Maricopa County Cooling Center Evaluation Project in Collaboration with Arizona State University and Arizona Department of Health Services

OBSERVATIONAL SURVEY RESULTS

Maricopa County Department of Public Health
Division of Disease Control
Office of Epidemiology

September 2015
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Acknowledgments

The Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH), Office of Epidemiology would like to thank the following agencies for their contributions to the Cooling Center Evaluation Project:

- Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS): Office of Environmental Health
- Arizona State University (ASU) Center for Policy Informatics and School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning
- City of Phoenix
- Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG)
- Cooling Center Facility Managers
Background

Maricopa County experiences temperatures ≥ 100 °F as early as mid-May, and such conditions continue through the first week of October. On average, there are 26 days each year in which maximum temperatures are > 110 °F, and 10 days where minimum temperatures are >90 °F. Daytime temperatures experienced in Maricopa are often high enough to cause an increase in core temperature for individuals who are outdoors, even when at rest. Further, when nighttime temperatures remain high the human body does not get relief from the daytime heat and may not be able to appropriately adjust.

In 2005, there were 35 heat-associated deaths in Maricopa County over nine consecutive days, with the majority occurring amongst the homeless population. In response to this event, the City of Phoenix and the Maricopa County Association of Governments (MAG) partnered together to found the Heat Relief Network (HRN), a county-wide response to extreme environmental temperatures. The response included implementation of cooling centers and water collection and distribution sites. Cooling centers can be community centers, churches, and other community based organizations that provide water and serve as a safe, cool indoor place during the day for refuge from the heat. There were 56 registered cooling centers during the summer of 2014.

The Cooling Center Evaluation project was a collaboration between Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH), Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), and Arizona State University (ASU) to evaluate the cooling centers based on the services provided, daily operations, demographics of visitors, and potential for expansion.

Throughout the evaluation process, multiple partners including public health officials, community members, academic researchers, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations joined together to complete the assessment. Those involved with the project were broken down into two groups: evaluators and stakeholders.

- The evaluators, which consisted of MCDPH, ADHS, ASU, and a team of MCDPH interns, were responsible for the project as a whole. The evaluators developed the surveys, conducted the interviews, collected and analyzed the data, and developed recommendations.

- The stakeholders were a collective group of community members/organizations who were invested in the project through their interest in heat relief efforts. They consisted of HRN, MAG, and the Cooling Center Managers.
Methodology

Maricopa County Department of Public Health has tracked heat associated mortality and morbidity data since 2006. From these data MCDPH has examined trends and risk factors to help identify vulnerable populations within Maricopa County. The idea to evaluate the cooling centers originated at MCDPH in November of 2013, in an effort to link the heat-associated morbidity and mortality data with prevention strategies in the community, and to build partnerships between community and government members.

Shortly after introducing the project internally, MCDPH introduced the idea to ASU and ADHS during the monthly Heat Surveillance Planning meeting that MCDPH organizes. At the meeting, all three partners agreed to pursue the project, and began initial planning. From January to February of 2014 MCDPH, ADHS, and ASU worked on developing project plans and a timeline, (see table 1) ultimately deciding to implement the project in the summer of 2014. Part of the planning phase included introducing the project to the Phoenix HRN and MAG, both of whom agreed to become project stakeholders.

In March of 2014, MCDPH, ASU, and ADHS began working on developing the surveys that would be used for the evaluation. Three surveys were developed: the visitor survey, facility manager survey, and observational site survey.

During the same time period, MCDPH worked on obtaining an exemption from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the evaluation, and training and ensuring all parties involved in the evaluation were certified using the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Human Research Curriculum.

Concurrently, MCDPH invited the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Public Health Associate (PHAP) to assist with project planning and implementation.

In May of 2014, the three surveys were pilot tested to ensure they captured the themes and goals of the evaluation. Pilot tests were done at two of the Cooling Center locations, and allowed for the facility managers to provide feedback on the surveys and evaluation as a whole.

