



Webinar

Taking a local health and equity approach to climate change

December 12, 2023

countyhealthrankings.org



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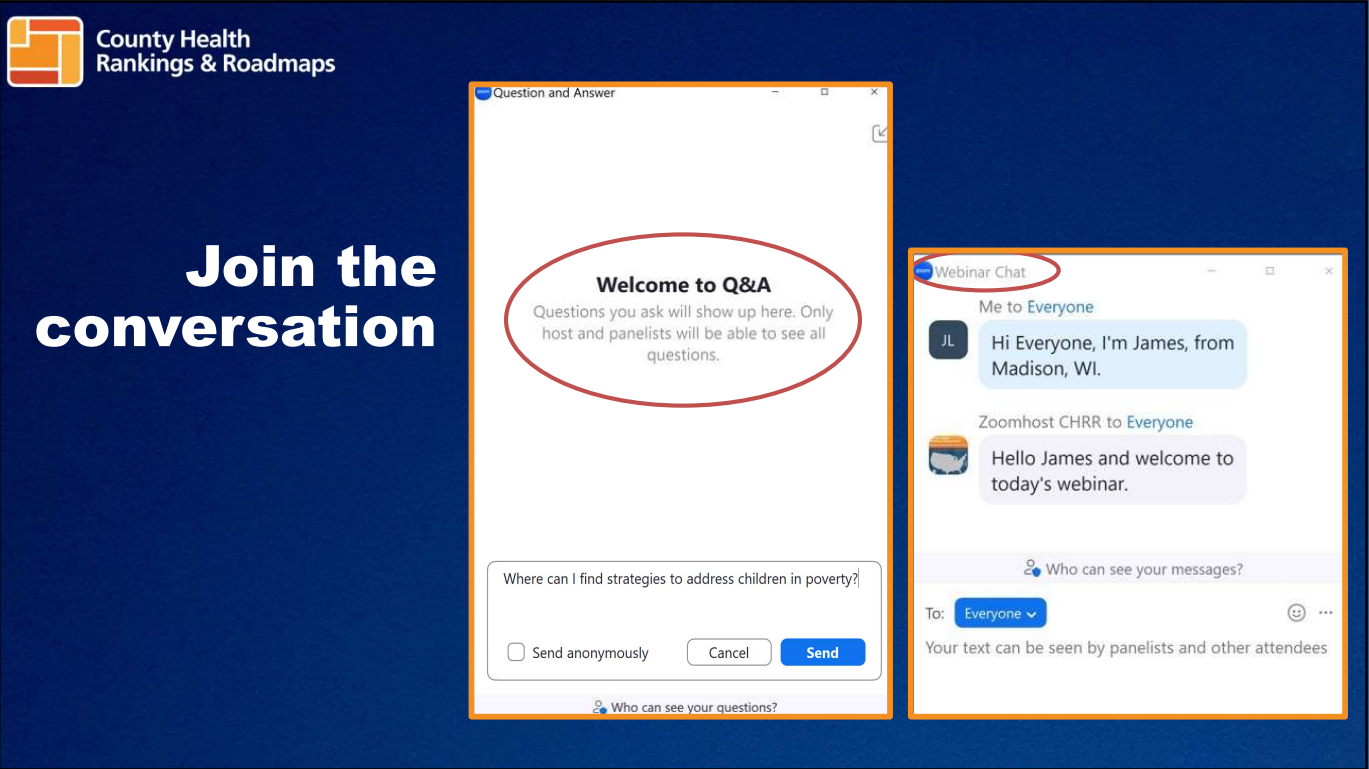
We value



University of Wisconsin
Population Health Institute
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH



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County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

Join the conversation

Question and Answer

Welcome to Q&A
Questions you ask will show up here. Only host and panelists will be able to see all questions.

Where can I find strategies to address children in poverty?

Send anonymously

Who can see your questions?

