

HEAT-HEALTH ACTION PLANS



Guidance

Edíted by: Franzíska Matthies, Graham Bickler, Neus Cardeñosa Marín, Símon Hales





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Climate change is leading to variations in weather patterns and an apparent increase in extreme weather events, including heat-waves. Recent heat-waves in Europe have led to a rise in related mortality but the adverse health effects of hot weather and heat-waves are largely preventable. Prevention requires a portfolio of actions at different levels, including meteorological early warning systems, timely public and medical advice, improvements to housing and urban planning and ensuring that health care and social systems are ready to act. These actions can be integrated into a defined heat–health action plan. This guidance results from the EuroHEAT project on improving public health responses to extreme weather/heat-waves, co-funded by the European Commission. It explains the importance of the development of heat–health action plans, their characteristics and core elements, with examples from several European countries that have begun their implementation and evaluation.

Keywords CLIMATE – adverse effects DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE – organization and administration RISK MANAGEMENT HEALTH PLANNING POLICY MAKING GUIDELINES

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ABBREVIATIONS

General terms, organizations, projects

CECAT	Centre d'Emergències de Catalunya [Emergency Centre of Catalonia] (Spain)		
COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease		
DG SANCO	Directorate-General for Health and Consumer Affairs (European Commission)		
ECMWF	European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts		
EuroHEAT	Project coordinated by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and co-funded by the European		
	Commission (DG SANCO) on improving public health responses to extreme weather/heat-waves		
GP	general practitioner		
HHWS	heat-health warning system		
HPA	Health Protection Agency (United Kingdom)		
ICD	International Classification of Diseases		
InVS	Institut de Veille Sanitaire [French Institute for Public Health Surveillance] (France)		
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change		
NHS	National Health Service (United Kingdom)		
NIEH	National Institute of Environmental Health (Budapest, Hungary)		
PHEWE	Project funded by the European Union on the "Assessment and Prevention of acute Health Effects		
	of Weather conditions in Europe"		
POCS	Pla d'actuació per prevenir els efectes de l'onada de calor sobre la salut [Action Plan to Prevent		
	the Effects of a Heat-Wave on Health]		
PROCICAT	Pla Territorial de Protecció Civil de Catalunya [Territorial Plan of Civil Protection of Catalonia]		

Technical terms

CI	confidence interval
litre/min	litres per minute
mmHg	unit of pressure equal to one millimetre of mercury
mmol/l	millimolars per litre
NO ₂	nitrogen dioxide
PM_{10}	particulate matter with a diameter under 10 μ m
SO ₂	sulfur dioxide
Tapp _{max}	maximum apparent temperature
т	minimum tomograture

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