After successfully pilot testing the surveys and incorporating feedback from stakeholders, the evaluators divided themselves into three field teams to more efficiently complete the evaluation across the large geographic expanse covered by the HRN. The field teams included members from MCDPH, ADHS, ASU, as well as, the PHAP fellow, and a group of MCDPH interns. Each field team consisted of three members, all of whom were thoroughly trained on survey procedures, interviewer bias, and best practices for working with community partners.
In the same month, MCDPH introduced the Cooling Center Evaluation to the public at the HRN Summer Kick-Off Meeting. The project was well received by the community, and was ready to be implemented.

Initial deployment of the surveys took place on June 3, 2014, following the first excessive heat warning of 2014. Site visits were made to each of the cooling centers during the first few weeks of June, and surveys and educational materials were distributed. Both qualitative and quantitative data were collected from the surveys. Below is a breakdown of the survey distribution.

1. **Visitor Survey:** Evaluators distributed visitor surveys to the Cooling Centers based on the estimated capacity and utilization. The surveys were self-administered by the visitors, on a one per person basis, and responses were kept anonymous. The survey focused on questions that gauged the visitors’ reason(s) for visiting the center, modes of transportation, air conditioning (AC) status, knowledge of heat risk, demographics, and more. The survey was available in English and Spanish language. Translation was completed by a certified translator. The evaluators collected the surveys at the end of the summer (September 2014).

2. **Facility Manager Survey:** Evaluators conducted the facility manager survey as an in-person interview and with the interviewee permission it was recorded. The facility manager survey was designed to collect basic facility information, Cooling Center capacity and utilization information, information on services and supplies, and more. Interviews were conducted June-September 2014.

3. **Observational Survey:** Evaluators conducted the observational survey in-person. Information collected was based on evaluators view and understanding of the Cooling Center(s). The observers collected information on the Cooling Center type, location, visibility, accessibility, capacity, utilization, features and amenities, and more.

Data collection, quality control, and analysis of the visitor surveys were completed using Qualtrics, Microsoft Excel, and SAS Enterprise Guide.
## Table 1. Timeline of Cooling Center Evaluation Events, Maricopa County 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Project Timeline</th>
<th>Partners Involved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 2013</td>
<td>Project Idea Developed</td>
<td>MCDPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January-February 2014</td>
<td>Initial Planning Phase (workgroup planning meetings)</td>
<td>Evaluators/Stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2014</td>
<td>Site Observational Survey, Visitor Survey, and Facility Manager Survey developed</td>
<td>Evaluators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2014</td>
<td>Institutional Review Board (IRB) exemption submitted</td>
<td>Evaluators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2014</td>
<td>Survey pilot tested, field teams established, field team training completed</td>
<td>Evaluators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Project introduced at the HRN Kick-Off Meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June-August 2014</td>
<td>Data collection and data entry</td>
<td>Evaluators/Stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September-December 2014</td>
<td>Data entry continued, preliminary data quality control and analysis</td>
<td>Evaluators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January-September 2015</td>
<td>Finalize report, disseminate results to Stakeholders</td>
<td>Evaluators</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Observational Surveys Results

This report focuses on the results from the observational survey only. The goal of the observational survey was to gain a better understanding of how facility characteristics such as layout, visibility, and accessibility impact the visitors’ experience at the cooling center. Questions in the observational survey were designed to gain information about the following characteristics: facility type, location, visibility, accessibility, capacity, utilization, and amenities.

There were a total of 56 cooling centers registered with MAG during the summer of 2014. Out of the 56 cooling centers, the evaluators were able to complete 53 observational surveys. The three facilities that were not observed were found to be closed or inaccessible. Below are the final results.
Facility Visit Metadata

Graph 1. Number of Observational Surveys Completed by Month (n=52)*, Maricopa County, 2014

*Excludes one facility where no response was recorded

Over half (58%) of the Cooling Center observational surveys were completed in July, followed by a quarter (27%) of the visits completed in August.

