

## Acknowledgement

ZYC, RFM and JB gratefully acknowledge[s] funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 865564 (European Research Council Consolidator Grant EARLY-ADAPT, <https://www.early-adapt.eu/>). We acknowledge support from the grant CEX2023-0001290-S funded by MCIN/AEI/ 10.13039/501100011033, and support from the Generalitat de Catalunya through the CERCA Program. ZYC acknowledges support from the grant PRE2020-091985 funded by MCIN/AEI/10.13039/501100011033 and by European Social Fund invests in your future

## Background and Aim

Extreme temperatures and air pollution significantly threaten public health, with their combined effects amplifying health risks. However, understanding spatial inequalities and long-term trends in population exposure to these compounded threats remains unclear, hindering effective mitigation or adaptation strategies. This study aims to identify region-specific extreme-risk temperature (ERT) days and their co-occurrence with air pollution, by analyzing mortality data from 35 European countries using epidemiological models.

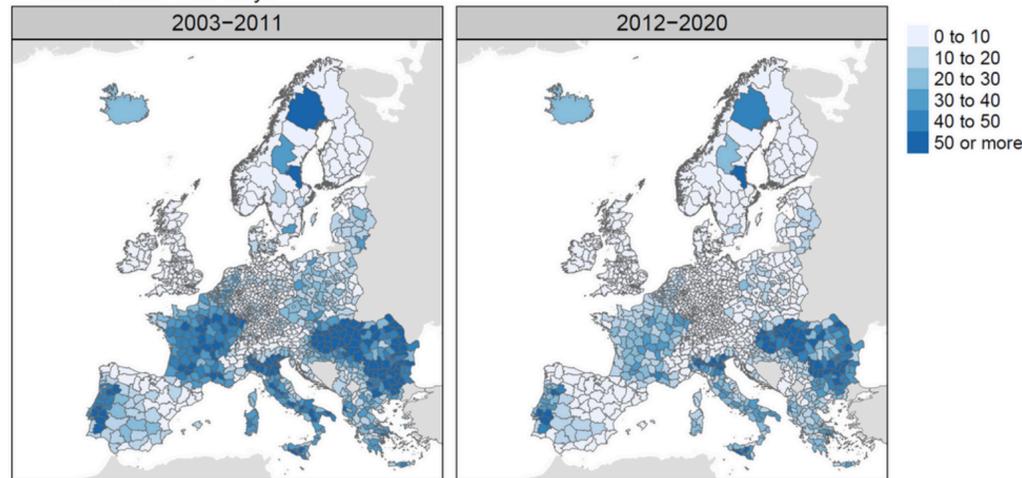
## Results

Conversely, cold-ERT days decreased from an average of 20.69 to 12.94 days per year over the same period. Southeastern Europe experienced higher frequencies of both heat and cold ERT days.

## Materials and Methods

- **Temperature-mortality relationships:** We employed a two-stage epidemiological model on weekly mortality data from Eurostat for over 543 million people across 35 European countries. This analysis derived location-specific temperature-mortality relationships, and identify the ERT days exceeding threshold risk for 1,426 NUTS-3 regions.
- **Identifying Compound ERT days:** We used high-resolution daily air pollution estimates (PM2.5, PM10, NO2, O3) to identify ERT days exceeding WHO guidelines.
- **Spatial and temporal patterns:** We then analyzed the spatial distribution and temporal changes in these compound extreme temperature-air pollution events.

