
Bridging Climate Change and Public Health
Energy Insecurity Workgroup Meeting
Meeting Agenda – | July 29th | 2:30PM -3:30PM

Purpose of Meeting:

1. Discuss the connection between energy insecurity and public health, climate change, and vulnerable populations through the lens of health equity.
2. Discuss the need for community and stakeholder engagement: establish the energy insecurity workgroup
3. Facilitate communication and collaboration across different community sectors

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- Welcome and agenda overview (5 mins) – Lauren
 - Introduction to Energy Insecurity Survey Analysis Team (5 mins) -Vjollca
 - **Energy Insecurity Survey Results Presentation (35 mins) -Tony**

Review the purpose of the Energy Insecurity Survey

- Understand the experience of EI through survey
- Distributed in South Phoenix community
- Survey administered primarily over phone, some in-person
- 142 surveys completed
- Survey consisted of the following categories of questions:
 - Energy sources and costs, energy burden, housing efficiency and comfort, energy bill literacy, coping behaviors, health, covid-19 effects, demographics
- Majority of survey results were through the lens of annual energy burden level (Severe 11%+, High 6-10%, Moderate 3%-5%, and low <3%)

- N=106 rather than 142, because not all survey respondent's information was available to calculate EB.
- 67% had a severe annual energy burden
- Summer and Winter energy burden was also calculated to get an idea of how the level of energy burden varies throughout the year
- Housing burden (HB) was compared to energy burden (EB)
 - 53% of households reported annual severe energy burden and housing burden
 - Only 1 household reported having low EB and moderate HB

Key takeaways from survey:

ENERGY BURDEN

- Majority of the households have severe energy insecurity in both summer and winter (61%)
- 67% of households have severe annual energy burden

HOUSING EFFICIENCY

- 32% of severe EB and 32% of high EB experience limitations to their cooling system
- Windows and insulation were most common types to be inefficient among all EB levels
- Most common home repairs needed 1) broken windows/doors, 2) roof, & 3) porch/patio

HEALTH

- Most common issues among high and severe EB were headaches, fatigue, and leg cramps
- Most common problems overall 1) sleep, 2) mental health, 3) ability to afford food
- 42% feel that their health is at risk due to heat

HOUSEHOLD

- More people with severe and high energy burdens had older homes (built 1940-79)
- Presentation Q and A (10 min)
 - Energy burden data from the presentation was not self-reported. Instead, the energy burdens were calculated based on self-reported monthly utility bill cost and annual household income.
 - Question about sending original Energy Insecurity Survey to all workgroup members
 - Will not be able to send out energy insecurity survey questions but will send out presentation.
 - Workgroup members can request information about any of the survey categories in slide 4 of the Energy Insecurity Community Survey PowerPoint Presentation by contacting...

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Energy Sources and Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions 1-13• Energy Use, Service Provider, Use of Cooling System, Bills
Energy Burden	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions 14-37• Limitations, Energy Shut-Offs, Utility Assistance Programs, Repair Programs
Housing, Efficiency and Comfort	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions 38- 46• Home Quality, Comfortable Temperatures
Energy Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Question 47• Understanding of Bills
Coping with Energy Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions 48-57• Comfort Level, Energy Use, Cooling Centers to Cool Off
Energy and Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions 58-61• Health Risk, Health Issues Due to Heat
Personal Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions 62-66• Health Problems Associated with Heat
COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions 67-68• Effects of COVID-19 on Household
Household Composition and Demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions 69-80• Age, Race, Ethnicity, Income, Housing

- Member asked if there is a question in the survey about the preferred method for households to get utility assistance information.
 - There was no question in the energy insecurity survey that addressed that question
 - Based on HUE survey results, we do know that text, radio, and television were the preferred methods for receiving information on heat and heat-related illness
 - Was also mentioned that 211 can be a good resource to connect people with the help needed

Discussion

- Idea of home weatherization case study

- Identifying most vulnerable households with energy insecurity and what it would take to fix, weatherize the home
- Policy discussion
 - Many of the weatherization assistance programs and utility assistance programs do not apply to renters
 - Is there a way stakeholders can influence policy to expand qualification for these programs?

Next Actions

- Everyone should continue thinking about potential actions that can be taken with the knowledge we have now of the community's energy insecurity experience
- Mapping energy burdens by zip code
- Wrap-up (5 mins)

Overall, the workgroup was very engaged with the presentation and were pleased with how comprehensive the findings were.