

Heat Action Survey

Please complete the survey below. Thank you!

What is the name of your jurisdiction?

What agency or agencies have contributed to the responses in this survey?

Within your jurisdiction, what is the name of the lead agency responsible for heat response?

Does this agency also oversee heat response for any other jurisdictions?

- Yes
 No

If yes, please list jurisdictions.

Jurisdiction's approach to excessive heat:

Is heat one of the hazards identified in your jurisdiction's all-hazards plan?

- Yes
 No
 Not sure

Has your jurisdiction conducted a needs assessment or related activity regarding heat in the last five years?

- Yes
 No
 Not sure

Is your jurisdiction currently addressing the health risks of heat with specific programming (for example, education and outreach, early warnings, risk reduction interventions, surveillance, or other specific activities)? Note: if your jurisdiction has a heat action plan, please check yes.

- Yes
 No

Does your jurisdiction have plans to develop heat programming?

- Yes
 No

What have been the barriers to developing heat programming in your jurisdiction? (Check all that apply)

- Budget
 Staff time
 Lack of heat hazard in our area
 Competing hazard priorities
 Competing programmatic priorities
 Other
 No barriers

Does your jurisdiction have a written heat action plan, policy, or procedure?

- Yes
 No

Please upload any relevant documents here, or email to heataction@uw.edu. We appreciate that some plans are confidential, and will keep the plan close-hold/not for further distribution upon request. In addition, we will not attribute any information contained in your plan to your jurisdiction in publicly facing papers, reports, or presentations if the plan is confidential.

Is your plan publicly available?

- Yes
 - No, the plan is confidential. Please do not share its contents beyond the study team or attribute any information contained in the plan to my jurisdiction in publicly facing papers, reports, or presentations.
 - Other
-

If other, please describe.

What jurisdiction(s) are served by this heat action plan?

Does the health department have specific roles and responses outlined in the heat action plan?

- Yes
 - No
 - Not sure
-

What year did your jurisdiction first implement its plan/policy/procedure?

When was the plan/policy/procedure last updated? (N/A if plan has not been updated)

What were the major updates, if any?

Is your plan/policy/procedure standalone (i.e. focused on heat) or part of an all-hazards plan?

- Standalone
 - Part of an all-hazards plan
 - Both
 - Not sure
-

Does your heat action plan/policy/procedure capture all activities related to heat in your jurisdiction?

- Yes
 - No
 - Not sure
-

If no, please describe additional items that are not included in the policy:

What activities does your plan call for? Please check all that apply.

| | Ongoing during the summer | Only during extreme heat events |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Education regarding dangers associated with heat | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Support for organizations providing services to reduce heat risks | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Linkage of vulnerable populations with services to reduce heat risks | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Direct services to reduce heat risks in vulnerable populations | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Surveillance of heat-related morbidity and mortality | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Evaluation of heat-related communication and programming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Interagency coordination regarding heat programming | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Extended public park or public pool hours | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Coordination with physicians/healthcare providers | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

If other, please describe _____

In the jurisdiction(s) covered by the plan, are cooling centers established during extreme heat events? Yes No Not sure

Are the cooling centers formal (established and maintained by heat response programming) or informal (established and maintained by community partners with no government oversight)? Formal Informal Not sure Both

Does your jurisdiction provide transportation to cooling centers? Yes No Not sure

What are the approximate hours of the cooling centers during heat events? Daytime hours Overnight hours 24 hours Other

If other, please describe. _____

Do you collect information on the number of people who utilize cooling centers?

Yes
 No
 Not sure

What factors do you consider when determining where to place cooling centers?

Are your heat activities funded through your general funds or through a grant process that requires regular renewal?

General funds
 Grant or other process requiring renewal
 Not sure

What is/are the prompt(s) for activating extreme heat event-based activities? Please check all that apply.

NWS communication
 Pre-defined trigger from heat early warning system
 Directive or decision from the state health department
 Internal decision
 Change in syndromic or other surveillance data trends
 Other, please specify
 N/A, we have ongoing programming only

If other, please specify.

Does your jurisdiction use the National Incident Management System (NIMS) or other incident management structure for any of its heat activity?

Yes
 No
 Not sure

Jurisdiction's communication about extreme heat:

Does your jurisdiction issue communications about extreme heat?

Yes
 No

When do you and/or your partners issue communications about heat? Please check all that apply.

At the beginning of the summer
 In advance of a forecasted extreme heat event
 During an extreme heat event

Are any communications about heat made in multiple languages?

Yes
 No
 Not sure

What platforms are used to communicate heat warnings? Please check all that apply.

Social media
 News alerts
 Internet (for department, city, etc.)
 Press conferences led by health department
 Joint events with other groups
 Text alert system
 Phone alert system
 Flyers and posters
 Email messages
 Telephone hotlines
 Door-to-door campaigns
 Other

If other, please specify

Are these communications targeted directly to individuals in specific at-risk populations? For example, directly contacting people in a registry.

Yes
 No
 Not sure

Are any heat warnings made in multiple languages?

Yes
 No
 Not sure

The definition of excessive heat:

Does your jurisdiction have a working definition for dangerous heat, a heatwave, or an extreme heat event?

Yes
 No
 Not sure

Please include your definition(s) here.

What is the source of the definition?

NOAA/NWS
 State-wide definition
 City or county definition
 Other

If other, please specify.

Does the definition incorporate any measures of humidity?

Yes
 No
 Not sure

Does your definition include one more threshold(s) for temperature or related variables?

One threshold
 Multiple thresholds
 Not sure

Please describe the threshold(s) your jurisdiction uses.

