

Code Red 2008

Successes and Lessons
Learned from the City's
Response to this Summer's
Heat Waves



Presented By:

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June 6-10, 2008 Heat Wave

- U.S. Eastern Seaboard
- Blamed for more than 30 deaths, 5 in Baltimore.
- Innumerable heat- related illnesses

Heat-Related Deaths

- Research shows that two factors strongly affect the number of heat-related deaths:
 - Length of heat wave – the longer the heat wave, the more heat-related deaths can be expected.
 - Timing of heat wave – the earlier in the season the heat wave is, the more likely deaths are to occur.

Baltimore City Code Red 2008

- Collaboration of city agencies and outside organizations.
- Purpose is to manage the effects of extreme heat on the public, especially on our most vulnerable citizens.

Supporting Agencies

- Baltimore City Health Department
- Department of Housing and Community Development
- Baltimore City Fire Department
- CARE
- MOIT/311
- Baltimore City Police Department

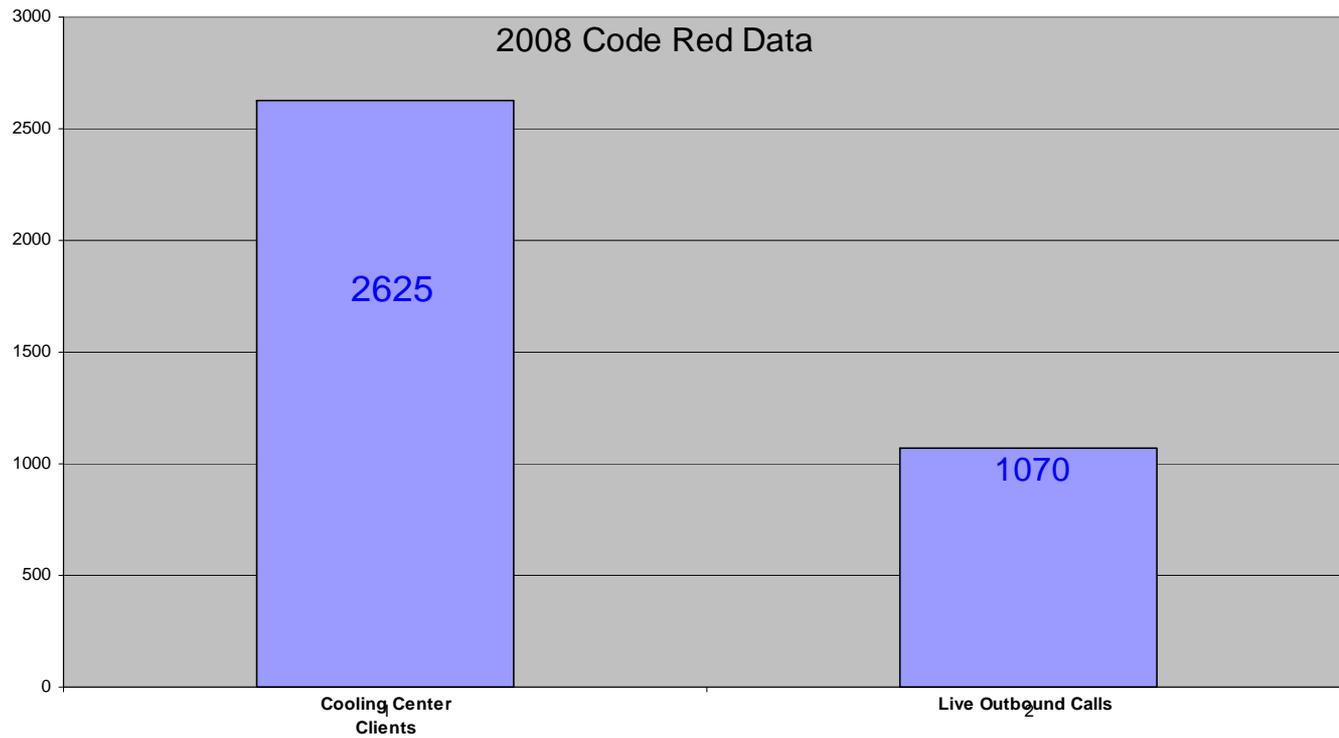
Health Department Declares Code Red

- The National Weather Service has issued a heat advisory
or
- The Baltimore Heat Health Watch Warning System (a protocol developed by the University of Delaware) has issued a heat advisory or an excessive heat warning.

