



SUSTAINABILIT



#### **Goals for This Workshop**

- To familiarize attendees with the effects of climate change, including projected increases in heat and wildfire risk, on the respiratory health of their clients, and the connection to racial equity.
- To explore preventive and emergency communication strategies for use with a wide range of client populations served by the Public Health Department.

#### **Goals for this Workshop**

- Strategies developed will inform, as appropriate:
  - Development of materials and methods for speaking or sharing information with clients in preparation for heat and fire events,
  - Coordination between case managers, home visiting staff, emergency response staff, and policy staff to develop protocols for emergency communication with clients during events

#### CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH EQUITY

Alameda County SUSTAINABILITY





### Climate change intensifies existing injustices

Environmental Racism:

- Environmental racism is the social injustice represented by the disproportionately large number of health and environmental risks cast upon peoples of color in the communities in which they live.
- These minorities are the most common victims of toxic landfills, waste incinerators, industrial dumping, uranium mining, and other environmentallydetrimental activities.
- As a practice-- whether purposeful or unintended-- it is often reinforced by government, legal, economic, political, and military institutions, because it occurs simultaneously with other racial inequities-- high poverty rate, deteriorating housing and infrastructure, economic disinvestment, inadequate schools, acute unemployment, and poor or inaccessible medical services."





 -- November 1995, "Environmental Liberty and Social Justice for All."









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#### What have we learned? Residents want: Access to services and assets • Transportation to medical appointments Cooling Centers Community Education • Access to information Updates on emergency planning (especially for flooding, tsunamis, heatwaves, wildfires, and industrial disasters) • Availability of information in other languages • Funding resources for low-hanging adaptation projects Photo credit: Diana Alexa Maintenance of trees Flood protection Home Weatherization Cooling Centers And more...

#### Questions?

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# Agencies Already Taking Action Image: Already Taking Action Image: Climate-smart agriculture Image: Climate smart agriculture Image: Clim

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#### **Effects of Poor Air Quality**

- Dizziness
- Wheezing, Coughing, and Difficulty Breathing
- Pulmonary Inflammation
- Chest Pain
- Heart Attack

- Associated Health Risks
  - Asthma
  - Chronic lower respiratory disease
  - Stroke
  - Heart Attacks
  - Cancer
  - Lower life
  - expectancy

## Whose Health is Disproportionately Impacted?





#### **Access-Based Vulnerability**

- May not have the ability to find indoor shelter
- May not have the resources to leave the area
- May not be able to get to spaces with cleaner air



Low Income Communities of Color



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Experiencing People with Homelessness Disabilities













## Communication with Clients – Beforehand Share information Remind them to prepare Give suggestions/instructions may be tailored for populations at risk











California State Guidance:
Messages for Clients (1)

AQI Category	Health Effects	Cautionary Statements	Other Protective Actions
Good	None Expected	None	None
Moderate (51-100)	Possible aggravation of heart or lung disease	Unusually sensitive clients should consider limiting prolonged or heavy exertion • People with heart or lung disease should pay attention to symptoms and contact health care provider if symptoms worsen.	<ul> <li>If symptomatic, reduce exposure to particulates by following advice in box below.</li> </ul>

-	California State Guidance: Messages for Clients (2)		
AQI Category	Health Effects	Cautionary Statements	Other Protective Actions
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101-150)	Increasing likelihood of respiratory or cardiac symptoms in sensitive individuals, aggravation of heart or lung disease, and premature mortality in persons with cardiopulmonary disease and the elderly.	<ul> <li>Sensitive groups:</li> <li>Limit time spent outdoors</li> <li>Avoid physical exertion</li> <li>People with asthma should follow asthma management plan</li> <li>If symptoms worsen, contact healthcare provider</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Keep doors and windows closed</li> <li>Avoid using exhaust fans (Kitchen, bathrooms, clothes dryer)</li> <li>If cooling is needed, turn a/c to re-circulate mode in home and car or use ceiling/portable fans</li> <li>Avoid indoor sources of pollutants (tobacco smoke, frying food, vacuuming, using cleaning products)</li> <li>Keep at least a 5-day supply of medication available</li> </ul>

#### California State Guidance: Messages for Clients (3)

AQI Category	Health Effects	Cautionary Statements	Other Protective Actions
Unhealthy (151-200)	Above plus: Increased respiratory effects in general population	Above plus: Everyone limit prolonged or heavy exertion.	Above plus: Sensitive Groups: Go to a "cleaner air" shelter or possibly out of area
Very Unhealthy (201-300)	Above plus: Significant respiratory effects in general population.	Above plus: Avoid prolonged or heavy exertions. Stay indoors.	Above plus: If symptomatic, evacuate to cleaner air shelter or leave area if safe to do so.
Hazardous (>300)	Above plus: Significant aggravation of heart or respiratory issues.		See above.

#### California State Guidance: Communications Process (1)

AQI Category	Recommended Actions
Good (0 to 50)	If smoke event forecast, implement communication plan
Moderate (51 to 100)	<ul> <li>Issue public service announcements (PSAs) advising public about health effects, symptoms and ways to reduce exposure</li> <li>Distribute information about exposure avoidance</li> <li>Prepare for full implementation of School Activity Guidelines</li> </ul>
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101-150)	<ul> <li>If smoke event projected to be prolonged, evaluate and notify possible sites for cleaner air shelters</li> <li>If smoke event projected to be prolonged, prepare evacuation plans</li> <li>Evaluate implementation of School Activity Guidelines</li> </ul>

0011110	inications Process (2)
AQI Category	Recommended Actions
Unhealthy (151-200)	<ul> <li>Consider canceling outdoor events (e.g., concerts and competitive sports), based on public health and travel considerations</li> <li>Full implementation of School Activity Guidelines</li> </ul>
Very Unhealthy (201-300)	<ul> <li>Cancel outdoor events involving activity</li> <li>Consider cancelling outdoor events that do not invactivity</li> <li>Schools move all activities indoors or reschedule th to another day</li> <li>Consider closing some or all schools</li> </ul>
Hazardous (>300)	<ul> <li>Cancel outdoor events</li> <li>Consider closing workplaces not essential to public health</li> <li>If PM level is projected to remain high for a prolonged time, consider evacuation of at-risk populations</li> <li>Consider closing schools</li> </ul>







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- Impact of climate change on health: Center for Disease Control, 2014 (slide 24)
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   Fire Icon: Aaron K. Kim, Noun Project (slides 25, 26, 31, 33, 63)
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   (slide 26)
- Vulnerability Maps (Ozone, Composite, Asthma): Courtesy of Matt Beyers, Alameda County Public Health Department (slides 29, 37, 44, 45)
- Wildfire Intensity and Frequency: Union of Concerned Scientists, 2013 (slide 30)
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