



Preparing for Health Impacts of Heat in Toronto

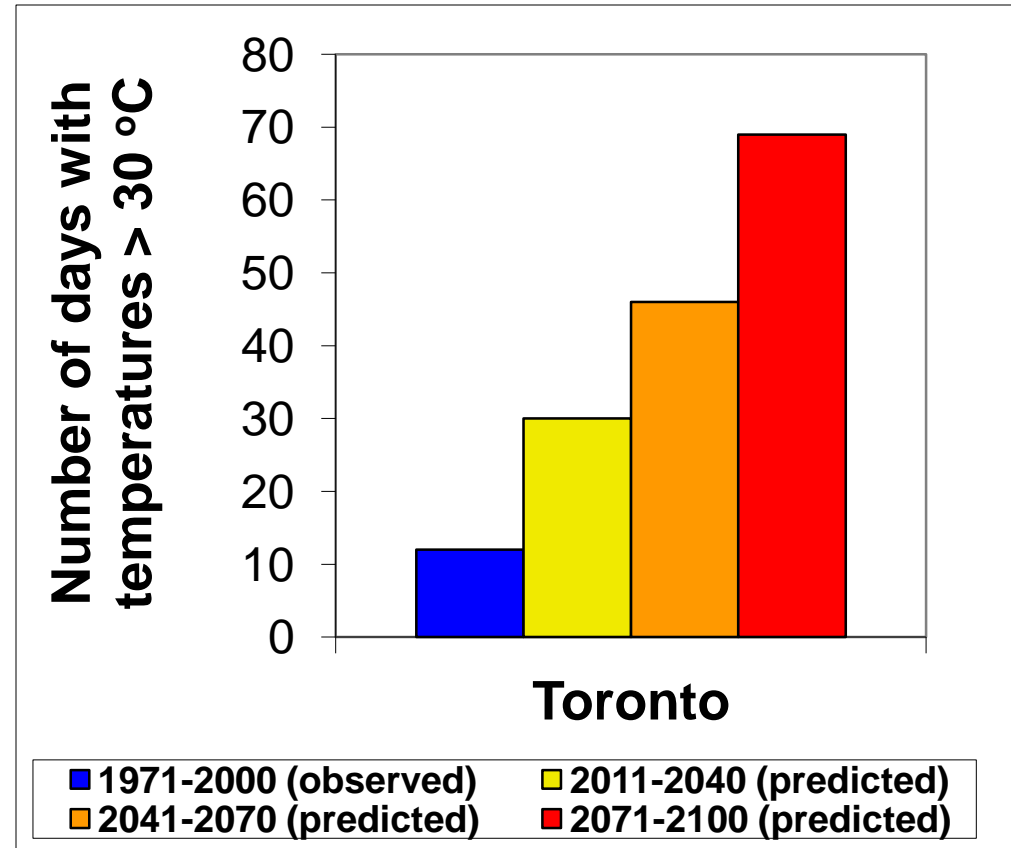
Presented by:
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Healthy Public Policy
Toronto Public Health

October 24, 2013

Photo Credit: theweathernetwork.com

Toronto' Climate is Changing

- Extreme heat contributes to an estimated 120 premature deaths in Toronto each year
 - Could double by 2050 and triple by 2080



Data Source: Environment Canada

- TPH has a number of relevant roles:
 - Operational
 - Co-ordinate HARS
 - Program work with vulnerable populations
 - Planning
 - Emergency planning and preparedness
 - Policy Development for a Healthier City
 - Research to support healthy public policy
 - Advocacy
 - At a City level
 - Advocacy to other agencies and levels of government
 - Collaborate with many partners on each of these



Decisions and actions of varying timescales

- Hours or days
 - Calling alerts
 - Declaring emergencies
- Seasonal
 - Pre-season planning
 - Post-season evaluation and debrief
- Decades
 - Enhancing resilience of built form
 - Building social and community resilience





Toronto Public Health coordinates a Hot Weather Response Plan every summer

- Alerts those at risk to take precautions
- Education and outreach to **at-risk populations**
- Partnership with community and other service agencies

- Outreach and Response actions depend on calling Alerts and level of Alert



Bottled Water distribution in parks

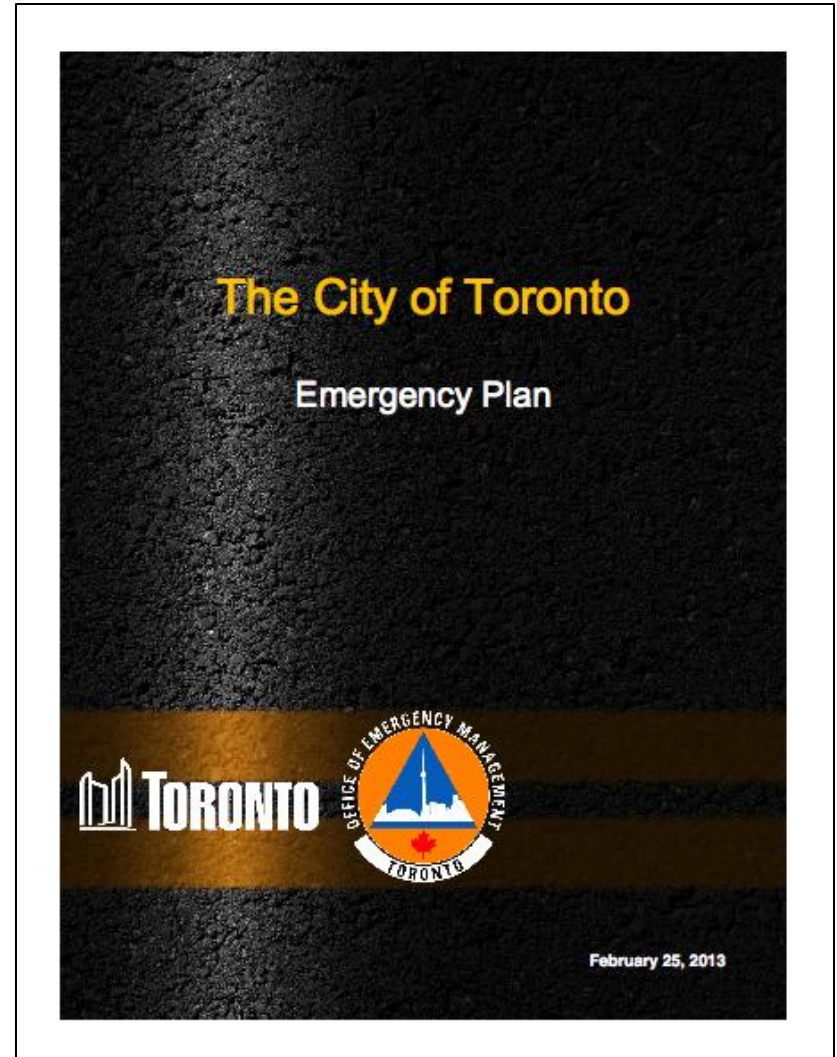
Photo credit: www.cp24.com



24-hour emergency cooling centre open

Photo credit: www.cp24.com

- Possibility of an extended heat emergency
- ..in combination with a power outage?

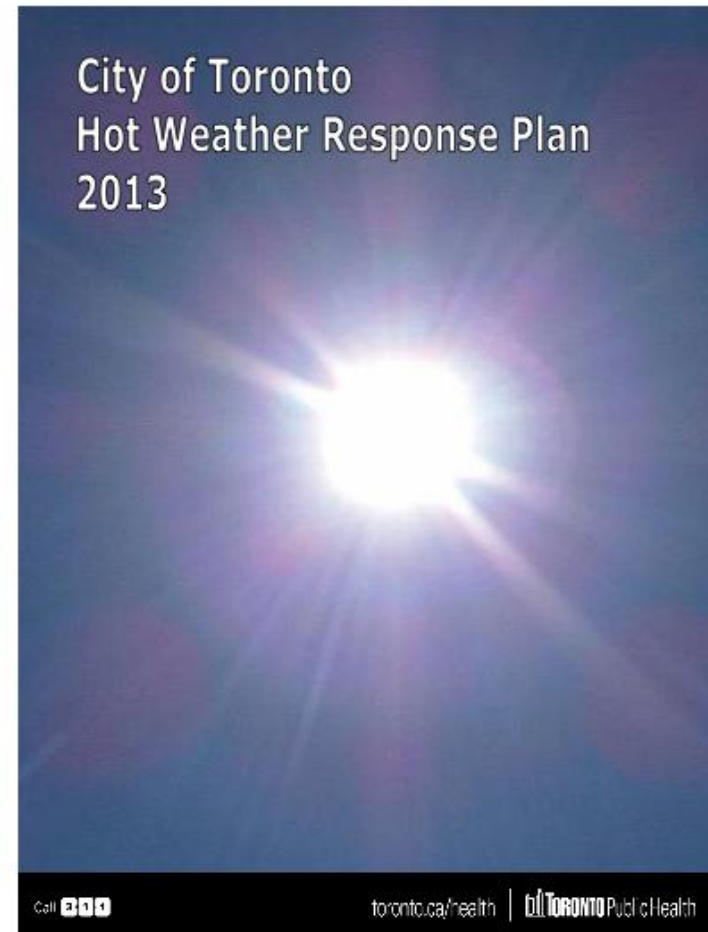


Short-term forecasts and large-scale events?



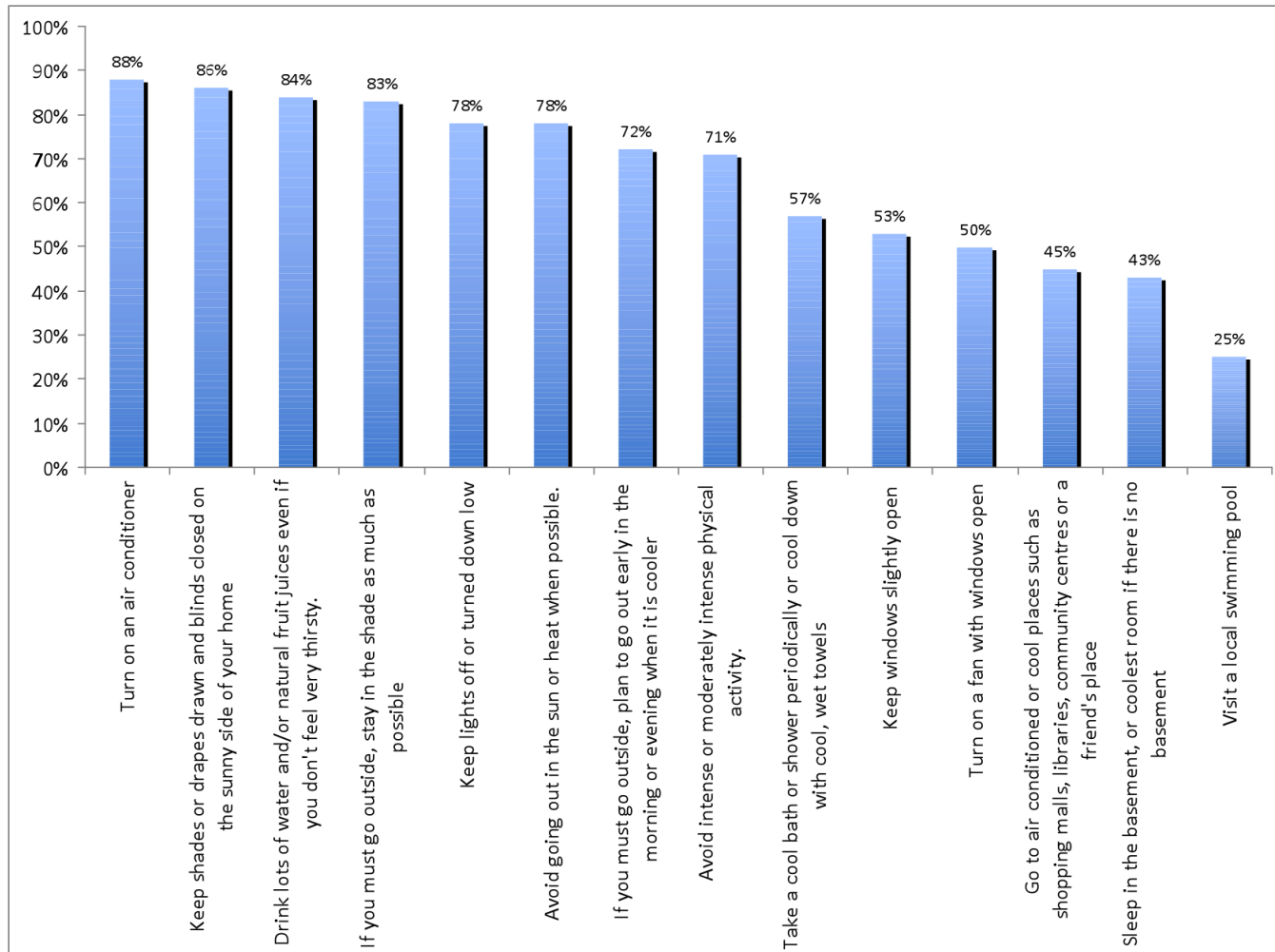
2003 Toronto SARS Benefit Concert – Rolling Stones
Photo Credit: tomhopkins