Webinar Chat

Me to Everyone

JL Hi Everyone, I'm James, from Madison, WI.

Zoomhost CHRR to Everyone

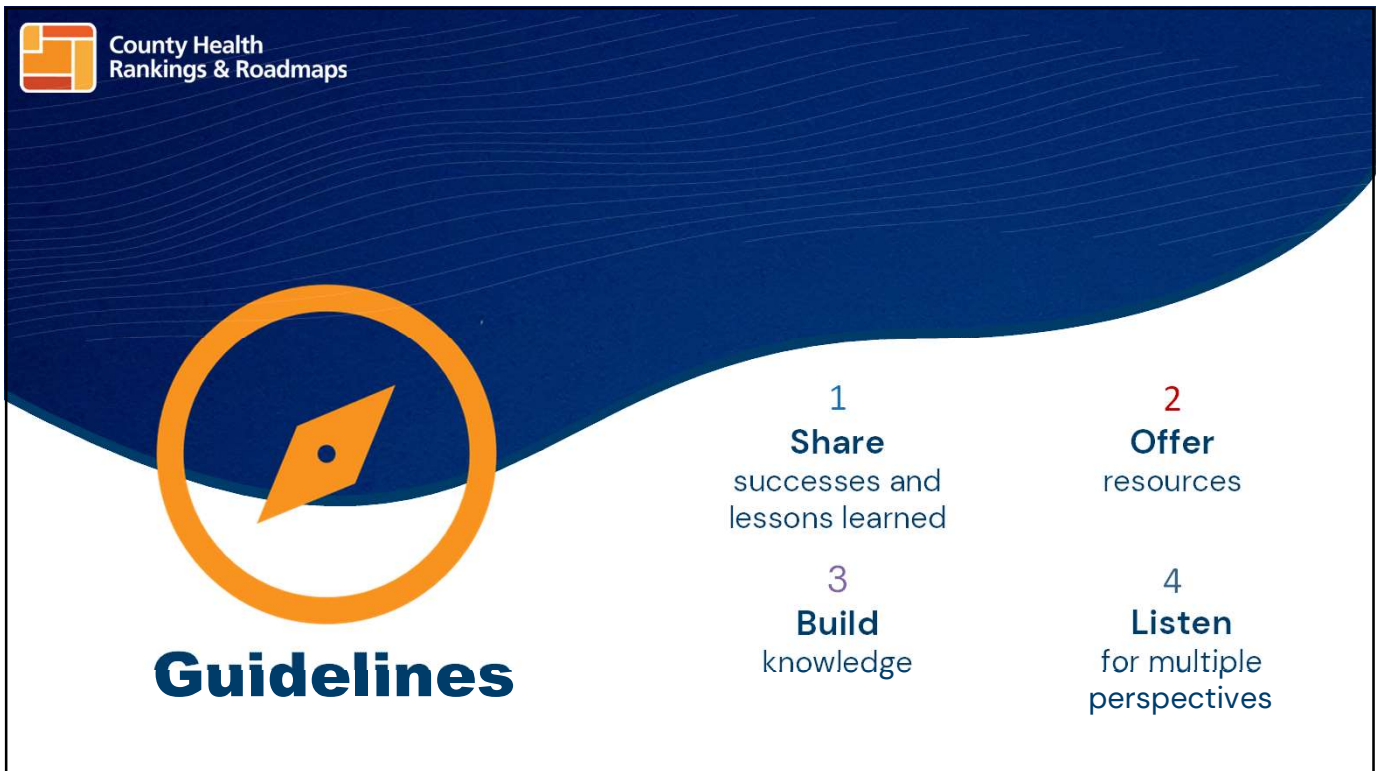
Hello James and welcome to today's webinar.

Who can see your messages?

