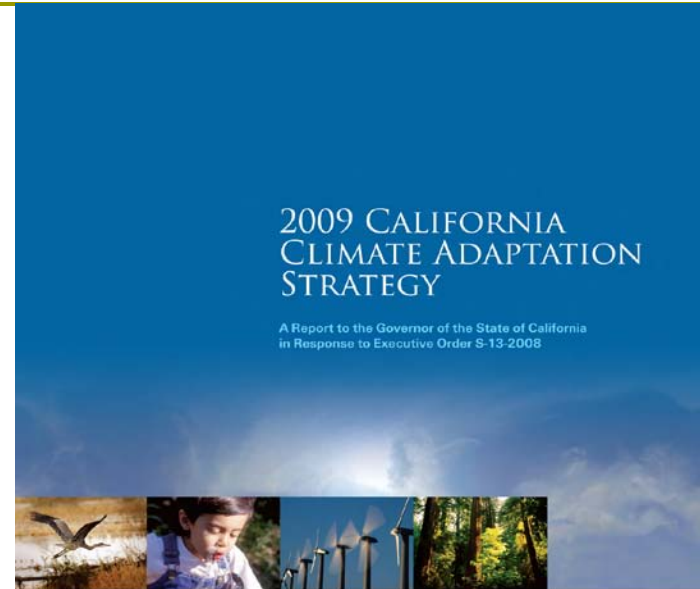
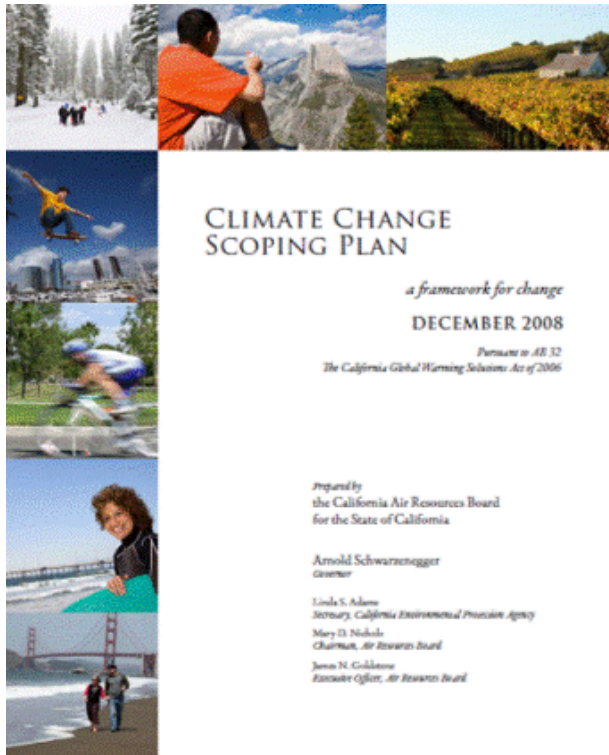


Public Health & Climate Change



Linda Rudolph, MD, MPH
California Department of Public Health
June, 2010

California Climate Action Team



CAT Public Health Work Group

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/ab32publichealth/ab32publichealth.htm>

