



HEAT-HEALTH ACTION PLANS GUIDANCE

Second edition

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European Region

2016–2025

Warmest ten-year period on record; long-term warming trend continues.



European Region

Where are we now?

By the end of 2025 the globe has warmed by about:

+1.4°C above the pre-industrial level

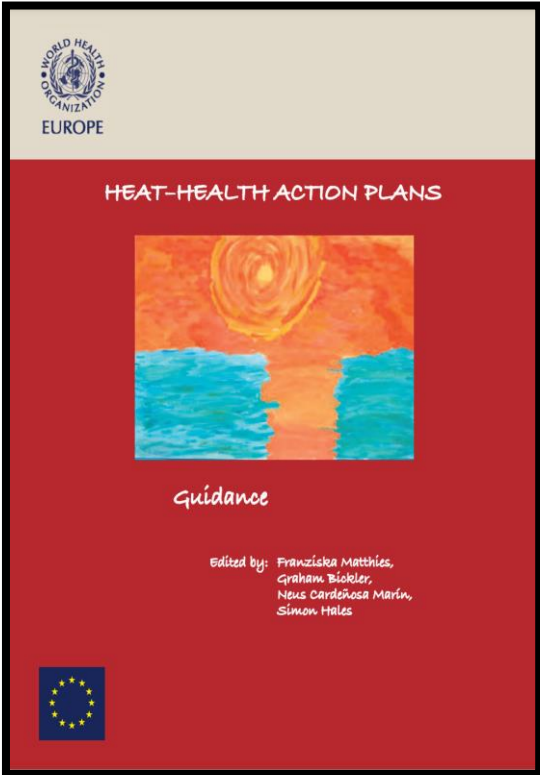
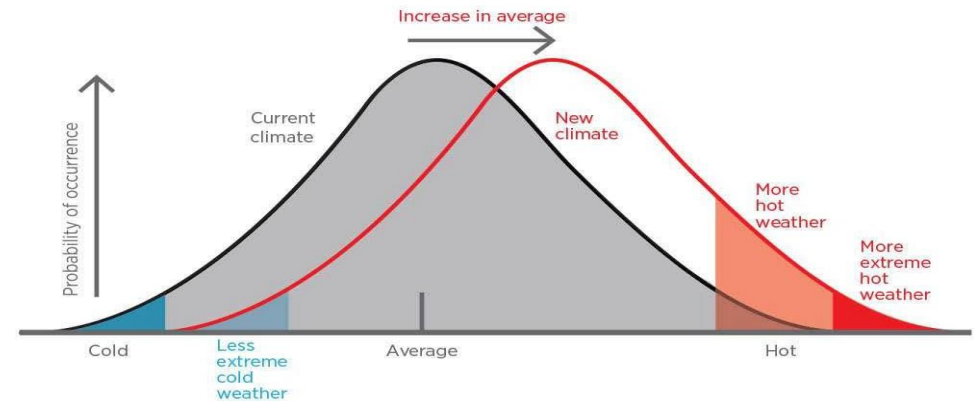
This number is based on **three separate methods** that use C3S data and calculations following those illustrated in the WMO Global State of the Climate 2024

When will we reach +1.5°C?

If warming continues at the same rate as in the last 30 years, the globe could be at:

approximately +1.5°C by
the end of this decade

Climate Change and Extreme Weather

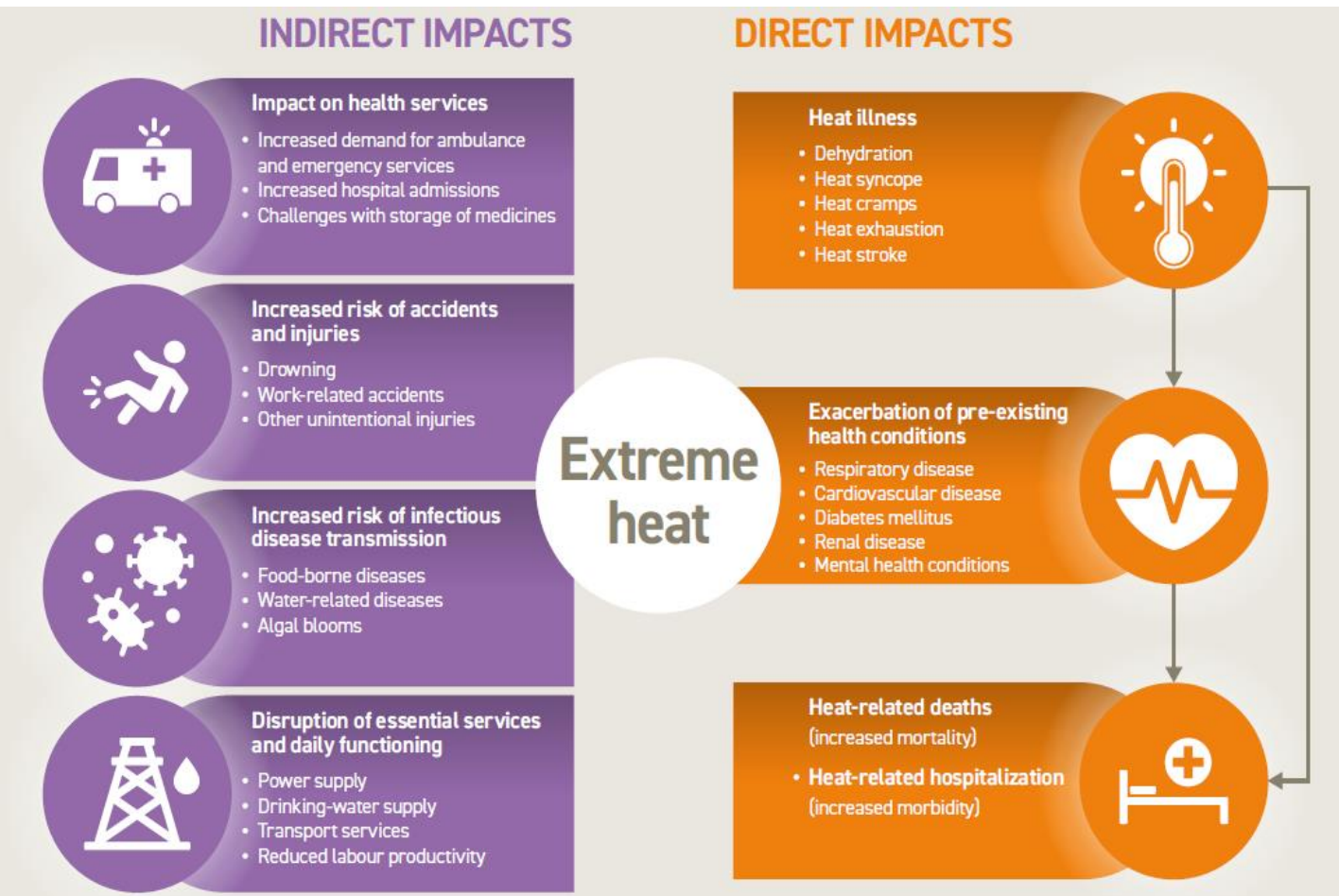


2008



2026

HHAPs provide the planning architecture



WHY HEAT-HEALTH ACTION PLANS MATTER?

- Prevent avoidable deaths
- Protect the most vulnerable
- Enable early action
- Reduce the burden in the health system
- Proactive planning is cheaper and more effective than reactive response
- Foster cross-sector coordination

HHAP guidance extract

“HHAPs are a core public health response... to anticipate and prepare for extreme heat, protect populations at increased risk, strengthen health system resilience, and reduce avoidable illness and deaths.”

Why mass gatherings need specific heat planning



1. Heat hazard

- high temperature
- humidity
- radiant heat



2. Event exposure

- direct sun, crowding and queues
- long duration, travel, exertion



3. Vulnerability

- older people, pregnant women, chronic disease
- athletes, travellers, workers and volunteers



4. Response capacity

- water, shade, cooling and clear alerts
- triage, rapid cooling and referral

HHAP guidance extract

“Athletes and people exercising should be protected through adapted timing, intensity and duration; drinking-water, shade, cooling opportunities and rest periods.”

HHAP guidance extract

“People attending mass gatherings need clear information, drinking-water, shaded or cooled areas, adapted schedules and onsite medical support.”

The HHAP framework



Part 1

Part 2

User Action Briefs

A go-to resource with clear, practical actions to protect health from heat—tailored for different sectors to act before, during and after summer and extreme heat events

Part 3

Public health message bank

Ready-to-use heat—health messages, tailored for different settings and target audiences, developed for those who inform and protect

From HHAP to event action



Governance

lead agency • organizer
liaison • escalation



HHWS

alert thresholds • decision points •
schedule changes



Reducing heat exposure

shade • water • cooling zones



Health system resilience

trained staff • clinical
protocols • referral & transport



Communication

multilingual messages •
signage • staff briefings



Heat-health surveillance

real-time cases • hotspots •
syndromic signals



MEL

after-action review •
lessons learned • plan update

Why HHAP matter for mass gatherings

How HHAPs support action

1



Anticipate risk

HHWS, forecasts, triggers

2



Protect people

risk groups, communication, cooling, water, shade

3



Strengthen response

health-system resilience, triage, referral

4



Learn and improve

surveillance, after-action review, MEL

Why they are the best policy action



Whole-of-system

links health, meteorology, organizers and local authorities



Operational

turns warnings into decisions before and during events



Equity-focused

prioritizes people at increased risk



Evidence-based

uses surveillance and review to improve each season

HHAPs provide the policy framework for prevention, preparedness, response and learning

For mass gatherings, HHAPs move from reactive health response to planned heat prevention

Thank YOU

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