

Human Health & Environmental Challenges in the Middle East

23-25 March 2008 Doha, Qatar

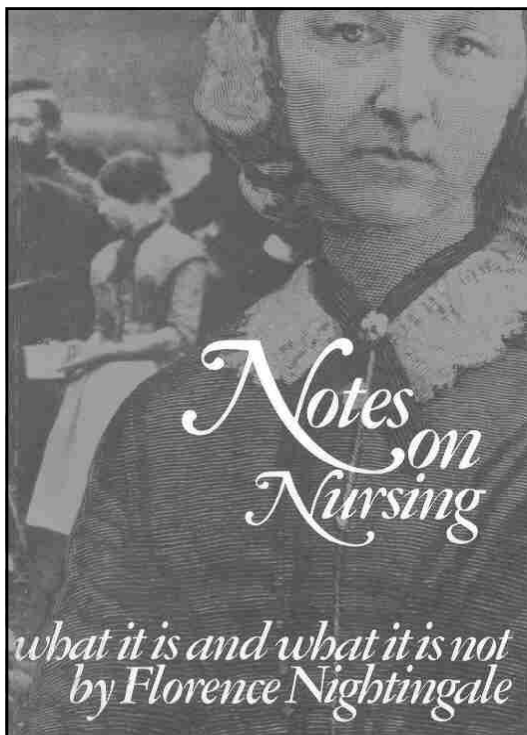


International Nursing & Environment Initiative
Susan Wilburn, MPH, BSN
Public Health & Environment



Nursing, health & environment

**“No amount of
medical knowledge
will lessen the
accountability for
nurses to do what
nurses do, that is,
manage the
environment to
promote positive life
processes.”**



Public Health & Environment: the link between health and other sectors

- **Protecting Health from Climate Change**
- Chemical Safety
- Environmental health emergencies
- **Children's Environmental Health**
- **Water, Sanitation & Hygiene**
 - Healthcare waste management
 - Environmental health standards in health care
- **Occupational health**
 - Implementing the Global Plan of Action on Workers Health
 - Workplace as setting for health interventions
- **Healthy Settings**
 - Healthy homes, Healthy schools, Healthy hospitals, Healthy cities, Urban & rural health
- **Indoor Air Quality**
- **Energy and health**
 - Radiation
 - Electromagnetic fields
 - UV radiation

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The face of climate change ?



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The face of climate change ?



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Climate, an ancient health determinant

“Whoever wishes to investigate medicine properly, should proceed thus: in the first place to consider the seasons of the year, and what effects each of them produces ... Then the winds, the hot and the cold, especially such as are common to all countries, and then such as are peculiar to each locality”

On Airs, Waters and Places. Hippocrates (Circa 400 B.C)

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The health effects of climate change

Some expected impacts will be beneficial but most will be adverse. Expectations are mainly for **changes in frequency or severity of familiar health risks**



Health effects

- **Temperature-related illness and death**
- **Extreme weather- related health effects**
- Air pollution-related health effects
- Water and food-borne diseases
- Vector-borne and rodent- borne diseases
- Effects of food and water shortages
- Effects of population displacement

