

How to implement health and wellbeing policies on climate change

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WS 1 Health Governance



Portuguese seasonal health contingency plan: a 20-year regional perspective

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Agenda

- *Portuguese Seasonal Health Contingency Plan: origins and aims. The heat wave of August 2003*
- *Governance framework. Scope and levels of intervention*
- *Strategy: monitoring, predicting, involving and assessing*
- *Take-home messages: lessons learned since 2004*

Portuguese seasonal health contingency plan (I)

- Established in 2004
- Extreme heat (summer) (May 1st to September 30th)
- Mainland Portugal
- Extreme cold (autumn-winter): since 2011 (October 1st to April 30th)
- Currently, in force all year long

Portuguese seasonal health contingency plan (II)

Aims to protect the overall population and, especially, the most vulnerable one, against extreme temperatures and related phenomena

- Elders
- Chronic patients
- Bedbound
- Childbearing women
- Infants
- Homeless
- Solitary
- Outdoor workers

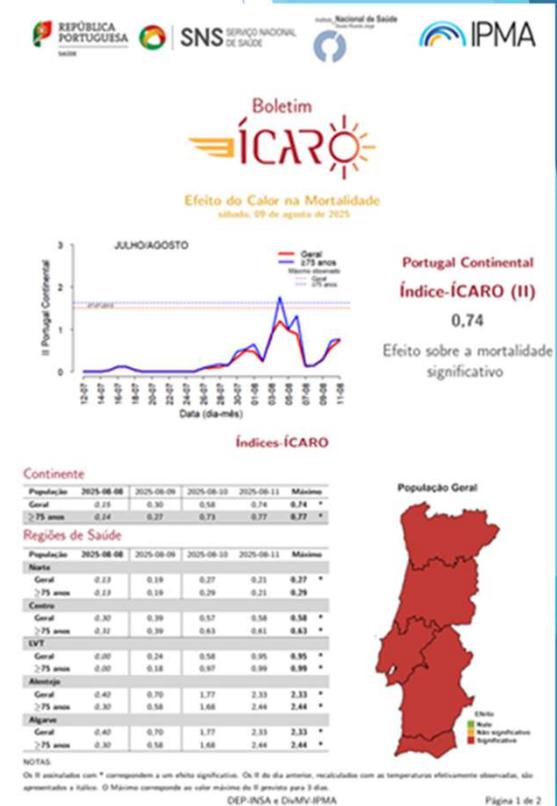
Governance (“who’s who”)

- National supervising and steering group (MoH)
- Coordination: DGS (technical) and Executive Board of the NHS (organizational)
- National Institute of Health (INSA): predictive model of mortality
- Regional teams (DGS’s regional offices): pivotal role
- **Local monitoring and intervention teams (ULS)**
- Risk assessment and management
- Local teams must include local medical officers/public health authorities



Strategy (“how to do it”)

- **Monitoring** (“what is happening”)
- **Predicting** (“what will be happening”)
- **Implementing/involving** (“what and how to do”)
- **Assessing/evaluating** (“what happened”)



Predictive model for heat-related overall excess mortality issued at a daily basis by INSA/National Institute for Health of Portugal

Take-home messages

Local level (ULS) key role

- Internal governance: close cooperation between top management and technical levels (*executive vs advisory*)
- External governance: inter-sectoral approach > whole-of-society engagement
- Risk analysis: at a municipality level

Risk communication as a key strategy

- Validity and consistency of the information
- Diversity of channels (in-person: police officers, priests, teachers, HCW...)



Thank you very much for your attention!

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