To: Everyone

Your text can be seen by panelists and other attendees

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County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

Guidelines

- 1 Share** successes and lessons learned
- 2 Offer** resources
- 3 Build** knowledge
- 4 Listen** for multiple perspectives

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County Health
Rankings & Roadmaps

Climate and weather



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County Health
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Climate effects



Air pollution

Smog, wildfires and ground-level ozone affect breathing



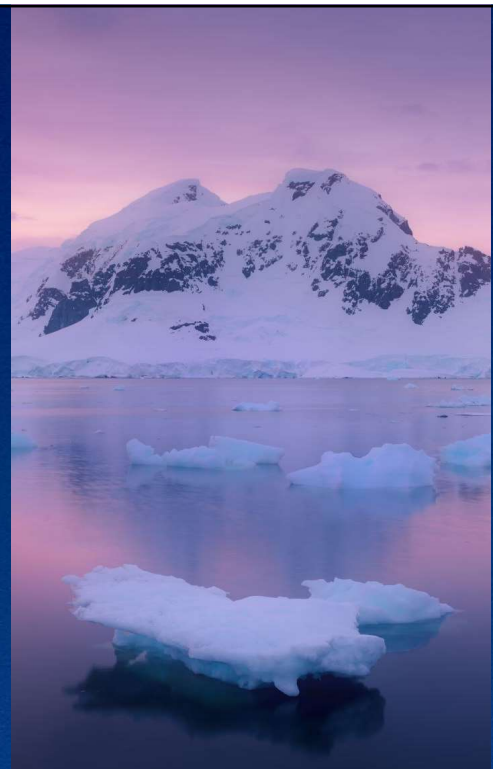
Flooding

Standing water contains insects that transmit disease



Seasonal allergies

Longer pollen seasons aggravate lungs and affect breathing



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Climate changes health



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Who's most at risk?

- Children
- Older adults
- Communities of color
- Low-income communities



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County Health
Rankings & Roadmaps

Welcome



Dr. Vivek Shandas
Professor
Portland State University

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County Health
Rankings & Roadmaps

What we will cover

- How does climate change impact our health?
- What is the link between climate and health inequities?
- How can communities make a difference?



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Discussion group

When: Following the webinar

What: Share ideas, ask questions

How: Zoom

Why: Deepen learning



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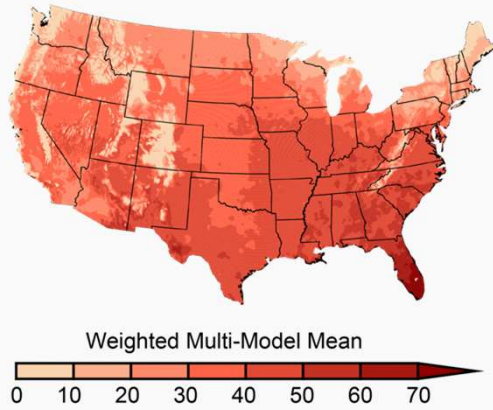
A bit about me....



