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ASSOCIATION BETWEEN MORTALITY AND HEAT WAVES IN SLOVENIA-LONG TERM ANALYSIS: 2006-2015 VS 1999-2005

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Background: Mortality increases during periods of elevated heat in summers.

Methods: Author estimated relative risks for mortality for the observed diagnoses, sex, age, and area, as well as 95% confidence intervals and excess deaths associated with heat waves occurring in between 2006-2015 and 1999-2005. For comparison between the two periods, we calculated relative risks ratio and 95% confidence intervals.

Results: Statistically significant in 2006-2015 were: age group 75+, all causes of deaths (RR = 1.05, CI 1.01–1.1); age group 75+, all causes of deaths, male (RR = 1.09, CI 1.05–1.14); age group 75+, all causes of deaths, female (RR = 1.09, CI 1.00–1.11); age group 75+, circulatory system diseases (RR = 1.08, CI 1.01–1.16) and age group 75+, all causes of death, urban area (RR = 1.11, CI 1.06–1.17). Statistically significant in 1999-2005 were: age group 75+, circulatory system diseases (RR = 1.11, CI 1.03–1.19) and age group 75+, all causes of death, urban area (RR = 1.14, CI 1.07–1.21). Comparison between 2006-2015 and 1999-2005 revealed no statistically significance between any of the observed subgroups.

Conclusions: Slovenian population has not yet adapted to heat waves. Public health efforts are needed and should address circulatory system causes and old age groups.

BIOGRAPHY

Simona Perčič is a medical doctor at National Institute of Public Health in Slovenia. She completed her specialization of Public Health in 2016. Currently her interests are connected with environmental health, concerning especially heat waves, air pollution, water pollution, and other environmental problems. She is a PhD candidate.

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