Graph 2. Percentage of Cooling Center Observational Surveys Completed by Time of Day (n=53), Maricopa County, 2014

The majority of the cooling center observational surveys were completed during midday (56%) or in the morning (40%) as most of the cooling centers operated during normal business hours (8am-5pm).
Graph 3. Indoor Temperature of Cooling Center (n=49)*, Maricopa County, 2014

The evaluators took a temperature reading inside each of the cooling centers during their observational visits. Over 3/4 of the cooling centers had a temperature between 70-79°F, with very few cooling centers reaching temperatures below 70°F and above 80°F.
Cooling Center Characteristics

The evaluators classified each of the cooling centers by type of facility and were able to choose multiple facility types if applicable. Some of the cooling centers were categorized as more than one type of facility based on their services offered. As seen in the graph above, a majority of the facilities were identified as being “community centers” (72%), followed by “senior center” (21%). The other facility types not included in the graph consist of: individual residence, family services, drug and alcohol rehab center, apartment complex, and thrift shop.

Graph 5. Visibility of Indicator Sign on the Facility’s Exterior Informing Visitors that it is a Cooling Center (n=52)*, Maricopa County, 2014

*Excludes one facility where no response was recorded
While performing the observational survey evaluators looked for a visible sign on the cooling center’s exterior indicating that the facility was a cooling center. Based on the observations made by the evaluators, two thirds (67%) of the Cooling Centers did not have a clearly visible sign on the facility’s exterior. Refer to Appendix Table 3 for more detailed information about indicator signs.

Examples of signage from HRN facilities are shown below.

Graph 6. Presence of Indicator Sign Provided by Facility in both English and Spanish Informing Visitors that it is a Cooling Center (n=17)*, Maricopa County, 2014

*Excludes 36 facilities that did not have an indicator sign visible

Evaluators also documented whether or not the indicator signs were provided in both English and Spanish. Based on the 17 facilities that had an indicator sign, only 41% of indicator signs were provided in both languages.
Graph 7. Accessibility of Cooling Centers (n=52)*, Maricopa County, 2014

Based on the observational survey, evaluators indicated that 90% of the cooling centers were easily accessible. Evaluators defined easily accessible as: easy to approach, enter, use or understand, as well as, easy for disabled people to enter or use.

Graph 8. Resources and Amenities Available to Cooling Center Visitors (n=53), Maricopa County, 2014*

*Excludes one facility where no response was recorded

*Evaluators were able to choose more than one option; total adds to more than 100%.
The cooling centers offered a multitude of resources and amenities including everything from free water to electrical outlets and more. During the observational survey evaluators indicated all amenities/resources that applied to each cooling center. Most or all of the cooling centers were noted as having free water (100%), electrical outlets (96%) and public restrooms (96%) available for visitors. Less than half of the cooling centers were noted to have Wi-Fi (47%), an indoor recreation or play area (45%), or vending machines (38%).

**Graph 9. Services available to Cooling Center Visitors (n=53), Maricopa County, 2014***

Evaluators were given the option to list any additional services observed at each of the cooling centers. The most common services provided by cooling centers were food, beverage, and hospitality services (23%), human services (17%), and employment and financial services (9%). Refer to **Appendix Table 5** for more detailed information about services provided by Cooling Centers.
Graph 10. Cooling Systems used at Cooling Center Facilities (n=53), Maricopa County, 2014*

*Evaluators were able to choose more than one option; total adds to more than 100%.

During the observational survey evaluators indicated what methods of cooling were used at each facility. Based on survey results, 98% of the facilities used central air conditioning to cool their facility. About a quarter (26%) of facilities indicated that they also use fans as a method of cooling. Refer to Appendix Table 6 for more detailed information on cooling systems.
Evaluators were asked to indicate whether or not the facility’s capacity sign was visible to visitors and guests. Based on the observational survey, 70% of facilities did not have the legal maximum capacity displayed somewhere visible to the evaluators.

**Graph 11. Display of Legal Maximum Occupancy (n=53), Maricopa County, 2014**

- Displayed (n=7) - 17%
- Not Displayed (n=37) - 13%
- Unknown (n=9) - 70%

**Graph 12. Number of Chairs Available at the Cooling Center Facility (n=53), Maricopa County, 2014**

- 0-24: 20
- 25-49: 11
- 50-74: 4
- 75-99: 5
- 100+: 13
Evaluators observed the seating arrangements available at each of the facilities to get a better idea of the facility's capacity. Evaluators were asked to count the number of chairs, benches, stools, couches and beds/cots at each facility. Graph 12 shows a breakdown of the number of chairs in cooling centers. 38% of facilities had 0-24 chairs at their facility. Twenty-five percent of facilities had 100 or more chairs. Please see Appendix Table 4 for a breakdown of the other seating types and additional seating observations.

