Fostering Collaborations: A Symposium to Advance Equitable Heat Health Actions

Town Hall: Exploring Heat Resilience: Scenario-based Insights and Collaborative Solutions

DORIS DUKE FOUNDATION

BU School of Public Health
Center for Climate & Health

MAPC
METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COUNCIL

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
- Meeting Objectives
- Case Studies
- Discussion
- Next Steps

Overview of Doris Duke Program

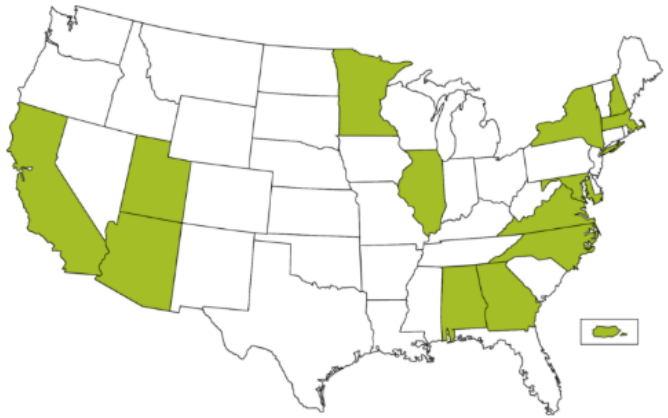
Strengthening Pathways

A national conversation focused on identifying opportunities to better translate innovations from prevention and care research to maximize societal benefits, comprised of 18 symposia occurring across the country in the spring and summer of 2025.

Supported by a collective of leading funders of health research in the U.S., these symposia will illuminate strategies to connect societal health priorities with research ideas, funding models, policies and commercial incentives to improve health outcomes.

The aim is to create a blueprint for action that can shape new funding models, policy changes and industry investments to promote health innovations that prevent disease and improve outcomes of clinical care.

Doris Duke Foundation · American Cancer Society · American Heart Association · Burroughs Wellcome Fund · Dana Foundation · The Donaghue Foundation · Prebys Foundation · Robertson Foundation · Susan G. Komen



The Strengthening Pathways Collective.

4 months.
18 conversations.

A Symposium to Advance Equitable Health Actions

Symposium Goal: Foster cross-sector dialogue to bridge the gap between research and practice in heat health and resilience through stakeholder engagement.

Symposium Objectives:

- *Identify key challenges and research gaps related to the health impacts of extreme heat on communities.*
- *Foster interdisciplinary collaboration that accelerates research-to-action pathways.*
- *Engage funders and decision-makers to catalyze investment in heat-health research and community resilience.*
- *Sustain dialogue and translate symposium insights into actionable strategies for state and local implementation.*

Objectives for Today

- Knowledge-sharing about key efforts and stakeholders in heat health research and planning
- Identification of key focus areas & format for Symposium

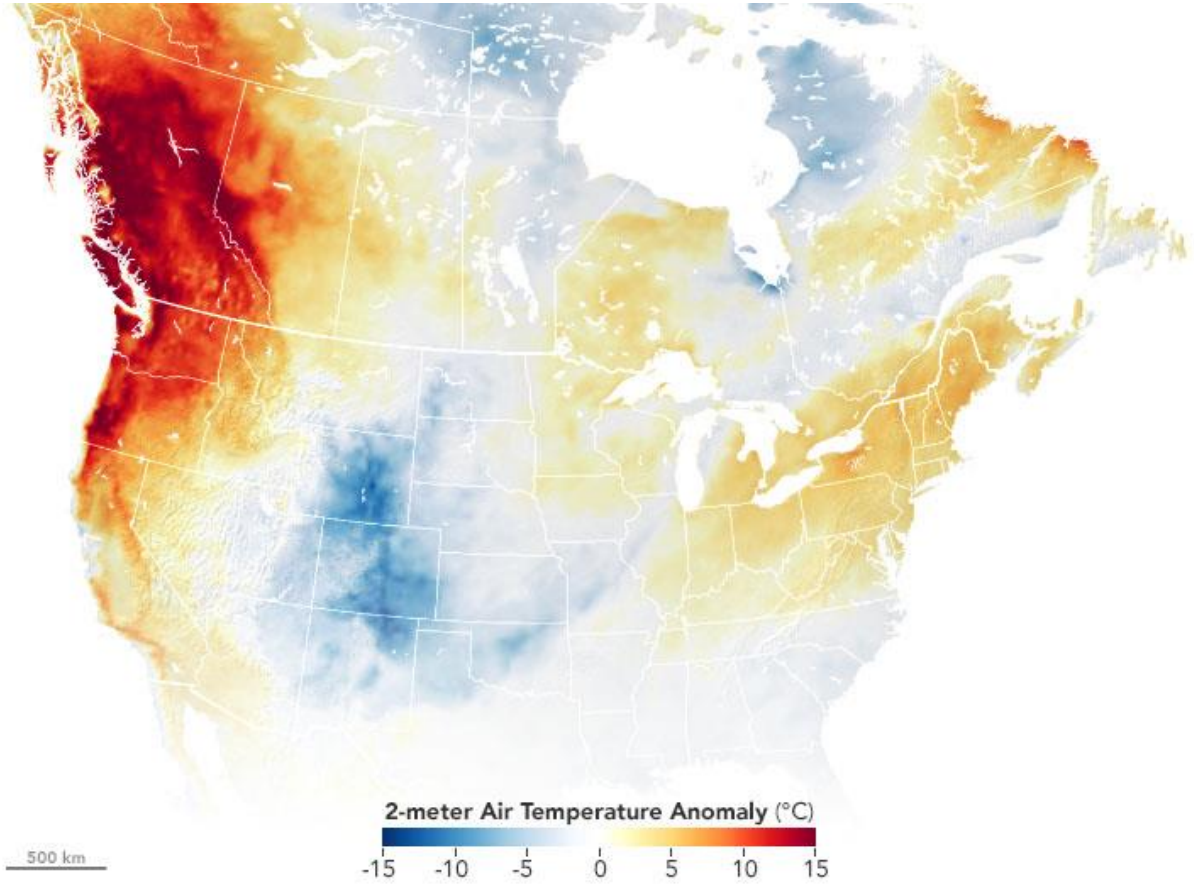
Goals of Town Halls: Facilitate conversations that allow participants to self-select priorities and key topics for discussion to inform a well-rounded symposium agenda.

Case Studies

2021 Pacific Northwest Heat Dome

Longer, hotter summers in the Northeast

2021 PNW Heat Dome

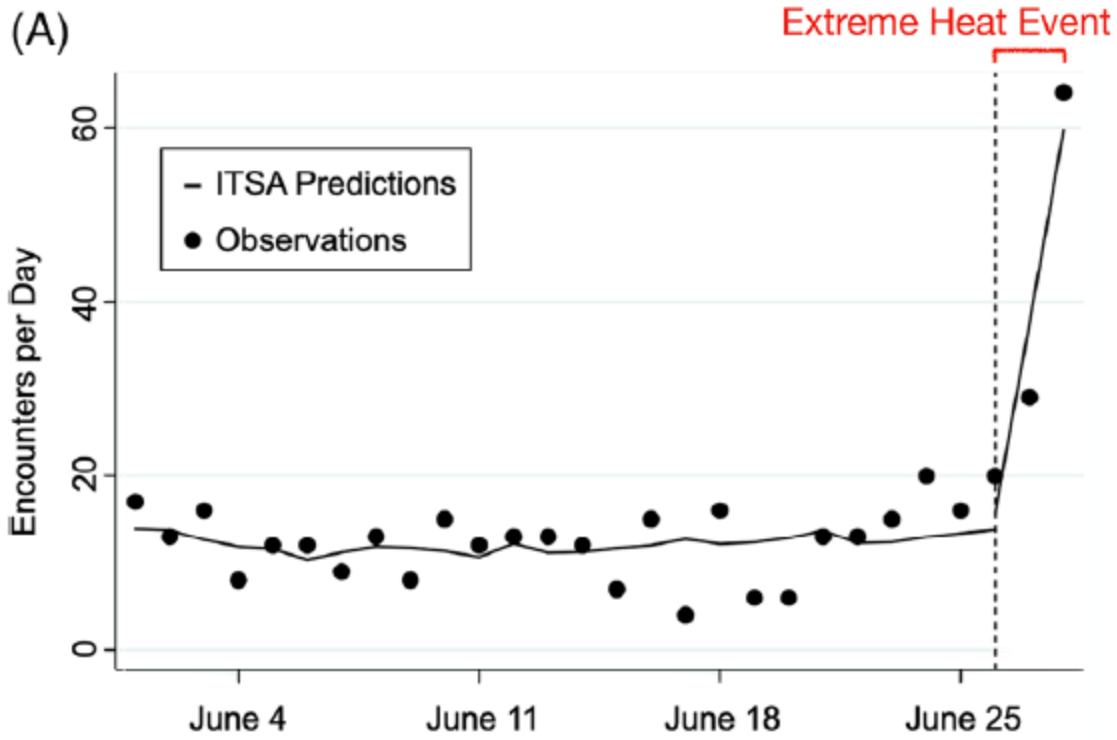


A map of the magnitude of temperature anomalies–temperature that was higher or lower than the long-term average-that occurred during the 2021 heat dome. NASA Earth Observatory.

"For a region with average high temperature in June in the 60's or 70's depending on location, this heat wave caused devastating impacts. The heat dome caused over 250 deaths in the U.S. and more than 400 in Canada. This event also put stress on hospitals, with hundreds of heat-related emergency visits reported for Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and Alaska."

https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/

PNW Heat Dome



Line graph of interrupted time series analysis (ITSA)-predicted values for daily emergency department (ED) visits related to heat-related illness in June across three hospitals, preceding and during the extreme heat event. Observed values are represented by solid circle markers.

- Retrospective analysis of electronic medical records from 3 Seattle-area hospitals.
- Found an increase of 21.7 ED visits and 9.9 unplanned hospitalizations per day during the EHE.
- ED crowding and process measures also displayed significant increases, becoming the most pronounced by day 3 of the EHE.
- the EHE was associated with delays in ED length of stay of 1.0 h.
- Higher incidence rate ratios for heat-related illness were observed for patients who were older, female, or who had pre-existing diabetes.

Wettstein et al. 2024

PNW Heat Dome

Healthcare Sector	Public Health Agencies	Jurisdictional Emergency Management	Hospital Emergency Management	Hospital Clinicians	Long-term Care	Outpatient, Home Care, and Hospice	Miscellaneous Health Services
Barriers							
Co-Presence of the COVID-19 Pandemic	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Limited Staff Capacity		x	x	x	x	x	
Difficulties Obtaining Resources			x	x	x	x	
Inadequate Coordination Between Organizations	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Facilitators							
Advanced Planning	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Indoor Temperature Control Capability			x	x	x	x	x
Tailoring Strategies to Local Context	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Leveragable Internal Relationships			x	x	x	x	
Having Strong External Partnerships	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

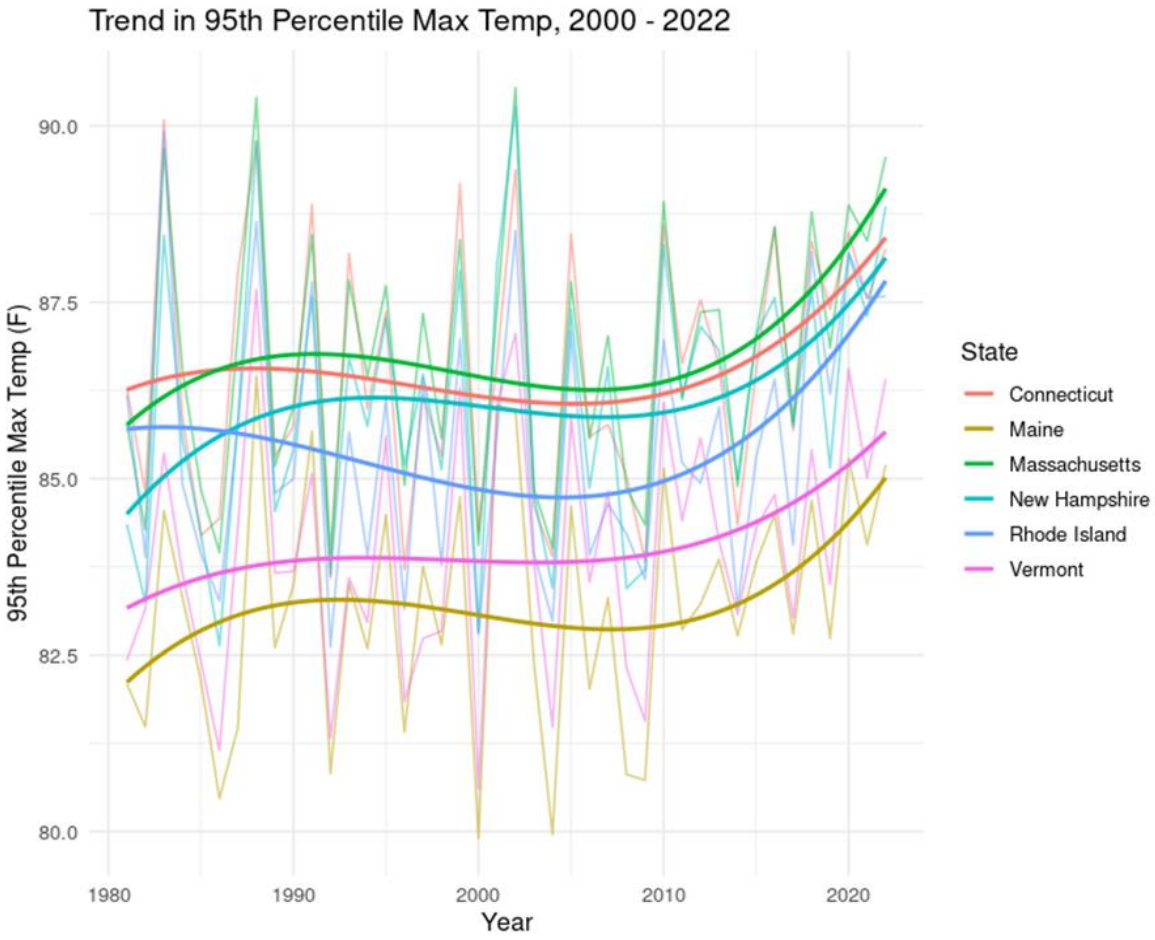
Figure 2 Barriers and facilitators of effective extreme heat event response reported by focus groups, as well as the focus groups that explicitly discussed these factors. An X is used to denote the presence of the barrier or facilitator.

Korfmacher et al. 2025

Increasing Summer Heat in MA (2023)

- We have explored the change in heat in New England, from the recent past through the present and into the future
- The 95th percentile, or 20th hottest day of the year, is referenced throughout as a reference measure to explore changing heat
- Days over the 95th percentile are often used as a reference for health analyses, representing days where more heat stress might be expected to impact daily activities and well-being

Increasing Summer Heat in MA (2023)



The hottest temperatures of the summer today are hotter than they were in previous years

Time Period	Temperature on 20th Hottest Day of the Year
2000 – 2004	86.1 F
2005 – 2009	86.1 F
2010 – 2014	87.2 F
2015 – 2019	87.6 F
2020 – 2022	**88.9 F**

