

# IMPACT OF NIGHTTIME TEMPERATURES ON SLEEP BEHAVIOUR AMONG LOW- INCOME POPULATIONS. A Khayelitsha-based research study

ALICE GWYNNE-EVANS

*UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA  
27 SEPTEMBER 2024*

**WCE**

WORLD CONGRESS OF EPIDEMIOLOGY 2024



# Importance

---

- ❖ Predicted 2.4°C or 36°F increase in global temperature by 2100
- ❖ Rising temperatures affect human health and sleep
- ❖ Sleep plays an integral role in human biological functions

# Sleep variables

## Objective Sleep Measurements:

- ❖ measured using wrist actigraphy over 7 days
- ❖ collected in 1-minute epochs
- ❖ scored using the criteria of Patel et al. (2015)

Sleep Duration  
(time in bed)

Total sleep time

Onset latency

Wake after sleep onset  
(WASO)

Average length of wake bouts

Number of wake bouts

Efficiency  
(How well?)

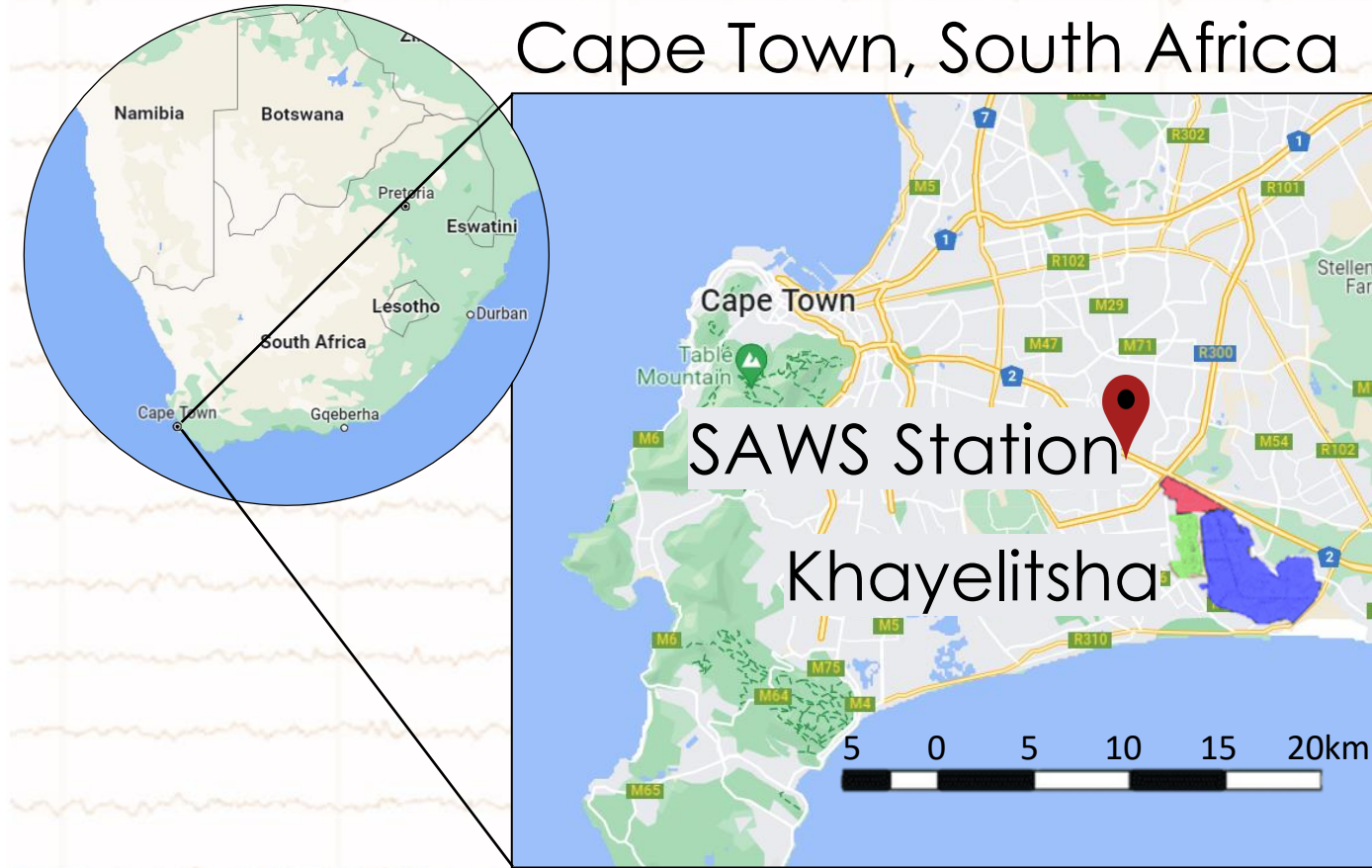
Percent wake

# Objectives:

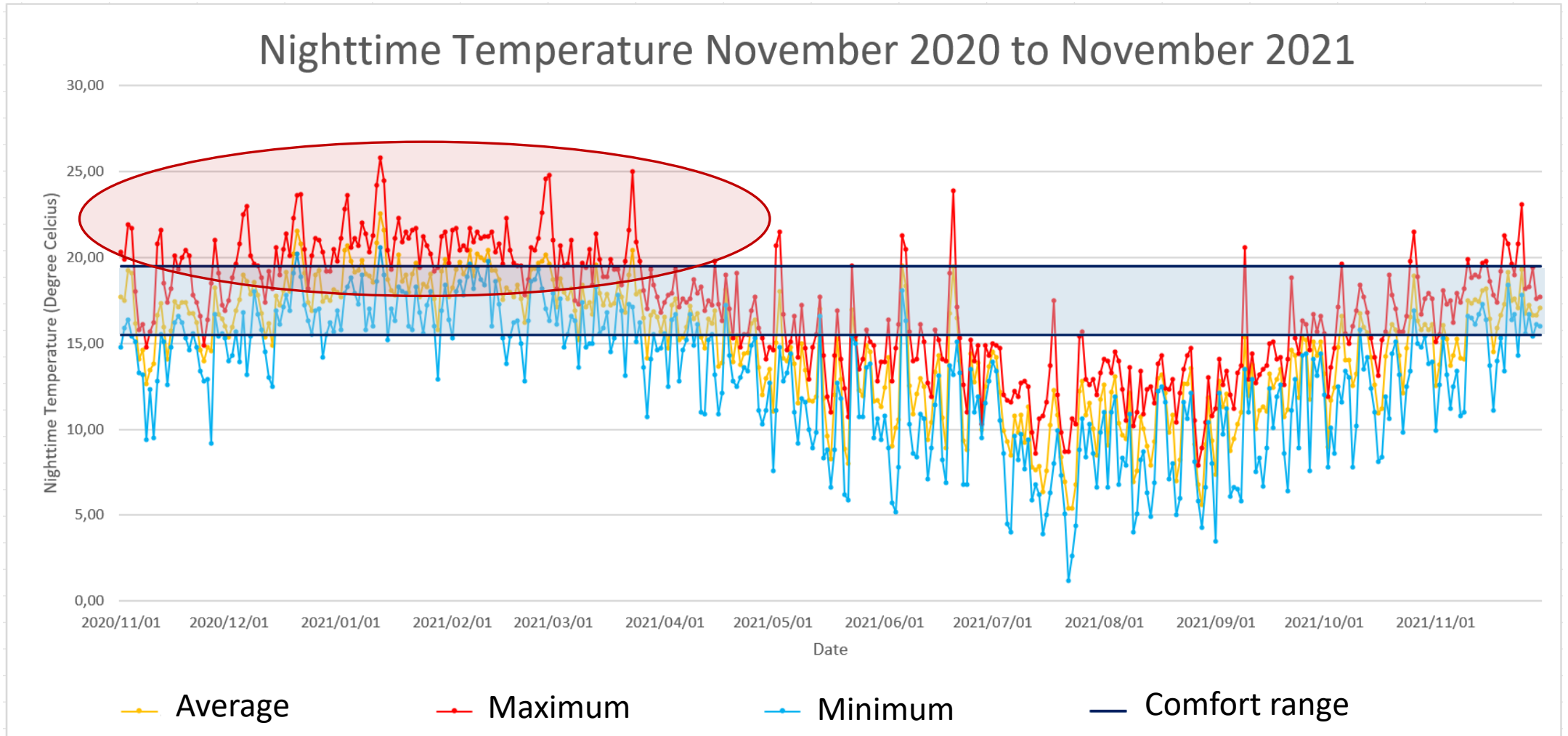
- ❖ To explore and quantify the effects of the thermal environment on sleep patterns in a low-income cohort.
- ❖ High temperatures will result in disrupted sleep patterns and reduced sleep quality.