**Cooling Center Utilization**

**Graph 13. Presence of Sign-in Sheet at Cooling Center Facilities (n=50)*, Maricopa County, 2014**

![Pie chart showing 26% sign-in sheet present and 74% sign-in sheet absent.](chart)

*Excludes three facilities where no response was recorded

The majority of facilities did not have a sign-in sheet available for cooling center visitors. This made it hard for the evaluators to identify who was visiting the cooling centers to seek relief from the heat versus visiting the facilities for other services.
Graph 14. Utilization Patterns of Cooling Center Visitors (n=53), Maricopa County, 2014*

During the observational survey evaluators were given a list of utilization patterns and asked to check off all that applied to each facility. Evaluators indicated that a majority of cooling centers (85%) had “visitors that were coming in for other purposes or services offered at the facility.” Evaluators also indicated that 47% of the facilities had visitors who were “mostly sitting and relaxing in chairs.” There were 6 facilities that evaluators indicated did not have a lot of visitors.

*Evaluators were able to choose more than one option; total adds to more than 100%.
Evaluators were asked to give a brief qualitative description of each of the cooling centers. Several of the facilities were noted as providing several amenities and ample amount of space (68%), with a few facilities offering outdoor amenities (15%). Forty-two percent of facilities were noted as being easily accessible, and 30% of the facilities were noted as being easily visible. Please see Data Dictionary for full definitions. Refer to Appendix Table 7 for more detailed information on the qualitative descriptions of facilities. Table 2 includes sample verbatim qualitative descriptions of cooling centers.

*Evaluators were able to choose more than one option; total adds to more than 100%.
Table 2. Verbatim Sampling of Qualitative Descriptions of Cooling Centers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Large park, easy to access from both sides of the park. There are two main lobbies—a kids side and adult side. There is a recreational room, 7 classrooms, a kitchen, large gym. There is a playground, a skateboard park, tennis courts, handball court, softball field outside the facility.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“No visible signage on main road. Center is enclosed by wall of rocks. Passerby would not know Center exists unless they have prior knowledge.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“The facility is right in the middle of a construction zone (for the time being), so it was tough to access. Without the construction it would be easily accessible. It is a large facility filled with numerous human services programs, and a children’s play area.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Site is easily visible from the main street. Center is on a large acre of land with green expanse. A large, green sign is visible from the main road (19th Ave) indicating that the center is here. Site lies next to freeway entrance.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Large open area extended from church with tables for sitting/eating, a large carpeted sleeping area, a large kitchen for meals, bathrooms, educational materials, books/magazines, etc. Very easily accessible.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“The facility was a small apartment, part of a transitional living facility. There was enough space for only a handful of people. The facility had a couch, TV, small kitchen, and bathrooms available. The facility was not easily visible; it is set back in a residential area behind a gated fence. We struggled to get in at first because we thought the gate was locked. Although, staff was very friendly and came out to meet us.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Limitations

While the observational surveys provided valuable information regarding the characteristics, utilization patterns, capacity, and overall description of the cooling centers, it had some limitations. One of the major limitations was observational bias. Observational bias is unavoidable because each evaluator brings their own views and beliefs to the table. This affects how each evaluator perceives their surroundings. Although it is unavoidable, steps were taken to ensure as little observational bias occurred as possible. Before the field teams were deployed, standard checks and procedures were put in place to make sure that the evaluators conducted the observational survey in a standardized manner to eliminate as much bias as possible.

Another limitation was the inability to differentiate between cooling center visitors and visitors coming in for other services. Most of the facilities doubled as a community center, senior center, or another type of service facility in addition to serving as a cooling center. This made it difficult for the evaluators to determine which visitors were at the facility for heat refuge purposes and which visitors were there to receive other services. This also made it difficult for the evaluators to track the true utilization patterns of the Cooling Centers, although this information was also assessed through the project’s other research instruments (facility manager survey and visitor survey).