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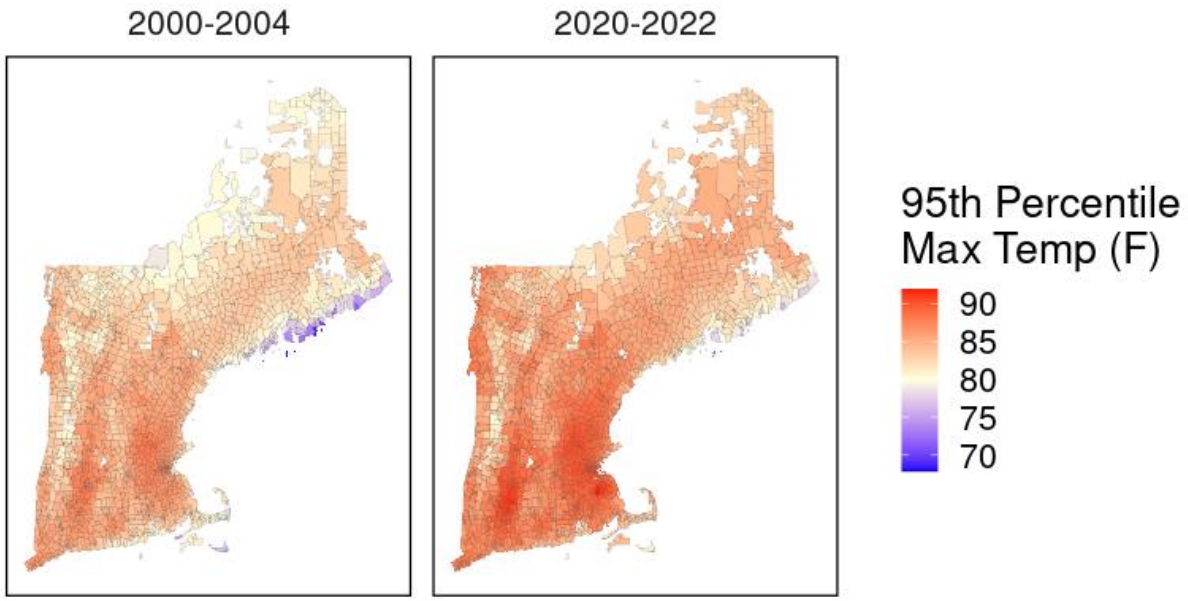
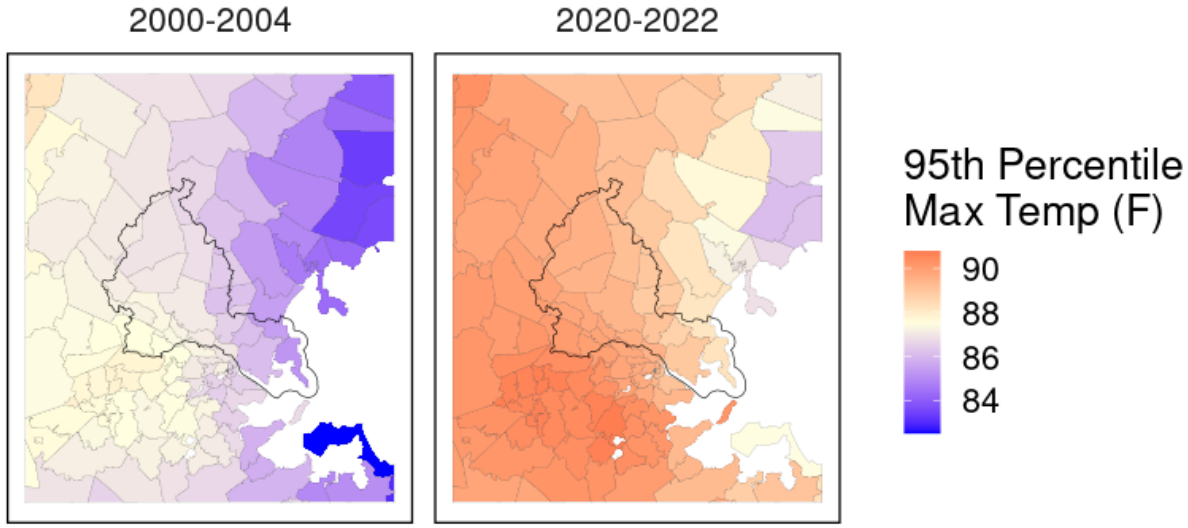
Increasing Summer Heat in MA (2023)

