

Announcements

The 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) — November 30 to December 12, 2023

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The United Nations climate change conferences serve as annual global forums for multilateral discussions on climate change. The COP28 (November 30 to December 12, 2023) bears significant importance in light of record high global temperatures and the widespread impact of extreme weather events. It presents a crucial opportunity to redirect our efforts and accelerate actions toward addressing the climate crisis and the health crisis (1).

At the COP28, there will be an emphasis on climate and health, with a focus on adapting to climate change and implementing mitigation strategies to protect human health. China must prioritize climate action in response to the growing health risks associated with climate change. To support vulnerable populations, such as individuals with cardiorespiratory diseases, the elderly, and pregnant women, in coping with the consequences of climate change, the health section of China's National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2035 has proposed various measures. Additionally, it is essential to conduct assessments in China to evaluate the health effects stemming from climate policies, alongside emission reductions to achieve climate targets (2).

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Preplanned Studies

Disparities of Heatwave-Related Preterm Birth in Climate Types — China, 2012–2019

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Summary

What is already known about this topic?

An association between prenatal heatwave exposure and the risk of preterm birth was found. However, the disparities in heatwave-related preterm birth across different climate types have not been examined.

What is added by this report?

This nationwide case-crossover study investigated the association between heatwave exposure and preterm birth across different Köppen-Geiger climate types. Among pregnant women residing in the arid-desert-cold climate type, exposure to compound heatwaves was found to be associated with a significantly higher risk of preterm birth {adjusted odds ratios (AORs) ranged from 1.55 [95% confidence interval (CI): 1.21–1.97] to 2.11 (95% CI: 1.35–3.31)}. In contrast, among pregnant women residing in the tropical monsoonal climate type, exposure to daytime-only heatwaves was associated with an increased risk of preterm birth [AORs ranged from 1.25 (95% CI: 1.03–1.51) to 1.37 (95% CI: 1.05–1.77)].

What are the implications for public health practice?

Specific interventions should be implemented in China to mitigate the risk of preterm birth related to heatwaves, particularly for pregnant women residing in arid-desert-cold and tropical monsoonal climates.

Recent systematic reviews have identified a need for studies investigating the association between high temperatures and preterm birth (PTB) across different climate types (1–2). Previous research has suggested that the association between extreme heat and PTB may vary depending on the climate (3–4), and there is also variability in the definition of heatwaves used in different studies (5). Furthermore, recent studies have revealed differences in the dominant subtypes of heat