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Vulnerability to temperature-related mortality in Serbia: a review of evidence

The relation between climate and population is well-established, and climate change has intensified the frequency, severity, and duration of extreme temperature events, highlighting a significant public health challenge globally. Since the beginning of the 21st century, a large number of research has been conducted all around Europe, showing that both cold and hot temperatures were found to be associated with health outcomes, particularly with mortality and hospital admissions. This paper aims to give current evidence on the vulnerability to temperature-related mortality in Serbia, applying a scoping review of findings focused on both heat- and cold-related deaths. The analysis brings out evidence based on population studies, demographic data, and environmental records to identify key risk factors, including age, gender, pre-existing health conditions, and geographical location. Findings reveal that older adults, individuals with chronic illnesses, and residents of densely populated urban areas are more affected by extreme temperatures. Seasonal variations and regional disparities further compound the risks. The review underscores the importance of continued research to inform evidence-based policymaking in the face of a changing climate and emphasizes the need for intervention in public health and urban planning strategies to mitigate temperature-related mortality.

Keywords: Mortality, hospital admissions, public health, temperature, Serbia