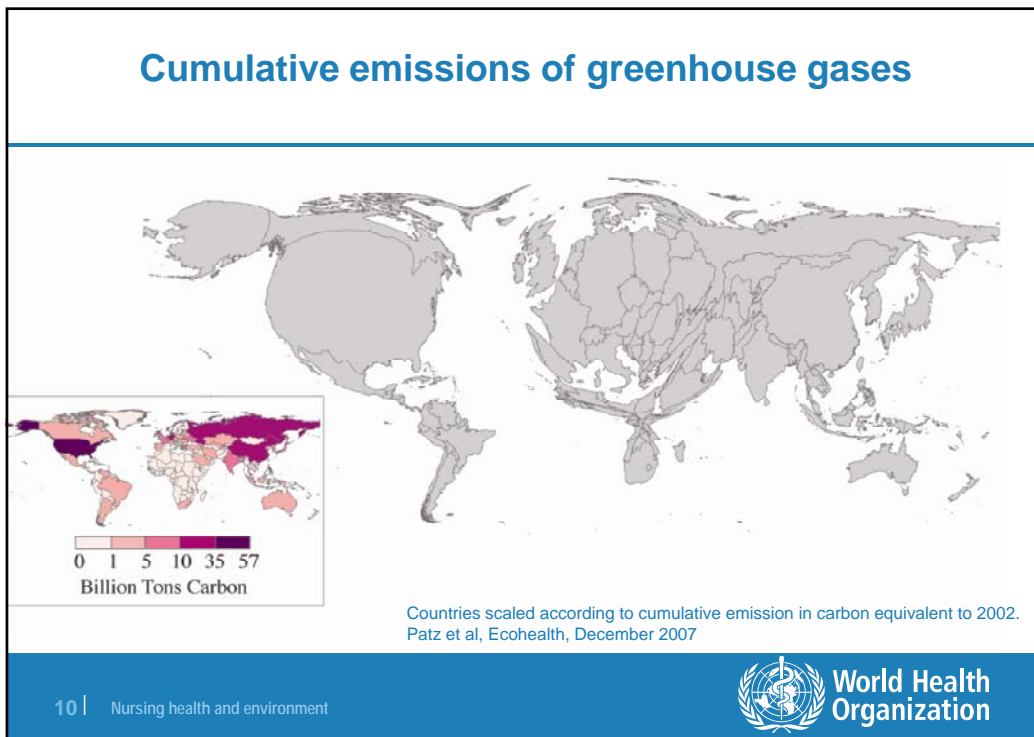
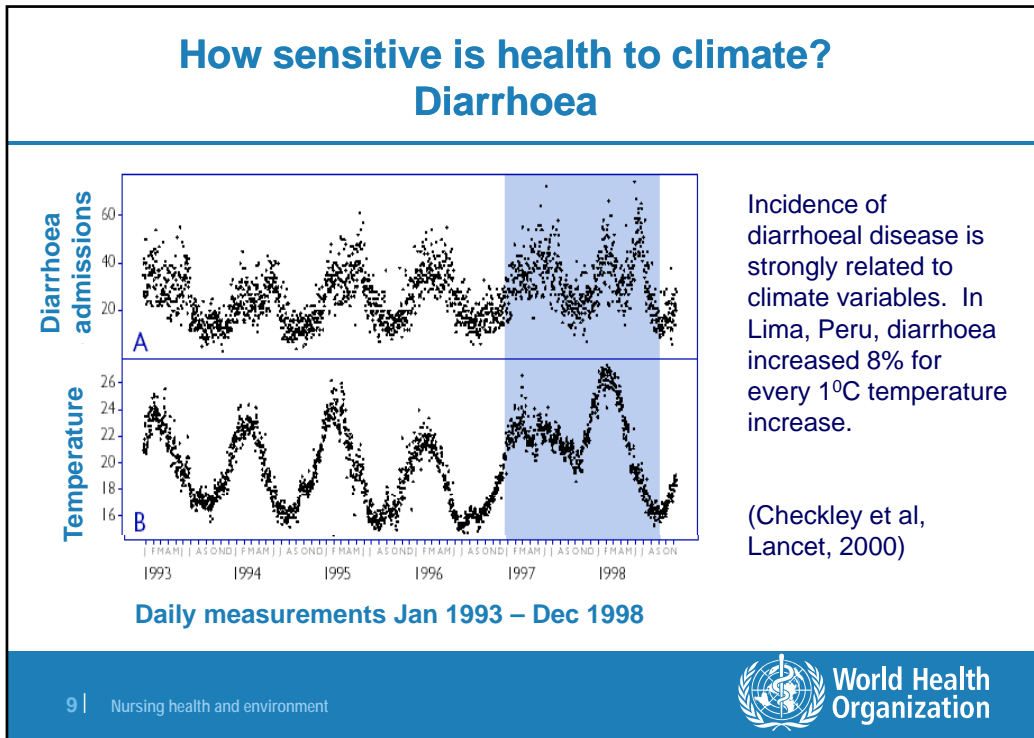
Based on Patz et al, 2000

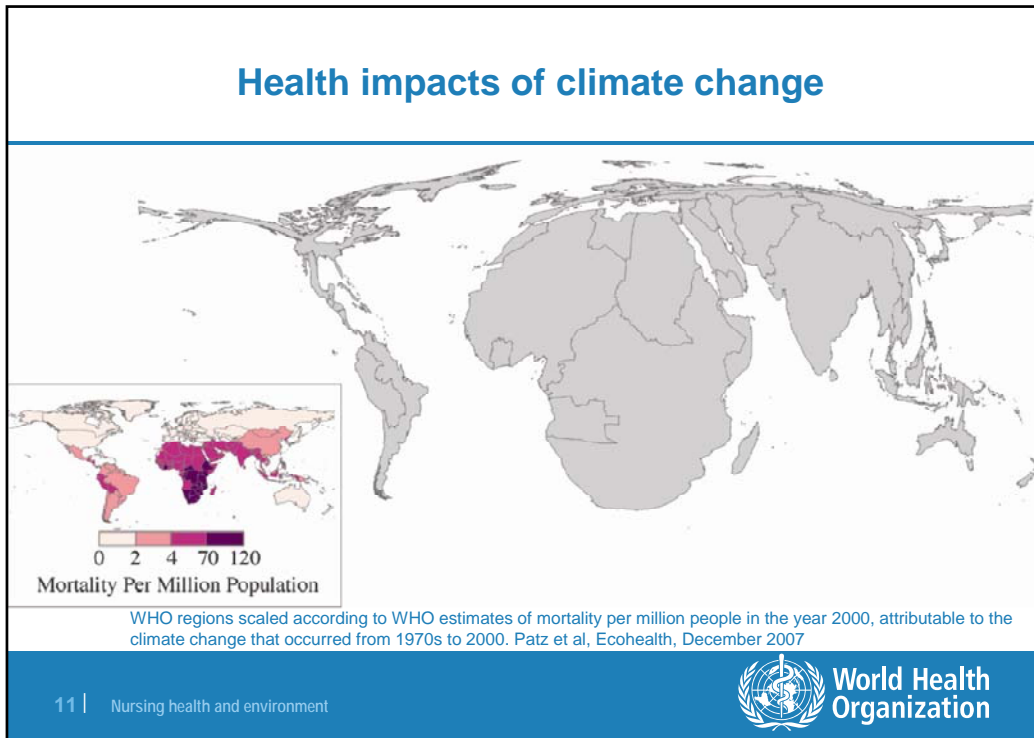
Many of the major killers are climate sensitive

