Climate Change, Equity, and Respiratory Health: Communicating with Our Clients

April 4, 2018

This presentation has been edited for external sharing.



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.



Welcome



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





Preparing for the future and Now! #EJ4All #CBECAL



CARE Project Objectives

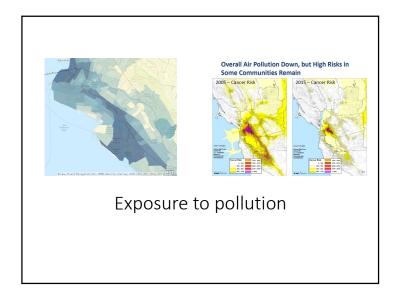
- To show how impacted residents can create climate adaptation solutions that address the needs of vulnerable communities
- We are also rooted in the fact that these vulnerable communities are impacted by the transportation, refining, and, in Wilmington, extraction of fossil fuels.

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."

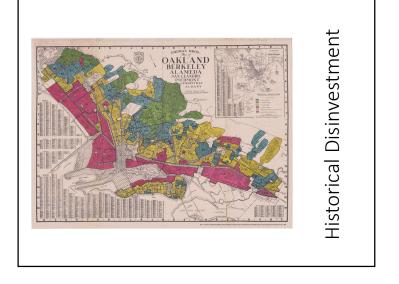


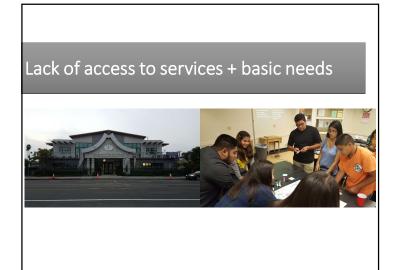












What have we learned?

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
 - · Maintenance of trees
 - Flood protection
 - · Home Weatherization
 - Cooling Centers
- · And more...

Questions?

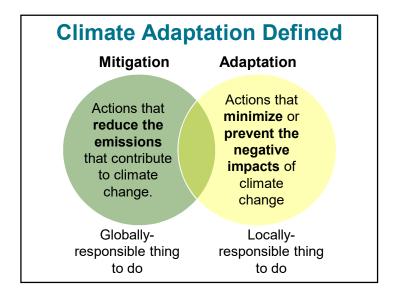
Ernesto Arevalo | Temporary NorCal Program Director

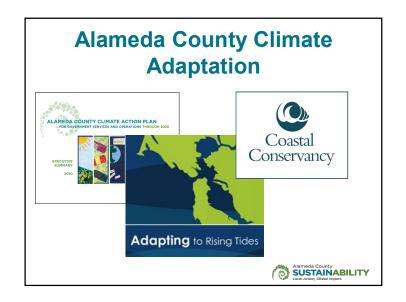
Communities for a Better Environment

earevalo@cbecal.org

ALAMEDA COUNTY & CLIMATE







Agencies Already Taking Action



Climate-smart agriculture



Responding to vegetative fires



Mosquito-borne disease tracking



Salt ponds as buffer to flooding



Emergency preparedness training



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Agenda

8:30am-1:00pm

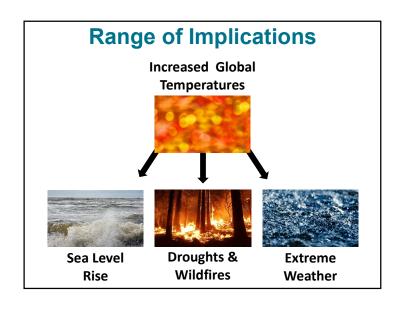
Refreshments Provided

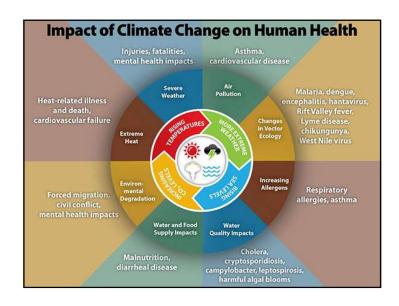
- Climate & Health Equity
- Climate Impacts on Air Quality & Health
- Looking Back: Impacts and Responses During Nearby Fires
- Communication Strategies
- Breakout Group Activity
- Report Out & Next Steps