- Most actions that will be taken when a Heat Alert is declared are identified before the heat season begins



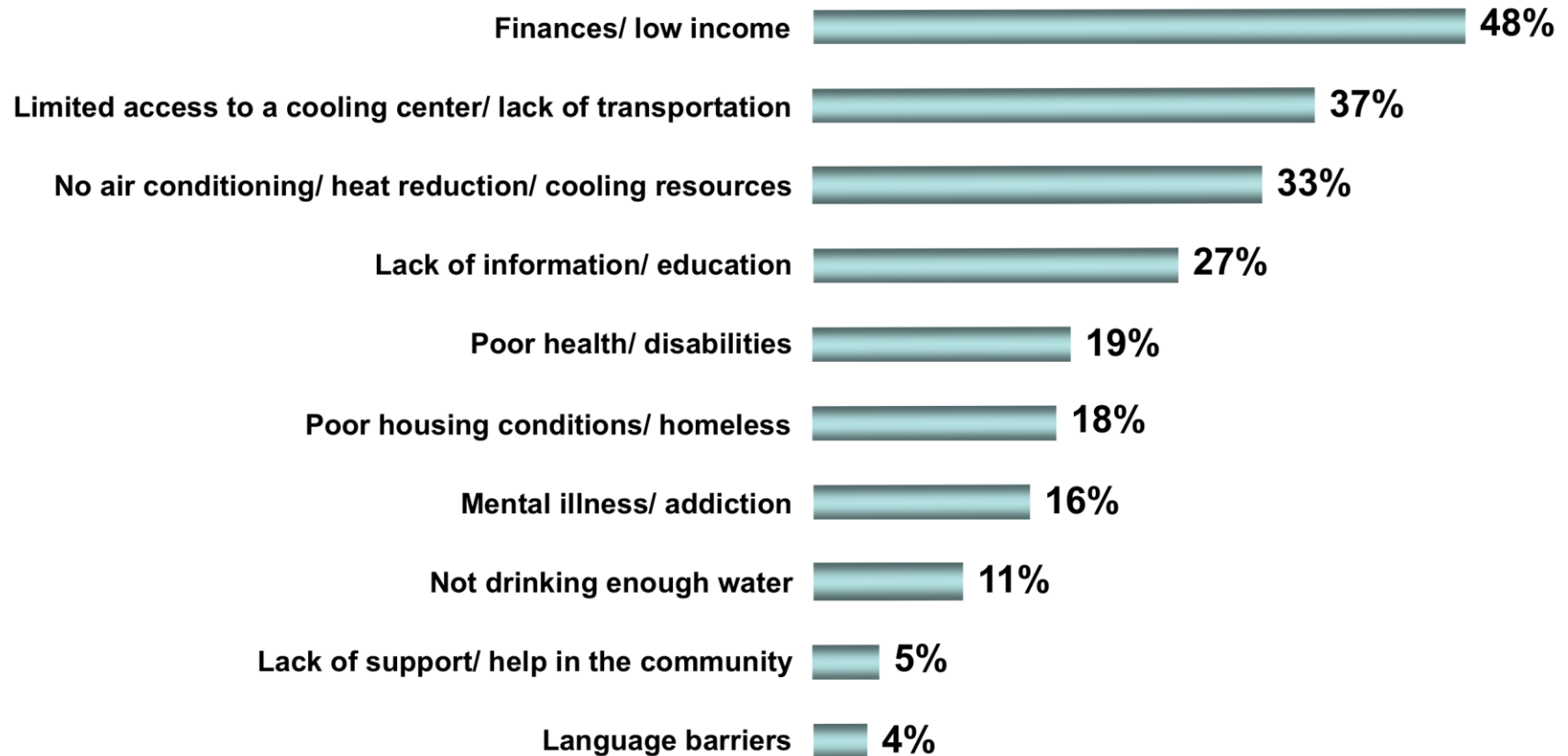
Public Knowledge and Actions

Which of the following actions, if any, do you take to help protect yourself against the effects of heat on hot days?



