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Rachel A. Silver

Date

**Climatic Drivers and Heterogeneity of
Diarrheal Disease, according to Pathogenic Class**

By

Rachel A. Silver

Master of Public Health

Global Epidemiology

Karen Levy, PhD, MPH, MSc

Faculty Thesis Advisor

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B.S., The Ohio State University, 2015

Thesis Committee Chair: Karen Levy, PhD, MPH, MSc

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Abstract

Climatic Drivers and Heterogeneity of Diarrheal Disease, according to Pathogenic Class

By: Rachel A. Silver

Purpose: Global research that examines the relationship between climate and diarrheal diseases is lacking, especially regarding studies that demonstrate a link between climate and specific disease-causing agents. Among the existing data, positive associations between temperature and diarrheal disease incidence have been found, but uncertainty remains due to a lack of quantitative data on the effect that meteorological conditions have on risk by the specific individual pathogens responsible for causing diarrheal illness. In order to understand the effects that a changing climate is having on the incidence of infection, it is necessary to quantify and assess pathogen-specific seasonal patterns over a period of time, and the influence various weather factors have on this relationship.

Methods: This issue was examined through a systematic review of the literature focusing on three pathogens – *E. coli*, *Cryptosporidium*, and norovirus. Studies meeting specific inclusion and exclusion criteria that were conducted for a minimum of one full year were used for characterization of seasonal patterns. Available temperature and precipitation data for each study location was assessed through univariate, log-linear Poisson regression models and a pooled dataset for each pathogen was created for a meta-analysis using a generalized estimating equation modeling technique on each dataset.

Results: A positive correlation between mean monthly temperature and incidence of diarrheagenic *E. coli* and *Cryptosporidium* was found across all studies included in the pooled data analysis. Increases in the incidence of disease was found to be associated with a 1°C increase in mean monthly temperature for *E. coli* (8% increase, 95% CI: 5%-11%; $P < 0.0001$) and mean 1-month lagged temperature *Cryptosporidium* (6% increase, 95% CI: 2%-10%; $P = 0.003$) controlling for precipitation and country development stratum. Norovirus displayed a negative correlation between mean monthly temperature and incidence of disease, with (4% decrease, 95% CI: 0%-8%; $P = 0.05$) per 1 degree Celsius increase, controlling for precipitation, country development, and new strain year.

Conclusions: These results demonstrate a heterogeneous relationship across pathogen class with ambient temperature, and suggests that an increase in mean monthly temperature corresponds to an increased incidence of diarrheagenic *E. coli*, and *Cryptosporidium*, and a decreased incidence of norovirus.

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INTRODUCTION

Background

The global burden of diarrheal disease is estimated at 1.7 billion cases per year in children under five years of age (1). Of those cases, over half a million children will die from diarrhea-related causes, accounting for 8-10% of all deaths in this age group, and causing approximately 1.2-1.4 million deaths across all age groups worldwide (1, 2). Though rates of diarrheal disease are decreasing from an uptake of treatment and implementation of prevention methods, it remains the second leading cause of death among children under five and a primary cause for global years of life lost (YLL), ranking as number five in 2015 (2, 3). Long-term morbidity outcomes can also occur as a result of enteric (diarrheal) diseases, including stunted growth and impaired cognitive development, the former leading to a predisposition to an increased risk for some of the world's leading non-communicable diseases later in life – obesity, type 2 diabetes, metabolic syndrome or cardiovascular disease – as well as premature death in moderate to severe stunting cases (3, 4).

Morbidity and mortality rates from enteric infections are highest in low and middle income countries (2). Several studies cite a perpetual cycle between malnutrition, poverty, and enteric disease in which malnourishment increases incidence, duration, and severity of infection while height and weight impairments occur because of diarrhea, all of which are exacerbated by the effects of living in poverty (4, 5). Such populations are characterized by crowded living conditions and will undoubtedly face widespread fecal contamination, inadequate

water sanitation, and minimal refrigeration options for preservation of food, thus allowing for the growth and transmission of various enteric pathogens that cause diarrheal disease (3).