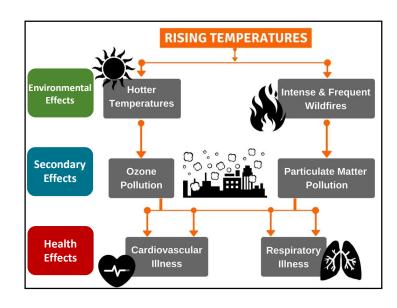


CLIMATE IMPACTS AND AIR QUALITY

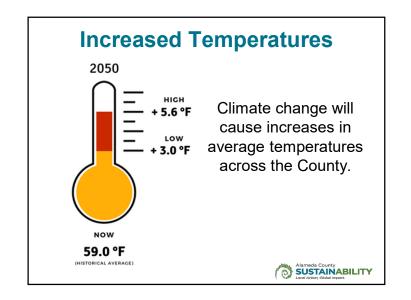


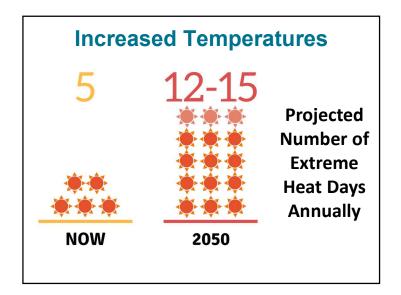


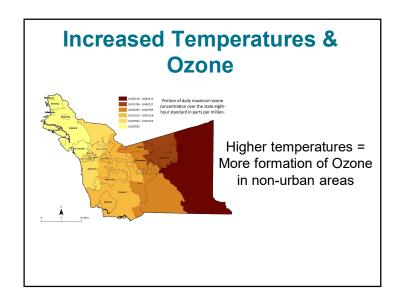


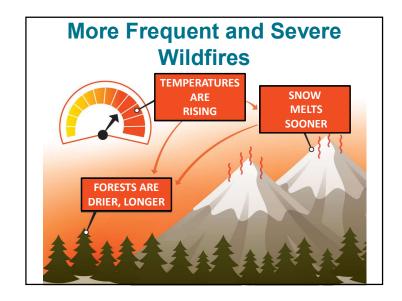


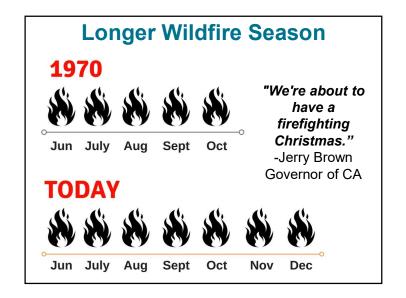
What Contributes to Poor Air Quality? Ozone Pollutants that react chemically with sunlight Major Sources: Major Sources:

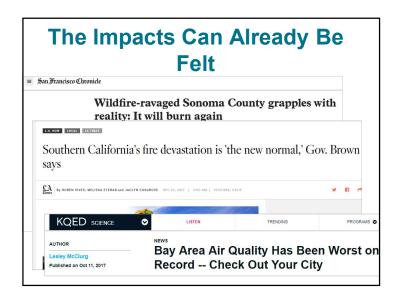












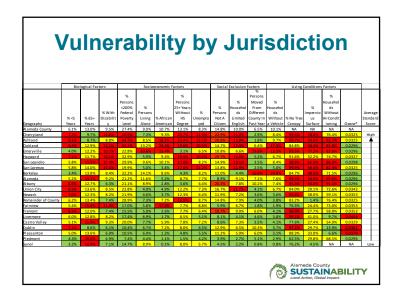


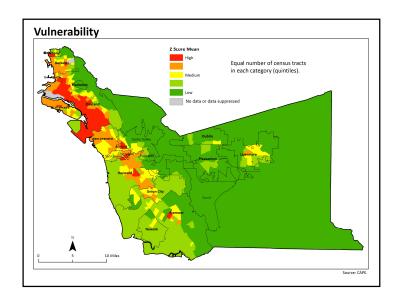
Wildfires and Particle Pollution More Wildfires More PM Formation Annual average PM levels from wildfires expected to increase 32-66% by 2050

Vulnerability Factors

- Persons <5 Years</p>
- Persons 65+ Years
- Persons with Disability
- Persons <200%Poverty
- Persons living alone
- Citizenship
- Mobility
- Households with no a/c

- Persons African American
- Persons without HS Degree
- Unemployment
- Ozone
- Limited English Households
- Zero-Vehicle Household
- Ozone





AIR QUALITY AND RESPIRATORY HEALTH



Introductions

Share:

- Name and Program
- Clients population you serve



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?



