

15 May 2019

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Professor of Global Environmental Health
Director, Wellcome Trust-Imperial Centre for Global Health Research
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Dr. Jeffrey Drazen
Editor-in-Chief, *New England Journal of Medicine*

Dear Dr. Drazen:

On behalf of my co-authors, I would like to submit our paper titled “Anomalous temperature and seasonality of injury mortality in the USA” for consideration in the *New England Journal of Medicine* as a special article.

The paper makes novel and important contributions to our understanding of how anomalous temperatures affect deaths from different intentional and unintentional injuries in the USA, which are relevant for preventing injury mortality today and as global climate change leads to more frequent anomalous temperatures.

Injuries have been a particularly under-investigated outcome in terms of the potential health effects of climate change, especially in terms of detailed impacts from different intentional and unintentional injuries, and at different ages. We used geo-coded data on all injury deaths in the USA since 1980 matched to data on temperature to analyse how anomalous temperatures affect deaths from five different types of intentional and unintentional injuries, by age group and sex.

The findings show how rising temperatures may affect an important and understudied cause of death, especially in young adults, and inform community and health system interventions to reduce such impacts. Therefore, the paper will be of interest to physicians, researchers and policy makers in a range of disciplines with interest in injuries and in health consequences of climate change.

The paper is about 2,900 words and has five figures, with additional details presented in a supplementary appendix. We would of course be happy to take guidance from the Editors to adjust the manuscript length and organisation as needed.

This manuscript has not been previously published and is not under review in any other journal. All authors have contributed to the paper, have approved its submission, and take responsibility for its contents.

The following people are qualified to assess its contents and their implications, and are independent of this work:

1) Professor Patrick Kinney (environmental health; climate change health effects)

Boston University

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2) Professor Sir Andy Haines (climate change health effects)

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

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3) Professor C Arden Pope (environmental health; statistical methods)

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4) Professor Kavi Bhalla (injury epidemiology; injury prevention and policies)

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5) Professor David Hemenway (injury epidemiology; injury prevention and policies)

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6) Professor Julian Marshall (environmental health; climate change health effects)

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7) Professor Marcia Castro (climate change health effects; statistical methods; population health and environmental health)

Harvard University

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8) Professor Jonathan Wakefield (spatial and Bayesian statistics)

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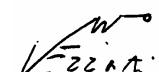
9) Professor Peter Diggle (spatial statistics; environmental health)

University of Lancaster

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We look forward to your response and would be happy to answer any questions that you may have on this paper.

Sincerely,



Majid Ezzati