

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH SCAN

VOL 10 (1) JANUARY 2026



<p><u>AIR QUALITY</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor air • Outdoor air • Radon, Other 	<p><u>CLIMATE CHANGE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extreme weather • Flooding • Sea level rise • Wildfires, Other 	<p><u>DISEASES, VECTORS, PESTS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 • Animal vectors • Insect vectors • Pests, Other
<p><u>FOOD</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food safety • Food security • Growing food, Other 	<p><u>BUILT ENVIRONMENT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green& blue spaces • Housing • Noise • Planning & design • Transportation, Other 	<p><u>PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDAMENTALS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication • Health promotion • Health impact assessment • Health equity • One Health, Other
<p><u>WATER</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking water • Recreational water • Small water systems • Wastewater, Other 	<p><u>NON-CLIMATE RELATED DISASTERS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earthquakes • Marine • Terrestrial, Other 	<p><u>OTHER TOPICS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannabis products • Tobacco, nicotine products • Ionizing, non-ionizing radiation • Personal services establishments, Other
<p><u>SPECIFIC POPULATIONS</u> (children, Indigenous Peoples, older adults, other)</p>		

Environmental Health (EH) Research Scan: Aims and Scope

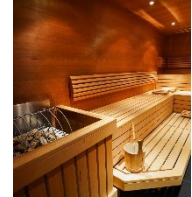
NCCEH's EH Research Scan aims to expand awareness of topics in environmental health, in line with [NCCEH's vision](#) to be the indispensable online resource for environmental health practitioners and policy-makers across Canada. This research scan is not peer reviewed; it does not cover all research, news, and information, and NCCEH is not responsible for the accuracy of the content from media or databases. Not all links are open access; some are abstract links where paid journal subscription is required.

EDITOR PICKS

Rapid review: Exploring health and safety hazards in saunas [evidence brief] [evidence brief].

Tina Chen, Environmental Health and Knowledge Translation Scientist, NCCEH

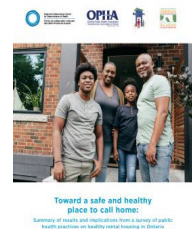
“This evidence brief discusses findings from a rapid scan of peer-reviewed and grey literature on the health risks and hazards associated with dry saunas, infrared saunas, and steam saunas, and discusses available guidance and strategies to prevent or mitigate these hazards.”



Toward a safe and healthy place to call home: Summary of results and implications from a survey of public health practices on healthy rental housing in Ontario.

RentSafe, National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health, & Ontario Public Health Association

“...RentSafe and the Ontario Public Health Association conducted a survey of public health units in Ontario in the winter of 2023–2024. The purpose of the survey was to identify relevant public health practices and opportunities for action.”



Built environments for healthy aging: Environmental health approaches to age- and dementia inclusive communities [recent webinar].

Habib Chaudhury and Emma Avery

“This webinar highlighted key findings from the Age- and Dementia-Inclusive Neighbourhood Guidelines, developed by Happy Cities and the DemSCAPE Project at Simon Fraser University.”



Climate resilience: How do Canadian cities compare? [upcoming webinar].

Jeffrey Brook and Joey Syer

“This webinar will introduce a new feature in the tool—the Climate Health Equity Resilience Index (CHERI). Users can view a snapshot of their city’s CHERI score using a single infographic, and can see the factors contributing to it and also be able to compare results across Canadian cities using common national data.”



NCCEH eNews (Dec 2025): NCCEH Spotlight: Cold weather health impacts among people experiencing homelessness; more....

National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health



December research scan [research scan].

National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health



POPULAR DOWNLOADS IN 2025- NCCEH RESOURCES

Do-it-yourself (DIY) air cleaners: evidence on effectiveness and considerations for safe operation [evidence review]

Angela Eykelbosh

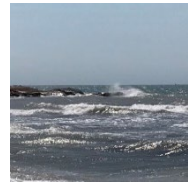
“The purpose of this document is to review the evidence on DIY air cleaner effectiveness, cost effectiveness, energy efficiency and noise compared with ...”



Overview of Canadian communities exposed to sea level rise [evidence review].

Tracey Wade, in partnership with NCCEH

“As a first step, this report provides an overview of Canadian communities most at risk from sea level rise for public health and climate adaptation practitioners.”



Health risks associated with sea level rise [evidence review].

Tracey Wade, in partnership with NCCEH

“The purpose of this report is to examine the available evidence on the impacts on human health and well-being that may be driven by sea level rise. This information is intended to assist public health professionals and others involved in climate...”



Fermented food safety guidance: A new resource for public health practitioners [blog].

National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health

“The guidance website is a tool that can be used by PHIs, food safety staff, and owners and operators of food processing facilities...”



Black garlic: Food safety considerations during production and storage [evidence brief].

