Heat-Related Deaths From CVD Expected to Surge by Midcentury
The number of excess cardiovascular disease (CVD) deaths related to extreme heat is projected to climb to 4320 deaths per year in the US by 2065, an increase of 162% compared with the period between 2008 and 2019. The estimates are based on a model that assumes adherence to proposed emissions reduction policies. However, should levels of emissions grow substantially, that number could reach 5491 excess CVD deaths by midcentury—an increase of 233% compared with the current period.

The additional deaths are unlikely to be distributed equally. The researchers found that older people could have up to a 3.5-times greater increase in excess deaths than would younger adults. Black adults could also experience a greater increase in additional extreme heat-related CVD deaths than White adults, due in part to historic lack of infrastructure investment in communities. "Clinical and community-based mitigation strategies, along with global efforts to confront climate change, are needed to address this growing public health issue," the researchers wrote in Circulation.

– Emily Harris
Published Online: November 8, 2023.
Note: Source references are available through embedded hyperlinks in the article text online.