California Climate Adaptation Strategy

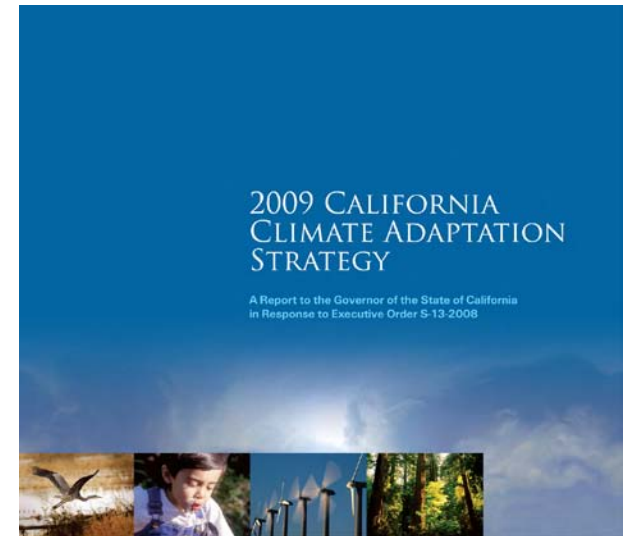
□ Principles

- Best available science
- Stakeholder engagement
- Priority to strategies with co-benefits (PH, social, economic, safety, EJ, biodiversity)
- Coordinate with mitigation strategies
- Cross-sectoral collaboration/integration

□ Key threats – sea level rise, heat, fire, storms, water

□ Key recommendations:

- Change water management
- Consider alternatives to new development in areas that cannot be adequately protected
- Vulnerability assessment
- Protect land/aquatic habitats
- Increase energy conservation, use of renewable energy
- Research



WWW.CLIMATECHANGE.CA.GOV/ADAPTATION

Public Health Adaptation Strategy

Guiding Principles & Core Strategies

- ❑ Community resilience
- ❑ Equity
- ❑ Co-benefits
- ❑ Communication, education
- ❑ Resources
- ❑ Community empowerment and engagement
- ❑ Surveillance
- ❑ Emergency preparedness
- ❑ Research

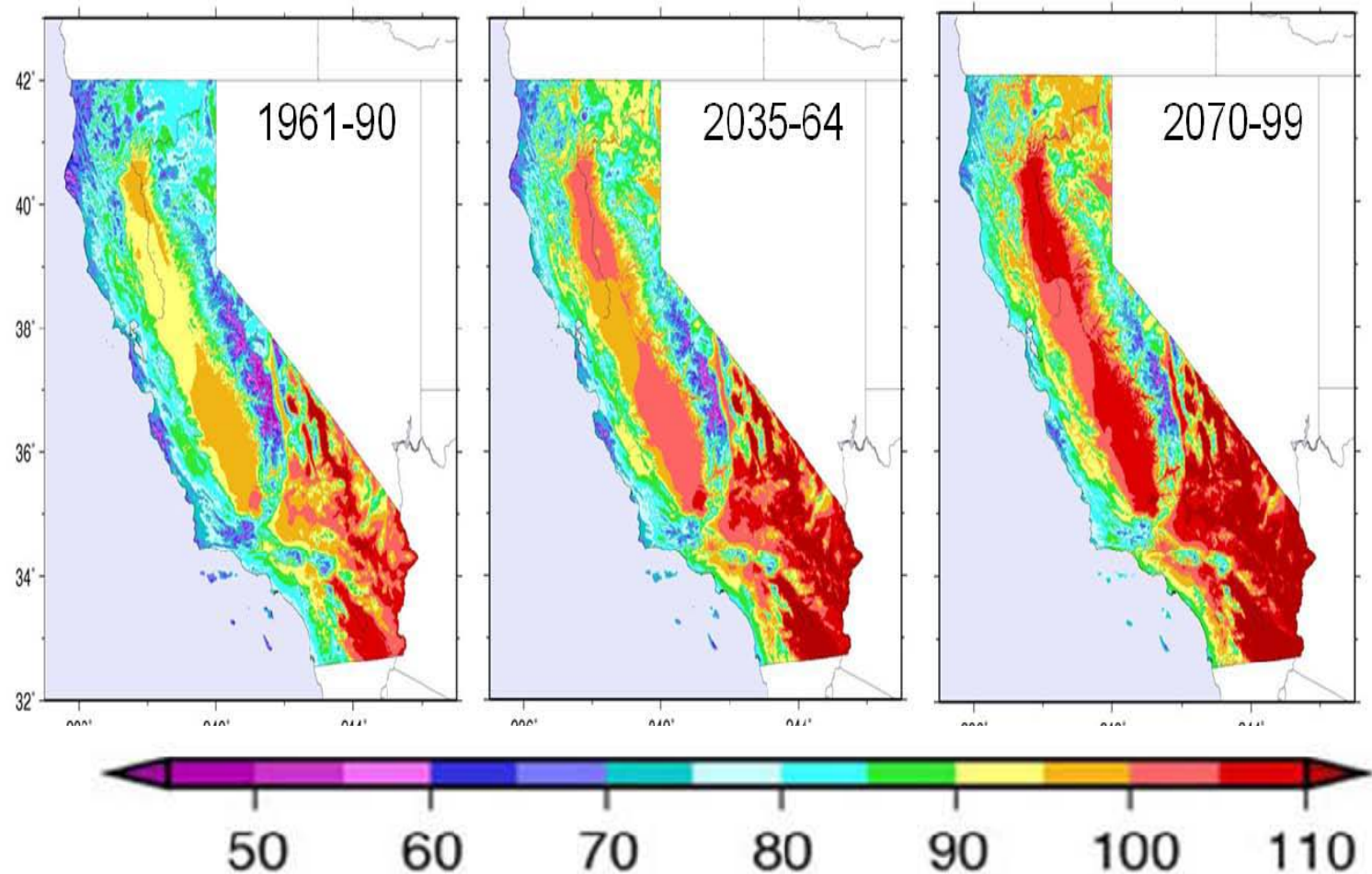
<http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/adaptation/publichealth/index.html>