Tina Chen, Environmental Health and Knowledge Translation Scientist, NCCEH

“This evidence brief will discuss the potential food safety risks associated with the.”



Crematoria emissions and air quality impacts [evidence review].

Juliette O’Keeffe, Senior Scientist, NCCEH

“This field inquiry focuses on crematoria-related air pollution and human health ...”



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH SCAN

SELECTED RESOURCES

1. Brook J, Syer J. **Climate resilience: how do Canadian cities compare? [webinar]**. Vancouver, BC: National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health; 2026 Jan 29. Available from: <https://ncceh.ca/events/upcoming-webinars/climate-resilience-how-do-canadian-cities-compare>.
2. Chaudhury H, Avery E. **Built environments for healthy aging: Environmental health approaches to age- and dementia inclusive communities [HBE webinar]**. Vancouver, BC: National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health; 2026 Jan 15. Available from: <https://ncceh.ca/events/upcoming-webinars/built-environments-healthy-aging-environmental-health-approaches-age-and>.
3. Chen T. **Rapid review: Exploring health and safety hazards in saunas [evidence review]**. Vancouver, BC: National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health; 2026 Jan. Available from: <https://ncceh.ca/resources/evidence-briefs/rapid-review-exploring-health-and-safety-hazards-saunas>.
4. National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health. **Dec research scan**. Vancouver, BC: NCCEH; 2025 12 17 Dec. Available from: <https://ncceh.ca/sites/default/files/2025-12/NCCEH%20Research%20Scan%20-202512.pdf>.
5. National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health. **NCCEH eNews (Dec 2025): NCCEH Spotlight: Cold weather health impacts among people experiencing homelessness; more...** Vancouver, BC: NCCEH; 2025 12 18 Dec. Available from: https://app.cyberimpact.com/newsletter-view-online?ct=h3zs3PaEnOBo5R_9OZBCv8ucu3_mAWcc3PLa9e3eeEl6eQNoyVrfrp3CpEtWyzE_Wj6Hmou4WvmHrtcadRCyks5TMXTzneo8X_OhFWhPsYtm62wmw528BR38ojOiOq9R.
6. National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health. **Mould investigation [online course]**. Vancouver, BC: NCCEH; 2026 [updated 2026 Jan 1]. Available from: <https://ncceh.ca/mould-investigation-online-course-public-health-professionals>.
7. RentSafe, National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health, Ontario Public Health Association. **Toward a safe and healthy place to call home: Summary of results and implications from a survey of public health practices on healthy rental housing in Ontario**. Antigonish, NS: NCCDH, St. Francis Xavier University; 2025 Dec. Available from: https://nccdh.ca/resources/entry/toward-a-safe-and-healthy-place-to-call-home?mc_cid=e0b8b8f266&mc_eid=d78c71cff8.

1. AIR QUALITY

INDOOR AIR

1. Apantaku GO, Polgár A, Giroux F, Giang A, Gladwin D, Ellis N. **Heat, smoke, and urban health: cooling and cleaner air centres as a tool for adaptation in a Canadian urban region.** *Cities & Health.* 2025;9(5):828-43. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1080/23748834.2025.2558285>.
2. Mccoll K, Mccoll K. **No Reliable Health-Protective Threshold in Housing Practice: Converging Scientific, Clinical, and Legal Perspectives on Damp and Mould as Health Hazards.** SSRN. 2025. Available from: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=5967975.

OUTDOOR AIR

1. Abdul-Nabi SS, Al Karaki V, Khalil A, El Zahran T. **Climate change and its environmental and health effects from 2015 to 2022: A scoping review.** *Heliyon.* 2025;11(3):e42315. Available from: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2405844025006954>.
2. Münzel T, Sørensen M, Lelieveld J, Landrigan PJ, Kuntic M, Nieuwenhuijsen M, et al. **A comprehensive review/expert statement on environmental risk factors of cardiovascular disease.** *Cardiovasc Res.* 2025;121(11):1653-78. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1093/cvr/cvaf119>.
3. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, Medicine. **Effects of Human-Caused Greenhouse Gas Emissions on U.S. Climate, Health, and Welfare.** Washington, DC: The National Academies Press; 2025. Available from: <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/29239/effects-of-human-caused-greenhouse-gas-emissions-on-us-climate-health-and-welfare>.
4. Rackow B, König H-H, Wall M, Konnopka C. **The interaction between air pollution, weather conditions, and health risks: a systematic review.** *Sci Total Environ.* 2025;996:180080. Available from: <https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=2d8c3bac-f6c8-3a15-a9a7-ffae8618a991>.
5. Wen D, Wang Y, Zhang H, Qi H, Li H, Chen Y, et al. **Synergistic effects of air pollution and cold spells on ischemic heart disease hospitalization risk: a case-crossover study in Xinxiang, China.** *Int J Biometeorol.* 2025;69(6):1397-406. Available from: <https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=f25d2977-9026-31e9-944d-0542bb4f2d02>.
6. Zieneldien T, Ma S, Tan IJ, Kim J, Busot D, Cohen BA. **The Environmental Determinants of Skin Health: Linking Climate Change, Air Pollution, and the Dermatologic Disease Burden.** *Int J Environ Res Public Health.* 2025;22(12):1820. Available from: <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/22/12/1820>.

