Climate change impacts on public health are well documented. Whether it’s extreme heat, common or major flooding, or poor air quality, some populations are at a greater risk of certain health impacts or have existing illnesses that are exacerbated by climate change. For example, low-income communities and people of color are already disproportionately exposed to toxic air pollutants and are more likely to have pre-existing respiratory health ailments, such as asthma. Many are also less likely to afford air conditioning in their homes, and often have limited access to green space and natural amenities that offset urban heat and help purify the air in their neighborhoods. For these communities extreme heat events can exacerbate existing health conditions, potentially resulting in illness, increased health care costs, and loss of work days. This map highlights areas with a higher density of existing health conditions likely to be exacerbated by climate change. It was created by combining the following Public Health criteria:

- High asthma prevalence
- High diabetes prevalence
- High obesity prevalence
- High coronary heart disease prevalence

Supporting improved health for residents

CLIMATE-SMART CITIES™: PHILADELPHIA - PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITIES