

Adhering to Paris Agreement climate goal could significantly decrease heat-related summer deaths

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As much of the UK and Europe swelters under heatwave conditions, new research led by scientists from the University of Bristol has produced

compelling evidence that loss of life through increased heat stress during heatwaves can be limited if we stabilise climate at the lower of the Paris Agreement climate goals.

The paper, published this week in the journal *Nature Climate Change*, demonstrates that, all else being equal, [mortality](#) due to high temperatures could be significantly reduced (15-22 per cent per summer) in London and Paris if we stabilise climate at the lower of the Paris Climate Goals, 1.5oC, as compared with the higher temperature [goal](#).

In London, currently around 10 per cent of summers are free of any heat-related mortality, but this research has shown that under potential future [climate change](#) virtually all summers will have some heat-related mortality.

Researchers from Bristol who lead the Half a degree Additional warming, Prognosis and Projected Impacts Model Intercomparison Project (HAPPI) simulated future climate under climate goals consistent with the 1.5°C and 2°C global warming Paris Agreement climate goals. The project utilised researchers and citizen scientists from around the world to help run the experiments.

Dr. Dann Mitchell, lead author of the study, and a lecturer in climate physics at the University of Bristol, said "Our results show a clear increase in heat-related mortality which can be avoided by adhering to the Paris Agreement goals.

"Together with the recent publication of a wealth of evidence presented for [climate](#) drivers of other impact sectors (such as the crop sector), it is becoming evermore clear as to how crucial these [climate goals](#) are.

"We need to understand the magnitude of these health impacts, so we

can plan suitable adaptation strategies to prevent them."

The research comes at a time where much of Europe is undergoing a heatwave, and the public are being advised to take care and check more regularly on vulnerable relatives and friends.

More information: Daniel Mitchell et al. Extreme heat-related mortality avoided under Paris Agreement goals, *Nature Climate Change* (2018). [DOI: 10.1038/s41558-018-0210-1](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-018-0210-1)

Provided by University of Bristol

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