- **Each year:**
 - Undernutrition kills 3.7 million
 - Diarrhoea kills 1.8 million
 - Malaria kills 1.1 million



Each of these is highly sensitive to temperature and precipitation:







The opportunity for improving health determinants

We can reduce:

- The 800,000 annual deaths from urban air pollution
- The loss of 1.9 million deaths, and 19 million years of healthy life, from physical inactivity
- The 1.2 million deaths and over 50 million injuries from road traffic accidents



While mitigating climate change

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CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH TRAINING PACKAGE FOR THE HEALTH SECTOR

Partnerships: **IPA, CAH/WHO, INCHEC/CHEST, ISDE, WONCA**

❖ **NEW International Nursing Partnership**

❖ **Training:**

- 2004: Mexico, Cyprus
- 2005: Italy, Kenya, Argentina
- 2006: Italy, Argentina, Chile, Switzerland, Kazakhstan,
- Canada, Paraguay, Cyprus
- 2007: India, Haiti, Argentina, Singapore

Support of USEPA



Linkages with Nursing

- **Education & Training –**
"Train the Trainers"
Integration of environmental health content into basic and advanced nursing curricula
- **Practice**
 - Community-based interventions/data gathering
 - Promotion and use of the *Green Page* by nurses
- **Research**
- **Advocacy / information dissemination**

