Dear editor,

Thank you for considering our submission “Power outages and cardiovascular and respiratory hospitalizations among US older adults” for publication in PNAS.

Our study is the first national study of power outage exposure and health. We found that power outages increased daily cardiorespiratory hospitalization rates among 23 million older adult Medicare beneficiaries by 2-6%, depending on the size of power outage.

Climate-change driven severe weather is increasing power outage frequency and duration. Older adults in our study experienced on average seven 8+ hour power outages during the year-long study period, a number which will continue to increase in the next decade. Our study results suggest that power outages are an extremely prevalent and understudied exposure with major health consequences.

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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