





# Lessons Learned from the Heat Dome and Climate Change



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Multnomah County Health Department



hot topics  
in practice

Northwest Center  
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE

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## Question for the Viewers

*Do you know the role your local health jurisdiction has when responding to heat events?*

- A. Yes, definitely
- B. Yes, but I don't have a complete picture
- C. Not at all
- D. Other (please type in chat)

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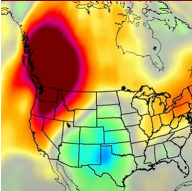
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### Warming Up: Preparing for Climate Hazards



### Cooling Down: Responding to the Heat Dome



### Impacts and Lessons Learned



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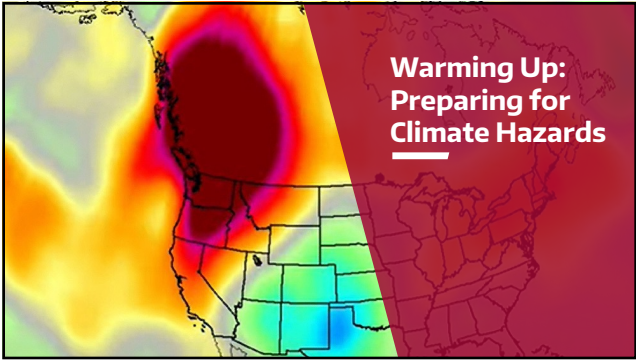
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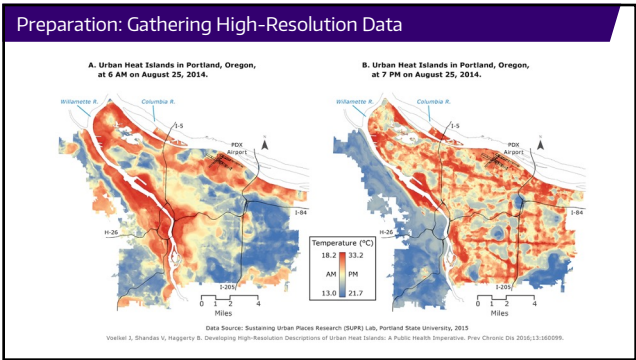
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Preparation: Completing the Checklist...?

- ✓ Climate Action Plans
- ✓ High resolution data

**Plus...**

- ✓ Early warning communications
- ✓ Standard Operating Procedure
- ✓ Surveillance

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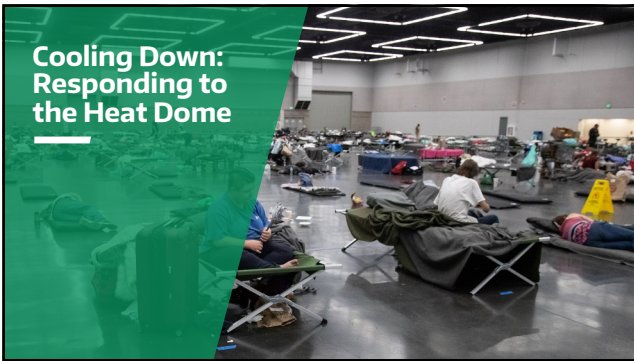
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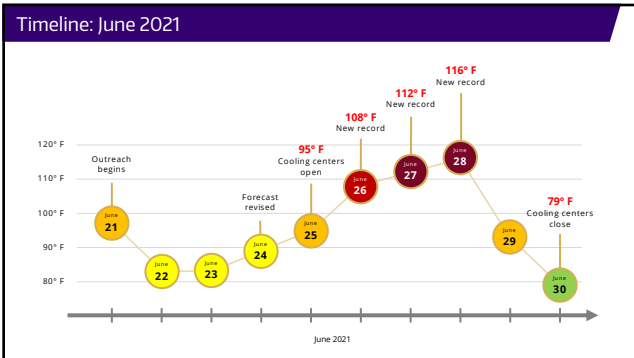
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### Response

- Warning messages translated in 7 languages
- Parks permits for sporting events cancelled
- Transit fare enforcement paused

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### Cooling Spaces

**Three 24-hour cooling shelters**

- Behavioral health
- Meals
- Transportation
- COVID vaccination
- Pet accommodation
- Staff of 350 employees and volunteers

