Evaluation of Cooling Center Effectiveness for Protecting Public Health in Yuma, AZ

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Presenting To
AZ Resilience & Preparedness for Extreme Heat Workgroup
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Assistance requested from Yuma County

Cooling locations for community during excessive heat

Yuma and Imperial counties offering locations

Cooling Facility Open in Yuma on Sunday, June 19

June 17, 2016 - 8:47 pm

On Sunday, June 19, 2016, the Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Red Cross in partnership with the Yuma County Health Department and the Yuma County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will open a cooling facility at the Crescent Center Mall located at 2400 S. 4th Avenue Suite 109, Yuma, AZ. The Center will be open from 10:00 AM-6:00PM. This will be an opportunity for those to avoid the hottest time of the day, which is expected to be at or exceeding 118 degrees. Hydration fluids will also be available.

Source: American Red Cross
Question
Are cooling centers helpful for protecting vulnerable populations from the heat?

Methods
3 evaluation tools
– Intercept survey, cooling center manager interview, and older adult survey
Evaluation team

- **Partnership between:**
  - State health department (Arizona Department of Health Services)
  - Local health department (Yuma County Public Health Services District)
  - University (Arizona State University)
Surveying Strategies (In-Person & Online)

How did you find out about the cooling centers in this area? Check all that apply.

- I heard about them from someone I know
- I heard about them through a local organization
- I heard about them from a public official (i.e., police officer, healthcare worker, firefighter, etc.)
- Television
- Radio
- Newspaper
Intercept Surveys N = 76

• **40%** of respondents knew where cooling centers are located

• **20%** of Spanish-speaking respondents knew where cooling centers are located

• **60%** of respondents experienced medical symptoms related to heat in the last year
Learning about cooling centers: word of mouth and local organizations

Accessing cooling centers: walking and biking
Survey Results – Intercept Survey

Cooling Center Awareness Indicators

- Know about cooling centers: 50%
- Know where centers located: 40%
- Know where centers located (Spanish): 20%
Survey Results – Older Adult Survey

Cooling Center Awareness Indicators

- Know about cooling centers: 50%
- Know where centers located: 40%
- Had visited cooling center: 20%
Survey Results – Older Adult Survey

Yuma Cooling Center Location Feedback Results

[Map image showing various locations such as Crossroads Mission, St. Pauls Episcopal Church, Starbucks Coffee, National Community Health Partners, and others.]
Facility Manager Interview Results (n=5)

**Successes**

- People
- Dollar sign
- Group of people

**Challenges**

- Open sign
- Clock
- Water bottle
THANK YOU

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