Water availability and sanitation, as well as the emergence and re-emergence of etiologic pathogens, are largely affected by environmental factors, one of rapidly growing importance being climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has found that each of the last three decades have successively increased in surface temperature and have all been warmer than any prior decade since 1950 (6). The IPCC predicts that the global surface temperature change for the end of the 21st century is likely to exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius relative to the period from 1850 to 1900, and in some scenarios is likely to exceed 2 degree Celsius (7). Rising temperatures are thought to be correlated with an increase in transmission of enteric diseases due to the impact of ambient temperature on pathogen survival and host behavior (8). In addition to, and as a result of rising temperatures, there has been a marked increase in many extreme weather and climate events, such as droughts, floods, and cyclones, that can impact the frequency and likelihood of disease transmission due to surface and ground water contamination in both developing and industrialized countries (6).

The US National Assessment on the Potential Consequences of Climate Variability and Change has declared this a priority for public health research in the United States (9). A study by Curriero et al (2001), supported by the US Environmental Protection Agency, found a significant association between waterborne disease outbreaks and extreme precipitation across the United States (9). Researchers found that over half of those outbreaks resulted in acute

gastrointestinal illness and approximately 60% of them were attributable to surface water (24%) and groundwater (36%) contamination (9). In developing countries, low rainfall and drought contribute to poor hygiene from a reduction in water supply, and increase malnutrition and disease susceptibility from a reduction in food supply or income; high rainfall allows for pervasive fecal contamination due to excess water runoff and water supply contamination. These conditions will surely increase in variability as climate change and global warming escalates, as will the incidence and associated outcomes of diarrheal disease.

Individual pathogenic agents have been recognized by recent studies from Lanata et al (2013) and Kotloff et al (2013) as the principal causes of diarrhea in low and middle income countries. Enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* (ETEC) and enteropathogenic *E. coli* (EPEC), *Shigella* spp., rotavirus, norovirus, and *Cryptosporidium* spp are highlighted as highly infective and transmissible, with a wide variety of environmental transmission routes (1, 10, 11). The Global Enteric Multicenter Study (GEMS), the largest study of childhood diarrheal diseases conducted in developing countries, was carried out in seven sites in Africa and Asia. They found *Cryptosporidium* spp., *E. coli* producing heat stable toxin, typical enteropathogenic *E. coli*, rotavirus, and *Shigella* to be the most pathogenic and urged for new and existing intervention methods and improvements (11). For the purposes of this study, we evaluated diarrheagenic *E. coli*, *Cryptosporidium*, and norovirus as marker pathogens of diarrhea caused by bacterial, protozoan, and viral pathogens.

E. coli

In the human intestinal tract, *E. coli* regularly exists without issue. However, pathogenic strains of the bacteria that cause diarrheagenic *E. coli* (DEC) have the potential to cause enteric infection, and in fact are the most common sources of childhood bacterial diarrheal disease in the world (11). Diarrheagenic *E. coli* clusters into six specific strains, namely, EPEC, Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) (also referred to as Verocytotoxin-producing *E. coli* (VTEC) or enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* (EHEC)), ETEC, enteroinvasive *E. coli* (EIEC), enteroaggregative *E. coli* (EAEC or EAggEC), and diffusely adherent *E. coli* (DEAC) (12). *E. coli* bacteria are primarily transmitted through the fecal-oral route from ingestion of or contact with contaminated food or water. Those living in developing countries are put at higher risk for infection due to an overall lack of sanitation and infrastructure. Freeman et al (2009) cites various studies that take note of seasonal peaks of *E. coli* during the summer months, and it is commonly taught that bacterial gastroenteritis generally occurs over the summer season (13, 14).

Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is the causative parasite of cryptosporidiosis, which can cause diarrhea and is responsible for 60% of the world's parasitic waterborne disease outbreaks (11, 15). It is transmitted from person-to-person or through the fecal-oral route from ingestion of contaminated drinking water or recreational water. The microscopic nature of the parasite, in addition to its resistance to chlorine, makes conventional water treatment ineffective and thus environmental

control particularly difficult (16). The presentation of illness can be particularly lengthy and severe for immunocompromised individuals and thus is a common study population for research (17). Furthermore, intervention methods to control the spread of disease remain limited for this population, as well as for the malnourished, the elderly, and children, all of whom are extremely susceptible to infection.

Studies of cryptosporidiosis have found clear seasonal patterns. Temperate climates experience increases during the spring and fall, peaking with increases in temperature, while tropical regions see a rise in cases throughout the warm, rainy season, indicating precipitation as a strong indicator for increases in disease incidence (17, 18). However this is noted to vary by location even within the same geographic region (18)

Norovirus

Norovirus is one of the most important causative agents of enteric infections around the world, and is the most common source of gastroenteritis outbreaks, foodborne disease infections, and community-acquired diarrheal disease for all age groups in the United States (19). The virus is of the Caliciviridae family, and can be classified into five genogroups, GI, GII, GIII, GIV, and GV, within approximately 40 genotypes (20). Only the GI, GII, and GIII genogroups have been found to infect humans and a certain level of severity and infectivity has been associated with each (21). Noroviruses are estimated to account for over 90% of non-bacterial gastroenteritis epidemics (19). Their highly

infectious nature is a result of environmental resistance and a low dose response for infection (22).

In temperate climates, norovirus infection is most common in the winter months (October-April), though several studies have cited summer peaks as well (23-25). It is postulated that seasonal variations allow for a greater incidence of viral infections in the northern and southern hemisphere, but remain low to moderate in equatorial regions (20, 26). However, the increase in weather variations due to climate change may alter the seasonality patterns of norovirus and instead allow for them to thrive more commonly throughout the year, resulting in a higher incidence of disease and potentially harboring an environment for the emergence of new strains (20).

Research has demonstrated that seasonal patterns of infectious diseases can be substantially affected by climate change (27). This can be seen through a longer period of heightened disease transmission from a higher pathogen survival and reproduction rate, as well as in changing epidemic peaks associated with a pathogen's seasons (17, 27). Jagai et al (2009) calls for a more critical understanding of the environmental factors that affect seasonality of disease patterns as a strategy to understand, predict, and prepare for the lasting effects of climate change. Studies that explore this topic are limited, especially on a large geographic scale, and thus further epidemiological research is required to establish a more definitive causal link between the change in seasonal patterns and occurrence of enteric disease.

METHODS

Hypothesis

The directionality of the relationship between each pathogen (*E. coli*, *Cryptosporidium*, and norovirus) and the associated monthly mean temperature and rainfall estimates varies by pathogenic class – bacteria and protozoa having a positive relationship, and viruses a negative one.

Literature Search

Separate systematic reviews of the literature were carried out for each of the three pathogens to identify studies reporting incidence of diarrheal disease due to norovirus, diarrheagenic *E. coli*, and *Cryptosporidium*. Studies were identified through a U.S. National Library of Medicine PubMed search using Endnote X7 software (28). Search terms included the pathogen name [*Escherichia coli*] and (“diarrhea” or “diarrheagenic”) or [“norovirus”] or [“cryptosporidiosis” or “*Cryptosporidium*”], and each of the following terms – [“ambient temperature”], [“climate”], [“rain”], [“relative humidity”], [“season”], and [“weather”]. *E. coli* was also searched in combination with the terms [“incidence”], [“surveillance”], and [“rainfall”].