High Temperature on the 20th Hottest Day of the Year

New England, 2000 - 2022

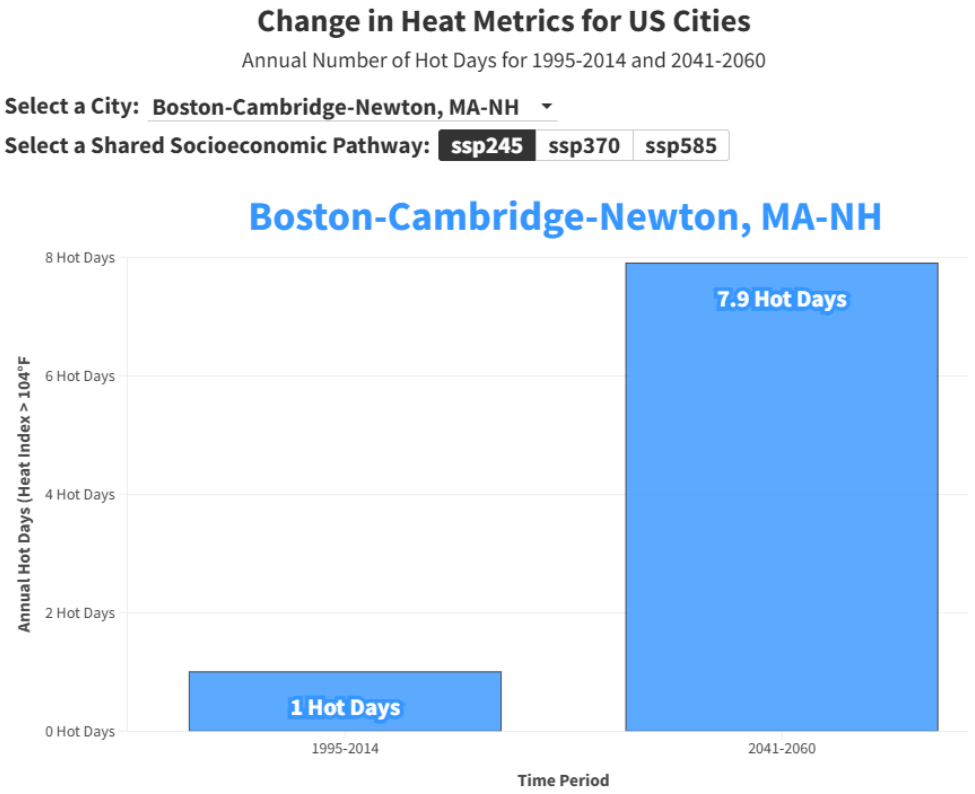


Mystic River Watershed Area, 2000 - 2022



Temperatures on the hottest days of the year are higher across all of New England, with Middlesex and Suffolk counties seeing some of the highest temperatures in the region.

Boston Change in Heat through Mid-Century



Looking to the future, more substantial increases are projected

2x – 4x
Air Conditioning Use

>7x
Health Hazardous Heat Days

+ 1-2 degrees
Temperature on Hottest Days

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Breakout Room Discussion

- *What data or tools are most critical and missing for planning and response?*
- *Which communities and age groups are most vulnerable to these consequences?*
  - *How do you identify, reach and support them?*
- *What additional partnerships or cross-sector collaboration could be formed?*

Tomorrow's Town Hall

From Insight to Action: Approaches to Heat Challenges, Opportunities, and Solutions

May 14th 10-11 am

Please register to help set symposium priorities!

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Save the Date!

Fostering Collaborations: A Symposium to Advance Equitable Heat Health Actions

Wednesday, June 18, 2025 | 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
BU Center for Computing and Data Sciences (CCDS) - 17th Floor

Agenda Overview

- 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. | Breakfast and Networking (optional)
- 9:00 - 9:15 a.m. | Welcome
- 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. | Lightning Talks
- 10:15 - 11:00 a.m. | Panel Discussion
- 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Debrief and Group Discussion on Regional Health Priorities
- 12:00 p.m. | Lunch and Networking

If you are interested in giving a 6-8 minute lightning talk, please email Kat Kobylt at **kkobylt@mapc.org**

Please share with your networks!

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Thank You!