

Evaluation of Cooling Center Effectiveness for Protecting Public Health in Yuma, AZ

June 11, 2020

Presenting To

AZ Resilience & Preparedness for Extreme Heat Workgroup

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Acknowledgements: David Hondula, PhD (ASU), Lynn Harlow-Smith (Yuma County)

Assistance requested from Yuma County

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FOX 9

HOME NEWS WEATHER VIDEO SPORTS LIFESTYLE TRAFFIC HEALTH TELEMUNDO

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Help provide 6 meals each month!

News

Cooling locations for community during excessive heat

Yuma and Imperial counties offering locations

By: Elly Morillo | Crystal Bedoya

Posted: Jul 24, 2018 08:41 AM MST

Updated: Jul 24, 2018 05:48 PM MST

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Home » Cooling Facility Open in Yuma on Sunday, June 19

Cooling Facility Open in Yuma on Sunday, June 19

June 17, 2016 - 8:47 pm

On Sunday June 19, 2016, the Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Red Cross in partnership with the Yuma County Health Department and the Yuma County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will open a cooling facility at the Crescent Center Mall located at 2450 S. 4th Avenue Suite 109, Yuma, AZ. The Center will be open from 10:00 AM-6:00PM. This will be an opportunity for those to avoid the hottest time of the day, which is expected to be at, or exceeding 118 degrees. Hydration fluids will also be available.

Source: American Red Cross

Heat warning issued for Yuma area today

BY RACHEL THOMAS

NWS recommends to take to prevent heat exhaustion or heatstroke include staying in air-conditioned buildings, limiting outdoor activity during the hottest part of the day (mid-day) and drinking water before, during and after working or exercising outside.

The NWS also suggests to check on at-risk friends, family and neighbors such as the elderly, the sick and those without air conditioning at least twice a day.

The agency notes that hot temperatures of 105 or above can increase potential for heat-related illness. Those at risk include those working or being active outdoors during the daytime or those without access to adequate air conditioning.

NWS advises people to never leave pets or kids unattended in cars, and to avoid sugar, alcohol and caffeine. While spending time outdoors, the agency suggests wearing light-colored clothing with a wide-brimmed hat to keep the head and body cooler. Frequent rest breaks in shaded or air-conditioned environments are also helpful.

The NWS web page states that early symptoms of heat-related illness include headache, thirst and muscle cramps. Serious symptoms include weakness, skin that is cool to the touch, fast but weak pulse, nausea and vomiting. The agency lists severe symptoms as hot and red dry skin, fast and strong pulse, sweating that has stopped, and unconsciousness.

The NWS also warns that untreated heat illness can lead to fatal heatstroke.

Locations open to the public with air conditioning include libraries, community centers, government buildings and special refuge stations. For more information on heat safety, visit www.weather.gov/safety/heat

LIST OF WATER SITES AND COOLING SITES*

1. Organization: Crossroads Mission
Point of Contact: Marc's Shelter
House Managers
Title: Marc's Shelter House Managers
Address: 544 S. Arizona Ave., Yuma, AZ 85304
Telephone: 929-763-0562
Water Site and Cooling Site are Open: All Year
Water Site and Cooling Site Hours: Open 24 hours
Open: All major holidays
Pet-Friendly Site

2. Organization: First United Methodist Church of Yuma
Point of Contact: Kala Fuchs
Title: Administrative Assistant
Address: 206 W. 24th St., Yuma, AZ 85304
Telephone: 929-763-2674
Water Site is Open: June 1 - Aug. 31
Water Site Hours: Mon-Fri 9 a.m. - noon
Closed: Sat & Sun and July 4

3. Organization: HOPE Inc.
Point of Contact: Sylvia Flores
Title: Director
Address: 201 S. 1st Ave., Yuma, AZ 85304
Telephone: 929-763-2674
Water Site is Open: All Year
Water Site Hours: Mon-Thu 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Fri 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Closed: Sat & Sun and all major holidays
Pet-Friendly Site

