

Strengthening Extreme Heat Resiliency through Public Policy in American Indian and Latino Communities

Case studies from Las Vegas, Nevada and Phoenix, Arizona

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Study Overview

Disproportionate impacts of extreme heat and COVID-19 on Latino and American Indian communities in Phoenix and Las Vegas

Policy can mitigate heat challenges

Study Goal

Inform communities and decision-makers in the public and private sectors about opportunities to further address community members' needs and concerns around extreme heat

What we did

Landscape analysis

State, county, and city plans, programs and initiatives, & statutes and codes

From 2010-2021

Coded for heat issue, strategy, space

Needs assessment

Semi-structured interviews w community leaders and members

Heat challenges, heat management strategies, helpful policies/supports, recommendations

Gap analysis

Compared community members' needs and concerns with current policy landscape to identify opportunities for policy action

City of Phoenix case study

Report highlights

Landscape analysis

	City	County	State
Plans	8	4	3
Programs/ initiatives	14	9	3
Statutes/ codes	8	0	2
TOTAL	30	13	8

Top heat issue:

Public health

Top strategy:

Information

Spaces:

Public

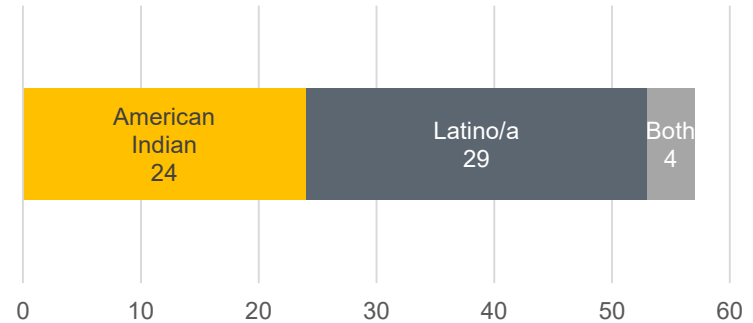
Private

Outdoor

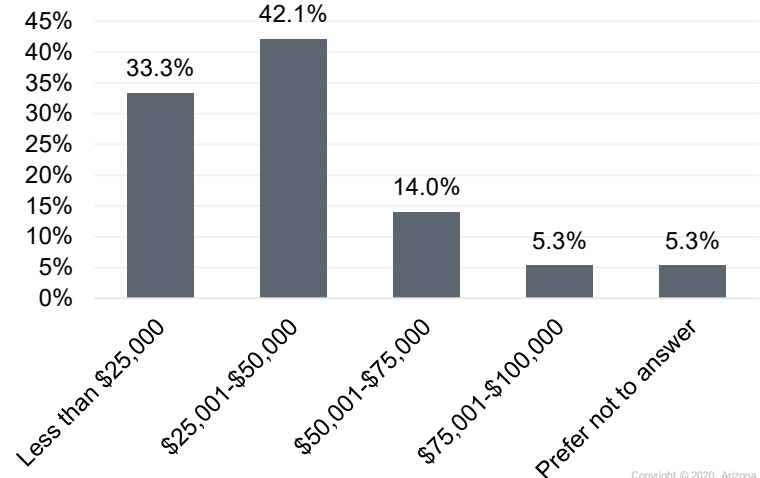
Needs assessment

- 15 community leaders
 - Nonprofits
 - Community groups
 - Maricopa County
- 57 community members
 - 88% women
 - 60% aged 25-44 years
 - 49% live in single family home
 - 63% renters
 - 65% working full or part-time
 - 75% have an annual household income of \$50,000 or less

Racial-ethnic identity of community members



Annual household income



Needs assessment

A majority of community members we spoke with...

- Experience heat most often in transit or at home
- Use a personal vehicle
- Spent the majority of the day at home in 2020
- Felt too hot inside their home at least sometimes
- Are somewhat or very concerned with the risks posed by heat

Where do community members experience extreme heat the most frequently?

In transit	33 (58%)
At home	11 (19%)
At work	6 (11%)
Other	4 (7%)
At school	1 (2%)

Interviews revealed salient heat challenges with...

Energy use and thermal discomfort at home

Thermal discomfort in public outdoor spaces

Thermal discomfort during transit

Health and body

Key take-aways from Phoenix, AZ



Many Phoenix community members struggle to maintain thermal comfort in their homes during the summer.



More short- and medium-term strategies for managing heat in transit could help.



Community members would like increased access to shade and water features in public outdoor recreation areas.



Many community members are not aware of existing resources, such as information on heat safety, assistance programs, and cooling centers.