Ready for Change: Building a Prepared Community

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Ready for Change

Building a Prepared Community

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CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION FORUM

JUNE 5, 2020
What are we facing?

See: Cambridge COVID-19 Updates
https://www.cambridgema.gov/covid19
COVID-19 Case Demographics

COVID-19 Cases Among People Living in Cambridge, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, and the U.S

Positive Cases per 10,000 Residents*

- Cambridge
- Middlesex County
- Massachusetts
- USA

*Figures represent cases per 10,000 residents.

**Graph showing the number of COVID-19 cases over time for Cambridge, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, and the U.S.**
COVID-19 Case Demographics

Rate of COVID-19 Cases Among All Cambridge Residents by Race/Ethnicity

- Asian: 27 cases
- Black: 168 cases
- Hispanic: 82 cases
- White: 60 cases
- Other: 262 cases
COVID-19 Neighborhood Impacts

Impacts by neighborhood
- Highest Rates include The Port and East Cambridge *(June 3, 2020)*
CPHD COVID-19 Outreach Activities

Social distance and wear masks posters

Staff at CPHD meeting to plan community outreach
Climate Change

What is ahead?

See: Cambridge Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Plan
https://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/Projects/Climate/climatechangeresilienceandadaptation.aspx
Climate Change is...

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<th>Climate Change is . . .</th>
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<td></td>
<td>• Worsening asthma and other chronic illnesses</td>
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<td>• Increasing heat stroke incidents and injuries</td>
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<td>• Spreading infectious diseases</td>
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<td>Spreading Disease</td>
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<td>Increasing risk of disease spread by: Mosquitoes, ticks, and rodents</td>
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<td>Contaminated water</td>
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<td>Contaminated food</td>
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<td>Disrupting Food Supplies and Distribution</td>
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<td>Limiting access to safe, nutritious food</td>
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<td>Impacting Well-Being</td>
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<td>Increasing stress and trauma</td>
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See: Cambridge Public Health Department Climate Change and Health
https://www.cambridgepublichealth.org/climate-change/
More floods than ever before...
Residents of The Port at Risk of Flooding

4,780 Total People (2016 ACS estimate)

Percent of vulnerable populations likely to be impacted by flooding:
- 70% of Non-English Speakers
- 80% of Seniors Aged 65+
- 75% of Children Aged 0-5
- 75% of Residents Below Poverty Line

NEAR FUTURE LESS FREQUENT LARGER STORM (2030 100-YEAR EVENT) FLOODING BEFORE IMPROVEMENTS
The Port Adaptation

Clusters of more highly affected neighborhoods and housing mirror COVID-19

Future Flooding with planned improvements

Future Predicted Flooding with current (2015) infrastructure

Flood Depth

0.5 ft

Depth of flooding (ft) - Updated Baseline

Cambridge Public Health Department
More heat waves than ever before…

By 2030, the number of days above 90° F could triple
Community Resources Are Themselves At Risk

- Services in The Port **AT RISK** FOR 2030 100-YEAR precipitation flooding and within Urban Heat Island

**Vulnerability:** 60% of community resources are impacted by flooding

**Resiliency strategies:** Will need to increase resiliency of these assets.
1. **Asset-based Approach**

**Connection among community social service organizations and residents to one another can help make sure that all residents have access to support in times of need.**

- *Make* sure that people have full access to services and spaces they need.
- *Prepare* organizations to address climate change.
- *Identify* a “resiliency hub” to strengthen community networks and work daily to increase preparedness and resilience.
2. Agility on the Ground

Building stronger relationships that provide connection among neighbors. Isolation can increase risks due to a disaster.

- *Connect* residents to one another and local organizations.

- *Prepare* them. *Reach* them quickly during a heat or flooding event. *Support* them after an event.

- *Provide* information tailored to language and culture.

- *Inform* those who may have greater exposures to heat or flood waters, such as outdoor workers and student athletes.
3. **Alignment of Efforts**

Taking actions together for the benefit of others draws people together, develops a stronger sense of community, and can help residents handle difficult situations.

- *Work* together to improve the community.
- *Volunteer* to build individual strengths and a culture of service.
- *Participate* in actions on climate change to increase impact, build hope, and create resiliency skills.
- *Apply* the leadership of those who will be most affected by climate change for more just, appropriate strategies.

Students holding environmental justice tour.
Source: JSI and ACE
Engaging Residents to Prepare for Climate Change

What we heard from residents:

- “Make it real”, i.e. explain what climate change means?
- Explain how it will impact me
- Tell me what I can do about it
- Include knowledge and vision of residents and community leaders

Climate Change & Health Video
Culturally-Tailored Approaches

The City has started to prepare materials they can share throughout the community.

And the City is looking at means to address the gaps and identify opportunities including:

• Enlist peer leaders and community organizations to help support and engage residents tailored to culture and language.
• Identify critical facilities already used and trusted by residents to be used as resiliency hubs, outreach partners, and heat shelters.
• Upgrade these sites to enhance their resiliency to flooding and extreme heat.
Social Cohesion During COVID-19

COVID-19 ACTION

• City-wide testing: senior centers, homeless shelters, essential workforce

• Social distancing coupled with supports for isolated seniors, workers, homeless

• Mayor’s Emergency Fund

• Food for Free with restaurants/volunteers

• Increased interagency partnerships to meet resident and small business needs

CLIMATE RESILIENCY

• Community-wide health promotion

• Emphasis on high-risk populations: low-income seniors and homeless

• Focus on worker exposures & economic impacts

• Cross-sector, public/private collaborations + volunteerism

• Continuity of care, medications, plan for mental/behavioral health needs

City of Cambridge Reaches More than 7,000 Residents via Senior Phone Outreach Initiative
Resilience Catalysts in Public Health

National collaborative with 4 other LHD’s nationally:

• In collaboration with George Washington University, APHA, NACCHO and supported by CDC

• Building Community Resilience (BCR) Model

• Focus: On resilience as a fundamental strategy to prevent and reduce chronic disease by addressing the root causes of adversity; namely the **Pair of ACEs** *(Adverse Childhood Experiences and Adverse Community Events)*
Thank You!

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