

Resource list for reporters investigating extreme heat in prison, jail, and ICE detention**Courtesy of Michelle Billman, Ivy Scott****Last updated on July 22, 2026**

Here are resources to explore as you investigate the impact of extreme heat on people incarcerated in jails, prisons, and ICE detention centers:

- A [webinar](#) on how to investigate extreme heat behind bars.
- A [reporting toolkit](#) by The Marshall Project on how to investigate the dangers of extreme heat in prisons.
- The “Cooking Them to Death” [investigation](#), which sheds light on the lethal toll of extreme heat on incarcerated people without access to air conditioning in their cells.
- An [investigation](#) into the impacts of extreme heat on people in solitary confinement.
- A [study](#) breaking down the [facility-level factors](#) leading to heat vulnerability in U.S. prisons, which was published in GeoHealth with Dr. Ufuoma Ovienmhada as lead author.
- The [Toxic Prisons Mapping Project](#), which is “a participatory research initiative to map the environmental hazards that prisons, jails, and detention centers face from extreme heat, air pollution, flooding, wildfires and more.”
- The [landing page](#) for Investigate This!, which shares criminal justice datasets and other investigative resources with journalists and researchers. You can also sign up for our newsletter [here](#).
- A [playlist](#) of other training webinars provided by The Marshall Project.
- This [research roundup](#) by our colleagues at The Journalist’s Resource on how extreme heat impacts human health.
- An [investigation](#) by our colleagues at Grist about the impacts of extreme heat on people incarcerated in tribal jails and detention facilities in the U.S.
- Resources from our colleagues at The Open Notebook, including their [Science Reporting Navigator](#) and their guide called [Perfect Storm: Harnessing Weather Stories to Cover Climate Change](#).
- [Research](#) from UC Berkeley’s Stefano Schiavon measuring the indoor heat index of a Miami-area prison in the summer of 2025.
- [Materials](#) from Texas Prisons Community Advocates, which runs the 85 to Stay Alive campaign.

If you produce news stories, research, advocacy materials, or other content about heat in prisons utilizing Investigate This! resources, [let us know](#) because we can often promote your content in our newsletters.

Contact information for webinar panelists who are topical experts:

- [Maurice Chammah](#), staff writer, The Marshall Project: mchammah@themarshallproject.org
- [Rio Scharf](#), staff attorney, UC Berkeley Law’s Criminal Law and Justice Center: rioscharf@berkeley.edu
- Moderator [Ivy Scott](#), engagement specialist and reporter, The Marshall Project: iscott@themarshallproject.org
- [Dr. Ufuoma Ovienmhada](#), incoming assistant professor, University of Arizona’s School of Geography, Development & Environment: ufuoma@arizona.edu
- [Susi Vassallo](#), MD, clinical professor, NYU Grossman School of Medicine’s Department of Emergency Medicine: SusiVassallo@gmail.com