



## LANCET COUNTDOWN: TRACKING PROGRESS ON HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE



Global Launch of the 2024 report of the Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change  
October 30 @ 3:00 pm UTC+0

### **UCL hosts Global Launch of 2024 Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change**

30 Oct. 2024: GMHC attended the Global Launch of the 2024 report of the Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change. This virtual launch of the 2024 Report was funded by the Wellcome Trust and developed in close collaboration with the World Health Organization, the report represents the work of 122 leading experts from 57 academic institutions and UN agencies globally. Published ahead of the 29th UN Conference of the Parties (COP), it provides the most up-to-date assessment of the links between health and climate change.

Moderated by BBC journalist Dr Smitha Mundasad with keynote speeches from leading voices on climate and health including Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization; Rt Hon Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand, Patron of the Helen Clark Foundation, and member of The Elders; Dr Richard Horton, Editor-in-Chief of The Lancet. Following these speakers is Dr Marina Romanello, Executive Director of the Lancet Countdown, who relayed the key findings and messages of the Lancet Countdown 2024 Report, exploring the latest climate and health data and what this means for a healthy future. A panel will discuss the implications of the findings, with the participation of Dr Maria Neira, Director of the Public Health, Environment and Social Determinants of Health Department of the WHO; Prof Patrick Verkooijen, CEO of the Global Center on Adaptation amongst others.

#### **Extract from report on labour supply**

Indicator 4.1.2: change in labour supply

Increasing heat stress due to climate change is directly harming the health of workers, especially those employed in outdoor sectors, such as agriculture, mining, and construction, but also indoor workers without access to cooling. There is clear evidence that heat stress negatively affects labour supply, productivity, and capacity in most countries across the globe which could further affect health outcomes by reduced GDP, incomes, and public-health expenditure. This indicator tracks the impact of temperature on labour supply (number of working hours) for highly exposed outdoor occupations (ie, agriculture, forestry, mining and quarrying, and construction) by combining NUTS2 labour supply data with ERA-5 Land temperature and precipitation data (appendix 4 p 159).

The association between temperature and labour supply is non-linear, with the number of productive working hours in the high-exposure sectors peaking at an annual mean temperature of

9.9°C.<sup>11</sup> The non-linear relationship suggests that a temperature increase beyond the optimum has already reduced labour supply in warmer areas of Europe, whereas in relatively colder European regions, labour supply benefited from warming. Compared with 1965–94, the average number of working hours per person per year in 1995–2000 was 0.22% lower (equivalent to 4 hours per person per year) than it would have been if temperatures had not increased from this baseline average. During 2016–20, labour supply in high-exposure sectors was 1.05% lower (just under 17 hours per worker per year) due to temperature change compared with 1965–94. The highest percentage declines in working hours are estimated to be in Andalusia and the Balearic Islands in Spain, Cyprus, and the South Aegean region in Greece. Cooler regions, such as Salzburg (Austria), South Tyrol (Italy), and north and east Finland have had gains in labour supply (figure 7A–B). Adaptation measures, including appropriately designed early warning systems and labour protections, are needed to reduce the negative health and labour impacts linked to increased heat stress.<sup>147</sup>

## **Conclusion**

There is high variability in the annual economic losses from extreme weather events, with little change in the long-run average over the past two decades. Heat stress is causing an increasing loss of hours worked in the most recent period (2016–20 vs 1965–94 base) compared with previous periods (1995–2000 vs 1965–94 base), with losses predominantly in southern Europe. Simultaneously, per capita growth in GDP in southern Europe has been lower due to higher temperatures in 2020 compared with the 1981–2010 average. The monetised value associated with lives lost from imbalanced diets amounted to €9.2 trillion in 2020 and was highest in eastern Europe. Despite these impacts, information on carbon markets and trends points to slow progress in introducing carbon pricing and removing fossil fuel subsidies. While around 60% of European countries had some pricing mechanisms, only just over a quarter had net-positive carbon prices and the average net carbon price is decreasing slowly. The growth in investments in clean energy in Europe are encouraging but need to be ramped up considerably to contribute to the global goal of tripling by 2030

Full report can be found here

<https://lancetcountdown.org/2024-report/>