Dear Editor,

We enthusiastically submit our manuscript “Power outages and cardiovascular and respiratory hospitalizations among US older adults” for consideration for publication in *Nature Energy*.

Our study represents, to our knowledge, the first nationwide study of power outage exposure and health. Our study results suggest that power outages are an extremely prevalent and understudied exposure with major health consequences for older adults. We studied 23 million older adult Medicare beneficiaries and found that power outages increased acute cardiorespiratory hospitalization rates by 2-3%, with the increase in risk rising to 6% for larger power outages. Older adults in our study experienced, on average, seven 8+ hour power outages during the year-long study period, a number anticipated to further increase in coming decades. Our team recently developed hourly, county-level power outage exposure estimates[[1]](#endnote-1), which enabled this investigation.

We believe that readers of Nature Energy will find these results of major interest as climate change-driven severe weather and temperature changes have increased power outage frequency and duration. As demand for electricity increases with electrification, advances in artificial intelligence, and extreme temperatures, it’s crucial to consider the health consequences of power outages when developing energy policy.

All authors have reviewed the manuscript, and the manuscript has not been published elsewhere and is not under consideration for other journals.

Sincerely,  
Heather McBrien  
Joan A. Casey

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1. https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-023-38084-6 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)