Urban Health Inequities & Climate Change

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Introductions

• Name

• Organization

• Type of Organization: Municipal, consultants, non profit, institutions, etc.?

• Geographic region?: Northeast, Southeast, Northwest, Southwest, middle
Group Session (20 minutes including report out – pick someone)

• What are the roots of inequity in your region? How does that manifest itself in your cities? (dilapidated homes, lack of connectivity, health and mental health, addiction, all the other negative stereotypes)

• What are the climate shocks/stressors in your region? Flood, heat, drought, polar vortex, sea level rise, etc.

• How will climate change increase disparities in underserved communities?
We now live in a different era

Climate Resilience
Austin, Texas
Marc Coudert
Climate Extremes already experienced in Austin

- 2010-2015 Drought
- 2011 Heat Wave
- 2011 Wildfires + Year-round Grass fires
- 2013, 2015, 2018 Floods
Asset & Operation Plan ≠ Community Resilience
Resilience Challenges

- Youth
- Poverty
- Homelessness
- Food insecurity
- Mental health
- Extreme heat
- Education
- Drought/air quality
- Mobility
- Flooding
- Wildfire smoke
- Language barriers
- Criminal justice
- Disease outbreak
- Elderly
- Undocumented/isolation
Austin 1928 to Now

1928: Racial Segregation
2019: Legacy continued impact
Flood, Fire & Heat

**Flooding**
- Injury, Illness
- Displacement, Death
- Gastrointestinal illness
- Diseases from toxins in swimming areas and drinking

**Air Quality / Fires / Drought**
- Asthma and allergy attacks
- Stress, depression, anxiety
- Diseases carried by insects, ticks, and rodents

**Increase Heat**
- Dehydration and heatstroke
- Illnesses from bacteria and toxins in food
- Undernutrition, vitamin deficiencies
City Facilities

Community Facilities
- Neighborhood Health Centers
- Library Facilities
- Recreation and Activity Centers
What is the cost of inaction?
Change how we engage

Empowered community = resilient community
Mobility
Air Quality
Healthy Food Access

Photos by Michael Knox, ASLA
Social Isolation
Group Session (15 minutes including report out)

• What are some ways your organization can help (or is helping) decrease Urban Health Inequities and increase community resilience?

• Who else in your community needs to take accountability for choices that impact underserved populations?
OUTLINE

Incorporating human health into climate work

- Background on our Program
- CDC Vulnerability Assessment Guidance
- CDC Environmental Health Tracking Data
- Local Health Guidance
- Health Equity Guide
CDC’s Climate & Health Program

- Funded by Congress in 2009
- Only direct Federal investment in climate change for public health adaptation
- Help states, cities, tribes, and territories prepare for health challenges of climate change

*CDC’s climate and health program is the national leader in empowering communities to protect human health from a changing climate.*
National Environmental Public Health Tracking

- Online data portal
- Data can be downloaded and mapped
- County-level data including climate data
- Health vulnerability metrics

https://ephtacking.cdc.gov
Essential Actions for Climate Resilience in Local Health

- Document from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) climate workgroup
- Steps for health departments to integrate climate adaptation planning
- Focus on health equity

Climate Change, Health, and Equity Guide

- Guide from the American Public Health Association (APHA) and Public Health Institute (PHI)
- Information on how health departments can incorporate equity into climate work
- Archived webinar

https://www.apha.org/topics-and-issues/climate-change/guide
Climate and Health Program
Asthma and Community Health Branch
Division of Environmental Health Science and Practice
National Center for Environmental Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.