ARGENTINA

LANCET COUNTDOWN ON HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE
DATA SHEET 2026

Health and Climate Change in Argentina

The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change tracks the connections between health and climate change. In its tenth iteration, the 2026 Global Report shows that the health impacts of climate change have escalated, and frequently accelerated, in the decade since the Paris Agreement came into force. The Lancet Countdown Latin America tracks these links across the region, and its 2026 report provides the latest assessment of progress and challenges on health and climate change across Latin America.

This document draws on findings from both the **2026 Lancet Countdown Global Report (indicators represented in bold)** and the forthcoming 2026 Lancet Countdown Latin America Report to present key insights for Argentina.

Increasing heat exposure is placing vulnerable populations in Argentina at greater risk of heat-related illness and mortality, while reducing labour capacity and potential earnings, with consequences for health and livelihoods.

Drought, floods and storms pose substantial health risks in Argentina, although trends vary across hazards.

Fossil fuel combustion continues to pose risks to health in Argentina, while net fossil-fuel subsidies sustain dependence on polluting energy sources. Expanding renewable electricity use, particularly in road transport, can reduce harmful air pollution and protect health.

Increasing coastal suitability for Vibrio transmission and rising estimates of vibriosis cases highlight growing climate-sensitive infectious-disease risks in Argentina.

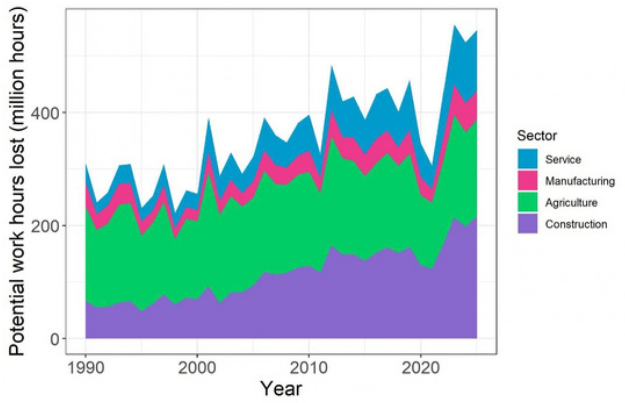
Heat and Health

Exposure to high temperatures increases the risk of heat-related illness and mortality. Vulnerable groups, including older adults, young children, pregnant women, and those with pre-existing conditions, face the greatest risks.

Children under one year of age and adults over 65 in Argentina each experienced approximately 4 additional heatwave days per year between 2016 and 2025 compared with 2006–2015, reaching an average of around 10 heatwave days annually. **(Indicator 1.1.1)**

The average annual monetised value of heat-related mortality among people aged over 65 in Argentina was US$3.5 billion between 2021 and 2025, equivalent to approximately 201,800 average annual incomes. This was a 256% increase compared with 2000–2004. **(Indicator 4.1.2)**

Annual potential work hours lost, disaggregated by economic sector. Argentina, 1990 to 2025.



Heat exposure caused an average annual loss of over 444 million potential labour hours from 2016 to 2025, almost 65% higher than the annual average in the 1990s. Construction accounted for almost 38% of these losses, followed by agriculture at 35%. **(Indicator 1.1.3)**

Heat-related labour capacity reduction in Argentina caused an estimated potential earning loss of US$1.91 billion in 2025, equivalent to 0.28% of national GDP. Agricultural workers were the most affected, accounting for almost 35% of potential earnings lost. **(Indicator 4.1.3)**

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Extreme Weather Events

Floods and storms can cause injuries, deaths and disruption to essential services, while drought threatens water availability, food security and livelihoods. In Argentina, extreme drought has become substantially more widespread.

In 2025, there was a record number of deaths (134) due to floods or storms in Argentina. (Indicator 2.3.2; Latin America Report)

In 2025, Argentina reported a high level of implementation of health emergency management capacity. This is an increase from the medium level reported in 2022.

(Indicator 2.2.4)

An average of 72% of Argentina's land area experienced at least one month of extreme drought per year from 2021 to 2025, up from 12% from 1981 to 1990. In 2025, 72% of Argentina's land area experienced at least one month of extreme drought, an increase of 507% from the 1981–1990 period. **(Indicator 1.2.2)**

Energy Transition and Health

Fossil fuel combustion contributes to harmful air pollution, increasing the risk of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases and premature mortality. Expanding renewable electricity use in households and road transport can reduce exposure to harmful air pollution and protect health while lowering greenhouse gas emissions.

Household air pollution from the use of polluting fuels was associated with an estimated 139 deaths in Argentina in 2023, a 65% decrease from 394 deaths in 2016. **(Indicator 3.2.2)**

The carbon intensity of Argentina's energy system decreased by 5% between 2016 and 2023, reaching 48.7 tCO_2/TJ. CO_2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion also declined by 8% over the same period. (Indicator 3.1.1; Latin America Report)

In 2023, Argentina had still not adopted electricity use in the transport sector. (Indicator 3.1.3; Latin America Report)

In 2024, fossil-fuel subsidies in Argentina exceeded revenues from carbon pricing, resulting in net subsidies of US$1.91 billion, equivalent to 2.7% of current national health expenditure. These subsidies perpetuate dependence on polluting fossil fuels, undermining opportunities to improve air quality and protect health. **(Indicator 4.3.2)**

Vibrio and Coastal Health Risks

Warming coastal waters can create more favourable conditions for *Vibrio* bacteria, increasing the risk of infections associated with exposure to coastal waters and contaminated seafood. Changes in environmental suitability can affect the geographic distribution of climate-sensitive infectious-disease risks.

The length of Argentina's coastline with conditions suitable for *Vibrio* transmission increased by approximately 35% compared with 1982–1991, reaching 709 km in 2025. Estimated vibriosis cases increased by 63% compared with the historical baseline, reaching an annual average of over 8,000 cases between 2016 and 2025. **(Indicator 1.3.2)**

Romanello M, Walawender M, Israelsson J et al. The 2026 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: A decade of escalating health harms and a decisive moment for all. The Lancet 2026; published online October 2026. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(26)01779-4

Hartinger S, Llerena-Cayo C, Strappa V et al. The 2026 Lancet Countdown Latin on Health and Climate Change for Latin America. The Lancet Regional Health – Americas, 2026

The Lancet Countdown was established in partnership with Wellcome.
For further information, visit lancetcountdown.org

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A decade tracking progress on health and climate change