Promote Community Resilience

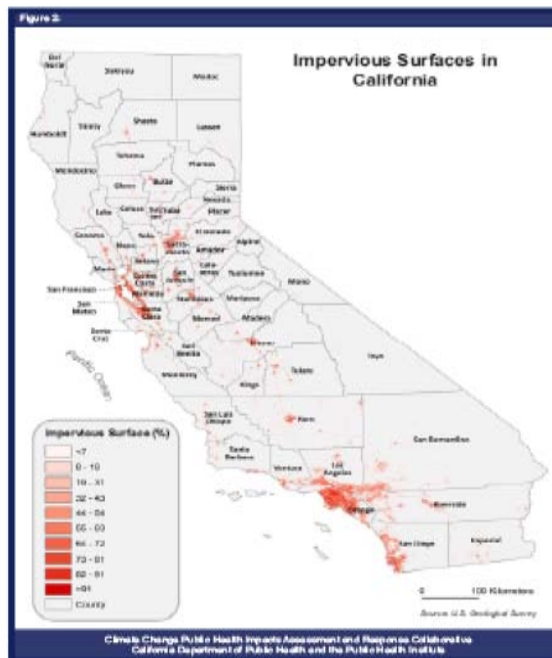
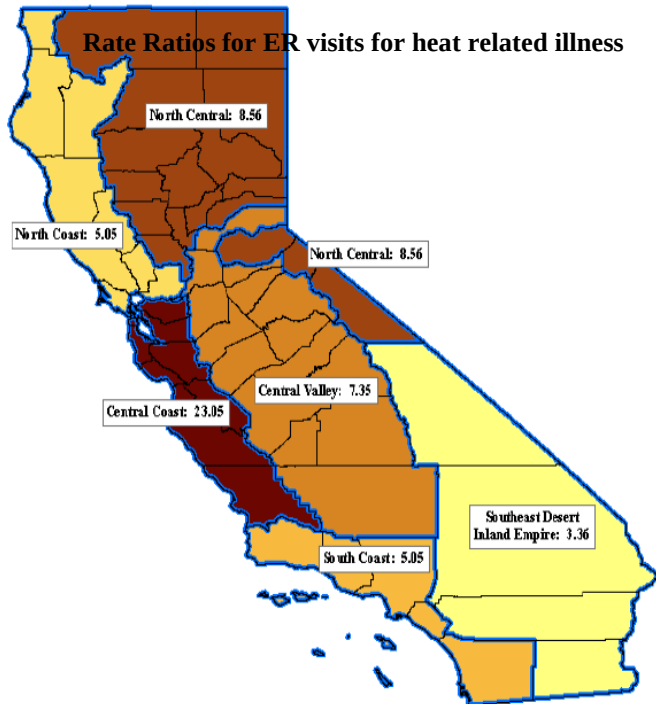
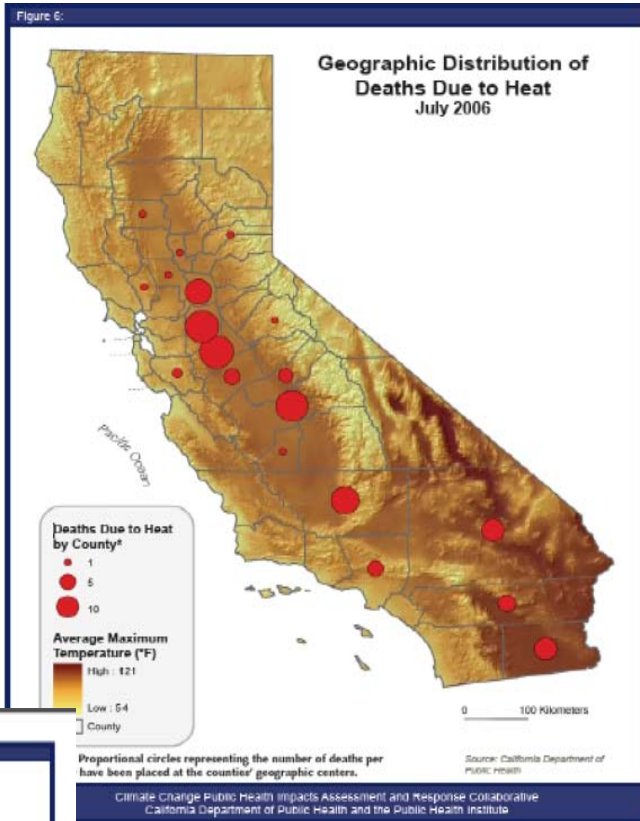
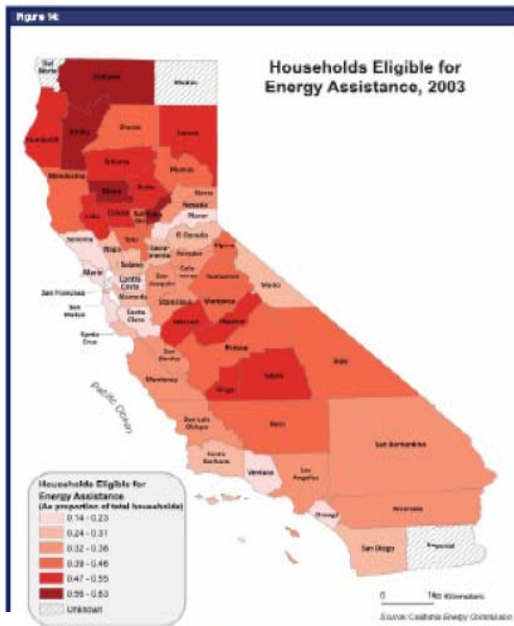
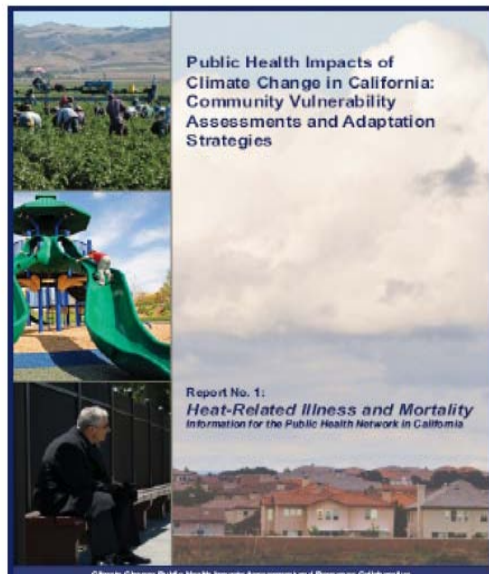
- ❑ Promote built environments that mitigate climate change and/or reduce the impact of climate change on health
 - Location efficient housing
 - Active transportation infrastructure
 - Parks and open space
 - Energy efficiency
 - Fire resistant landscape/materials
 - Urban heat island mitigation
 - Permeable surfaces
- ❑ Reduce baseline exposure to toxins (e.g. air pollution)
- ❑ Promote strong social support networks
- ❑ Promote local sustainable food systems
- ❑ Strengthen health and PH infrastructure

