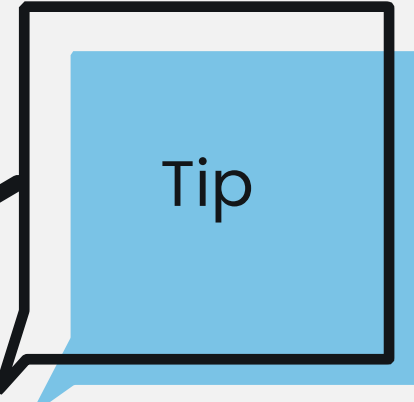


Rural Health Listening Sessions Discussion

August 28, 2026



Use the *sticky note quick action to create stickies.*

Add emojis by clicking on the sticky note and the little emoji box at the bottom of the note

Check out the slides here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/17eHQA6-T5WsrYncdN9lrCqKVEWe80t68/view>

Reflection

What part of these findings feels most relevant to your community/ work right now?



Availability and accessibility and building on the relations of tribal, county, and state

how can ensure county is prioritized- when county is facing the highest risk

Funding is hit and miss at best

Access Barriers to Cooling Resources felt most relevant. It is a concern in particularly for people who have disabilities

Risk perception and associated lack of response

Information being provided during outreach seems repetitive

Dissemination

What message should decision-makers hear from this?



Elevate communications to the public and in accessible formats, support any personal preparedness plans

We want a chief heat officer! Dr. Livar is great

Reality of heat- level we are experiencing- importance of brining funding to mitigate- more policies for heat mitigation

create environmental safety standards

Offer reduced cost of electricity and water to cooling and hydration stations

Back up power, for power dependent people who are at elevated risk of dying (people that use ventilators, or who cannot regulate their temperature) Just last month a person in Coolidge could not leave their house with their caregiver to even get to a cooling center

Improve public health surveillance

have **enforceable** heat standards for outdoor workers

adopt CA heat standards

Action

What is one support (tool, partnership, resources) that would help you respond more effectively?



Funding

Standardized heat protocol for consistency-

I would like literature to post in common areas to watch for signs of heat exhaustion / heat stroke

i would like a way for the community to give their recommendations or to let us know their needs

ADOSH. enforceable heat standards

Takeaways (optional)

- How useful was this webinar for understanding factors influencing rural heat preparedness and response?
- What is one thing you would like us to share, clarify, or do next?

Breakout Room:

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Reflection

What part of these findings feels most relevant to your community/work right now?

Sticky note



Identify modifiable pathways, work with community to develop interventions--pilot. Systematic is needed.

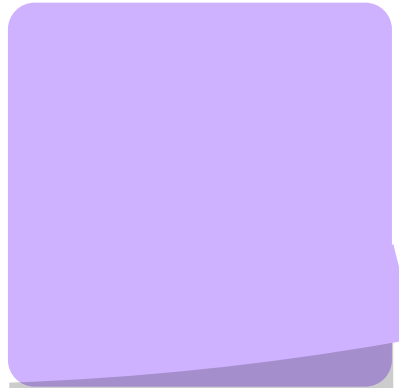


Small community: streamlining heat warnings is needed. streamline heat comms to make it easy to make changes to behavior.

Dissemination

What message should decision-makers hear from this?

Sticky note

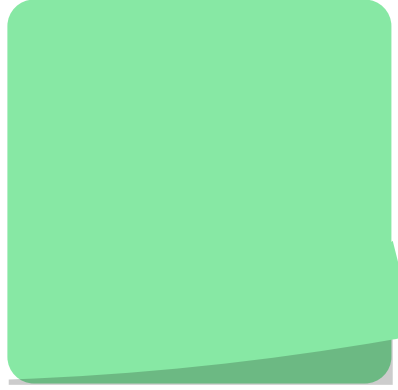


Need to have a baseline of data that way we can mitigate the risks/problem

Action

What is one support (tool, partnership, resources) that would help you respond more effectively?

Sticky note



Systematic process is needed.

Need behavioral change interventions that reduce the risk.