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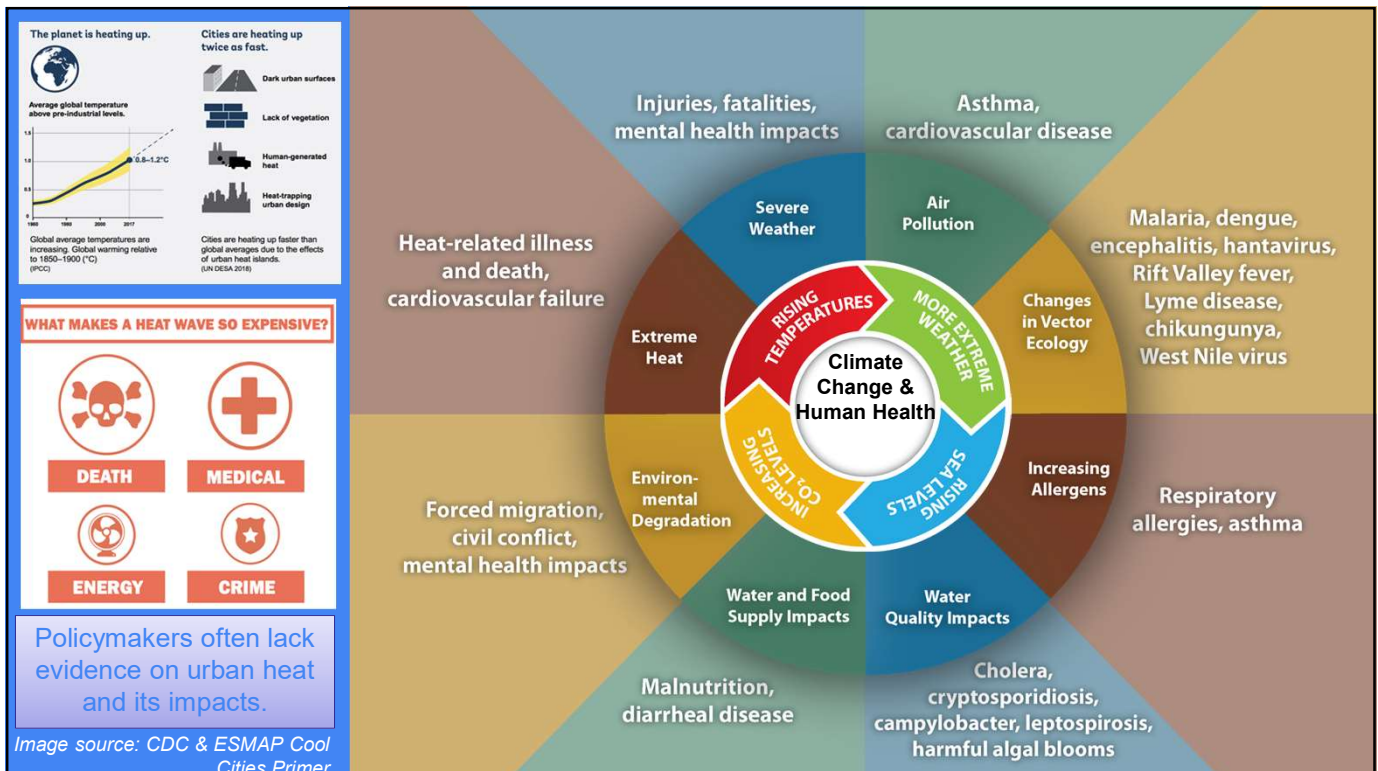
The climate age

Projected Change in Number of Days Above 90°F
Mid 21st Century, Higher Scenario (RCP8.5)



Source: Yale e360, NOAA

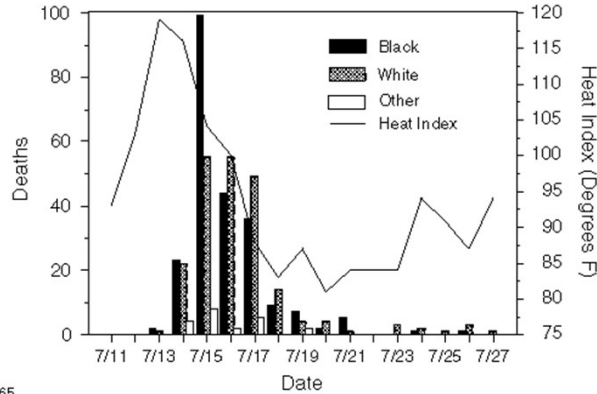
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Clear evidence: July 1995

