

Climate Change, Well-Being and Interpersonal Relationships Among Youth in St. Kitts and Nevis



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Objective

This study evaluated climate change (CC)'s impact on formative interpersonal relationships among youth in St. Kitts-Nevis

Materials and Methods

Surveys about CC-driven changes within social and professional networks were administered between July and December 2023.

Results

Of 92 respondents - average age: 18- most were female (76.1%), single (63.0%) and cohabitating with at least 2 others (53%). About 25% identified as LGBTQ+. More positive (fair or supportive) relationships were between participants and their female parent (89%), other female relative (84%) best male friend (90%), best female friend (83%) and partner (82%). More negative connections (abused, strained, or neglected) involved relationships with male parents (20%), female siblings (18%) and bosses (26%).

Most persons experienced storms (91%), high heat (77%) and Sahara dust (69%); 94% feeling that their home was CC-ready. While storms undermined connections with female friends (15%), teachers (20%) and bosses (25%), high heat generally worsened all relationships. Being female or at least 18 years old generally increased the risk of worsened relationships with parents and other relatives due to common CC effects.

Female respondents were significantly less likely (OR: 0.19, 95%CI: 0.05 - 0.74) to have worse connections with a female parent after a storm. Controlling for demographic factors and home preparedness, worsened relationships with male parents due to high heat were less likely when a female relative is present or involved in the respondent's life (OR: 0.34; 95%CI: 0.12 - 0.87). Adjusting for demography and select CC effects, positive relationships with male parents were less likely among those who experienced high heat (OR: 0.25; 95%CI: 0.05 - 0.98).

Conclusion

Even in the absence of abuse or neglect, various climate crisis impacts can alter the quality and health of relationships among Caribbean youth particularly for women. The well-being of CC-impacted minors requires further exploration and proactive responses relevant to their vulnerabilities.

Results (continued)

Figure 1. Exposures to various CC Effects/Impacts

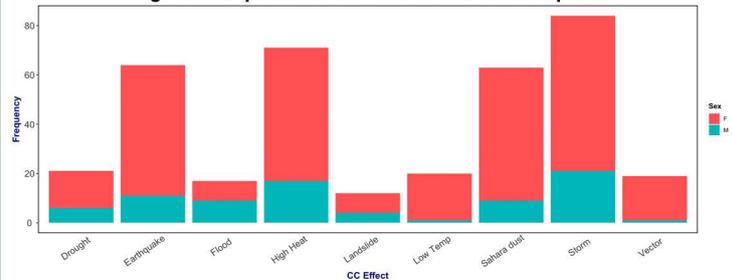


Figure 2. Average Changes in Relationship Quality Post CC Effect

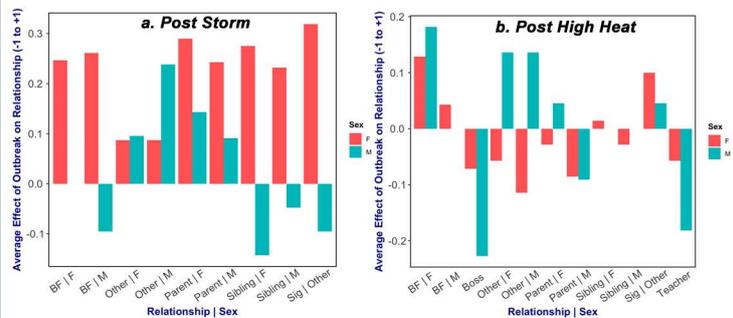
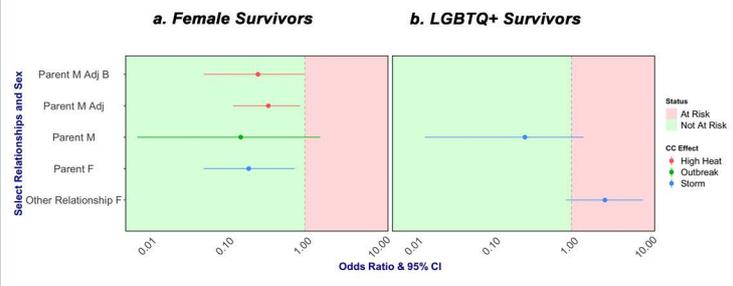


Figure 3. Odds Risks Ratios; Relationship Quality Post CC Effects



Additional Comment

Findings have implications for additional productivity loss if not a risk to morality by way of declining relationships post crisis.

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