# Article information:

Heat wave impact on morbidity and mortality in the elderly population: A review of recent studies - ScienceDirect  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0378512211000806>

# Article summary:

1. The elderly population is among the most vulnerable to heat waves and elevated temperatures, with physiological responses to environment deteriorating with age and some medication interacting with thermoregulation.

2. Studies have consistently reported increases in cardiovascular and respiratory mortality during hot days and heat waves, but there are fewer studies on morbidity.

3. Future research should focus on studying susceptibilities and non-fatal events, as well as the modification of urban environments and housing to reduce heat stress in the elderly population.

# Article rating:

May be slightly imbalanced: The article presents the information in a generally reliable way, but there are minor points of consideration that could be explored further or claims that are not fully backed by appropriate evidence. Some perspectives may also be omitted, and you are encouraged to use the research topics section to explore the topic further.

# Article analysis:

The article "Heat wave impact on morbidity and mortality in the elderly population: A review of recent studies" provides a comprehensive review of recent literature regarding the impact of heat waves and elevated temperature on the elderly with regards to mortality and morbidity. The article highlights that elderly populations are among the most vulnerable to heat waves and elevated temperatures due to physiological responses to environment deterioration with ageing, medication interactions with thermoregulation, risk perception, mental disorders such as dementia, living alone, increased dependency, and living in nursing homes or being confined to bed.

The article presents a balanced view of the impacts of heat waves on populations. It notes that while many studies have consistently reported increases in cardiovascular and respiratory mortality during hot days and heat waves, few studies have reported social, medical, and environmental susceptibility factors. The article also acknowledges that differences in conclusions between studies regarding effects of heat might be due to a ceiling effect on hospital admissions which can only increase to the maximum number of beds available.

However, there are some potential biases in the article. Firstly, it only focuses on studies published between 1st January 2008 and 31st December 2010. This may limit its scope as more recent research may provide additional insights into the topic. Secondly, it only includes studies published in English which may exclude relevant research conducted in other languages. Thirdly, it does not provide a specific definition for a heat wave which may lead to inconsistencies across different studies.

Additionally, while the article provides a detailed analysis of morbidity studies focusing on hospitalizations conducted in Australia, US and Europe; it does not explore other potential health impacts such as dehydration or skin-related illnesses caused by prolonged exposure to high temperatures. Furthermore, while it acknowledges that prevention and adaptation strategies can help reduce negative health impacts caused by heat waves; it does not provide any specific recommendations for policymakers or healthcare professionals.

In conclusion, "Heat wave impact on morbidity and mortality in the elderly population: A review of recent studies" provides a comprehensive overview of recent literature regarding the impact of heat waves and elevated temperature on the elderly with regards to mortality and morbidity. While it presents a balanced view of the impacts of heat waves on populations, there are some potential biases and missing points of consideration that should be taken into account when interpreting its findings.

# Topics for further research:

* Dehydration and heat-related illnesses in the elderly population
* Skin-related illnesses caused by prolonged exposure to high temperatures
* Prevention and adaptation strategies for heat waves in healthcare settings
* Heat wave impacts on mental health in the elderly population
* Heat wave impacts on vulnerable populations beyond the elderly
* International research on heat wave impacts on morbidity and mortality

# Report location:

<https://www.fullpicture.app/item/4dd3920dec4d51e296bd5a874509065f>