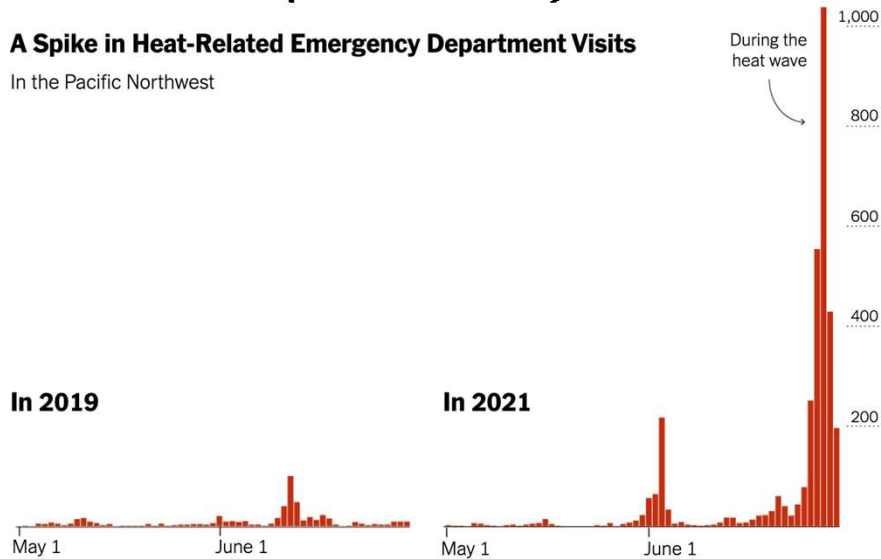
FIGURE 1. Number of heat-related deaths,* by date of occurrence and race† of decedent, and heat index, by date — Chicago, July 11–27, 1995



*n=465.
 †The Cook County Medical Examiner's Office categorizes race of decedents as black, white, or other.

Pacific Northwest: 26 Years later (June. 2021)

A Spike in Heat-Related Emergency Department Visits
 In the Pacific Northwest



Source: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, C.D.C. • Data comes from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Region 10, which includes Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Alaska.

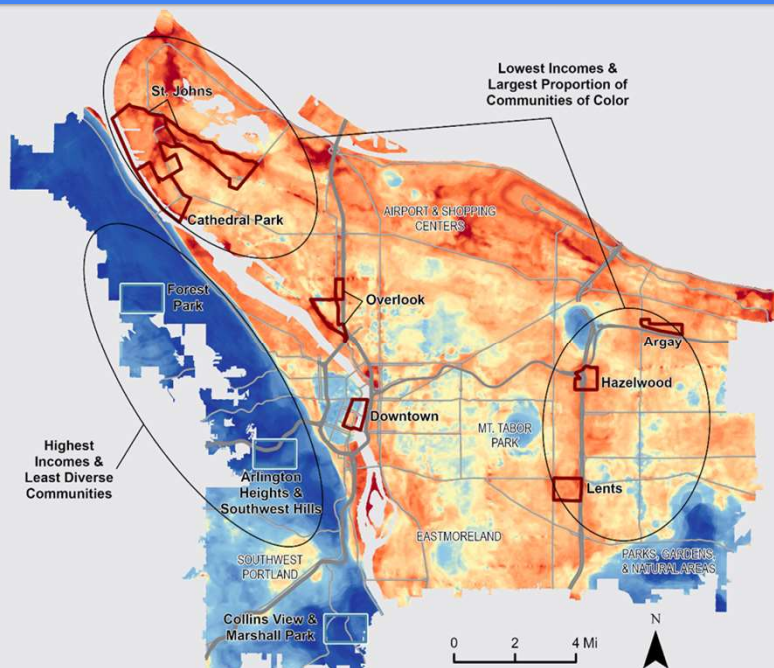
Redlining and landscape conditions

- Redlined communities had less trees and more impervious surfaces.
- Grade A communities were the coolest communities.
- Grade D communities were the hottest communities.