People with Asthma



Low Income Communities of Color



Elderly



People Experiencing Homelessness



People with Cardiovascular Disease



People with Disabilities

Medically-Based Vulnerability



People with Asthma

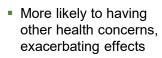
People with

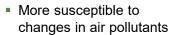
Cardiovascular

Disease



Elderly





 More likely to suffer long term health impacts from poor air quality



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



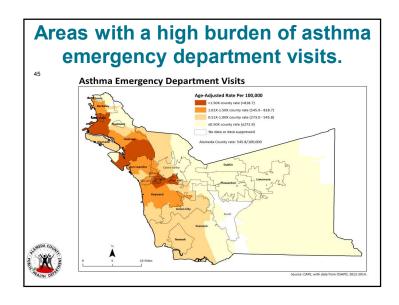
Low Income Communities of Color

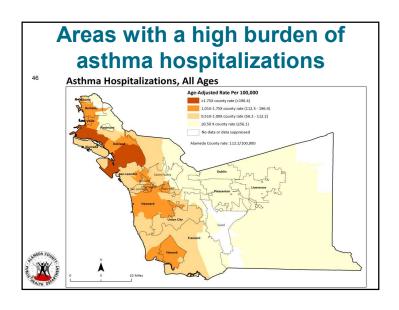


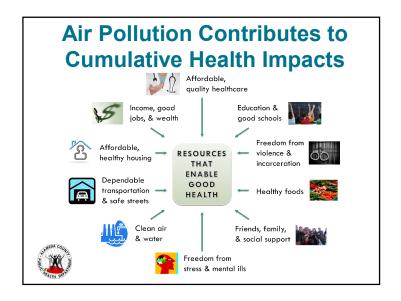
People Experiencing Homelessness



People with Disabilities











COMMUNICATION WITH CLIENTS



Communication with Clients – Beforehand

- Share information
- Remind them to prepare
- Give suggestions/instructions may be tailored for populations at risk





Communication with Clients - During

- Alert them to conditions
- Give suggestions/instructions
- Provide resources for further help







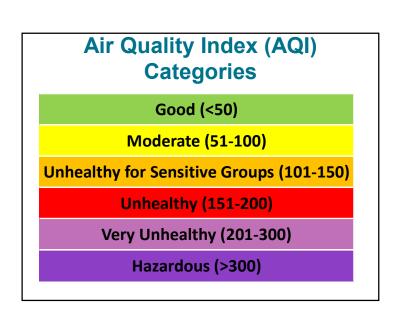


Make it doable (even easy!)

What motivates them? • • •

CALIFORNIA STATE GUIDANCE & RECOMMENDATIONS

Alarmeda County
SUSTAINABILITY
LOCAL ACTION, GREAN PROPERTY
LOCAL ACTION, LOC



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.	 If symptomatic, reduce exposure to particulates by following advice in box below. 		

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.	Sensitive groups: Limit time spent outdoors Avoid physical exertion People with asthma should follow asthma management plan If symptoms worsen, contact healthcare provider	Keep doors and windows closed Avoid using exhaust fans (Kitchen, bathrooms, clothes dryer) If cooling is needed, turn a/c to re-circulate mode in home and car or use ceiling/portable fans Avoid indoor sources of pollutants (tobacco smoke, frying food, vacuuming, using cleaning products) Keep at least a 5-day supply of medication available	

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)	 Issue public service announcements (PSAs) advising public about health effects, symptoms and ways to reduce exposure Distribute information about exposure avoidance Prepare for full implementation of School Activity Guidelines 			
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101-150)	 If smoke event projected to be prolonged, evaluate and notify possible sites for cleaner air shelters If smoke event projected to be prolonged, prepare evacuation plans Evaluate implementation of School Activity Guidelines 			

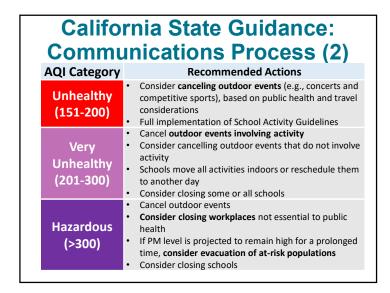








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- Wildfire Intensity and Frequency: Union of Concerned Scientists, 2013 (slide 30)

- Air Quality Reading Oct 12, 2017: Bay Area Air Quality Management District (slide 34)
- People with Asthma Icon: Luis Prado, Noun Project (slides 41, 42)
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