## 1.1 Health and Heat

### Indicator 1.1.1: Exposure of Vulnerable Populations to Heatwaves

Heatwaves represent an acute health hazard, especially for older people, very young children. This indicator tracks the exposure of vulnerable age groups (<1 year and >65 years) to heatwave days.

In 2024, people from all vulnerable age groups experienced a record total of 2.2 billion person-days of heatwaves, exceeding the previous high of 2.0 billion days (2023).

This indicator shows that there was a 420% relative increase in the total number of person-days of heatwave exposure increasing from 295 million in the period 1991 – 2000 to a total of 1·53 billion person-days in the period 2015-2024.

This rise in person-days encompasses both an increase in at risk populations (older people and children), and an increase in heatwave frequency, where the number of heatwave days increased by 145%.

Results vary across European subregions and countries, with an increase of more than 10 days in central and southern Spain and large increases in Greece and eastern European countries.