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Research Press Release

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Climate science: Impacts of global heating on US deaths from injuries assessed
Nature Medicine

January 14, 2020

naturemedicine

A 1.5°C anomalously warm year, as envisioned under the Paris Climate Agreement, could be responsible for as many as 1,601 additional deaths by injury per year across the contiguous United States, according to a paper published in Nature Medicine.

To date, health consequences related to global temperature variations have been studied largely in the context of the spread of infectious diseases, heart and lung disorders and other chronic diseases. There is limited data on how such variations might affect death from injuries.

Majid Ezzati and colleagues analysed mortality and temperature data collected over 38 years (1980 - 2017) across mainland United States. Using the Paris Agreement scenarios of 1.5 and 2.0°C increase in temperature, the authors developed a computational model to determine how deviations of monthly temperatures from the average affect deaths attributable to both unintentional (drowning, transport and falls) and intentional (assault and suicide) injuries. The analysis was also stratified by age group and sex. The authors found that in an especially warm year, there could be an estimated 1,601 additional deaths. Of these anticipated additional deaths, 84% would occur in men, mostly between the ages of 15 and 64.

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Original article  (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/s41591-019-0721-y>)

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