BOSTON UNIVERSITY

COMMUNITY ADAPTATIONS TO CITY HEAT
THE CATCH PROJECT

the CATCH HEAT PROJECT

We make extreme heat health impacts visible and elevate healthy solutions through household energy, climate, and sustainability policies in frontline communities.



What is a frontline community?

Those hit "first and worst" by the impacts of climate change.

We look beyond geographic boundaries to include people who are vulnerable for different reasons.

Examples:

- Living in urban heat islands
- Being pregnant, younger, or older
- Living in affordable housing without air conditioning or ability to pay for electricity

And many, many others!

We are working to...

Raise visibility of the adverse impacts of extreme heat on health

Deliver tools for decision makers to quantify extreme heat impacts on health

Connect siloed policies to improve heat adaptation and impacts in frontline communities

Partners

Dialogue Earth

A BETTER CITY — IMAGINING A BRIGHT FUTURE. MAKING IT A REALITY.

I SEE CHANGE

Community-Based Organizations

Unlimited Potential

華人前進會 CHINESE PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

華埠 China Town 土地信托會 Community Land Trust

New Orleans East Green Infrastructure Collective

CODMAN SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT CORP

FAIRMOUNT INDIGO CDC Collaborative

HOLLYGROVE-DIXON Neighborhood Association

CATCH project based at Boston University funded by Wellcome

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Where we work and what we do

Elevate resident experiences of extreme heat and adaptation with Photovoice and Iseechange



This is a park in Dorchester on a sunny day. Despite the large playground, the kids are resting in the shade rather than playing out in the sun. It would be great if the playground was shaded, as well as water sprinklers and water dispenser added too, so the kids could play and get excercise and keep themselves cool on a summer day without being dehydrated.
~ Daniel, Dorchester resident, Summer 2026
CATCH Photovoice project

These cities are in different climate zones and represent three distinct types of urban heat:

CITY of BOSTON

Boston
increasingly **hot, but built for cold** weather

nola.gov

New Orleans
extremely **hot** and **humid** almost year round

City of Phoenix

Phoenix
extremely **hot** and **dry** almost year round

Urban Heat Action and Policy Database



Make city heat actions and policies visible across 18 U.S. cities



BUSPH Photo by Megan Jones

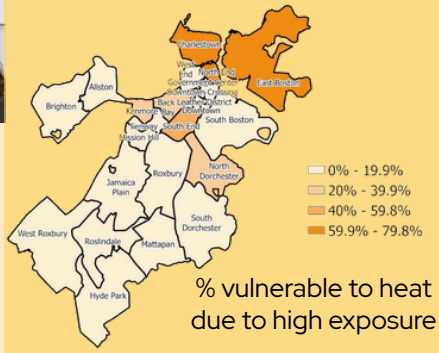
Model impact of trees on health and ambient and indoor temperatures



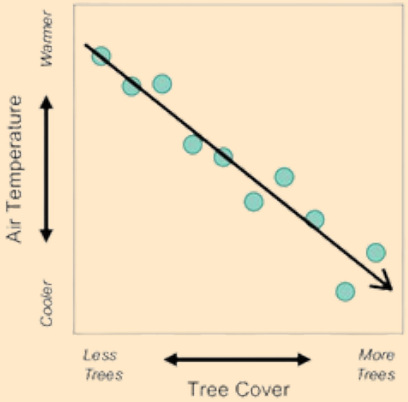
BUSPH Photo by Megan Jones

Foster transdisciplinary conversations

Map heat vulnerability



% vulnerable to heat due to high exposure



Measure temperature to support decisions & policies

Evaluate the health impacts of heat

Weather exposure

Health data

cityClimateHealth Tool
Estimate weather-related health impacts across populations

Share heat research and solutions

/the-catch-heat-project

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catchcityheat.org

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