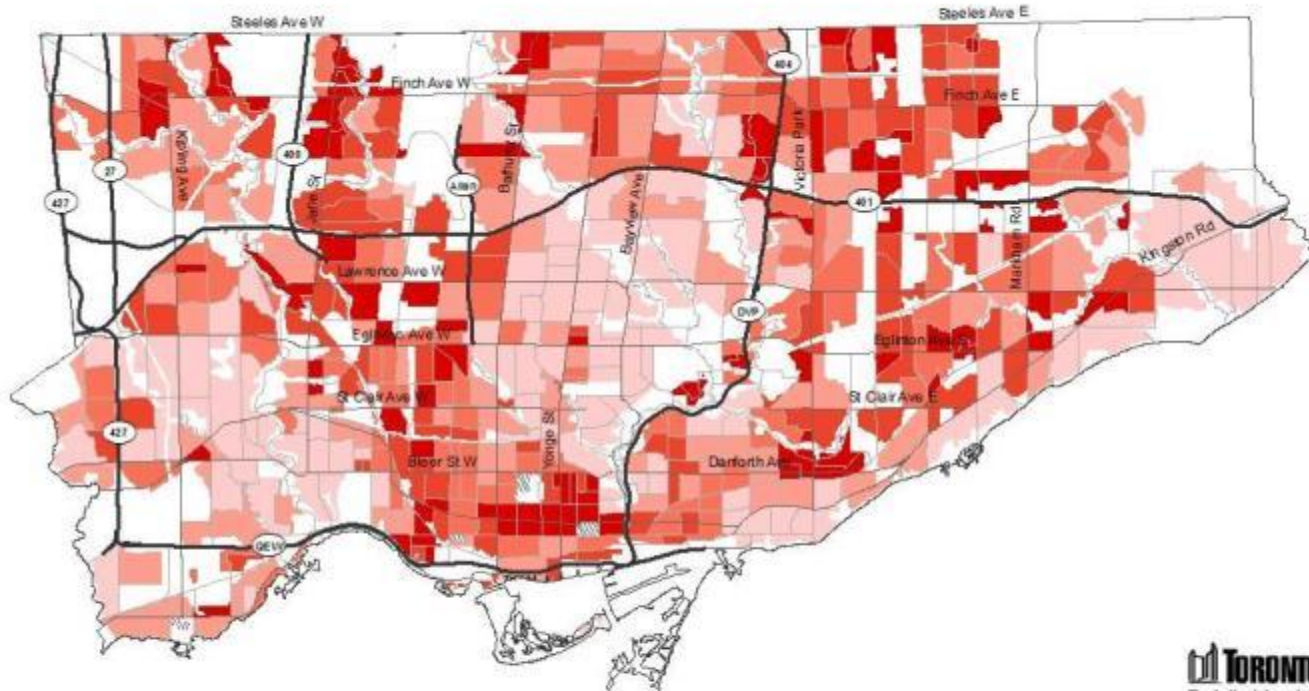
Barriers faced by clients

What, if anything, would you say are some of the main barriers your clients experience in protecting themselves against the adverse effects of heat and hot weather?



