From: Todd Greene on behalf of Todd Greene <WorkRise@urban.org>
To: mayor@cityofclemson.org
Subject: Latest insights on the impact of extreme heat on workers
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Hello—

Summer 2024 was recently announced as the hottest on record, and the federal government is currently considering the first-ever national worker protections against extreme heat--highlighting the critical need to better understand who is most vulnerable and what decisionmakers can do.

This is why I wanted to share the new WorkRise report, "Extreme Heat at Work," which finds that more than one in seven outdoor workers experienced heat exhaustion or heat-related symptoms at their jobs in 2023.

Providing the first nationally representative estimates of how workers are affected by extreme heat, this analysis can inform policy responses and changes in workplace practices to strengthen protections for workers across industries.

Using data from Urban Institute's 2023 Well-Being and Basic Needs Survey, key findings include:

- Workers in the agriculture, mining, and construction industries reported the highest rates of outdoor work and health impacts from exposure to extreme heat. Nearly 1 in 5 (19 percent) reported experiencing heat-related symptoms at work in the past year.
- Hispanic men, noncitizens, and workers in fair or poor health reported high rates of exposure to outdoor work and adverse health impacts from extreme heat.
- 55 percent of Hispanic men worked outdoors at least sometimes, and 18 percent reported experiencing heat-related symptoms at work in the past year.
- Outdoor work was also more common among Hispanic and Black women than among white women. Hispanic women were more likely than women in other racial and ethnic groups to report heat-related health impacts.
- More than 4 in 10 (42 percent) of young adults ages 18 to 24 reported working outdoors at least sometimes, making them more likely than adults in other age groups to report outdoor work.

The researchers identify evidence-based solutions to mitigate the health impacts of extreme heat on workers, including implementing comprehensive federal workplace heat safety standards across industries, adopting state- and local-level protections, prioritizing enforcement for high-risk industries, strengthening workers' ability to negotiate for heat-related protections through collective bargaining agreements, and raising awareness of heat risks, safety recommendations, and workplace standards.

I hope you find this information insightful and please sign up to stay up to date with the latest WorkRise insights.

Best,

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