

Heat Risk and Climate Change in London



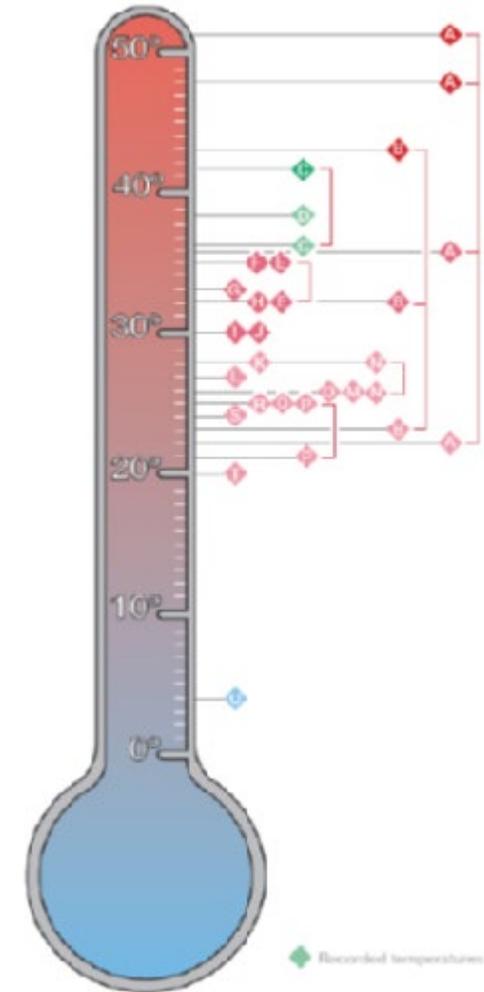
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Heat Thresholds for London

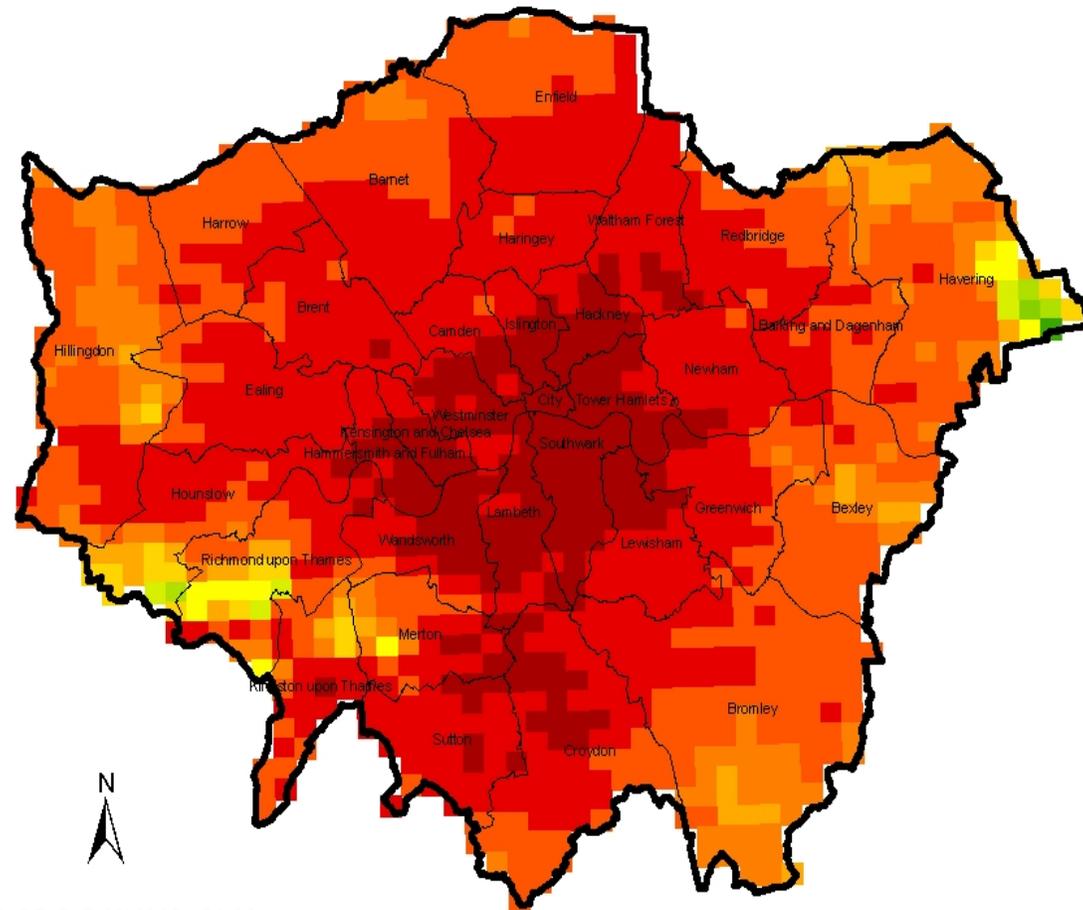
- 24° C – LU enacts overheating plans, incl. comms and measures to prevent track buckling
- 24.7° C – over two days: greater morbidity, mortality, and hospital admissions
- 33° C – softening of road surfaces
- 36° C – power sources begin overheating, speed restrictions to prevent rail buckling