# Khayelitsha

Cape Town, South Africa



# Nighttime temperature



(SAWS, 2023 and Wang et al., 2022)

## Participant characteristics

	Frequency (%)
Age	$\bar{x} = 39$
Male/Female	49/51
Employed	28
Smoker	15
Alcohol	47
Diabetes	4
Hypertension	52
High blood pressure	17

## Housing characteristics

	Frequency (%)
Electricity	96
Fan (% yes)	20
House density (occupants)	4
Roof:	
Iron/Aluminium sheets	35
Roofing tiles	12
Asbestos	29
Combination	20
Wall:	
Burnt brick	19
Iron/aluminium sheet	17
Cement	31
Combination	26

## Sleep characteristics

	Average $\bar{x}$	Median
Sleep Duration	543.0	550.2
Total sleep time	443.1	446.8
Onset Latency	13.0	5.5
WASO	98.9	86.3
Number of wake bouts	61.3	58
Average length of wake bouts	1.6	1
Efficiency	80.0	81.76
Percent Wake	17.9	16.36

# Results

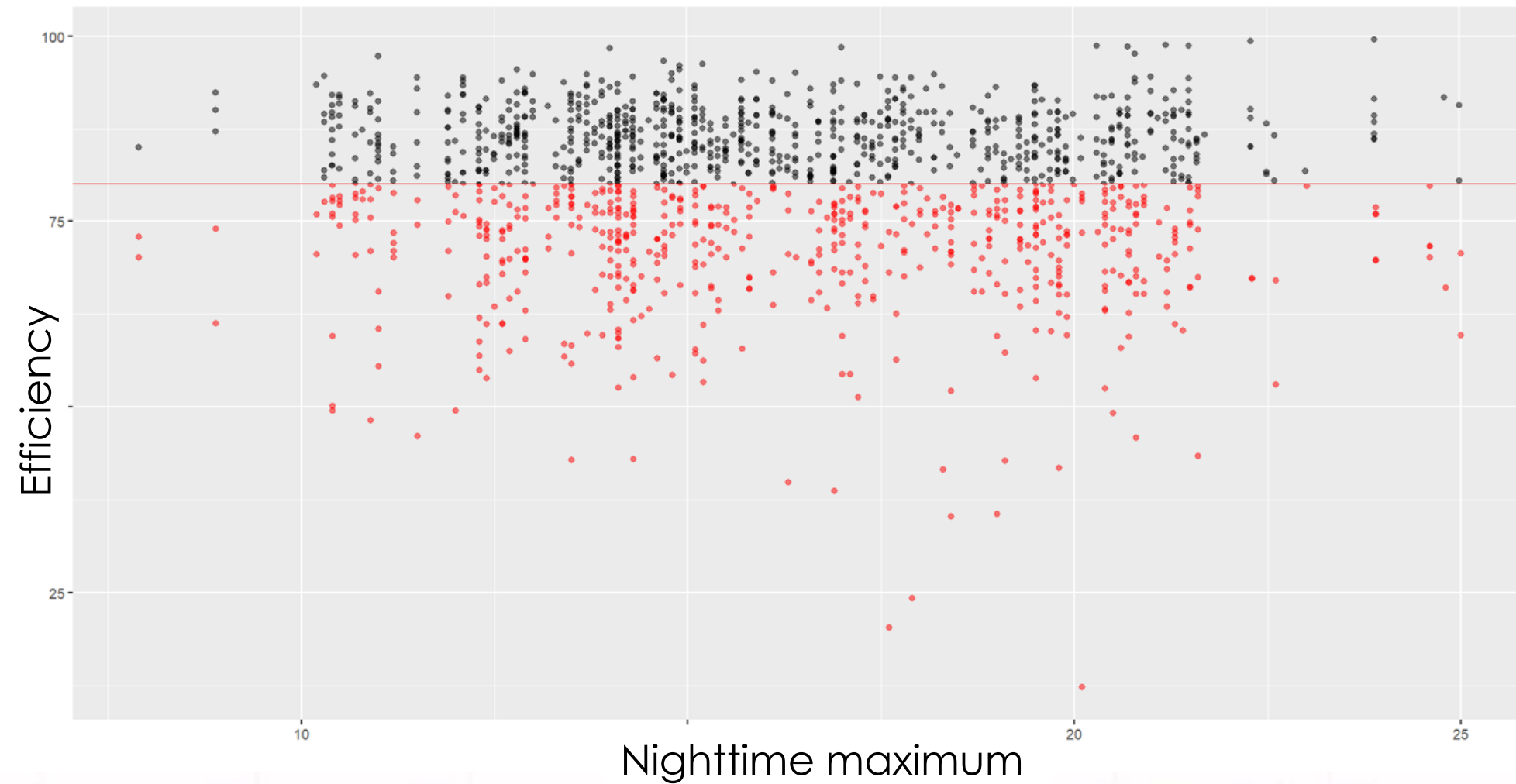
Multivariate analysis of sleep variables vs nighttime maximum and minimum temperature adjusting for covariates

	Night max				Night min			
	Constant	coefficient	p-value	SE	Constant	coefficient	p-value	SE
Duration	788.62	-5.32	0.00	1.40	745.24	-3.38	0.01	1.27
Sleep time	681.94	-5.21	0.00	1.20	644.74	-3.73	0.00	0.00
Average wake bouts	1.24	0.02	0.02	0.01	1.31	0.02	0.01	0.01
Efficiency	84.93	-0.22	0.01	0.09	84.28	-0.23	0.00	0.08
Percent wake	12.48	0.19	0.02	0.08	12.96	0.21	0.00	0.07

\*WASO, onset latency and number of wake bouts were NS



# Nighttime maximum temperature vs efficiency, with 80% efficiency threshold



80% efficiency  
threshold

# Take Aways

**45%** of all  
participants will have  
below 80% sleep  
efficiency



# Acknowledgements

---

Lara Dugas - School of Public Health University of Cape Town (UCT) & Loyola University Chicago

Amy Luke – Parkinson School of Health Sciences & Public Health, Loyola University Chicago

Michaela Deglon – School of Public Health, UCT

Dale Rae – Human Biology, UCT

Estelle V. Lambert – Human Biology, UCT

Mark New - African Centre for Climate Development Initiative, UCT

Funding: NIH grants: R01-DK070853 (Luke), R01-DK111848 (Dugas), R01-HL148271 (Dugas) and the AXA Research Fund (Dugas)



**UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN**  
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD



**School of Public Health**  
Departement Openbare Gesondheid  
Isikolo Sempilo Yoluntu



**LOYOLA**  
UNIVERSITY CHICAGO



African  
Climate &  
Development  
Initiative