# CDPH Climate and Health Team Short Reports

Kathy Dervin and Neil Maizlish, CDPH, Office of Health Equity Public Health Workgroup Meeting June 4, 2013

### Release of *Preparing for Extreme Heat in California: Guidance and Recommendations*

- Multi-agency workgroup of Public Health Workgroup led by CDPH and Cal EPA
- Provides Guidance and Recommendations for state agencies to help reduce the health risks of climate-related extreme heat events and promoting heat resilience through a variety of strategies.
- Recommendation Section Identifies lead <u>state agencies and departments</u> responsible for further review, consultation, identification of resources and implementation of key actions. Also identifies key stakeholders for engagement and further discussion of strategies.



### Section 1: Heat Resilient and Cooler Communities

- Adopt building, land use and design elements that promote cooling
- Examine and expand use of cool or sustainable surface materials and strategies
- Examine and expand use of porous pavements
- Promote and expand urban greening and use of green infrastructure

### Section II: Enhance Preparedness and Response to Extreme Heat Events

- Review existing state hazard mitigation, heat contingency and other state planning documents to incorporate climate and heat projections
- Improve Heat Warning systems
- Improve heat resilience for vulnerable populations
- Protect energy systems
- Expand energy assurance programs
- Review cooling strategies for indoor environments such as air conditioning and alternatives

### Section III: Public Health and Health Care Sector Readiness

- Increase health care sector preparedness and resilience
- Improve heat illness and death surveillance activities

### Section IV: Protect Workers at Risk of Extreme Heat

- Evaluate current Cal OSHA Heat Standard
- Promote greater coordination to convey necessary worker protection measures
- Augment employer and worker training in key industries with heat exposure
- Evaluate heat mitigation and protection measuresengineering, administration controls and the need for new methods

#### **Section V: Research Needs**

- Study characteristics of heat resilience for vulnerable populations and communities
- ID heat adaptation strategies with health cobenefits
- Study heat acclimatization in changing climate
- Evaluate cooling strategies beyond air conditioning

#### Section V: Research Needs (cont'd)

- Evaluate changing occupational health risks and strategies to reduce risk
- → Assess Urban Heat Island effects for California cities to provide baseline for reduction efforts (underway at Cal EPA per AB 296)
- Research costs and benefits of higher albedo pavement
- Evaluate effectiveness of early heat warning systems for high risk workers
- Perform high resolution tree canopy analysis of state urban areas

## CDPH's Adaptation Grant: Building Resilience to Climate Effects (BRACE)

- Grantee meeting and climate researcher and practitioner summit Jan. 2013
- Administrative challenges and hiring grant personnel
- Collaboration with Local Government Commission (webinar, Sacramento, LA presentations)
- Various presentations on linking climate adaptation and public health preparedness

#### **Short Reports- Work in Progress**

- Focus GroupsExploring public knowledge and attitudes on climate change as a public health issue
- on Climate and Health
  - 6 Focus groups in 3 regions of the state (LA, Santa Clara, Fresno) in English and Spanish with "lay community health leaders"
  - Results will be used to develop communication and messaging strategies
- CAT Research Workgroup: Public Health Priorities
  - Community and regional level (downscaled) assessment of climate change risks and impacts, resilience and adaptive capacity, vulnerability, health impacts, economic impacts and co-benefits
  - Heat warning systems and the NWS
  - Health risks of wildfire
  - Agriculture, food supply/price and food security
  - Risk communication
  - Occupational risks
- ITHIM
  - Statewide calibration project for MPOs, county health departments, and other potential users



# Short Reports: Heat and Health Research Report

 Dr. Dan Smith, CDPH Environmental Health Investigations Branch