Conclusions and Recommendations

Overall, the observational survey provided an inside look at the operations and management of the cooling centers. By conducting the observational survey, evaluators were able to identify key characteristics of the cooling centers, utilization patterns, and overall strengths of the centers and areas for improvement. Highlights of the analysis include:

- Most cooling centers had an average temperature between 70-79°F
- The majority of cooling centers were classified as community centers
- One hundred percent of the cooling centers observed offered free water to visitors
- Along with the standard services of cooled space and water, 23% of cooling centers offered beverage, food, and hospitality services, and 17% offered human services
- Almost 100% of the cooling centers used central air conditioning to cool their center
- The majority of cooling centers were observed to have visitors who were there for purposes or services other than heat relief
Two-thirds of cooling centers lacked an indicator sign informing visitors they were a heat refuge station.

Evaluators indicated that about one-third of the cooling centers were not easily visible, and a small percent were not easily accessible.

Based on the results from the Cooling Center observational survey, Maricopa County Department of Public Health recommends the following:

- Cooling centers and their visitors would benefit from more visible signage to indicate that they are a heat refuge station. They could also consider including information regarding the services they provide on the signs.
- Location and visibility of the cooling centers should be taken into account when selecting cooling center facilities so that those who are most in need are able to locate them.
- Due to the changing participation of cooling centers, regular updates to cooling center maps are recommended.
# Appendix

## Table 3. Additional Information about Cooling Center Indicators Signs (n=17)*, Maricopa County, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics of Indicator Signs</th>
<th># of Cooling Centers/Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has the Heat Relief Network provided signage</td>
<td>12 (71%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Includes Cooling Centers’ hours of operation</td>
<td>2 (12%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicates that Cooling Center is a Heat Refuge Station</td>
<td>4 (24%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides Maricopa County Heat Tips</td>
<td>2 (12%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asks for water donations</td>
<td>1 (6%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Excludes 36 Cooling Centers that did not have a visible indicator sign

## Table 4. Availability of Seating Types in Addition to Chairs (n=53), Maricopa County, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Additional Seating Type</th>
<th># of Cooling Centers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benches</td>
<td>17 (32%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stools</td>
<td>2 (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couches</td>
<td>15 (28%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cots/Beds</td>
<td>1 (2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Seating Area</td>
<td>1 (2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Game/Recreational Seating Area</td>
<td>2 (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Seating Area</td>
<td>2 (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple Rooms with Seating</td>
<td>12 (23%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Data Dictionary for Coded Variables

#### Table 5. Services Available, Maricopa County, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coded Variable</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Services</td>
<td>Case management, Head Start program, social services, Vista Colina (emergency family shelter), AWEE (Arizona Women’s Education and Employment), Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies, social workers, homeless services, health and wellness classes, rehabilitation classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment &amp; Financial Services</td>
<td>Job Fair, VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance), tax and financial assistance, computer lab, job workshops, interview workshop, skills workshop, utility and rent assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food, Beverage, and Hospitality Services</td>
<td>Water, coffee, tea, games, TV, movies, bingo, meals, daily activities, outlets to charge electronics, hygiene kits, emergency shelter, food boxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Services</td>
<td>Educational speakers, computer lab, education center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Information</td>
<td>List of restaurants that offer free food, community garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare/Child Education</td>
<td>Lunch for after school programs, childcare, children’s activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Services</td>
<td>Sunday school classes, bible study, worship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Table 6. Other Methods of Cooling, Maricopa County, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coded Variable</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Space</td>
<td>Includes pool onsite, green space with trees and bodies of water, misters are set up outside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative Air Conditioning</td>
<td>Facility has solar panels for the A/C, central air is filtered into in an open air</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 7. Qualitative Description of Facility, Maricopa County, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coded Variable</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cooling Center provides several amenities &amp; ample amount of space</td>
<td>Large reception/waiting area, bathrooms, water fountain, vending machines, water bottles available, chairs/couches, kids play area, bookshelves, reading materials, classrooms, multi-purpose room kitchen, large gym, TV, welcome desk, sleeping area, educational materials, books/magazines, games, BINGO, exercise/recreational rooms, thrift shop furniture, pool, water slide, pool tables, Wii, food and beverage, hygiene services, clothing, facility has security, chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooling Center is easily visible</td>
<td>Visible to passersby and traffic, visible signage from streets, large green sign, visible from public transit, considerable amount of signage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooling Center is easily accessible</td>
<td>Near public transit, right off a main street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooling Center offers outdoor amenities</td>
<td>Skate park, playground, tennis court, softball field, ample amount of parking, baseball fields, picnic tables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooling Center is handicap accessible</td>
<td>Wheelchair ramps, wheelchair accessible, handicap parking, automatic doors, not handicap accessible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooling Center is NOT easily visible</td>
<td>A few blocks off the main street and not obvious from the outside that it is a cooling center, facility is located in an apartment complex, facility is located in a strip mall so it is hard to spot, building is not clearly marked, signage is only visible from one side of the street, cooling center duals as a thrift shop and is not marked with signage, no visible signage, center is blocked by pile of rocks, cooling center room is difficult to find and not labeled, located next to a barbed wire fence, in the basement of a building with little signage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooling Center is NOT easily accessible</td>
<td>Not easily accessible due to construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooling Center provides homeless services</td>
<td>Homeless shelter, provides clothing, food, and water for homeless</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cooling Center Evaluation: Observational Results

