



STUDY

Blue Shield virtual care pilots reduced carbon emissions, water use



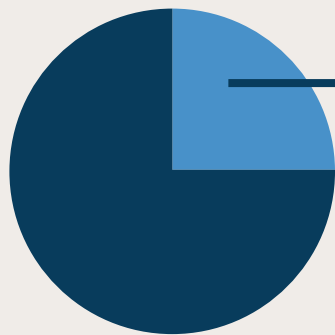
Climate change poses the **largest threat** to human health.

If the global healthcare industry were a country, it would be the **5th largest greenhouse gas emitter on the planet**

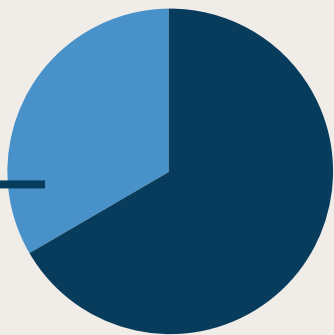
responsible for about **4.5%** of worldwide emissions.¹

1. Baca, D. E., Batra, N., Johnson, M. J., Sekhon, J., & Gerhardt, W. (2022, April 4). Why climate resilience is key to building the healthcare organization of the future. Deloitte Insights.

A Blue Shield of California study found that virtual care as an alternative to in-person care can:



Reduce carbon emissions by 25% on average
Reduce water use by 35% on average



RECOMMENDATION

Healthcare organizations should continue finding ways to use virtual care when appropriate, to help mitigate the industry’s impact on the environment



"There is a clear and urgent need for a more aggressive and strategic plan to reduce the climate impact of the healthcare industry. While this will be an immense effort, it is one Blue Shield is committed to lead because there is no Planet B."

ANTOINETTE MAYER

Vice President of Corporate Citizenship,
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