

How does climate change affect eczema?

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In an analysis of all relevant published studies that assessed atopic dermatitis (also known as eczema) associated with trends in climate-related hazards due to greenhouse gas emissions, investigators found that impacts include direct effects on eczema, like particulate matter-induced inflammation from wildfires; and indirect effects, such as stress resulting

from drought-induced food insecurity.

In their research published in *Allergy*, the scientists created maps showing the past, present, and future projected burden of eczema relative to climate-related hazards. They noted that data are lacking, especially from regions most likely to experience more of these events as a result of climate change.

"We've known for some time that atopic dermatitis is especially sensitive to climatic factors including air pollution; however, there was less clarity around the impact of increasingly common climatic hazards linked to [greenhouse gas emission](#) such as warming, heat waves, drought, wildfires, and floods," said corresponding author Katrina Abuabara, MD, MA, MSCE, of the University of California, San Francisco.

"We found that most climatic hazards have negative effects on atopic dermatitis, and that future research should integrate data on the influence of multiple [climatic factors](#) on [atopic dermatitis](#) incidence, prevalence, and long-term disease activity in more diverse settings to address these research gaps."

More information: Impact of Climate Change on Atopic Dermatitis: A Review by the International Eczema Council, *Allergy* (2024). [DOI: 10.1111/all.16007](#). onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/all.16007

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