Facility Observation Survey

Cooling Center Evaluation: Facility Data Collection

The following information is to be collected by MCDPH-ADHS-ASU volunteers visiting regional cooling centers in summer 2014. It is anticipated that there will be one primary data collection visit per cooling center, and that these visits will be staggered throughout the summer. A spreadsheet template exists for members of the research team to use for data.

Facility Visit Metadata:

Data Collector Name:

Cooling Center Name:

Date of Visit:

Time of Visit:

Indoor Temperature (if available):

Photo of inside of cooling center recorded?
☐ Yes
☐ No

Photo of exterior of cooling center (including surrounding area) recorded?
☐ Yes
☐ No

Cooling Center Location, Type, and Visibility:

Facility Type (select all that apply):
☐ Library
☐ School
☐ Government Office Building
☐ Community Center
☐ Religious Center
☐ Private Business Space
☐ Individual Residence

Other Facility Type:
Cooling Center Evaluation: Observational Results

Is there an indicator (sticker, emblem, sign on window, etc.) visible on the facility’s exterior that informs people that is a cooling center?
○ Yes
○ No

Description of indicator:

Was a picture of the indicator taken?
○ Yes
○ No

Is the indicator/signage provided in both English and Spanish?
○ Yes
○ No

Other languages available on signage:

Please provide a quick qualitative description of the facility (ex: easily visible, tough to access, other):

Is the facility easily accessible?
○ Yes
○ No

Cooling Center Capacity:

Is the legal maximum occupancy for the facility displayed? If yes, what is the maximum occupancy?

Total Seating Capacity:
---- # of Chairs
---- # of Benches
---- # of Stools
---- # of Couches
---- # of Beds or Cots

Other seating observations:

Cooling Center Utilization:

Is a sign-in sheet present?
○ Yes
○ No
Cooling Center Evaluation: Observational Results

Are you able to obtain a copy of a blank sign-in sheet?
- Yes
- No

Cooling center utilization, check all that apply:
- Facility is crowded
- People are mostly sitting and relaxing in chairs
- Visitors coming in for other purposes or services offered at the facility
- A few visitors entered the facility and left immediately after picking up a water bottle

Other:

Cooling Center Amenities and Features (if these are not ready readily visible, the data collector should consult with the facility manager)

Method of Cooling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fans</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Air Conditioning</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Window Unit Air Conditioning</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other methods of cooling:

Services Available:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Free water</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water fountains</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water bottles</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor recreation or play area</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wifi</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical outlets available for use</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms available for public use</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational materials concerning heat safety</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books, magazines, games, and other leisurely materials</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vending machines or concessions</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowed to eat food at site</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other services available or observations: