Heatwaves and child health in Sub-Saharan Africa

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Abstract

This study investigates the consequences of in-utero and early age exposure to heatwaves on child health in Sub-Saharan Africa. Using several geo-referenced waves of the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) merged with gridded data on the presence of heatwaves and their magnitude since the 1980s, our analysis demonstrates negative effects of heat shocks on children’s birth and early childhood health outcomes. We also investigate heterogeneous effects by socio-economic characteristics and institutional and environmental factors that could affect individuals’ resilience to heat shocks.

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