



Water, Climate and Health Program



Organizational Overview:

The Water, Climate and Health Program (WCHP) was founded in 2020 with a generous donation from the Claire M. Hubbard Foundation. The program is committed to helping solve some of the most pressing and complex environmental health challenges facing Nebraska and beyond.



Program Structure and Key Partners:

Housed in the University of Nebraska Medical Center's College of Public Health Department of Environmental, Agricultural & Occupational Health, the Water, Climate and Health Program brings together experts from the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute at the University of Nebraska to address Nebraska's most pressing public health issues related to water and climate.



Our Mission:

The WCHP pioneers interdisciplinary research, education and collaborative solutions to public health challenges associated with water and climate in Nebraska and around the world.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

DR. JESSE BELL, PHD

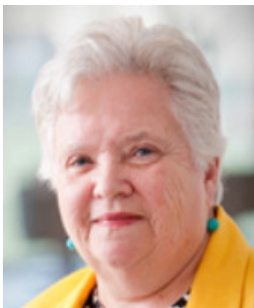


Thanks for your interest in the Water, Climate and Health Program!

As Executive Director of the Water, Climate and Health Program and Director of Water, Climate and Health at the Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, I am incredibly proud of the work the program has accomplished and our tremendous growth, both in size and reach since its inception in 2020. We are incredibly grateful for the support of the Claire M. Hubbard Foundation to make this program possible. Our diverse team of excellent researchers and experts address the most pressing public health challenges associated with our changing environment. We strive to be an environmental health leader for the region, while also being nationally and internationally recognized for our work. Our hope is that sound science and strategic collaboration will build the foundation for actions that can improve our environment. We understand that environmental challenges are not felt equally by all, and that inclusivity is needed in our hiring practices, collaboration, and engagement efforts.

We are happy to partner with individuals or organizations and welcome inquiries about our work.

MEET OUR LEADERSHIP



Eleanor G. Rogan, PhD
Associate Director



Yeongjin Gwon, PhD
Director of Biostatistics



Kristina Kintziger, PhD
Claire M. Hubbard Prof. of
Health & Environment



Meghan Langel, MPH
Director of Operations



Rachel Lookadoo, JD
Director of Public
Health Policy

MEET OUR ADVISORY PANEL

Shannon Bartelt-Hunt, PhD
Donald R. Voelte, Jr. and Nancy A. Keegan
chair of the Dpt. of Civil & Environmental
Engineering at the University of
Nebraska-Lincoln

Jesse E. Bell, PhD
Claire M. Hubbard Prof. of Water, Climate &
Health in the UNMC Dpt. of Environmental,
Agricultural, & Occupational Health

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Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

Don Coulter, MD
UNMC Pediatrics

Tatiana Davila, BA
Wellhead Protection & Source Water
Protection Coordinator with the Nebraska
Dpt. of Environment and Energy

Anne M. Hubbard, PhD
Retired Physician, Pediatric Radiologist,
UNMC Alumnus

Brandon Hunnicutt, BS
Owner, Partner at Hunnicutt Farms

Ali S. Khan, MD, MPH, MBA
Dean, UNMC College of Public Health

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Director, Idaho Water Resources
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Meghan Langel, MPH
Water, Climate, & Health Program Manager

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Executive Director, Daugherty Water for Food Global
Institute (DWFII), University of Nebraska

Michael Sousek, MPA
General Manager, Lower Elhorn
Natural Resources District

Derry Stover, MPH
Epidemiology Surveillance
Coordinator for the Nebraska Dpt.
of Health & Human Services

Eleanor Rogan, PhD
Prof., Founding Chair of the UNMC Dpt.
of Environmental, Agricultural, &
Occupational Health

ADDRESSING WATER QUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH THE CONTEXT OF HEALTH IS AN IMPACTFUL STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT

WATER QUALITY AND HEALTH

Many Americans have access to safe drinking water due to routine treatment and regulation of public drinking water supplies, but exposure to contaminants through drinking water remains a risk for some. Nebraska has various rural and urban concerns associated with drinking water. For example, a central issue in rural areas is contamination of private, unregulated drinking wells, and potential health impacts from exposure to man-made and naturally occurring contaminants in drinking water. The WCHP is dedicated to addressing health impacts of water quality issues and to providing more targeted public health interventions for Nebraska and beyond.



Dr. Eleanor Rogan, PhD speaking at a townhall meeting in Mead, NE.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH

The WCHP is dedicated to exploring the ways that climate change and extreme events impact human health, with a focus on issues most relevant to Nebraska, such as flooding, drought and extreme heat. Health impacts of climate change and extreme events are nuanced and often difficult to study, as there are both immediate risks to human health (e.g. drowning during a flooding event), and indirect and delayed impacts (e.g. mental health impacts of drought). Addressing the direct and indirect health impacts of climate change and extreme events on populations through research, education and outreach can improve public health preparedness and reduce health costs in the future.

FOUNDATIONAL COMMITMENTS

RESEARCH

Conduct and disseminate research on public health issues related to water and climate.

ENGAGEMENT

Work with stakeholders and communities to address public health topics related to water and climate.

EDUCATION

Train the next generation of problem solvers to research and address topics focused on health issues associated with water and climate.

POLICY

Provide scientific expertise for the development of policy to improve the health of Nebraskans.

WORKING ALONGSIDE ——— ***NEBRASKA'S WATER LEADERS***

The program joins a myriad of organizations working diligently to address factors related to water quality and climate change in Nebraska, from those working in academia to those working locally in communities to address these issues. Along the way, we have relied on Nebraska's water leaders and their respective organizations to help develop the scope of the WCHP, collaborate on interdisciplinary projects, and partner on solutions.

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Information:**

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please contact:**

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