

I appreciate the depth with which you have addressed each point of my comments, especially in expanding on the climate-mortality relationship and explaining the challenges with integrating historical harvest data. I understand your decision to leave this aspect for future studies, as the variability and potential inaccuracies of the data, particularly for the series, as you say, present challenges. Given the period studied here, using annual yield reports – despite their own limitations – might provide a useful input in future analyses. While I understand that this is outside the scope of the current study, exploring harvest data in future research could shed light on the specific impact of weather on mortality, independent of harvest outcomes.

I also see the logic in focusing on correlations rather than regression analysis here, given the risk of drawing misleading conclusions. I find the scatter plots valuable, as they provide a clear visual representation of the weak (but statistically significant) correlation between spring temperature and excess mortality.

Regarding monthly mortality data, I acknowledge that this type of data is largely unavailable for the period in question. While monthly data would likely provide additional insights, your approach with annual data remains meaningful, and clarifying this as a limitation while mentioning the future potential of monthly data is a good addition.

One area that might benefit from further detail is the interpretation of temporal patterns in Figure 6. While improving living conditions may account for some of the observed changes in correlations over time, a more explicit discussion of how broader socioeconomic factors – such as advancements in medical care, shifts in population density, nutritional improvements, and changes in public health infrastructure – could influence these mortality trends might enrich the analysis. However, I do not insist on this, as the revisions already made add further insight.

Additionally, I appreciate the expanded discussion on regional vulnerability patterns, specifically addressing why areas with milder winters (paradoxically) might be more vulnerable to cold-related mortality.

Overall, I am pleased with the planned revisions and look forward to seeing the published version of the article.