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All photography courtesy of [Ron Levine](#). [Prisoners of Age](#).

Ron Levine. Prisoners of Age: *The photo is part of the "Prisoners of Age" series, which includes interviews with aging inmates and corrections personnel conducted in US and Canadian prisons.*

Jimmy Jackson, 63, with men in front of a work crew at Angola (Louisiana State Penitentiary).

Big Jeff at the Northern Nevada Correctional Institute near Reno. He helped the older men with weights in the workout yard. He was scheduled to be released the following day.

Jimmy Jackson, 63, is serving time at Louisiana State Penitentiary for armed robbery: "I've been here for 29 years now. When I first came in, the way Angola really was, I never thought I'd ever see this day. So I had to conduct myself to stay away from things."

A dog trainer at Angola (Louisiana State Penitentiary). He had trained dozens of animals while there. The 3 crosses were out of about 20 dogs that died since he was working at the prison.

"Lord" Bones, 72. Incarcerated in Angola, also known as the Louisiana State Penitentiary, takes care of the horses and drives the hearse when burying people who have died while in prison.

Jane Dorotic was recently released from the California Institution for Women in Chino, California.

Figure: Determinants of climate vulnerability. Source: Reproduced from the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) Climate and Health Assessment (U.S. Global Change Research Program, 2016).

<https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/understanding-connections-between-climate-change-and-human-health>

***A 500 word or less description of your project, successes, challenges, and lessons learned. An image of you and some images that represent your project. If you have a version of your deliverable you would like to share, please send that as well.***

*Today, researchers recognize that there are multiple, interacting, complex determinants of health, including social, behavioral, environmental, and economic factors, which collectively affect your overall health and your ability to achieve health equity ([Daniel Dawes](#)).*

## CONTEXTUAL VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND INCARCERATION

Colleagues and I are very grateful to receive the New School Tishman Environment and Design Center Award for Excellence in Climate, Environmental Justice, and Sustainability. We are contributing to a book on climate change and health justice published by John Hopkins University Press with Morehouse School of Medicine's Satcher Health Leadership Institute.

Our chapter assesses how the political determinants of health and contextual vulnerability inform the twin anthropogenic forces of incarceration and climate change, independently and interdependently. We illustrate “contextual vulnerability” and differential health effects amidst climate-society interactions involving people who are incarcerated within these contexts: 1. Extreme heat, storms, and flooding in Louisiana; and 2. Wildfires and valley fever in California.

Contextual vulnerability accounts for interactions between changing environments and societies to evaluate how specific populations are disproportionately exposed to harm. Vulnerability to climate exposure and risks is a consequence of structural inequality, power relations, and the “slow violence” that climate injustices gradually and less visibly unleash over time.

Decarbonization and decarceration are necessary upstream interventions to address the “code red for a healthy future” posed by carceral and climate vulnerability.

Cynthia Golembeski, Andrea Armstrong, Ans Irfan, Michael Méndez, Nicholas Shapiro, and Julie Skarha. “Contextual vulnerability to climate change and incarceration: Extreme temperature, floods and storms, wildfires, and valley fever in Louisiana and California.” Edited by Daniel E. Dawes, Maisha Standifer, Christian Amador, and Shaneeta Johnson, Chapter 18. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. Photography courtesy of Ron Levine. *Prisoners of Age*.

Our Council on Foreign Relations *Think Global Health Initiative* article is available [here](https://www.thinkglobalhealth.org/article/climate-change-and-incarceration).

Cynthia Golembeski, Andrea Armstrong, Ans Irfan, Michael Méndez, and Nicholas Shapiro. *Council on Foreign Relations Think Global Health Initiative*, 2022.

<https://www.thinkglobalhealth.org/article/climate-change-and-incarceration>

ENVIRONMENT

## Climate Change and Incarceration

People in prison are vulnerable to extreme temperatures, diseases, and displacement