Implementing the PH CAS: Heat

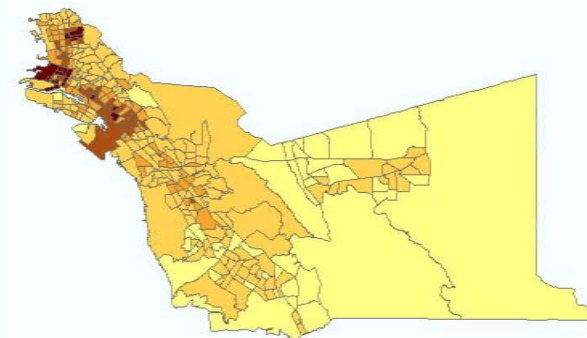
California Historical & Projected July Temperatures



Heat in California



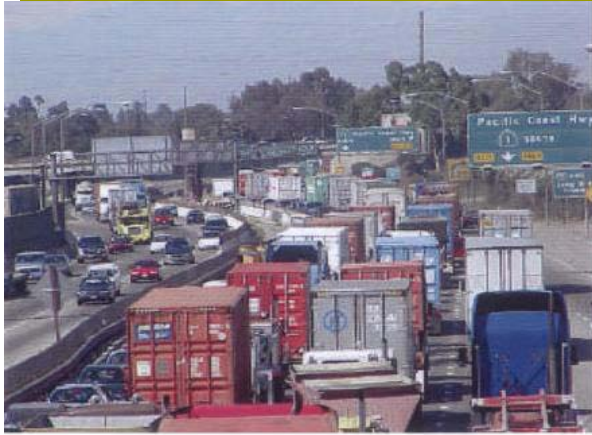
Alameda County, CA,
Heat Vulnerability Index



CAT PHWG Work Plan: Heat

- ❑ Promote community resilience to reduce vulnerability to climate change
 - Reduce health inequities
 - ❑ Identify vulnerable populations
 - Urban heat island mitigation
 - ❑ Built environment
 - ❑ Urban greening
 - Reduce baseline exposures
 - ❑ Air pollution
 - Social support
- ❑ Promote public health infrastructure
 - Heat warning system
 - Cooling Centers
- ❑ Improve public health preparedness and emergency response
 - Map heat vulnerability locally (e.g. temperature, tree cover)
- ❑ Strengthen PH Surveillance Capacity
 - Real-time ER/hospital surveillance

Health Inequities and Heat



Challenges in PH Climate Adaptation

- ❑ Equity
- ❑ Communication
- ❑ Uncertainty
- ❑ Path dependency
- ❑ Population growth patterns
- ❑ Existing infrastructure
- ❑ Resources (people, skills, finance)

What were they thinking?



If we act urgently and aggressively we can

- Prevent the most catastrophic climate scenarios
- Promote climate mitigation and adaptation strategies with health co-benefits
- Reduce health inequities and chronic illness
- Build resilient communities to adapt better
- Promote healthy, equitable, and sustainable communities

What kind of ancestors will we be?



from Africa
to the Americas

