

TITLE: Perinatal health equity as a lens for environmental public health solutions

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: This session will center racial equity and intersectionality and will bring in perspectives from the latest research as well as best practices in preventative maternal and child health. Big picture takeaways will be relevant to researchers, prevention sci

ABSTRACT: Climate change mitigation and resilience is increasingly recognized as a public health priority. Pregnancy is the point in the lifespan where individuals are most vulnerable to lifelong effects of climate change. These outcomes (e.g., preterm birth, stillbirth, and transgenerational trauma) are linked to heat, pollution, disasters, and wildfires, yet most often the strategies to combat these outcomes are developed in silos. Nurturely, a community-based organization focused on perinatal health equity, asked if perinatal health can be an effective lens through which broader climate solutions are developed. With two case studies, wildfire resilience recommendations and local climate action planning, we will present both opportunities and barriers to using the lens of perinatal health as a unique intervention opportunity to the environmental public health crisis, centering both the research as well as the community-based expertise necessary for intersectional, equitable solutions. Stakeholders from all fields related to environmental health will leave with specific data and actionable solutions to address the health effects of the climate crisis.

OBJECTIVE(S): List the epidemiological evidence for pregnancy and postpartum as uniquely vulnerable periods in the environmental health crisis Identify the unique opportunities and barriers for environmental public health strategies that use a lens of perinatal health equity Discuss the roles of researchers, community-based organizations, and policymakers in advancing interdisciplinary perinatal-planetary health solutions
