

Knowledge and perceptions about the health impact of climate change among health care workers at three district level hospitals in Zambia: a cross-sectional study

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Outline of Presentation

- **Background**
- **Objective**
- **Methodology**
- **Results**
- **Conclusion and Recommendations**

Background

- Climate Change a hot globally- A growing concern among health officials and policy makers
- Hundreds of millions of people across the globe are experiencing the impact of climate change and Zambia is not exempted.
- Climate change is threatening the sustainability of health systems performance and development goals through:
 - Increased pressure from increased heat or low temp,
 - Extreme weather events including droughts and floods,
 - Shifts in duration of seasons and prevalence of diseases,
 - The potential for increased novel diseases being introduced.

Objective

To assess Health Care Workers knowledge, understanding and perception about the health impact of climate change on health at district level hospitals.

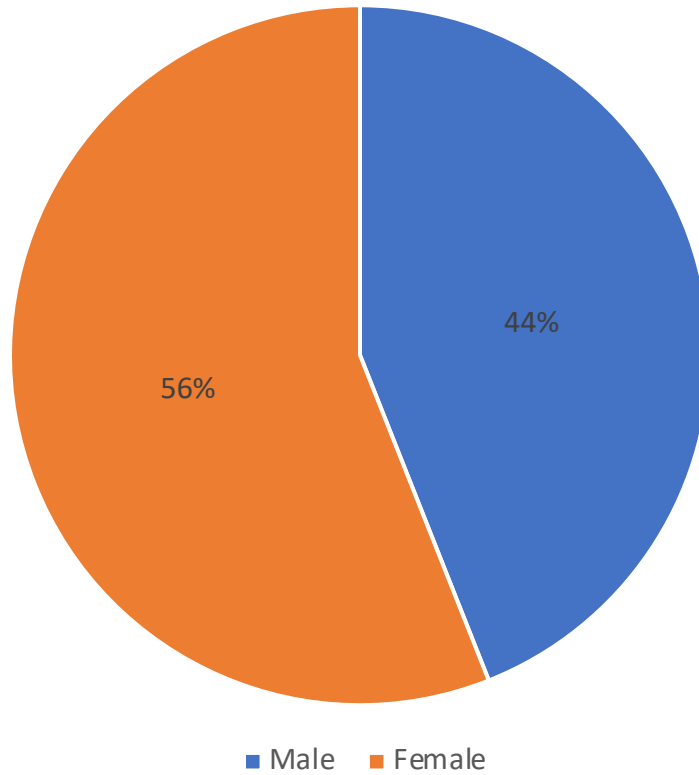
Are we climate change champions ?

Methodology

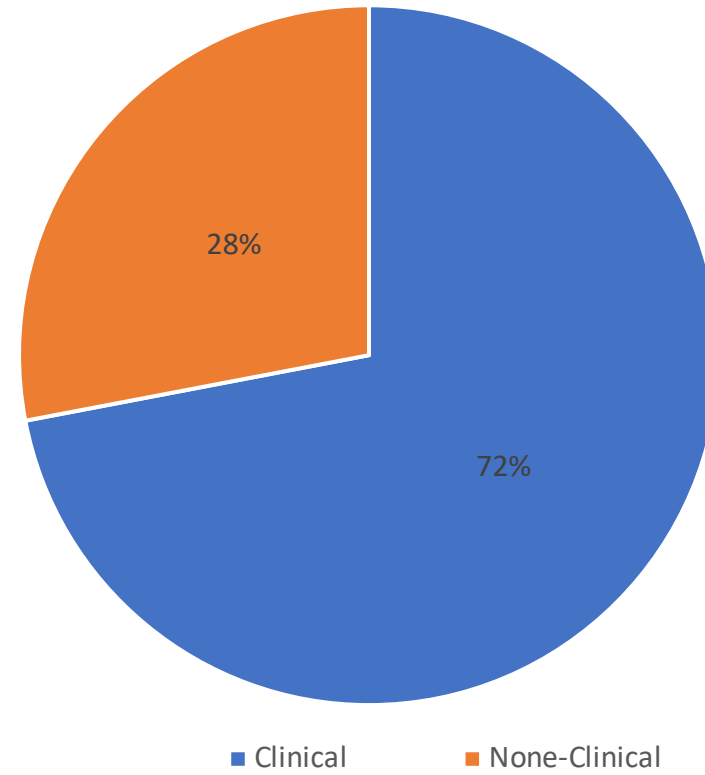
- An online cross-sectional study that was carried out among health HCWs at three district level hospitals in Zambia.
- A self-administered online questionnaire consisting of 20 closed ended questions in English- Climate friendly
- Quantitative methods were used to analyze the results.