Cannot do this in a silo, need more collaboratin: building awareness among agencies/ organizations.

need to have consistency in defining the pouulation

info needs to get to those within organizations making decisions 9e.g., decision to plant trees, how was that decision made-- using data, training)

they have similar systems for wildfires; we need a heat system that is easy to interpret and make decisions for themselves (their groups and/or organizations)

The military's red/green flag system was simple and easy to understand. e.g., black flag means we need to put certain mechanisms in place, stop people from hiking, rethink outdoor activities. *would need to be evaluated and adapted to inform the general population (e.g., high risk groups) vs. different demographic in military.*

Military uses WGBT. It can be adapted to create a similar solution for communities.

Takeaways (optional)

- How useful was this webinar for understanding factors influencing rural heat preparedness and response?
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Reflection

What part of these findings feels most relevant to your community/ work right now?

importance of trust and trusted local already in place infrastructures and relationships

normaliazation of heat in communities

Better heat guidance and heat action plan.

Distance and transportation issues for cooling centers or cooling resources

Better guidance on heat thresholds and implementation of heat action planning/ resposne

Sticky note

Dissemination

What message should decision-makers hear from this?

The need for shaded areas for people that are unhoused

Better shaded areas for school sports and playgrounds with easy access to water.

Yes, unhoused pop is also in rural areas

Importance of indoor/outdoor play -use of cooling packs and water bottles at back to school events

social isolation can be a core rural issue

We know what to do; we need better systems and support in place to do it.

Sticky note

Action

What is one support (tool, partnership, resources) that would help you respond more effectively?

All community should be invited to these meetings such as animal control etc. Some people will avoid recourses if they can not take their animals

Looking into more short term housing for summer months "summer homes" for people in need (emergency housing after ER for unhoused in hospital for heat related illness)

I am an academic :) but if you re a planner, we wrote a memo on Planning for Rural Heat Resilience, let me know if you need it i can send PDF - anneliseboyer@arizona.edu

possible rental window units / fans for summer months at libraries for low income families (grants)

Region guidelines for the area. City, hospital, etc work together with schools to guide plans.

Community check in groups to check in on elderly/ socially isolated people (student based for ppl in human services)

solar balcony units that may be rented or subsidized and legally installed

Sticky note

Takeaways (optional)

- How useful was this webinar for understanding factors influencing rural heat preparedness and response? (1-10)
- What is one thing you would like us to share, clarify, or do next?

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Reflection

What part of these findings feels most relevant to your community/work right now?

Sticky note

Transportation issues - the heat impacts are compounded by causing increased issues with vehicles, reducing ability to travel and increasing rate of accidents (particularly on I-10)

👆 1 📄

Information gaps, and how to address them.

Schools as being central player in heat-repsponses

👆 1 📄

Cochise County: big distances, unreliable transportation, unsafe driving conditions

petcare family and we need to overhaul the way we view cooling stations.

Dissemination

What message should decision-makers hear from this?

Sticky note

The downstream costs of not addressing these issues.

that extreme heat events hurt peoe.inequality in housing g, access to medical services and public transportation

Solutions proposed for urban areas not useful for rural ones.

How is heat exposure considered in changes to school schedules (e.g. shorter weeks)-- is heat part of that conversation. (could go 2 ways--start later to be in school for hottest part of day, or change schedule if cooling isn't adequate). Temperature on school bus can get dangerous--no A/C on a lot of schoolbusses, if you add AC you have to meet efficiency requirements.

Connect qual data (stories) to quant data for decision makers

👆 1 📄

Cost of health, emergency services,

Improvements to transportation and roadways is crucial to reduce impacts on health - accidents, lack of access,

👆 1 📄

Action

What is one support (tool, partnership, resources) that would help you respond more effectively?

Sticky note

Funding for portable ACs for homes

Improvement to highways and interstate roadways being completed in a timely manner. Increased frontage roads and access to multiple routes of travel

as a researcher - compiled list of possible/ applicable opportunities to apply to (local/ regional/national)

Increased funding for public transport, especially in rural areas. Can take over 2 years to get a new bus in rural areas! Long, drawn out processes.

Expand/leverage service learning opportunities for public health students and faculty to engage with communities on issues

Takeaways (optional)

- How useful was this webinar for understanding factors influencing rural heat preparedness and response?
- What is one thing you would like us to share, clarify, or do next?