



CACHE

Center for Aging,
Health & Environment

2025 CACHE HIGHLIGHTS



<https://agingclimatehealth.org/>



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CENTER OVERVIEW

The virtual Center for Aging, Health, and Environment (CACHE) brings together researchers across disciplines to examine one of the most pressing challenges of our time: how environmental change affects aging populations and health outcomes. As a virtual center, CACHE advances research and collaboration through training programs, interdisciplinary partnerships, shared data resources, and new research funding opportunities across North America.

2025 Highlights At A Glance

- **Demo Projects:** CACHE supported 12 seed grants to fuel innovative aging-focused research that integrates social, health, and environmental data.
- **Health and Retirement Study (HRS) Workshop:** CACHE hosted a workshop on HRS, welcoming a cross-disciplinary group of 35 scholars for lively panel discussions, flash talks, and “Meet the Expert” sessions.
- **Team Expansion:** CACHE welcomed 4 new team members to expand our reach and research, including our postdoctoral associate and three pre-graduate scholars.
- **Code & Data:** Thanks to contributions from the research community, we shared more than a dozen code and data sets.
- **What Am I Reading/Watching?** It turns out, quite a bit! CACHE authors shared 7 posts throughout the year that provide useful insight on substantive and methodological issues of importance to research on aging.
- **Seminars:** From Github training to social and environmental data integration, CACHE community experts discussed pressing issues and key findings in 7 unique online seminars.
- **Newsletter:** CACHE started the year with our first monthly newsletter, and we have since reached nearly 600 subscribers.
- **Our website** has reached nearly 8,000 unique users and generated more than 54,000 interactions (downloads, button clicks, and link visits).



RESEARCH DISSEMINATION

CACHE researchers continue to advance scholarship through publications, conference presentations, and invited talks.

We also work to make interdisciplinary research more accessible. Scholars across the community share datasets, scripts, and technical resources that support the integration of social, environmental, and health data. These tools help researchers replicate analyses, build new datasets, and expand environmental-health research.

Code & Data

From HRS to SHELDUS, FEMA to ACS, and much more, researchers have been busy this year! More than a dozen collaborators contributed projects or code that integrates social and health science data with disaster, climate or environmental data.

[View all Code & Datasets here](#), and reach out to us if you would like to contribute!

Research Examples

- Behavioral Response to Extreme Temperatures among the Elderly
- Weathering the Impact: ENSO-Driven Disasters, Power Disruption, and Health Outcomes in Medicare Populations
- Impact of Extreme Weather on Hard-to-Capture, Vulnerable Populations: Evidence from Hart Island — NY's Public Burial Ground
- Extreme Events and the Rural Older Adults
- How do Extreme Environmental Events Impact Cognitive Health among Older Adults?
- Heat, Disability in Older Adults, and Care

Seed Grant Funded Projects

To further expand the research pipeline, CACHE launched a seed grant program in 2025 to support projects that integrate social and environmental data. Funded projects included:

- [Uncovering the Exposome: A Pilot Study of Aging and Environmental Exposure in Malawi](#) — Dr. Helene Purcell, University of Pennsylvania
- [Aging Under Climate Stress: How Extreme Temperatures Shape Multi-System Biological Aging](#) — Dr. Eunyoung Choi, University of Southern California
- [Effects of Outdoor Wildfire PM2.5 on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia](#) — Dr. Jennifer D. Stowell, University of Maryland
- [Air Quality and Pace of Aging Among Older Adults in the United States](#) — Dr. Arun Balachandran.



EXPANDED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Virtual Seminars

- Natural Disasters and Elderly Health
- Behavioral Response to Extreme Temperatures Among the Elderly
- Social and Environmental Data Integration at the U.S. County Scale
- Measuring Extreme Temperatures and Thermal Comfort in Aging Demographic Research
- Climate Systems 101 with an Application to Health
- Components of Climate Risk from a Climate Perspective
- Hazardous Homes and Communities? Disaster and Dementia.
- Introduction to Github

CACHE equips scholars with practical tools for aging–health–environment research through virtual seminars and hands-on workshops and trainings.



Health and Retirement Study

CACHE hosted our first Health and Retirement Study (HRS) Workshop, bringing together a cross-disciplinary group of scholars for panel discussions, flash talks, and “Meet the Expert” sessions.

The workshop introduced researchers to key datasets and analytical approaches while fostering new research collaborations.

The full agenda and speaker presentations are available at <https://agingclimatehealth.org/hrs-workshop-presentations/>

SHELDUS + ACS

A major training initiative this year included a pre-PAA conference workshop on integrating disaster data with American Community Survey datasets using R.

Participants gained experience linking environmental hazard data with demographic information and applying these techniques to population research.

The workshop materials are available at <https://agingclimatehealth.org/training>



OUR INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH COMMUNITY

Throughout our first full year, CACHE expanded collaborations with universities, research initiatives, and international partners working on environment and population health.



EXPANDING RESOURCES

In 2025, CACHE launched our website, where nearly 8,000 unique users have viewed resources, announcements, online seminars, and training pages, with more than 54,000 interactions (downloads, button clicks, and link visits). We also began the first of many monthly e-newsletters to share updates, highlight research, and promote events related to aging, climate, and health. The newsletter is now distributed to nearly 600 subscribers and counting.

[Read and Subscribe to
CACHE Newsletters](#)

[Take a Look at
What We're Reading](#)

GROWING THE CACHE TEAM

In 2025, we welcomed a new postdoctoral researcher and three graduate scholars who contribute to research development, training initiatives, and community engagement. These scholars develop code resources, produce research summaries, and support training activities that benefit the broader CACHE community.

[Meet the Team](#)

What Am I Reading?

These short-form entries provide easy-to-read insights on topics of interest and health research on specific areas, including:

- **Studying Environmental Hazards and Health in Older Adults**
- **A Life Course Approach to Brain Health in a Changing Climate**
- **Understanding the Health Impacts of Wildfire Smoke Exposure**