Results

Sex

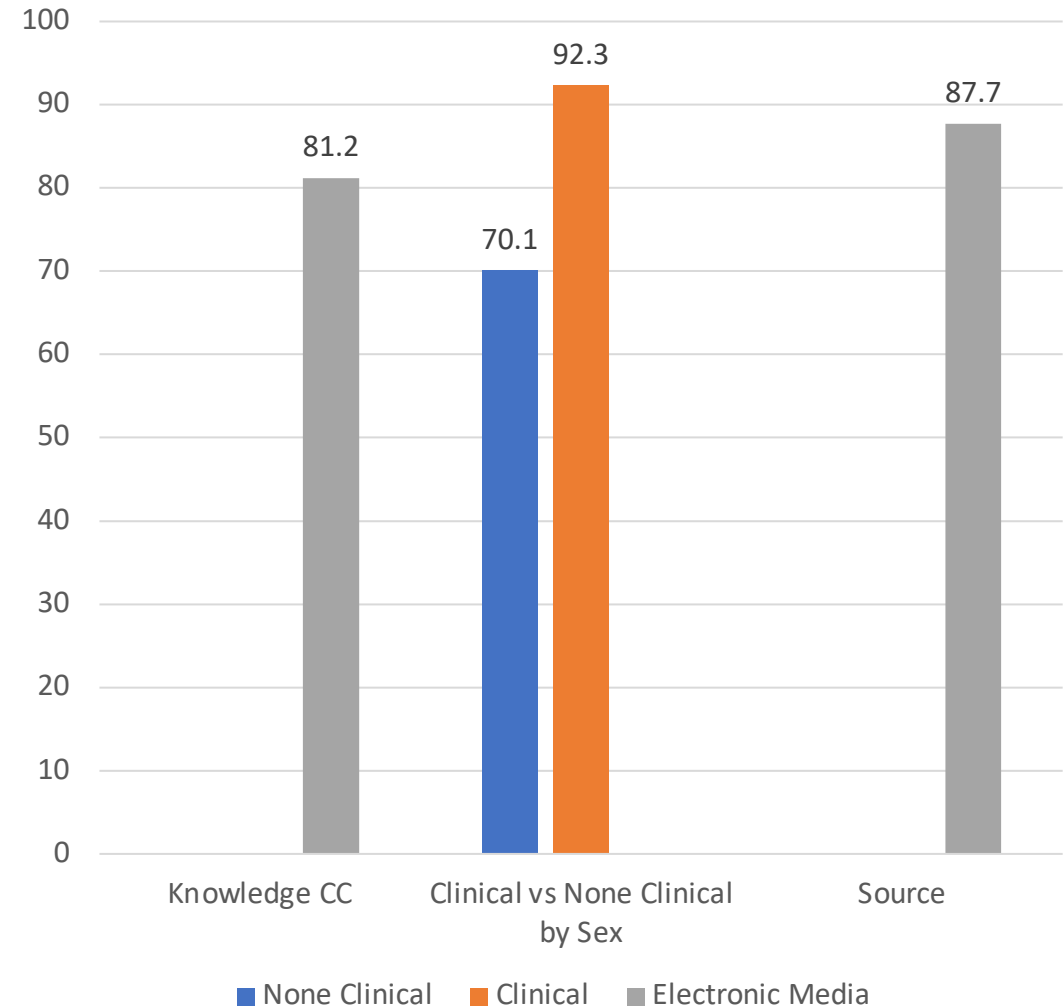


Type of Health Care Worker



Results Cont -Knowledge

- 81.2% of the health care workers (HCWs) were aware of health consequences of climate change, with slightly higher rates in females than males.
- A range from 70.1% in non-Clinical HCWs compared to 92.3% in clinical HCWs.
- Electronic media was reportedly the major source of information in 87.7% of HCWs.
- The HCWs felt that they did not have sufficient knowledge to fully understand the public health impacts of climate change.



Results Cont–understanding & Perception

- HCWs who knew about climate change were more likely to perceive it as a serious health threat than those who were unaware of these impacts [OR: 17.8, 95% CI: 8.8-32.1].
- HCWs who knew about climate change were more likely to also considered their departments as concerned about climate change (OR: 7.3, 95% CI: 2.8-18.8)
- A perception that was also significantly more common among HCWs who obtained their information from the electronic media ($p < 0.05$).

Results Cont–understanding & Perception

- Using electronic media was also significantly associated with knowledge about the health impacts of climate change.
- None of the HCW had received any formal training or orientation on climate change and its relation to health services.

Conclusion and Recommendations

- A significant proportion of HCWs were aware of climate change and its health impacts but most of them reportedly lacked the necessary knowledge to address these impacts.
- HCWs may benefit from a more comprehensive curriculum on climate change and its impacts on health.
- This will serve as a starting point for engaging HCWs in addressing climate change and perhaps even broader environmental issues in relation to public health.

Acknowledgements

- Respondents
- My fellow contributors to this presentation
- ZMA for the opportunity to share the study results

Limitations- We can not over generalize these finding due to methods like the electronic questionnaire .

Thank you