EXTREME HEAT & PUBLIC HEALTH

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HEAT WAVES ARE INCREASING IN
SEVERITY
FREQUENCY
DURATION
...& WE HAVE THE URBAN HEAT ISLAND EFFECT

"THE ANNUAL MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE OF A CITY WITH 1 MILLION PEOPLE OR MORE CAN BE 1.8–5.4°F (1–3°C) WARMER THAN ITS SURROUNDINGS" (EPA)
Weather Fatalities 2019

- Flood: 92 (2019), 88 (10-Year Average), 60 (30-Year Average)
- Lightning: 20 (2019), 25 (10-Year Average), N/A (30-Year Average)
- Tornado: 41 (2019), 42 (10-Year Average), 40 (30-Year Average)
- Hurricane: 0 (2019), 5 (10-Year Average), N/A (30-Year Average)
- Heat: 68 (2019), 63 (10-Year Average), 60 (30-Year Average)
- Winter: 27 (2019), 27 (10-Year Average), 30 (30-Year Average)
- Cold: 35 (2019), 35 (10-Year Average), 30 (30-Year Average)
- Wind: 52 (2019), 58 (10-Year Average), 40 (30-Year Average)
- Rip Currents: N/A (2019), N/A (10-Year Average), N/A (30-Year Average)

This graph does not tell the whole story!
"WE ARE IN THE SAME STORM, BUT NOT ALL IN THE SAME BOAT"
WHO'S ESPECIALLY AT-RISK TO EXTREME HEAT IMPACTS?

- Older adults
- Children
- People with chronic illness
- Pregnant people
- Outdoor workers
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...but also people who
• live in older, poorly maintained apartment buildings;
• live in crowded apartments with intergenerational living;
• live in neighborhoods with less green space access,
• live in neighborhoods with more air pollution from buildings and industrial sites; and
• been exposed to air pollution across the lifespan
• stretch their resilience and their means across many hardships, such as food, rent, chronic illness, immigration concerns, and more,

....and it is all due to historical and systematic (environmental) racism
EXTREME HEAT IS A (CLIMATE) JUSTICE ISSUE

OUR SYSTEM OF WHITE SUPREMACY AND ANTI-BLACKNESS SAYS WE ARE OKAY WITH BIPOC BEARING THE BRUNT OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS
CHALLENGES THIS SUMMER
PEOPLE ARE STAYING AT HOME MORE THIS SUMMER.

Address energy insecurity

The inability to adequately meet basic household energy needs due to the interplay of physical conditions of housing, household energy costs and energy-related coping strategies.
EVENYONE HAS A RIGHT TO A HEALTHY & COOL HOME

WHAT MAKES A HOME ENERGY INSECURE?
- Planned brown outs in low income communities of color
- The wall insulation retains heat, so your home stays hot for days after a heat wave
- Short periods of utility failures, due to increased usage from air conditioners
- Your landlord does not address maintenance issues like holes, cracks, leaks
- Choosing between turning your air conditioning on, or your oxygen machine

WHAT MAKES A HOME ENERGY SECURE?
- A home that is well cared for by the landlord
- Access to energy efficient air conditioning & fans
- Affordable utility bills
- A home that remains at safe temperatures during extremely hot days
- A home that is well ventilated
- Healthy children & elderly
“Senior citizens found dead in their homes because of the heat...that’s why people are doing anything about it now. They wait until things get extreme before doing anything.”
We need protections for low income community members and community members who are BIPOC.

- Feel safe and healthy in their homes.
- Feel safe and healthy outside.

Because if home is not safe from heat, outside is not safe from violence, then where is safe?