# Section 1: Health Hazards, Exposure, and Impact

One paragraph introduction to section here.

## 1.1 Health and heat

Two to three sentences about the overall topic of this indicator group.

### Indicator 1.1.1: exposure of vulnerable populations to heatwaves

*Headline finding: both individuals over 65 years of age and infants under one-year-old for the first time experienced on average 20.8 and 20.4 days of heatwave per person, respectively*

Heatwaves pose a significant health risk, particularly for older adults, infants, and individuals with chronic conditions such as cardiovascular, respiratory, or kidney diseases. They also heighten the likelihood of adverse pregnancy and birth outcomes and can exacerbate neurological disorders.

This indicator monitors heatwave exposure among vulnerable age groups—infants under one year and adults over 65—by tracking the number of heatwave days they experience. For this analysis, heatwaves are defined as periods of at least two consecutive days where both minimum and maximum temperatures exceed the 95th percentile of local climatology, based on the 1986–2005 baseline.

To separate the effects of increasing heatwave frequency from demographic shifts, a counterfactual scenario was developed in which heatwave incidence remains constant at baseline levels, allowing for a clearer evaluation of the impact of population growth and aging.

In 2024, individuals from vulnerable age groups experienced a 52% increase in total heatwave person-days compared to 2023. Older adults (65+) recorded an unprecedented 17.6 billion person-days of heatwaves, while infants under one year experienced 2.9 billion person-days. On average, older adults endured 20.8 heatwave days per person, while infants experienced 20.4 days. If heatwave incidence had remained at 1986–2005 levels, their exposure would have been significantly lower (YYY). "Low" HDI countries saw the fastest growth in average annual heatwave days per person for both vulnerable groups, rising from 7.5 to 21.0 days—a 181% increase. Meanwhile, "High" HDI countries recorded the highest average exposure, reaching 23.3 heatwave days per person per year.

[CONCLUSION] One to two concluding sentences about the findings, their relevance, their implications for health and/or climate, etc.

## Conclusion

One paragraph summarizing findings of all indicators in section and pulling together key points and implications.