

Chapter 8 discusses threats to public health from climate change. The chapter mainly focuses on the worsening air quality from fossil fuel combustion activities and alludes to other impacts only in passing. For example, climate change applies pressure to the continuity and reliability of the food supply. This will occur through crop yield failure due to rainfall, leading to rising food prices.¹ Another example is when the chapter references increasing “anxiety and PTSD” following extreme weather events. This claim does not mention broader mental health issues and lacks a citation, but it resembles a study following Hurricane Katrina.² In addition to high heat, extreme cold temperatures are also associated with death, especially when the power fails and people resort to other sources of heat.³ Lastly, when discussing the health disparities of asthma and cardiovascular disease, those of indigenous communities should also be included. The “additional studies” in the second-to-last sentence of section 8.1 lacks a citation.

It makes sense to combine section 8.2 with the transportation subsection of section 8.3. According to the Department of Energy, transportation accounts for 47% of total emissions in NYS.⁴ Emissions from transportation are a more proximate cause to health problems from air pollution than those from power generation. Transportation remains the toughest source of emissions to address.⁵ The chapter could have expanded upon the difficulties of implementing proposed solutions. For instance, the feasibility of public transit or walkability in rural areas. The chapter should mention roundabouts, a solution which reduces emissions, improves traffic flow, and is safer for pedestrians.⁶

In brief, the chapter should analyze other public health categories put at a higher risk from climate change. While the chapter did address public health disparities for low income communities, it could have analyzed this more in depth especially for the indigenous nations in NY.

¹ *Food Security* | CDC. 21 Dec. 2020, https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/effects/food_security.htm.

² Rhodes, Jean, et al. “The Impact of Hurricane Katrina on the Mental and Physical Health of Low-Income Parents in New Orleans.” *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, vol. 80, no. 2, Apr. 2010, pp. 237–47. DOI.org (Crossref), <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1939-0025.2010.01027.x>.

³ Ibid.

⁴ *4 Facts About New York’s Transportation Emissions* | CBCNY. 11 Nov. 2021, <https://cbcny.org/research/4-facts-about-new-yorks-transportation-emissions>.

⁵ Plumer, Brad. “Power Plants Are No Longer America’s Biggest Climate Problem. Transportation Is.” *Vox*, 13 June 2016, <https://www.vox.com/2016/6/13/11911798/emissions-electricity-versus-transportation>.

⁶ “Roundabouts.” *IIHS-HLDI Crash Testing and Highway Safety*, <https://www.iihs.org/topics/roundabouts>. Accessed 28 Feb. 2022.