Prioritizing areas for interventions: Heat Vulnerability

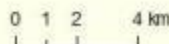
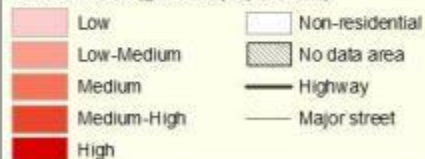
Map 4.4 Vulnerability to Heat



Vulnerability Index - includes information about

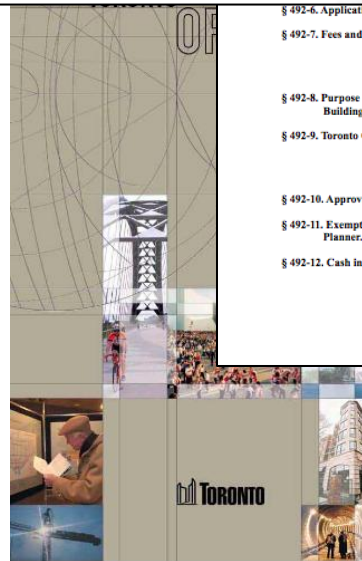
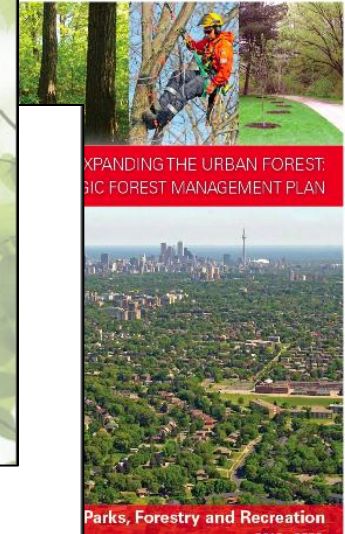
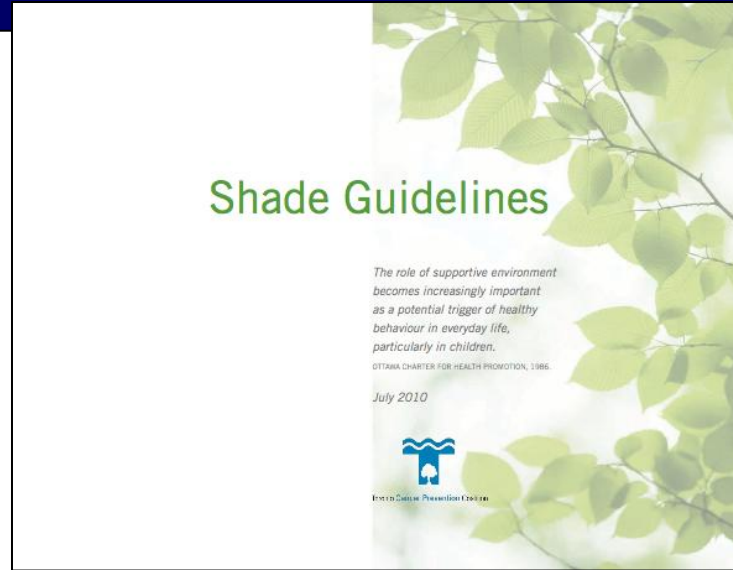
- Exposure
- Sensitivity

Heat vulnerability index by census tract (general population)



Long-term, Strategic Actions

- Resilient Infrastructure supports better health outcomes
- Resilient communities and strong social infrastructure support better health outcomes



§ 492-6. Application for approval.
 § 492-7. Fees and charges.

ARTICLE IV
 Toronto Green Roof Construction Standard

§ 492-8. Purpose of Building
 § 492-9. Toronto O
 § 492-10. Approva
 § 492-11. Exempt Planner.
 § 492-12. Cash in



Example: Heat and Older Towers in Toronto



Photo by Salma Saadi, Access Alliance
Multicultural Health and Community Services

- Challenges arise from
 - Building Design
 - Regulations
 - Environmental Concerns



Photo Credit: Toronto Transit Commission, 2003.
Rapid Transit Expansion Study Follow-up Report



Extreme Heat, Climate Change and Health Equity



Protecting Vulnerable People from Health Impacts of Extreme Heat

July 2011

416.338.7600 | toronto.ca/health |  TORONTO Public Health

Climate Change Adaptation and Health Equity Background Report and Workshop Recommendations



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