And after Hurricane Ida pummeled New Orleans this month, more people in the city died of heat exposure than during any previous heat wave. In addition to the 40 people who died in the storm, more than 80 people were brought to hospitals with injuries connected to the heat, according to the research in the journal Environmental Science and Technology.

The report also found that the latest heat wave, which set new records in the city, led to 150 new cases of heat-related illness, the majority of which were among the city's poorest residents. The researchers estimated that in the city of 1.3 million people, the heat wave killed by floodwaters.

Heat waves, according to the research in the journal Environmental Science and Technology, are concentrated among the poorest workers. Hotter days don't mean more cases of heat-related illnesses, said David Freedman, a professor of environmental health at Harvard University. "Heat illness has been widely underreported and under-addressed in the United States and elsewhere," he said.

In addition to the new workplace heat standards, the Health and Human Services Department is also already working to complete another rule that will require employers to provide shade, water and air-conditioning when possible, and that employers provide access to medical attention for workers who are regularly exposed to heat.

Coral Davenport New York Times

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