**Nine library daytime cooling spaces**

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### Direct Outreach

- 4,500 high-risk older adults and people with disabilities
- 12,000 client text messages
- Affordable housing providers
- 100 street teams
- Affordable housing providers

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Working On The Response



- Syndromic surveillance escalating the response
- Death investigations
- Vital records for a mass casualty event

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Question for the Viewers

②

*Has your agency changed its response strategy as a result of the heat events or climate change?*

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Not sure
- D. Other (please type in chat)

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Impact and Lessons Learned



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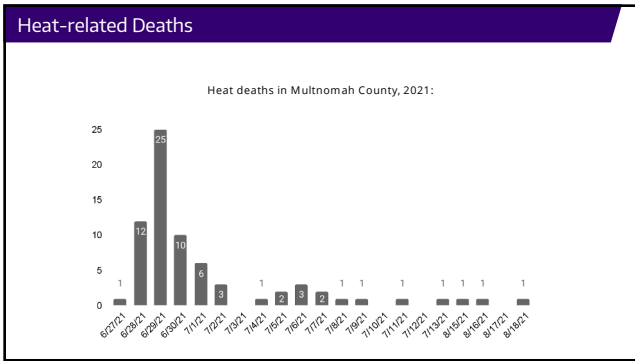
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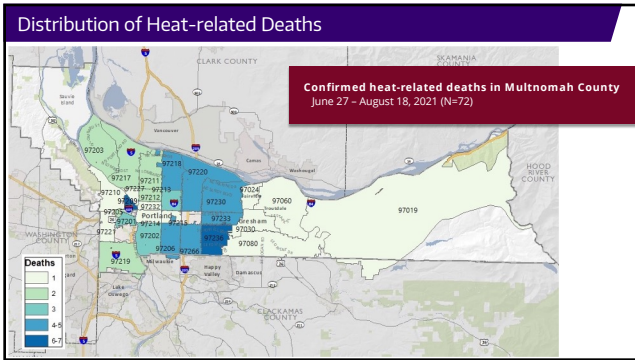
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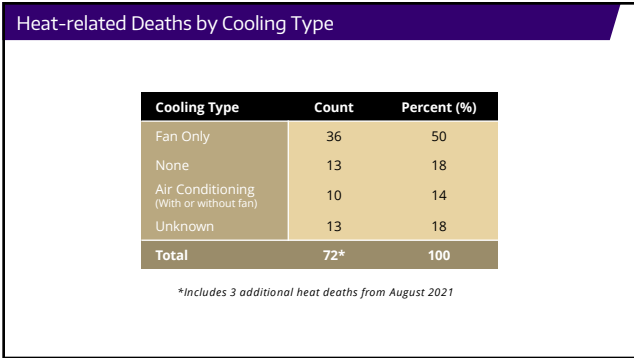
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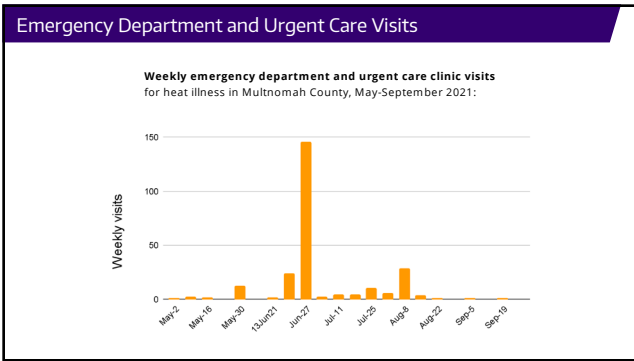
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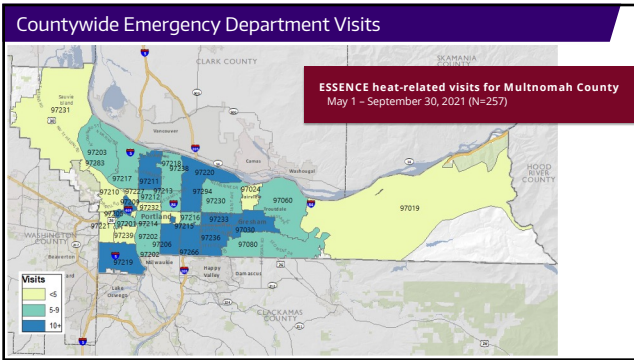
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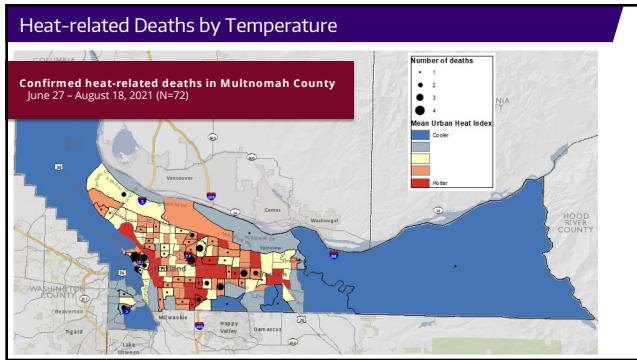
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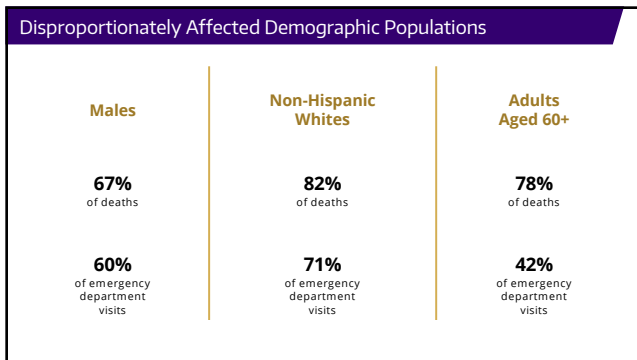
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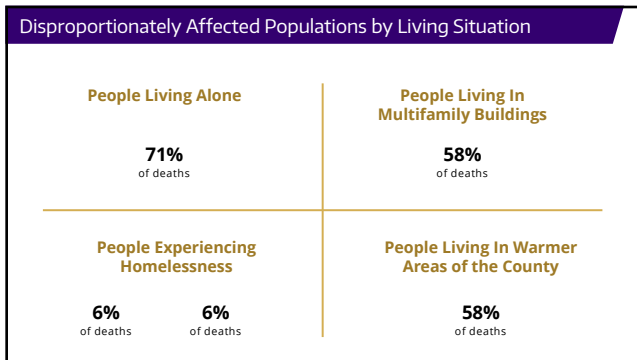
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## Lessons Learned