RADON, OTHER

1. Citizens for Radioactive Radon Reduction, Children’s Environmental Health Network. **Radon reduction toolkit. Preventing and Mitigating Radon Exposure.** Washington, DC: Children’s Environmental Health Network; 2025. Available from: <https://cehn.org/radon-reduction-toolkit/>.

2. FOOD

FOOD SAFETY

1. Kearney A, Forrest R. **Foodborne Illness Outbreak Response in Canada: From Detection to Action - Session 1 [webinar]**. Winnipeg, MB; Vancouver, BC: Outbreak Toolkit - Enteric Outbreak Investigations; National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases; National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health; 2026 Jan 28. Available from: <https://outbreaktools.ca/enteric-outbreak-seminar-series/foodborne-illness-outbreak-response-series/>.
2. Howie A, Bond H. **Foodborne Illness Outbreak Response in Canada: From Detection to Action - Session 2 [webinar]**. Winnipeg, MB; Vancouver, BC: Outbreak Toolkit - Enteric Outbreak Investigations; National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases; National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health; 2026 Feb 18. Available from: <https://outbreaktools.ca/enteric-outbreak-seminar-series/foodborne-illness-outbreak-response-series/>.
3. Catford A, Griffin M, Lavallée V. **Foodborne Illness Outbreak Response in Canada: From Detection to Action - Session 3 [webinar]**. Winnipeg, MB; Vancouver, BC: Outbreak Toolkit - Enteric Outbreak Investigations; National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases; National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health; 2026 Mar 11. Available from: <https://outbreaktools.ca/enteric-outbreak-seminar-series/foodborne-illness-outbreak-response-series/>.
4. World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe. **Strengthening surveillance of and response to foodborne diseases: introductory manual**. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization; 2025 Dec. Available from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240117242>.
5. Zhou W, Sim D, Zeng Y, Li H, Dai X, Chen Y, et al. **Commercial food environment and cognitive health: findings from 114 urban communities**. Environ Res. 2026;292:123640. Available from: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0013935125028932>.

FOOD SECURITY

1. Fanzo J, Carducci B, Louis-Jean J, Herrero M, Karl K, Rosenzweig C. **Climate Change, Extreme Weather Events, Food Security, and Nutrition: Evolving Relationships and Critical Challenges**. Annu Rev Nutr. 2025;45:335-60. Available from: <https://www.annualreviews.org/content/journals/10.1146/annurev-nutr-111324-111252>.
2. Yurris AC. **Exploring the importance of community freezers and a country food box distribution program in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Northwest Territories, Canada**. Waterloo, ON: University of Waterloo; 2025. Available from: <https://uwspace.uwaterloo.ca/items/39a7fb19-1c6f-49ab-9904-e762f83528a0>.

GROWING FOOD, OTHER

1. British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Napoleon J. **Small-Scale Greenhouse Training Guide for Indigenous Communities in British Columbia**. Victoria, BC: Government of BC; 2025 Dec. Available from: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/programs/indigenous-pathfinder-service/small-scale_greenhouse_training_guide_for_indigenous_communities_in_british_columbia.pdf.

3. WATER

DRINKING WATER

1. Avila J, Mian HR, De Coste M, Mohseni M, Hewage K, Sadiq R. **Benefits-risks analysis of drinking water systems in Small and Rural Indigenous (SRI) communities in Canada**. Journal of Environmental Chemical Engineering. 2026;14(1):120773. Available from: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2213343725054703>.
2. Duncan C, Chalmers E, Gora S. **Application of water safety planning to improve drinking water safety in an Arctic community – a case study in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut**. Int J Circumpolar Health. 2025;84(1):2494889. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1080/22423982.2025.2494889>.
3. Duncan C, Ibraheem M, Tam A, Egotak C, Maniyogina K, Klengenber F, et al. **Identifying drinking water safety hazards throughout an Arctic community’s water supply system**. Water Res. 2026;288:124689. Available from: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0043135425015921>.
4. Health Canada. **Draft Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality, Haloacetic Acids**. Ottawa, ON: Health Canada; 2026 Jan. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/healthy-living/guidelines-drinking-water-quality-haloacetic-acids.html>.
5. Sarpong R, Nazemi A, AghaKouchak A. **Creeping snow drought threatens Canada’s water supply**. Communications Earth & Environment. 2026 2026/01/09. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-025-03162-8>.
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RECREATIONAL WATER

