

# Who is Impacted by Climate Change?

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## Who is vulnerable to climate impacts?

While everyone is vulnerable to the current and projected impacts of climate change, **some people face more severe impacts than others.**

## What causes disproportionate impacts?

A combination of many factors related to exposure and vulnerability. Factors that shape vulnerability can be environmental, such as geographical location, or social, like socioeconomic status, age, or race.

### Issues of generational justice

The figure below demonstrates how young people today will be exposed to greater levels of warming from climate change throughout their lifetimes than preceding generations.

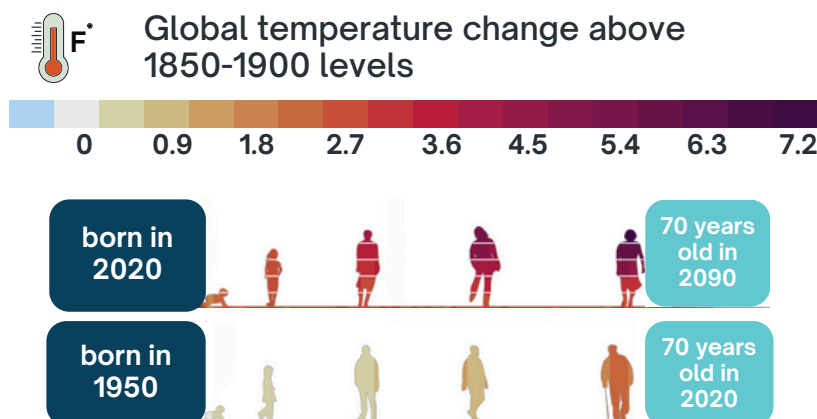
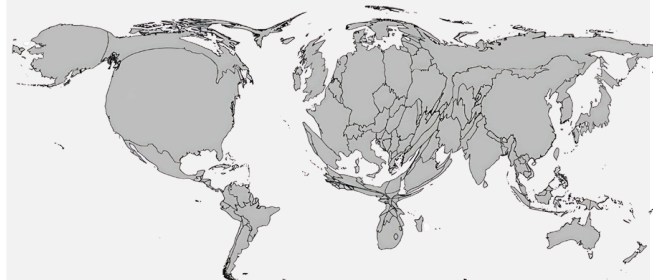


Figure adapted from IPCC, 2023: Summary for Policymakers

### Issues of geographical justice

The countries that have contributed the least to climate change experience the highest levels of mortality from climate impacts.



World map adjusted to reflect cumulative carbon dioxide emissions by country.



World map adjusted to reflect magnitude and severity of climate-related mortality by country.

Figure adapted from Patz et al.

**SO** Why should judges care?

Understanding the effects of climate change requires recognizing that it impacts communities differently.



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## Sources

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Figure SPM.1: AR6 Synthesis Report*, Summary for Policymakers 7 (2023), <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/figures/figure-spm-1>.

Jonathan A. Patz et al., *Climate Change and Global Health: Quantifying a Growing Ethical Crisis*, 4 *EcoHealth* 397, 400 (2007), [https://www.gibbs-lab.wisc.edu/assets/Gibbs\\_Climate\\_change\\_and\\_global\\_health\\_2007.pdf](https://www.gibbs-lab.wisc.edu/assets/Gibbs_Climate_change_and_global_health_2007.pdf).



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