

National Heat-Health Surveillance Expert Workshop

March 17-18, 2015

New York City, NY

Co-sponsorship

Hosted and Co-Sponsored by:

Climate & Health Program, Dep't of Environmental Health Sciences,
Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, New York, NY

Co-Sponsored by:

- American Public Health Association
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
- California Environmental Health Tracking Program
- Council of State and Territorial Health Officials
- National Association of County and City Health Officials
- Public Health Institute's Center for Climate and Health
- Natural Resources Defense Council and NRDC's Science Center
(Organizers)

Workshop Goal

To develop interim actions and recommendations on the best ways to expand heat-health syndromic surveillance networks in the U.S.

Workshop Objectives

- Review current practices in heat-health syndromic surveillance (HHSS)
- Discuss challenges and opportunities to expand HHSS
- Discuss ways to inform extreme heat preparedness and climate change adaptation and policy
- Recommend specific steps to help jurisdictions bolster HHSS

Agenda, Day 1

Tuesday, March 17

9:00	Welcome & Intros & Workshop Overview
9:25	Session I: Overview and Current Practices
10:45	<i>Break</i>
11:00	Session II: Validation, Statistical Assessment, & Definitions
12:00	<i>Lunch</i>
1:00	Session III: Case Studies: Who's implementing HHSS?
2:30	<i>Break</i>
2:50	Session IV: Small Group Work
4:30	Wrap-up & Evaluation
5:00	<i>Adjourn</i>
6:00	Dinner: Hess Commons, Mailman SPH

Agenda, Day 2

Wednesday, March 18

8:30 *Breakfast*

9:00 Recap Day 1, Overview for Day 2

9:05 Session IV: Small Group Work (cont'd)

10:00 *Break*

10:15 Large Group Reportback

11:15 Session V: Actions and Recommendations

12:15 Next Steps & Evaluation

12:30 *Adjourn / Boxed lunches available*

Session I:

Overview and Current Practices

Tom Matte, Paul English, and Matt Roach

Session I Questions

- How can we *expand* heat-health syndromic surveillance (HHSS) systems in the U.S.? What's possible?
- What's feasible in the short-term and long-term?
- Do we need to track other types of impacts (e.g. renal failure)?
- What about making heat-related morbidity & mortality reportable? At state or national level?

Session II:

Validation, Statistical Assessment and

Definitions

Stacey Hoferka and Rob Mathes

Session II Questions

- What are the challenges in arriving at standard definitions and methods?
- Are there other types of health information that would be helpful to inform real-time response to heat?
- What's more useful: regional or national definitions?

Session III:

Case Studies: Who's Currently Implementing HHSS?

Katie Lane, Vjollca Berisha, and Jose Lolo

Session III Questions

- What are the resource/staffing needs to establish HHSS in a jurisdiction?
- What are the barriers to establishing HHSS in a jurisdiction? What are the strategies to overcome those barriers?
- For sites that don't use syndromic surveillance, how can they be assisted in getting to that point?

Session IV:

Small Group Work

Small Group Process

- Participants are assigned to a small group
- Topics:
 1. Capacity needs to set up a HHSS system
 2. Data and methods to define heat illness & exposure
 3. Research and analysis
 4. Communication to inform extreme heat preparedness
 5. Communication to inform climate change and adaptation policy
 6. Evaluation of HHSS
- Identify: facilitator, rapporteur, and spokesperson

Part 1: Setting the Context

Today, discuss the following:

- A. What is currently being done? What are the “best practices”?
- B. What are the limitations/barriers/challenges?
- C. What are opportunities and strategies to overcome the challenges?
- D. What are existing efforts or potential collaborations working on this?
- E. What are potential funding sources to support this?

Part 2: Actions and Recommendations

Tomorrow, discuss the following:

- **What are the interim actions in the short-term (6 months-1 year) and recommendations in the long-term (5 years) to move this forward?**
 - A. By 2016, the following 3-5 actions will be taken...
 - B. By 2020, the following 3-5 recommendations should be in place...

Small Group Reportback

- Each group will have 5 min to share:
 - Summary of the discussion
 - Interim actions and recommendations
 - Existing efforts/collaborations and potential funding sources
- 5 min for Q&A

Large Group Discussion

- Any reflections/reactions to the proposed actions and recommendations?
- Anything missing?
 - What should we discuss now?
 - What should be placed in a “parking lot” for the future?

How do we move forward from here?

- What info is needed from this workshop?
- What products would be useful?
- What additional networks, funding sources, groups advocating for HHSS exist?
- Who can help move the work forward?
 - Please volunteer!

Next Steps

- A write-up of the workshop will be completed by NRDC and available on-line
- Create a centralized on-line repository for resources--*who can do this?*
- Any other next steps?

Thank you!

*Please fill out your evaluation and
safe travels!*