SMALL WATER SYSTEMS

WASTEWATER, OTHER

4. CLIMATE CHANGE

EXTREME WEATHER

1. Akinsanola AA, Singhai P, Taguela TN, Folorunsho AH, Adeyeri OE, Morakinyo TE, et al. **A review of urban resilience to weather and climate extremes.** *City and Built Environment.* 2025;3(1):24. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44213-025-00063-6>.
2. Batool A, Burke DT, Chique C, O'Dwyer J, Fong KF, Priyadarshini A, et al. **Identifying impacts of extreme weather events on mental health in the Republic of Ireland using the Impact of Event Scale-Revised (IES-R) index and machine learning.** *J Environ Psychol.* 2025;105:102670. Available from: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0272494425001537>.
3. Boyer A-L, Ahn M, Keith L, Brown HE. **Striving for Rural Heat Resilience: A Systematic Literature Review.** *Weather, Climate, and Society.* 2026;18(1):17-31. Available from: <https://journals.ametsoc.org/view/journals/wcas/18/1/WCAS-D-25-0047.1.xml>.
4. British Columbia Centre for Disease Control. **ecolens: snapshots of our climate story.** Vancouver, BC: BCCDC and the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA); 2025; Available from: <https://ecolens.ca/>.
5. Burck J, Uhlich T, Bals C, Höhne N, Wong J, de Villafranca MJ, et al. **Climate Change Performance Index 2026.** *Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI);* 2025 Nov. Available from: <https://ccpi.org/download/climate-change-performance-index-2026/>.
6. Burke M, Wilson A, Avirmed K, Wallstein J, Martins M, Behrer P, et al. **Understanding and addressing temperature impacts on mortality.** Stanford, CA: Stanford University; 2025 Sep. Available from: <https://web.stanford.edu/~mburke/papers/TemperatureMortality.pdf>.
7. Climate Action Tracker. **Canada - country summary.** CA: Climate Action Tracker. Available from: <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/canada/>.
8. Cologne V, Meiler S, Kropf CM, Lüthi S, Mede NG, Bresch DN, et al. **Extreme weather event attribution predicts climate policy support across the world.** *Nature Climate Change.* 2025;15(7):725-35. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-025-02372-4>.
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10. Fard P, Hügel J, Keivabu RC, Dominici F, Zagheni E, Estiri H, et al. **Developing a Spatiotemporal Repository of Extreme Heat and Cold Exposure in the United States for Precision Public Health Research.** *Environ Sci Tech.* 2025;59(37):19872-84. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.5c03658>.
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- <https://homelessnetwork.scot/2025/06/20/ghift-highlight-risk-communal-night-shelters-homelessness/>.
14. Huang S, Jiang F, Dong Q, Yu J, Fan K, Wang Z, et al. **The impact of climate change induced extreme weather events on microbial dynamics and public health: an in-depth review on water quality and ecosystem resilience.** *Front Environ Sci.* 2025;Volume 13 - 2025. Available from: <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/environmental-science/articles/10.3389/fenvs.2025.1674490>.
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28. Russo A, Cushing D, Esperón-Rodríguez M, Guaralda M, Stewart I. **Developing a nature-based heat health planning framework: a call for transdisciplinary collaboration to mitigate and adapt to heat extremes and protect vulnerable populations in urban environments.** *Cities & Health.* 2025;9(5):809-16. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1080/23748834.2025.2556360>.
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30. Zou J, Zhong G, Wang LL, Katal A, Gaur A, Yan S, et al. **Urban heatwaves and mortality: A socioeconomic and environmental study using a novel building heat vulnerability index.** *Cities.* 2026;169:106558. Available from: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0264275125008613>.

FLOODING

1. Green Municipal Fund. **Build flood resilience with our video training series.** Ottawa, ON: Green Municipal Fund; 2025. Available from: <https://greenmunicipalfund.ca/resources/build-flood-resilience-our-video-training-series>.
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SEA LEVEL RISE

1. Bonada A, Bakos K. **Managing Rising Risks: Climate-Resilient Shorelines for Canada**. Waterloo, ON: Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation, University of Waterloo; 2025 Nov. Available from: <https://www.intactcentrecclimateadaptation.ca/recent-reports/climate-resilient-shorelines/>.
2. Krishnan M, White O, Johansson S, Smit S, Farr A, Chockalingam K. **Advancing adaptation: Mapping costs from cooling to coastal defenses**. New York: McKinsey Global Institute; 2025 Dec 11. Available from: <https://www.mckinsey.com/mgi/our-research/advancing-adaptation-mapping-costs-from-cooling-to-coastal-defenses>.

WILDFIRES, OTHER

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