Please describe the different levels of activities your jurisdiction engages in at the different thresholds.

Coordination with meteorological agencies:

Does your jurisdiction receive meteorological data from the National Weather Service?

Yes
 No
 Not sure

Does your jurisdiction receive meteorological data from other sources?

Yes
 No
 Not sure

Do you receive raw data, interpretations, or both?

Raw data
 Interpretations
 Both

How do heat event-specific health promotion activities within your heat action plan get activated?

- Automatically based on NWS excessive heat warning
- Automatically based on NWS heat advisories
- Automatically based on either NWS excessive heat warnings or heat advisories
- Neither automatically based on NWS excessive heat warnings or heat advisories

If neither, please explain how activities are activated:

Please describe any circumstances in which this might occur:

Outdoor event cancellation

Does your jurisdiction have an extreme heat outdoor event modification/delay/cancellation policy?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Cascading failures/Utilities

Does your jurisdiction's heat plan, policy, or procedure have provisions for power outages during a heat event (for example, relocation assistance or sheltering)?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- We do not have an excessive heat plan

Does your jurisdiction institute a moratorium on disconnecting utilities during heat events?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Does your jurisdiction institute a moratorium on disconnecting utilities during the summer?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Does your jurisdiction's heat plan include provisions to increase access to personal fans/air conditioners?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- We do not have an excessive heat plan

Does your jurisdiction's heat plan include provisions for helping people pay their utility bills or other forms of heat-related energy assistance?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- We do not have an excessive heat plan

How is this financial support provided? Check all that apply.

- Fuel assistance program funds
- Private donations
- Government funds
- Other

If other, please describe.

Vulnerable Populations and Equity

Does your jurisdiction's heat plan have specific communications or response activities for at-risk or vulnerable populations?

- Yes
 No
 Not sure
 We do not have an excessive heat plan

What populations are targeted? Check all that apply

- Athletes
 Elderly
 People with pre-existing medical conditions
 People with low incomes
 Mobility challenged
 People living in high-rise apartment buildings
 Children
 People working outdoors
 People who live alone
 Communities of color
 People without air conditioning
 People who are experiencing homelessness
 Tourists
 Non-English speakers
 Undocumented people
 Other

If other, please describe.

Has a heat vulnerability map been developed for your jurisdiction?

- Yes
 No
 Not sure

How is that map used in your heat plan, policy, or procedure, and response efforts?

Does your jurisdictions provide extended sheltering for people who are experiencing homelessness during heat emergencies?

- Yes
 No
 Not sure

Epidemiologic Surveillance

Does your jurisdiction have health surveillance activities related to heat?

- Yes
 No
 Not sure

What data sources are used to monitor the health impacts of excessive heat? Check all that apply.

- Hospital admissions
 Emergency department visits
 Social media
 Emergency Medical Service use
 Death certificates
 Not sure
 Other

If other, please describe.

What health outcomes are tracked? Check all that apply.

- All-cause mortality
- Heat-related illness (ex heat exhaustion, heat stroke)
- Cardiac admissions
- Respiratory admissions
- Renal admissions
- Cerebrovascular admissions
- Injuries
- Drownings
- Not sure
- Other

If other, please describe.

Longer-Term Adaptation

Some jurisdictions are implementing long-term actions to adapt to excessive heat. Please check any of the actions below that your jurisdiction is undertaking.

- Green roofs
- Cool pavements
- Tree planing/increased green space
- A law/regulation governing maximum permissible temperature for residential buildings
- A law/regulation banning landlords from charging extra for tenant use of air conditioning
- A law/regulation to allow tenants/homeowners to install air conditioning
- Not sure
- Other

If other, please describe.

Program Evaluation

Does your jurisdiction formally evaluate its approach to excessive heat?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

How frequently is an evaluation effort undertaken for your heat plan, policy, or procedure?

- After every heat event
- Every year
- Every 2-5 years
- Unsure
- Other

If other, please describe.

COVID-19 and Extreme Heat

Did you modify your approach to managing extreme heat because of COVID-19? Yes No

Did you approach to implementation change due to COVID-19 for any of the following activities? (Check all that apply)

- Education regarding dangers associated with heat
- Support for organizations providing services to reduce heat risks
- Linkage of vulnerable populations with services to reduce heat risks
- Direct services to reduce heat risks in vulnerable populations
- Surveillance of heat-related morbidity and mortality
- Evaluation of heat-related communication and programming
- Interagency coordination regarding heat programming
- Extended public park or public pool hours
- Coordination with physicians/healthcare providers
- Other (please describe)

If you selected any of the activities or "other", please describe how implementation changed.

If your heat plan was modified due to COVID-19, please describe how.

Conclusion

What priority is heat in your jurisdiction? Low priority Medium priority High priority

What resources or sources of data do you need to better understand or evaluate the impact of heat in your community?

As a token of our appreciation, we are offering participants who complete the survey copy of a climate change and/or public health-related book for their personal or organizational library (while supplies last). Book options include The Great Influenza by John M. Barry, The Unthinkable by Amanda Ripley, Five Days at Memorial by Sheri Fink, Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago by Eric Klinenberg, A Fire Story by Brian Fies, Fire in Paradise: An American Tragedy by Alastair Gee and Dani Anguiano, and The Ghost Map by Steven Johnson. If you are interested in receiving a book, please indicate your preferred book and include your complete shipping address. Please note that we are only accepting one survey submission per health department, and thus are only able to provide one book per participating health department.

Would you be willing to participate in a follow-up interview to provide information about the implementation of your LHJ's heat response program or activities? If you would be willing to participate in a follow-up interview, please provide your email address.
