-index>

