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Rising temps could cause as many as 2,100 fatal injuries per year

Traci Edwards | Tuesday, January 14, 2020



The Sydney Opera House is obscured by smoke haze from bushfires earlier this month. AAP

However, new research has estimated that even if the rise in temperatures is limited to just two degrees, there will be 2000 extra deaths each year in the U.S. alone.

If global temperatures rose by 3.5F (2C), researchers calculated there would be as many as 2,100 **additional deaths** annually from the same causes.

From 1980 to 2017, more than 4.1 million boys and men and over 1.8 million girls and women died from an injury in the contiguous U.S., accounting for 9.3% and 4.2% of all male and female deaths respectively during that time period.

Models showed a 1.5 degree Celsius increase in the global average temperature was associated with an annual increase of 1,600 fatal injuries, while a 2 degree increase produced an increase of 2,100 fatalities.

The fact that climate change affects human health is not news. But deaths from various types of injuries are known to vary by season.

The research, published in the journal Nature Medicine, is based on data on recorded deaths from injuries in every county in the mainland USA between 1980 to 2017.

These numbers were chosen because countries in the Paris Agreement are committed limiting the increase in temperatures to 2.7F (1.5C). But deaths from injuries currently make up about 10% of all fatalities around the world and the impact of global heating on this had been little studied until now. More than 95% of male injury deaths and 94% of female injury deaths occurred in those age 15 years and older, and over half of male injury deaths occurred in those between 15 and 44, the study found.

The reasons deaths from suicide and violent assault increase in hot weather are not fully understood. "Of all male excess deaths, 92% would occur in those aged 15-64 years, who have higher rates of deaths from transport and suicide". During warm weather, people tend to be out on the roads more, drink more alcohol, and be less skilled in their driving - all of which increase the odds of accidents.

Meanwhile, these increases would be partly offset by a decline in deaths from falls in middle-aged and elderly people during the winter months. Deaths from traffic accidents may increase because higher temperatures tend to result in greater overall road traffic (at least in North America), erosion of driving skills, and increased alcohol consumption.

Though increases in violence and suicides wasn't as pronounced as drownings and transport accidents, the new research suggests higher temperatures are associated with increases in intentional fatalities.

However, some of these connections are tentative and more research will be necessary to work out the cause and effect relationships.

Parks said he was "particularly surprised at how consistent the association between anomalously warm temperatures and suicide/assault deaths".

He added: "The need for climate change mitigation underpins all of this action, and large-scale structural changes will provide that opportunity for mitigation, while also reducing the vulnerability of particular groups to injury deaths".

If temperatures continue to climb as a result of climate change, hundreds more people in the United **States** are likely to succumb to fatal injuries. "We must respond to this threat with better preparedness in the areas of emergency services, social support and health warnings".

In a commentary on the paper also published in the journal *Nature Medicine*, a pair of scientists not involved in the study wrote that it is important to note that other variables of weather which are linked to injuries like rain, humidity, sunshine, and wind "may act in their own right while also interacting with temperature, although not necessarily in consistent or predictable fashions".

"Increases in assaults may be due to increasing anger levels and more time spent outdoors interacting with other people during warmer weather".

Image: Artwork by Banksy; photo via [Wikimedia Commons](#).

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POPULAR NEWS

Epic Store to give away another 50 free games

It seems likely much of this success is due to Fortnite, as the total spent by players on third-party games is \$251m (£193m). Launched in December of 2018, the store to-date has racked up \$680 million in spending from 108 million PC customers.

Next Super Smash Bros Ultimate DLC Character Debuts on January 16th
Super Smash Bros Ultimate , the latest entry in Nintendo and Bandai Namco's bestselling fighting series on Nintendo Switch , is getting a new fighter.

LSU says money Odell Beckham gave to players was fake
Of course, there were several LSU officials standing all around Beckham and players on the field while the team celebrated. The LSU spokesperson was not quoted in the story, saying only that the money was fake.

BTS Unveils Global "CONNECT, BTS" Project
The project "represents diversity and creates a collective, positive message for the world that we value", they said. Gormley attended the press conference to discuss creating a work "that has no barriers".

Final Fantasy 7 Remake Release Date Delayed Until April 2020
Part 1 of Final Fantasy VII REMAKE will release on PlayStation 4, with no other platforms officially announced at this time. In the statement, Producer Yoshinori Kitase briefly shared a reason for what he referred to as a "tough decision".

Bookmaker William Hill forecasts annual profit above estimates
Operating profits for the year are estimated to have been between £143m (\$186m) and £148m (\$192m). As a result, it expects to break even for the USA business overall in 2019.

Gilgeous-Alexander posts first-career triple-double in win over Wolves
Shai Gilgeous-Alexander put on an absolute clinic on Monday night in Oklahoma City's 117-104 win over the Minnesota Timberwolves .

Researchers find protein that can help cut flab without doing exercise
The priceless outcomes of Sestrin embody bigger than ethical improved patience. The analysis was revealed within the journal Nature Communications .

"Crisis on Infinite Earths, Part 5" Photos Released
The 2-hour finale will begin with Arrow at 8pm and the crisis will culminate in an episode of DC's Legends of Tomorrow at 9pm. Worlds will live, worlds will die, but rest assured: Nothing will ever be the same when the Crisis comes to a close.

PlayStation 2019 Wrap-Up Looks back at Your 2019 Gaming Year
Depending on an individual's preferred genre, redeem codes are available for a special Dynamic Theme and Avatar. Yep, PlayStation Wrap-Up is out (for those unfamiliar, it's like Spotify Wrapped , but for games).

Australia hammers India by 10 wickets in first ODI
India slipped from there, as all of Pat Cummins, Adam Zampa and Mitchell Starc struck to leave them on 164 for 5. Iyer followed suit when Starc induced an edge an over later and Alex Carey did the rest behind the stumps.

Snowfall leads to cancellation of all flights from Srinagar airport
But, the night temperature at the health resort improved and settled above normal on Monday due to overcast conditions. The early morning snowfall and sleet later in the day led to waterlogging of most of the roads in the Srinagar city.

Rogue One Screenwriter Says He Wants to Make a Star Fox Movie
The writer of Rogue One: A Star Wars Story says that he wants to make a film based on the Star Fox franchise. As for the chances of this happening, stranger things have sprung from the fertile grounds of fan art.

Little Women Cast Responds To Greta Gerwig's 'Disappointing' Oscar Snub For Directing
Lorene Scafaria (Hustlers) and Marielle Heller (A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood) had also been in the conversation. Prior to the Academy Award nominations, Greta Gerwig was similarly snubbed at the Golden Globes .

First ever 'living robots' built, may advance drug delivery
The heart cells have enough energy to keep swimming for 7-10 days. They then transferred the computer designs into life.

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