LCCP Heat Thresholds project, 2012



Urban Heat Island

Temperature distribution in London, August 2003



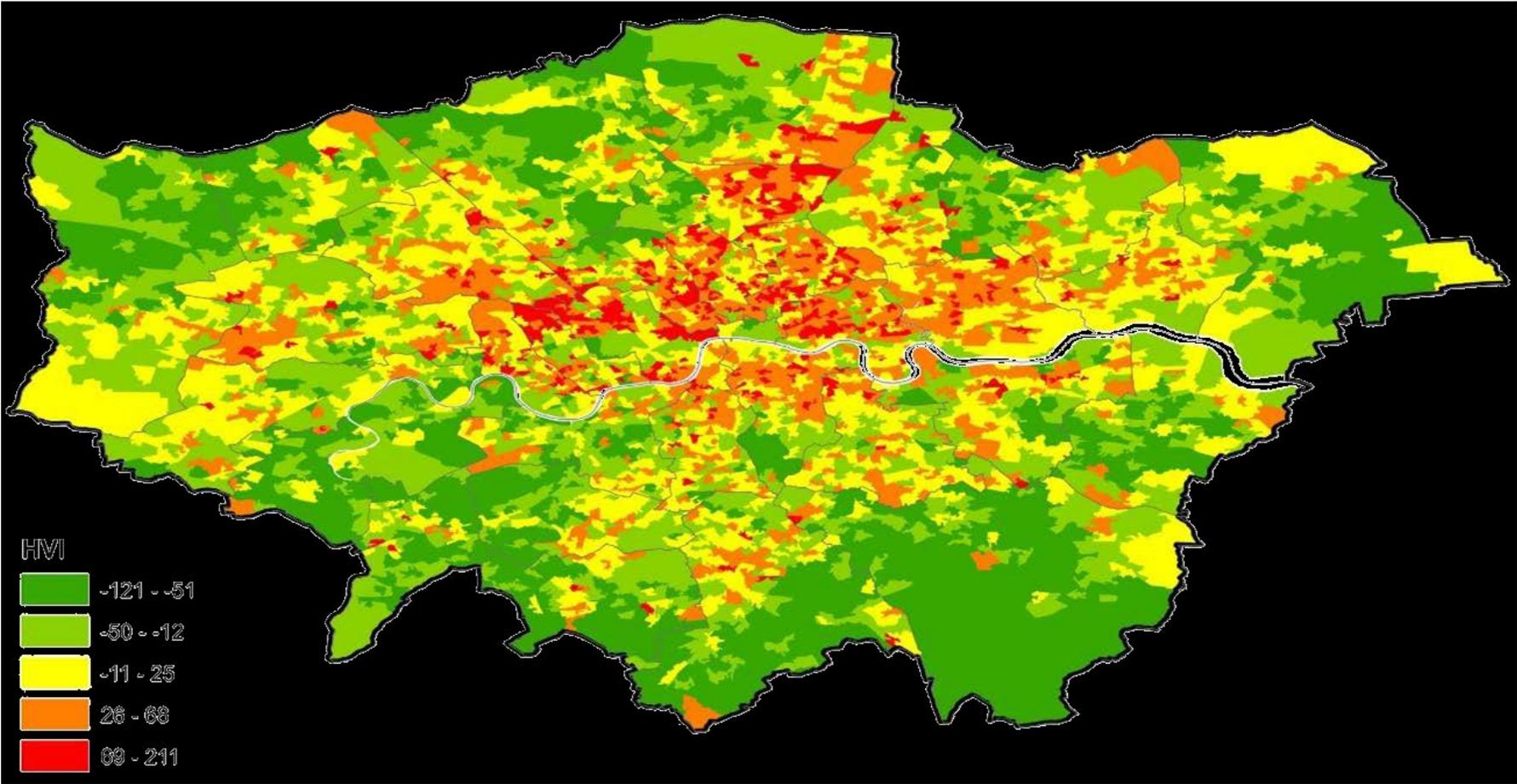
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London's inequality / social vulnerability to climate change

- Londoners more likely to experience social isolation and loneliness than in other parts of UK
- Older, disabled Londoners in poorer quality homes
- Homelessness rising, social housing declining
- Relatively low proportion of owner-occupiers
- >1/3 Londoners foreign-born
- High reliance on public transport
- Disparities among communities



Vulnerability



Dr. Tanja Wolf, SHARPER project 2016

Care homes (Gupta, et al., 2016)

- Buildings - risk of summertime overheating, especially during short-term heat waves with indoor temperatures nearly 30°C in communal areas and resident rooms.
- Non-structural - fixed daily routines of residents make it difficult to accommodate periods of intense heat; management systems do not always allow staff to alter temperatures; a culture focused on cold as the main climate risk



Tackling heat, social vulnerability, and climate change in London

- Communications, awareness raising for critical infrastructure
- Informing policy, e.g., London Plan
- Informing programmes, e.g., Energy for Londoners retrofit
- Identify areas of research, e.g., heat/AQ, fire, mapping vulnerable people
- Link research to practice

Thank you.

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