4. Organization: National Community Health Partners
Point of Contact: Miguel Velazquez
Title: Region Director
Address: 250 W. 24th St., Suite 4, Yuma, AZ 85304
Telephone: 929-726-4022
Water Site is Open: May 1 - Sept. 30
Water Site Hours: Mon-Fri 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Closed: Sat & Sun and July 4 & Sept. 4
Pet-Friendly Site

5. Organization: The Salvation Army Family Thrift Store
Point of Contact: J.L. Jeffrey
Branch: Yuma
Title: Yuma County Coordinator
Address: 100 W. Graham Dr., Yuma, AZ 85304
Telephone: 929-763-0181
Water Site and Cooling Site are Open: All Year
Water Site and Cooling Site Hours: Mon-Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Closed: Sun and all major holidays
Pet-Friendly Site

6. Organization: Starbucks Coffee Company
Point of Contact: Alyssa Wilson
Title: Store Manager
Address: 2383 W. 24th St., Yuma, AZ 85304
Telephone: 929-344-0362
Water Site and Cooling Site are Open: May 1 - Sept. 30
Water Site and Cooling Site Hours: Mon-Fri 4:30 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.
Sat 4:30 a.m. - 11 p.m. and Sun 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Closed: July 4 & Sept. 4

7. Organization: St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Point of Contact: Pat Underkoff
Title: Deacon
Address: 1150 S. 14th Ave., Yuma, AZ 85304 (10th St & 14th Ave)
Telephone: 929-762-0155
Water Site is Open: May 1 - Sept. 15
Water Site Hours: Mon-Thu 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Office is closed from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Closed: Fri, Sat & Sun and July 4 & Sept. 4

8. Organization: Western Arizona Council of Governments
Point of Contact: Gina Whittington
Title: AAA Inmate Director
Address: 1223 S. Nevada St., Yuma, AZ 85303
Telephone: 929-217-7122 ext. 111 or 112
Water Site is Open: May 1 - Sept. 15
Water Site Hours: Mon-Fri 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Closed: Sat & Sun and July 4 & Sept. 4

9. Organization: Walmart
Point of Contact: Linda Laikin
Title: Store Manager
Address: 6181 S. 32nd St., Yuma, AZ 85305
Telephone: 929-344-5874
Water Site and Cooling Site are Open: May 1 - Sept. 30
Water Site and Cooling Site Hours: Mon-Sat 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Closed: Fri, Sat & Sun and all major holidays

10. Organization: Helping Hands of Yuma
Point of Contact: Carol Brown
Title: Executive Director
Address: 11726 S. Shady Dr., Yuma, AZ 85307
Telephone: 929-305-4855
Water Site and Cooling Site are Open: May 1 - Sept. 30
Water Site and Cooling Site Hours: Mon-Thurs 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Closed: Fri, Sat & Sun and July 4 & Sept. 4

11. Organization: The Salvation Army Family Thrift Store
Point of Contact: J.L. Jeffrey
Branch: Yuma
Title: Yuma County Coordinator
Address: 11425 E. Forbes Rd., Yuma, AZ 85307
Telephone: 929-305-4088
Water Site and Cooling Site are Open: All Year
Water Site and Cooling Site Hours: Mon-Sat 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Closed: Sun and all major holidays

12. Organization: Yuma Community Food Bank
Point of Contact: Shara Martin
Title: President and CEO
Address: 3404 E. 24th St., Suite A, Yuma, AZ 85303
Telephone: 929-343-1243
Water Site is Open: All Year
Water Site Hours: Mon-Fri 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Closed: Sat & Sun and all major holidays

*Provided by the Yuma Heat Relief Project. Enclosure: While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the Yuma Heat Relief Project (YHRP) makes no warranty, expressed or implied, as to its accuracy and expressly disclaims liability for the accuracy thereof. Days and hours of operation are subject to change.

Question

Are cooling centers helpful for protecting vulnerable populations from the heat?

Methods

3 evaluation tools

- Intercept survey, cooling center manager interview, and older adult survey

Evaluation team

- Partnership between:
 - State health department
(Arizona Department of Health Services)
 - Local health department
(Yuma County Public Health Services District)
 - University
(Arizona State University)



Surveying Strategies (In-Person & Online)



0% 100%

ASU Arizona State University

How did you find out about the cooling centers in this area? Check all that apply.