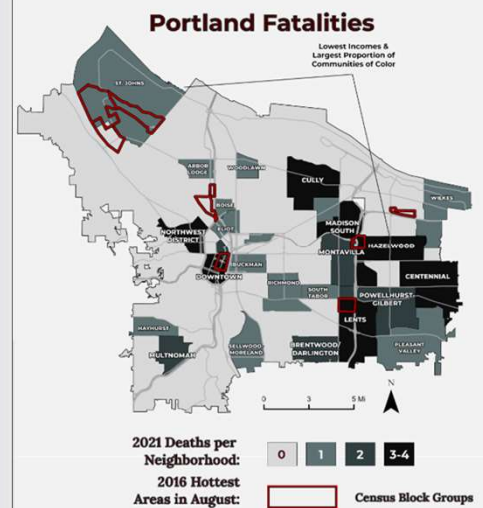


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Disproportionate impacts of heat on communities



Confirmed hyperthermia deaths between June 24th-July 13th

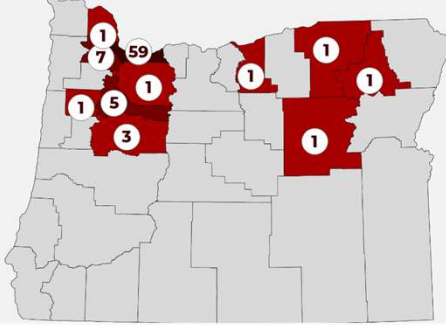


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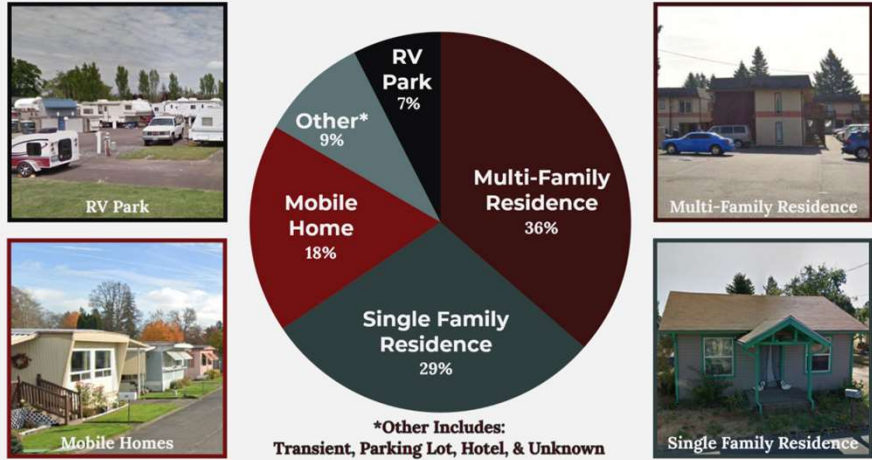
2021 Oregon heatwave death toll

Confirmed hyperthermia deaths between June 24th-July 13th

Heat Fatality Records Across Oregon



Residence Types of Victims



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Excerpt from Portland's response to the western north American heatwave: A brief report

Link to the article with this table will be included in the webinar resource guide.

Burlotos A, Dresser C, Shandas V. Portland's Response to the Western North American Heatwave: A Brief Report. Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness. 2023;17:e522.

Table 1. Summary of policy recommendations to increase primary prevention of heat exposure

