

Ambient Heat and Early Childhood Development: Socioeconomic Disparities in Exposures and Adaptations Among Families with Young Children

Abstract

Climate change is rapidly increasing children's exposure to extreme heat. In warming, middle-income contexts like urban China, household-level adaptation plays a central role in shaping young children's daily thermal environments. Yet, little is known about who adapts, whether adaptation buffers heat-related developmental risk, and for whom the benefits of adaptation are largest. Using data from the Survey of Early Education and Developmental Strengths (SEEDS), this study addresses these questions by linking and analyzing geocoded temperature data, caregiver-reported adaptive behaviors, household ownership of adaptation devices, and children's developmental scores.