

Climate and Health E-News

Raising Awareness and Connecting People in the Interest of Public Health

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Polar Bear Spotted on the Yukon River July 22, Arctic Sounder. On July 20, residents of the lower Yukon River village of Emmonak, were surprised to see a polar bear, lingering at the mouth of the Yukon River. The polar bear may have floated in on a piece of drifting sea ice while hunting for seal. "You couldn't say this is a direct correlation of global warming, but we do expect to see more bears on land in summer months (due to global warming)," said Thomas Evans, a USFWS wildlife biologist specializing in marine mammals. [read article](#)

Climate Change Benefits Marmots - July 22, Science Daily. Results from a decades-long research project show that mountain rodents called marmots are growing larger, healthier and more plentiful in response to climate change. "The warming results in earlier snowmelt, which means that plants appear sooner and the marmots come out of hibernation earlier," said researcher Kenneth Armitage. "They have more fat left which provides them energy to start foraging. Then they can start reproducing so their young are born earlier and have time to get fat enough to survive hibernation. Most importantly, the reproductive female can survive better. Being able to wean her young earlier, she has a longer season and survival of adult females has increased over the last years. [read article](#)

Prevalence and Risk Factors of Low Vitamin D Status among (Canadian) Inuit Adults - Poster Session at the International Polar Year, IPY Oslo Science Conference, June 8 - 12, 2010. Jessy El Hayek, Hope Weiler, Grace Egeland, and the Qanuippitali Steering Committee. Vitamin D deficiency is prevalent in Aboriginal people living in Arctic regions of North America, because of long winter season and other factors. Low vitamin D may be a risk factor for many health conditions including osteoporosis, cardiovascular disease, and cancer. Research performed by Health Canada as part of the 2007 to 2008 Inuit Health Survey, measured Vitamin D levels in 2599 Inuit adults, older than fifteen years of age. This was the first population assessment of vitamin D status in Inuit. The study found that at a point of the year (summer) when Vitamin D levels should be at their highest, 72% of Inuit adults had insufficient levels. [read poster](#)

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Regards - Mike

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