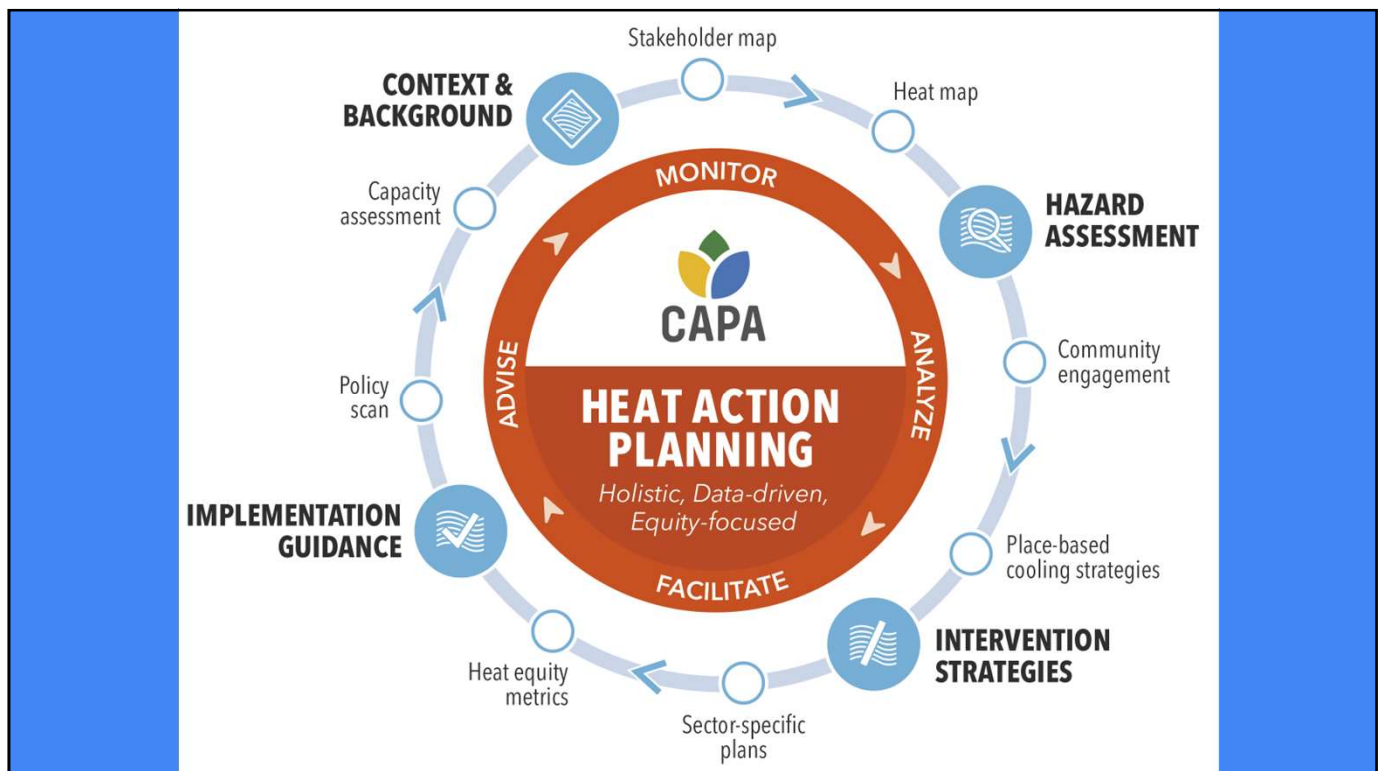
Intervention	Timeline	Notes/examples
Begin voluntary screening at health-care facilities to identify high-risk individuals.	Immediate	Those with medical risk factors could be screened for resources to support A/C access.
Provide A/C units to previously identified high-risk individuals without A/C access.	Immediate	Window air conditioning units are relatively affordable and can be easily retrofitted onto older buildings. Distribution programs have been used in New York and Massachusetts.
Formally organize the existing workforce of trained A/C technicians so that they are prepared to respond during extreme heat events.	Immediate	Technicians could confirm proper installation of window A/C units for high-risk individuals, as improper installation contributed to mortality during the 2021 heatwave in Portland. Additionally, technicians could travel regionally to areas of increased demand during a heatwave event, similar to the pooling of EMS resources during other natural disasters.
Limit employment involving outdoor work, or hot indoor work, to essential activities.	Immediate	Work-related outdoor activity contributes to mortality among younger individuals, despite lower baseline vulnerability. Limiting heat exposure across the population could reduce the number of excess EMS calls and emergency department visits during heatwaves.
Continue to provide emergency shelters during extreme heat events; specifically, ensure overnight availability of shelters. Improve access to shelters by opening multiple shelters in vulnerable communities, as opposed to relying on large, centrally placed shelters.	Immediate	Nighttime heat exposure is understood to be a key driver of mortality. Decentralized shelters are favored as extreme heat can disrupt public transportation infrastructure (which occurred in Portland). Factors such as limited mobility and poverty that increase risk during a heatwave often also make travel difficult.
Advocate for the inclusion of effective cooling as a legal obligation of landlords to provide tenants, especially in northern states which historically do not require this.	Short Term	After significant advocacy, the State of Oregon passed the "Right to Cooling Bill" following the 2021 extreme heat event, which prevents landlords from restricting tenants' access to air conditioning. In Vancouver, a new by-law requires the ability to maintain 26°C or lower temperatures in everything built after 2025. Future policies could make effective cooling to be a mandatory provision for landlords to tenants, similar to the status of heating in many areas.
Establish WiFi-enabled temperature monitors to track and provide real time alerts of dangerous temperatures in public housing, prisons, and other high-risk areas.	Short Term	Current project sponsored by the City of Portland's Bureau of Emergency Management and in partnership with Home Forward, CAPA Strategies LLC, and Multnomah County Public Health.
Develop municipal level multi-pronged heat action plans focused on community engagement when selecting among other strategies mentioned in this table.	Short Term	Community engagement aids in disseminating information regarding the threat of extreme heat, building local capacity, and selecting appropriate methods for the context and specific vulnerable communities.
Work with city planners to curb the urban heat island effect.	Medium Term	New York City commissioned the "CoolRoofs" project, which has coated roofs throughout the city with a white paint. This increases solar reflectance of the roofs and reduces radiative energy absorption. The City of Portland commissioned the "Planting a More Equitable Urban Forest" report, which aims to focus on low-income low-tree canopy neighborhoods.
Improve the resilience of the electrical grid.	Medium Term	A sustained power outage during a heatwave is a probable climate disaster in the United States. This could result in clinically significant extreme heat exposure to most of the population in many metropolitan areas of the United States.
Ensure resilience to hot summer climate is a focus when constructing new buildings in an urban setting.	Medium Term	New buildings should use a combination of urban form, passive measures, and mechanical cooling to become heat resilient. Passive cooling measures which have been used in hot environments for many years should be drawn upon to reduce the reliance on active cooling. Examples of these technologies include shutters, awnings, light colored building materials, and courtyards.
Increase climate change mitigation.	Long Term	Climate change mitigation, for example through reducing greenhouse gas emissions, can address the root cause of increasing extreme heat exposure.

