Environmental Science and Public Health

A Mini-Symposium Environmental Science Institute University of Texas Austin, Texas.

#### About:

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Environmental Epidemiology

**Public Health** 

Urban Planning

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Research Collaborator University of Texas School of Public Health

# **Current research focus:** pertinent findings

### Built Environment, Transportation & Health (Children\*\*)

Light rail + Development Changes + Health-related Behaviors (Physical Activity) Data collection stage / Natural Experiment Challenges / Built Environment Audits

#### Others

TCOPPE: policy and environmental changes vs. active commuting to school

TX-CORD: family, policy and environmental changes vs. obesity in children

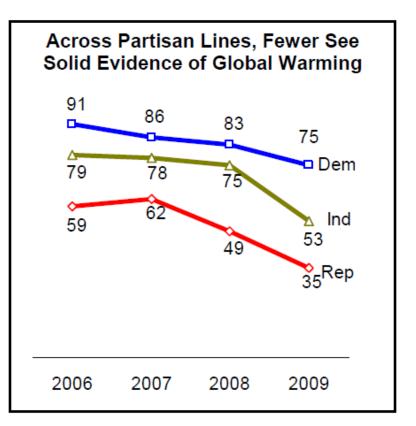
### Interdisciplinary collaboration:

projects & collaborators

**Teasing out the Facts on the Potential Health Impacts of Climate Variability and Change** *Assessing the Weight of Evidence* 

National Environmental Public Health Conference, 2009.





### Interdisciplinary collaboration:

projects & collaborators

#### **TECHNICAL REPORT**

#### **Global Climate Change and Children's** Health American Academy of Pediatrics



Katherine M. Shea, MD, MPH, and the Committee on Environmental Health

#### INTRODUCTION

Scientists<sup>1</sup> and governments<sup>2</sup> concur that Earth is warming; rapid global climate change is underway, and human activities are very likely (>90% probability) the main cause. Adverse human health and ecosystem consequences are anticipated,<sup>3</sup> and some are already being measured. Physicians have written on the projected effects of climate change on public health,<sup>4,5</sup> but little has been written specifically about anticipated effects of climate change on children's health.<sup>6</sup>

Children represent a particularly vulnerable group that is likely to suffer disproportionately from both direct and indirect adverse health effects of climate change.<sup>7</sup> Pediatric health care professionals must understand the escalating nature





of its ever popular boat ramps. Local television crews regularly cook food on car dashboards to show how hot it is: in Austin they <u>baked a batch of cookies</u>. Not to be outdone, a crew up in Oklahoma <u>grilled a steak</u>.



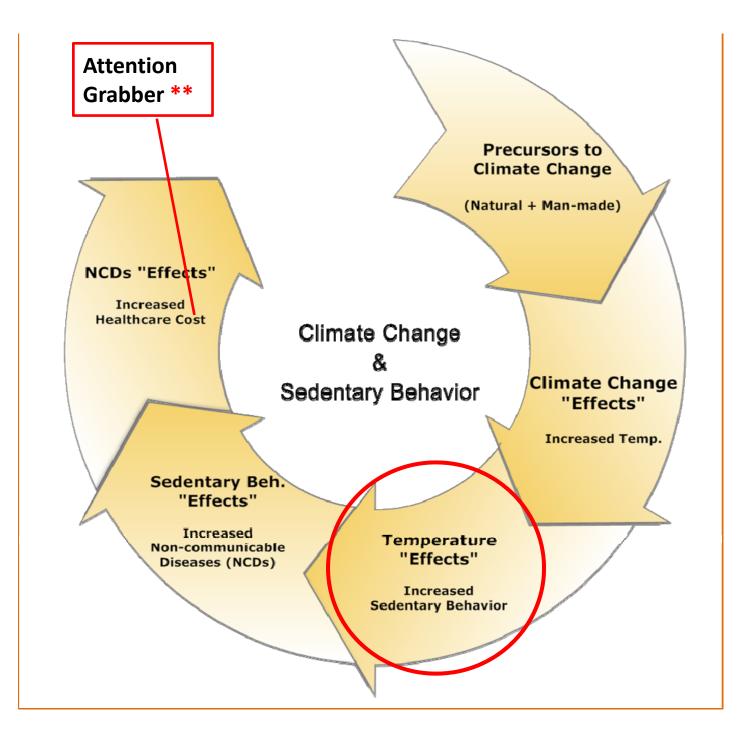
A dry river bed in Comal County, Tex., in July. By RICHARD PARKER Dan Borris for The New York Times

2011

### Interdisciplinary collaboration:

projects & collaborators

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### Challenges and opportunities:

resources & partners

Given the proper <u>resources</u> and colleagues!

- 1. Encourage schools and departments within the health and environmental sciences fields to **deliberately incorporate** crosscutting themes / topics into their respective curriculum.
- 2. Somehow **create the time** to reach out to others, and be able to **maintain** the connections.
- 3. For funding opportunities; **creatively insert research ideas** from one field (secondary party) into the other field (primary party), when the primary party is planning a grant submission.

## Thank You

Hexagon Consulting and Services Assess / Innovate / Create

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