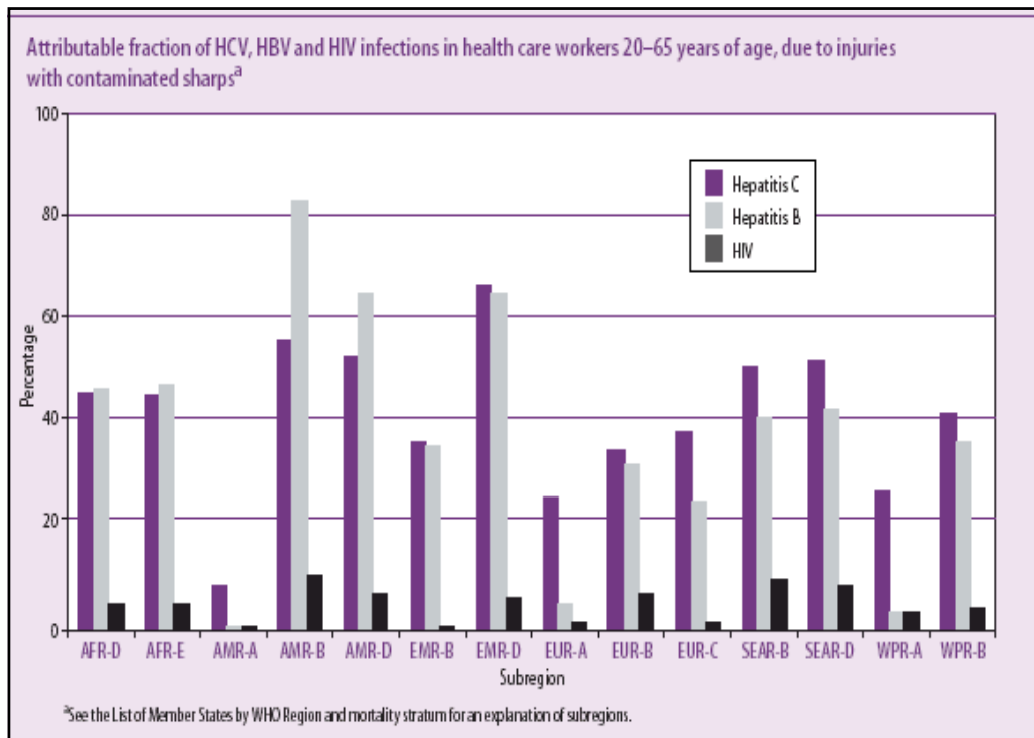
Environmental Health in Health Care

- **NEW** Essential Environmental Health Standards in Health Care
www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/hygiene/settings/ehs_hc/en/index.html
- Policy paper: Mercury in health care
www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/medicalwaste/mercury/en/index.html
- www.healthcarewaste.org
- WHO/UNDP/HCWH GEF Model health care waste management project in 8 countries: Argentina, India, Lebanon, Latvia, Philippines, Senegal, Tanzania, Vietnam
 - Training and curricula development
 - Certification
 - Nursing role is key to success
- Health care waste management policy planning in 72 countries funded by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI)

WHO Global Plan of Action on Workers' Health, 2008-2017

Following the WHO **Global Strategy on Occupational Health for All** (1996)


- **The Global Plan of Action on Workers Health endorsed 2007 WHA**
 - WHO will work with Member States to strengthen the capacities of the ministries of health to provide leadership for activities related to workers' health, to formulate and implement policies and action plans, and to stimulate intersectoral collaboration.
 - Specific programmes should be established for the occupational health of health-care workers
 - WHO activities will include global campaigns for immunization of health-care workers against hepatitis B, as well as and other actions addressing priority work-related health outcomes.
 - Partnerships for implementation;
 - ILO, ICOH (and other prof orgs), Unions, Employers
 - Network of 70 Collaborating Centres on Occupational Health
- **Focus on *primary prevention*; 25% of the Global Burden of Disease is due to occupational and environmental risk factors**





WHO Tools & Resources for Health Care Worker Safety

- **Aide Memoire Health Care Worker Safety**, 2003
- **Global Burden of Disease from sharps injuries to health care workers**, 2003
www.who.int/quantifying_ehimpacts/global/globsharpinjuries/en/index.html
- **Joint WHO/ILO Guidelines on health services and HIV/AIDS**, June 2005
www.who.int/hiv/pub/guidelines/ilowhoguidelines_ru.pdf
- ***Protecting Healthcare Workers Preventing Needlestick Injuries Tool Kit**, 2005
(Spanish version 2006; French and Arabic coming soon)
www.who.int/occupational_health/activities/pnitoolkit/en/index.html
- **National occupational health programmes for health-care workers** article in Global Occupational Health Network Newsletter (GOHNET), November 2007
www.who.int/occupational_health/publications/newsletter/en/index.html
- **Coming attractions**
 - Joint WHO/ILO Guidelines for HIV Post-exposure Prophylaxis (PEP), 2007.
 - Field guide for Hepatitis B immunization of health-care workers and PEP, 2008.

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World Health Organization

WHO Protecting Healthcare Workers	
Hazards	Prevention & Control: tools and materials
<p>General</p> <p>Musculoskeletal</p> <p>Workplace Violence</p> <p>www.who.int/occupational_health/topics/hcworkers/en/</p>	<p>-Protecting Workers' Health Series</p> <p>Preventing Musculoskeletal disorders in workplace</p> <p>-Joint ILO/WHO/ICN/PSI guidelines for Workplace Violence in Health Sector www.who.int/entity/violence_injury_prevention/violence/interpersonal/en/WVguidelinesEN.pdf</p>
<p>Biological Hazards</p> <p>2003 Global Burden of Disease from sharps injuries to health care workers, 2003 www.who.int/quantifying_ehimpacts/global/globsharpinjuries/en/index.html</p>	<p>-Tuberculosis infection-control in the era of expanding HIV care and treatment www.who.int/tb/publications/who_tb_99_269/en/index.html</p> <p>-Avian influenza: interim guidelines for healthcare facilities www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/guidelines/infectioncontrol1/en/index.html</p> <p>-Infection prevention and control of epidemic- and pandemic-prone acute respiratory disease in health care www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/WHO_CD_EPR_2007_6/en/index.html</p>
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WHO Nursing Capacity Building in Environmental health	
<p>Practice, Education, Research, and Policy advocacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tools to identify health impact from environmental exposure ● Education on treatment and referral of health effects ● Curricula and training materials ● Advocacy on policy to prevent and control environmental hazards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 13-14 May 2008 Global planning workshop preceding the Chief Nursing Officers meeting ● October 2008 New Dehli, India <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Training of trainers on environmental health in nursing following mercury elimination in health care conference <p>For more information: Susan Wilburn wilburns@who.int</p>
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World Health Day
April 7th 2008



Health Protection from Climate Change

www.who.int/globalchange/climate

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