☐ I heard about them from someone I know

☐ I heard about them through a local organization

☐ I heard about them from a public official (i.e. police officer, healthcare worker, firefighter, etc.)

☐ Television

☐ Radio

☐ Newspaper

Intercept Surveys N = 76

- **40%** of respondents knew where cooling centers are located
- **20%** of Spanish-speaking respondents knew where cooling centers are located
- **60%** of respondents experienced medical symptoms related to heat in the last year



Learning about cooling centers:
word of mouth and local organizations

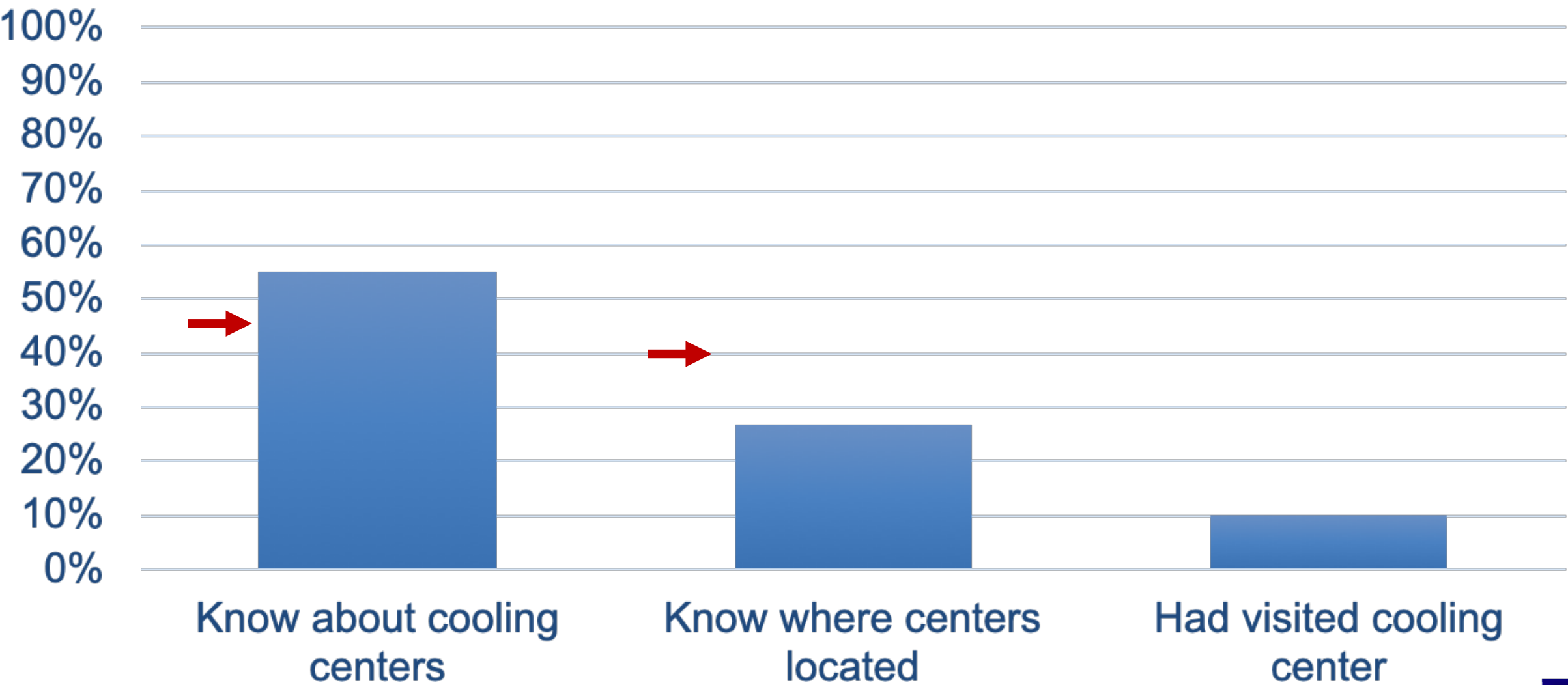


Accessing cooling centers:
walking and biking

Cooling Center Awareness Indicators

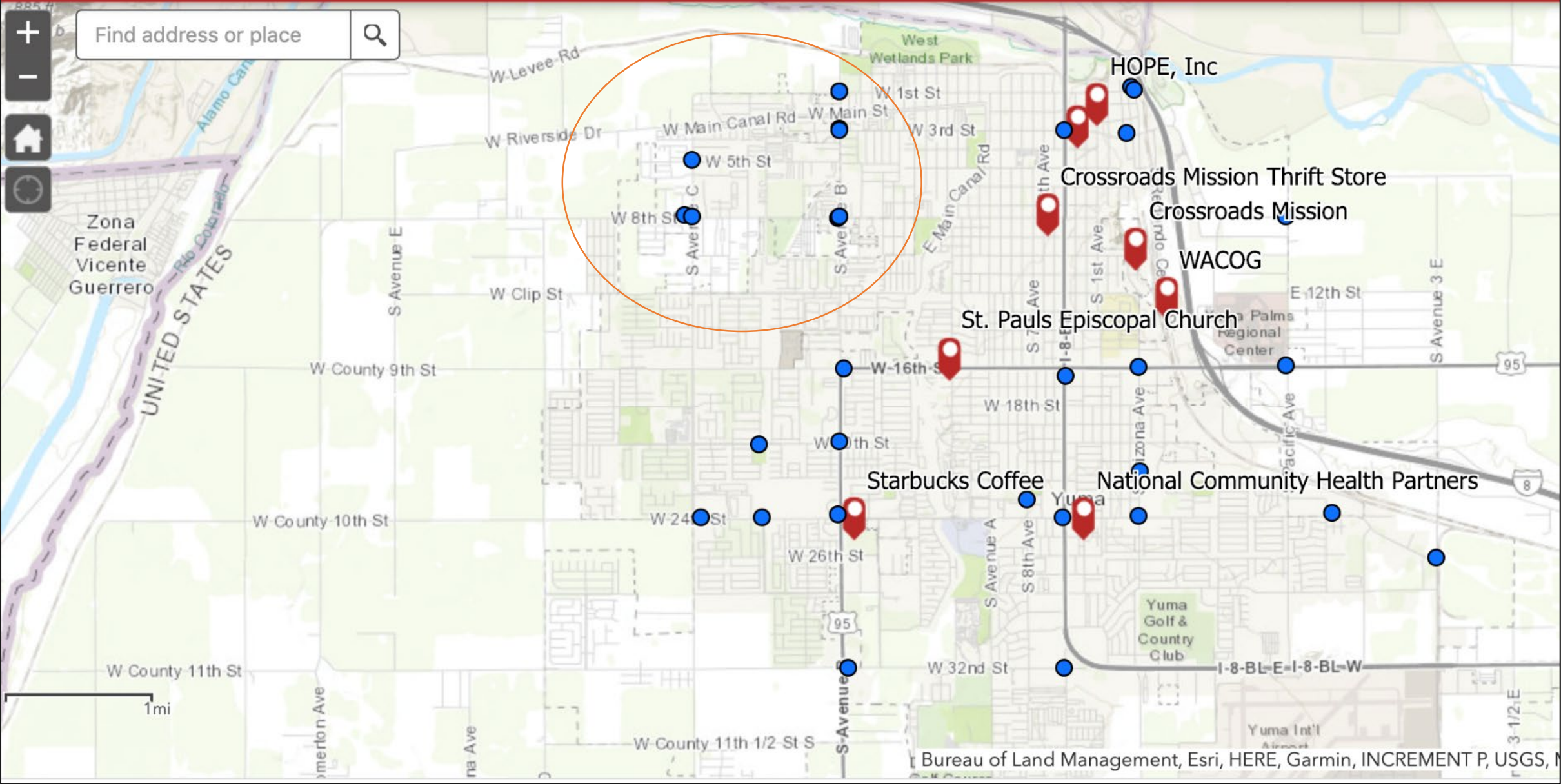


Cooling Center Awareness Indicators



Survey Results – Older Adult Survey

Yuma Cooling Center Location Feedback Results



Facility Manager Interview Results (n=5)

Successes



Challenges



THANK YOU

Matthew Roach

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