INTRODUCTION

- Climate change is causing adverse health effects through its impacts of rising temperatures on renal health.
- Individuals like the elderly, young outdoor workers and those residing in communities with inequitable living conditions are some of the most vulnerable to extreme heat events.\(^1\)\(^2\)
- There is no well-accepted consistent approach to guide care and communications for addressing climate change with patients in the clinic setting.
- The lack in readily available educational resources and training in the primary care setting, makes it challenging for health care professionals (HCPs) to play an active role in addressing this issue with patients.

OBJECTIVES

Goal. This Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) project will develop and implement a climate change and renal health toolkit and evaluate its effectiveness as a knowledge translation strategy for facilitating a practice change among HCPs; therefore, optimizing renal health.

AIM 1 To develop a climate change toolkit with an emphasis on high stress and kidney disease for HCPs in the clinical setting.

AIM 2 To pilot the educational toolkit and evaluate its effectiveness as a knowledge translation strategy for facilitating a practice change.

AIM 3 To identify and recommend strategies for promoting the use of the toolkit across the health system.

RESULTS

The DNP project will take place in Temple, Texas. Texas has an average of 43 days per year of temperatures above 95 F.\(^3\)

Heat studies project that between 2040 – 2059, this number will likely reach between 80 and 106 days per year.

**Project Site.** An outpatient, primary care clinic within the Olin E. Teague Veterans’ Medical Center.

**Target Audience.** HCPs, defined for the purpose of this project as any health care team member supporting Veteran care.

AIM 1. To develop a toolkit for HCPs on climate change and health with an emphasis on heat stress and renal disease.

An evidence-based clinical toolkit that will have a user-centered design and provide multiple interactive links, practical guidelines, and resources to provide education with a specific focus on climate change and renal health.

A rigorous review of climate change and renal health care.

Expert Panel Members include Dr. Fredric Finkelstein, Yale School of Medicine and Jason Glaser, CEO of La Isla. Network.

AIM 2. To pilot the educational toolkit and evaluate its effectiveness as a knowledge translation strategy for facilitating a practice change among HCPs.

Targeted implementation date, July 19 – August 2, 2021.

The pre- and post test questions will assess change in knowledge, attitude, and skills. A paired samples t-test will be used to compare individual pre- to post responses.

AIM 3. To identify and recommend strategies for promoting use of the toolkit across the health system.

A detailed report of the outcomes of the project with an executive summary will be provided to key leadership members and project champion.

REFERENCES