

Temperature-related mortality, longevity and ageing: novel approaches, new insights

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The climate is changing, temperatures are rising, and populations are ageing: this poses a major challenge as older people are particularly vulnerable to heat. Previous studies have considered various aspects of heat and ageing, finding that: older people's susceptibility to heat is often (but not always) falling; health impacts (i.e. number of deaths) amongst older people are rising; and, that population ageing is expected to be a major driver of future heat deaths.

In this presentation, I'll discuss four recent papers that attempt to provide new insights into these issues. The analyses do so not by leveraging new data sources, but rather by rethinking the questions of interest. For instance:

- When assessing how social predictors influence patterns of heat-related deaths, what if we account for between-predictor interrelations? And, what if we consider how the predictors influence absolute risk rather than just relative risk?
- When assessing the implications of ageing, what if we reconsider what we mean by someone's "age" and adopt a concept that better captures older people's functioning and capabilities?
- What if, instead of only considering the challenges of population ageing, we also ask how has rising longevity contributed to risk reduction? And, conversely, what do we see if we ask whether temperature-related deaths are undermining ongoing rises in longevity?

Collectively, the papers offer new perspectives on temperature-related mortality and social change, and may offer some guidance on risk reduction and adaptation.

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