

We already know that trees offer financial and health benefits in urban environments (Google treeconomics for more on cash benefits of trees to people). This Report goes further to measure impacts on premature deaths from heat.

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**Doubling tree cover in European cities could cut the number of heat-related deaths during summer months by nearly 40 per cent, according to a modelling study.**

The average canopy tree coverage in European cities is just under 15 per cent. This is defined as the area covered when viewed from above. Cities such as London and Barcelona are aiming to double this coverage to 30 per cent by 2030 and 2037, respectively.

To investigate the effect of achieving this, Tamara Lungman and her colleagues at the Barcelona Institute for Global Health, Spain, combined mortality data from 93 cities between June and August 2015 with daily temperature statistics to estimate the number of heat-related deaths over this three-month period.

The researchers have said they chose to study 2015 data because that is the most recent year for which European-wide statistics are available and its temperatures were typical of the current European climate.

They then modelled the impact on temperatures and mortality if tree cover in the cities increased.

“We already know that trees provide cooling,” says Mark Nieuwenhuijsen, a co-author of the study. The team set out to discover how much cooling trees provide and how many deaths they can prevent, he says.”