- Work with your local National Weather Service office to understand probability of extreme events
- Cooling shelters are only effective if people use them
- Know what to expect when reporting impacts of a mass casualty event
- Gather the data you need to implement interventions
- As climate change progresses, we're operating at the edge of scientific knowledge

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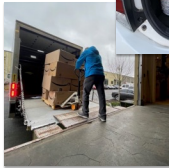
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## Changes

- Communications
- Cooling interventions
  - AC distribution
  - Cooling centers
  - Misting stations
- Staffing
  - Response
  - Resilience
- Laws and regulations



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## Key Takeaways

- ✓ Plan for the worst-case scenario and stress test your plan
- ✓ Make a staffing plan
- ✓ Care for the most vulnerable: older, living alone,
- ✓ AC is protective

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A Chat with Brendon Haggerty



Allene Mares



Brendon Haggerty

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QUESTIONS?



To ask a question, please click the  icon in the Zoom toolbar to open your Q&A Pod.

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Connect with Multnomah County



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Resources

**Regional Climate and Health Monitoring Report**  
Multnomah County, Clackamas County, and Washington County public health agencies  
<https://www.mvlicore.us/2019/11/21/8/download>

**National Weather Service HeatRisk Tool**  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
<https://www.weather.gov/oh/heatrisk/>

**National Integrated Heat Health Information System**  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
<https://nhhs.cdc.gov/nihis/>

**Global Heat Health Information Network**  
<https://ghhin.org/>

**Multnomah County Report on 2021 Heat Deaths**  
Multnomah County Health Department  
[https://multco-web7-prod-files-usw2-95-us-east-2-amazonaws.com/v3f6-public/20220624\\_final-heat-report-2021\\_SmallFile-2.pdf](https://multco-web7-prod-files-usw2-95-us-east-2-amazonaws.com/v3f6-public/20220624_final-heat-report-2021_SmallFile-2.pdf)

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