Basic Steps of Plan

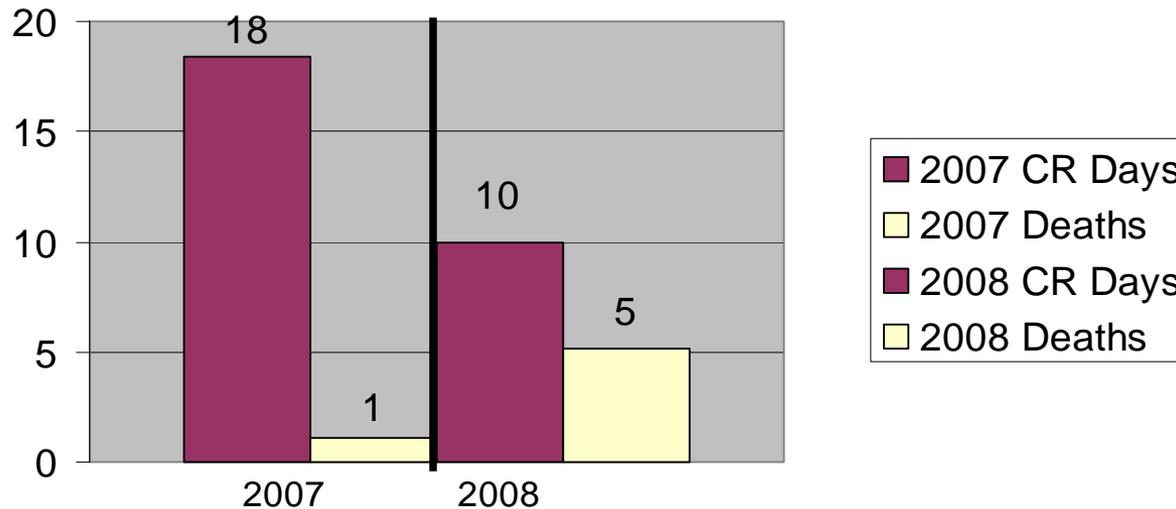
- Declaration of Code Red to Media
- Public Education Tips via Media
- Community Assistance
- Data Reporting and Tracking

2008 Cooling Center Clients and Live Outbound Calls



2007/2008 Code Red Days, Death Comparison

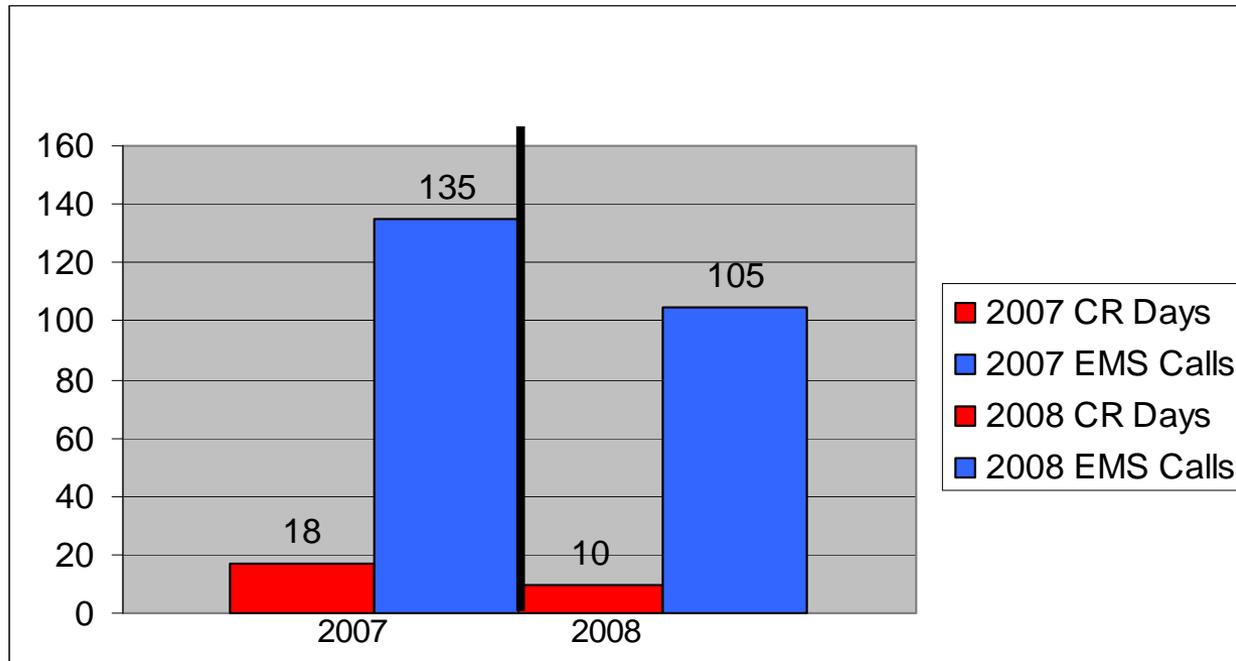
2007/2008 Code Red, Deaths Comparison



Statewide Hyperthermia Deaths

- 2002 49
- 2003 3
- 2004 5
- 2005 47
- 2006 43
- 2007 20
- 2008 18

2007/2008 Code Red Days vs. EMS Calls



Successes

- Effective multi-agency coordination.
- Proactive surveillance of key indicators allows for rapid identification of an impending heat-related health crisis.
- Strong partnerships with the media and grassroots outreach to improve public awareness.
- Formed key partnership with Maryland Transportation Authority to get free bus passes on Code Red Heat Alert Days.

Lessons Learned

- Opportunity to coordinate with community-based/non-profit groups that can offer facilities as cooling centers.
- Need for non-traditional means of notification.
- Need for increased outreach to vulnerable populations.