

Vulnerability to extreme heat and climate change: is ethnicity a factor?

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Key Words:

climate change, ethnicity, vulnerability

Research aim:

The aim of this article is to investigate the underpinning reasons as to why ethnicity may be associated with susceptibility to extreme heat, and how this may be relevant to Australia's population.

Results/Conclusion:

Social and economic disparities, living conditions, language barriers, and occupational exposure are among the many factors contributing to heat-susceptibility among minority ethnic groups in the United States. However, there is a knowledge gap about socio-cultural influences on vulnerability in other countries.

Implications:

More research needs to be undertaken to determine the effects of heat on tourists, migrants, and refugees who are confronted with a different climatic environment. Thorough epidemiological investigations of the association between ethnicity and heat-related health outcomes are required, and this could be assisted with better reporting of nationality data in health statistics. Climate change adaptation strategies in Australia and elsewhere need to be ethnically inclusive and cognisant of an upward trend in the proportion of the population who are migrants and refugees.

Cultural Group(s):

Location of study:

Age group:

Number included in study:

N/A

Type of participants:

Research approach:

Type of data:

Literature review

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes:

Not primary research