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Work with planners and emergency managers



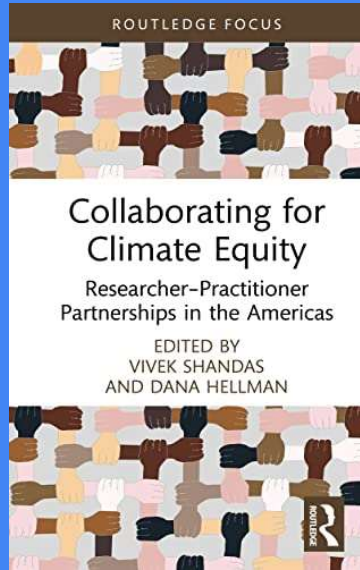
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The [A,B,C,Ds of] the work ahead

- **A**cknowledge that we're addressing decades of injustice in landscape planning
- **B**uild deeper understanding about the pathways that climate-induced events impact communities
- **C**enter those facing the 'first and worst' outcomes
- **D**ecision guidance uses systematic assessments and holistic perspectives



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CONTACT
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What Works for Health

Strategies to help communities reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change, including reducing individuals' carbon footprints

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Questions?



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**Click on
survey in
the chat**



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Upcoming webinar:

January 16, 2024

**Investigating new
approaches to racial healing**



Kevin Leacock, MPH
Program manager
Build Health Places Network

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