Annual Cold-ERT Days

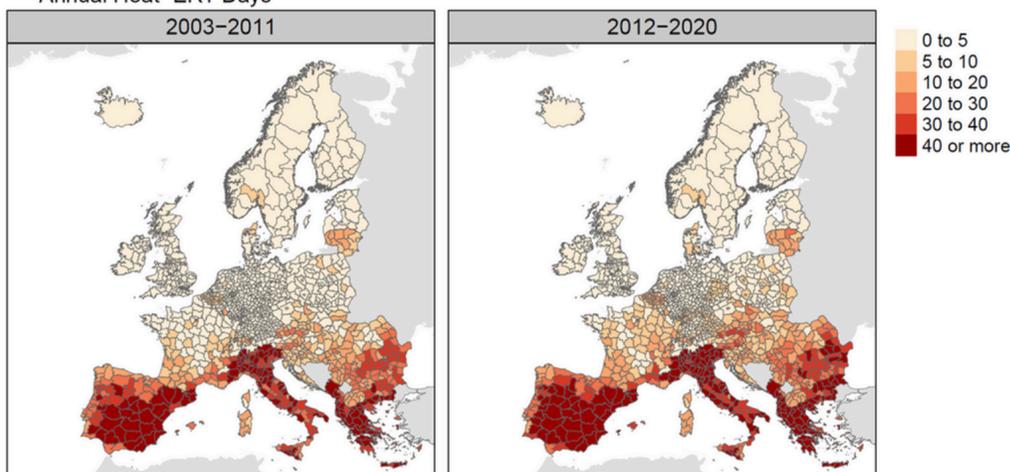


Heat-compound episodes rose from 7.58 to 8.49 days per year over periods, driven by heat-O3 events, while cold-compound episodes declined from 15.61 to 9.53 days per year, with cold-PM2.5 events remaining the predominant threat.

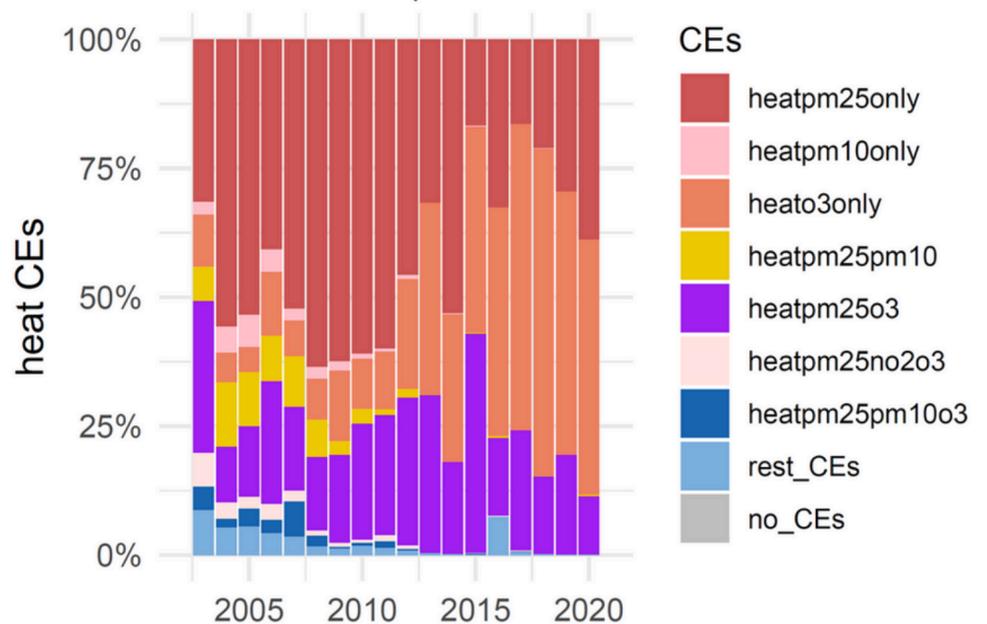
## Results

Across 1426 European regions, heat-ERT days rose from an average of 13.76 days per year during 2003-2011 to 17.09 days per year during 2012-2020.

Annual Heat-ERT Days



Europe



## Conclusion

Our study identifies region-specific risk thresholds to unveil spatial disparities and changes in extreme temperature events, especially when coupled with air pollution. This understanding is crucial for tailoring adaptation strategies, facilitating subsequent health assessments, and implementing effective mitigation measures to safeguard public health.