The literature search in its entirety was conducted in two parts. Two independent researchers conducted the first literature search on May 16, 2013. Supplemental searches were completed in which reference lists from all included studies, as well as review articles, were scanned for identification of relevant papers. In addition, if a study reported monthly rates of cases without the total

number of cases per month, the author of the paper was contacted. For cryptosporidiosis specifically, authors were contacted for original data if monthly data was noted as collected but was not presented in the article. Additional data was provided by authors for two studies on *E. coli* (29, 30), one study on norovirus (31), and 11 studies on *Cryptosporidium*(32-42) . There were 17 included studies on *Cryptosporidium* that came from data extracted from a previous search, conducted by Jagai et al (17). Each of the 61 articles included in Jagai et al were reviewed in full, resulting in 17 eligible studies. The second literature search was conducted on November 14, 2016 by two different independent researchers. This search included studies from 2013 on. Supplemental searches were not conducted and authors were not contacted for the second literature search.

As detailed in the PRISMA diagram (Figure 1), records went through a four-step process. The first step was identification of relevant studies through the Endnote PubMed database with the pre-determined search terms, and through any supplemental searches of reference lists or review articles. Studies found through the literature search were passed through to the second step, in which studies were screened for duplicates and were excluded after a review of titles and abstracts using specific inclusion and exclusion criteria. The remaining studies were evaluated in step three, in which the full text was assessed for inclusion using similar criteria as in step two. The last part of the process separated the final list of included studies that would be used for the quantitative synthesis into three categories – seasonality, temperature, and rainfall.

When reviewing abstracts and titles for eligibility, studies had to have followed two general inclusion criteria and six general exclusion criteria. The inclusion criteria stated that the study (i) must have been conducted continuously for at least one year, and (ii) reported monthly data on the number of patients with diarrhea caused by the specific pathogen. The exclusion criteria did not allow for studies that (i) reported outbreak data, (ii) used travelers as study subjects, (iii) used only immunocompromised populations as study subjects, (iv) were laboratory based or used non-human subjects, (v) presented monthly percentages without the total number of cases for each month, or (vi) were cohort by design. In addition to the general inclusion and exclusion criteria detailed above, pathogen specific search criteria were carried out when initially reviewing titles and abstracts: *E. coli* and cryptosporidiosis studies that reported on less than 25 confirmed cases of diarrhea were excluded, *E. coli* studies that included [“traveler(s)”] and/or [“outbreak”] in the title were excluded, only norovirus studies that were conducted after 1997 – when modern PCR based diagnostics for norovirus began widespread use – were included, and cryptosporidiosis case control studies that reported the disease in asymptomatic controls were included. Furthermore, studies that detailed various pathotypes, genotypes, and species of *E. coli*, norovirus, and *Cryptosporidium*, respectively, were included and summed for a total case count.

Once the initial inclusion and exclusion criteria were applied, the remaining studies were reviewed in full and excluded for the other following reasons: (i) there was no data presented, (ii) there was no monthly data presented, (iii) the study used outbreak data, (iv) the data was redundant (i.e.,

multiple publications using the same data), (v) the study population was too specific to assess overall infection for that location, (vi) the study was unrelated to the specific pathogen, (vii) the required data could not be translated if presented in another language, (viii) necessary graphs were unclear, and (ix) only prevalence data was reported.

Outcome Data: Extraction and Conversion

Only monthly incidence (total number of new cases each month) data was utilized to avoid confounding results by changes in the monthly proportion of other pathogens to the total (14). This data was either directly taken from a study's published tables or was extracted from their graphs using Plot Digitizer software (43). Prior to 2014, study authors were contacted to request original data when published data was not presented at a high enough resolution for digital extraction, but was otherwise excluded if the graph was unclear or if the reported total case count was more than 10% different than the Plot Digitizer results.

Several studies reported outcome data in the form of weekly counts or monthly rates. To ensure comparability across studies, weekly cases were summed and converted to monthly data, monthly rates that were reported as a percentage of monthly total cases for that pathogen (and included a monthly denominator) were converted to monthly case counts, and monthly rates reported per a population number (e.g., per 100 or 1000 patients) were converted to monthly incidence counts using the total number of cases reported for the study. If a study reported disease burden (as monthly case counts) separately for

more than one location, then each location was treated as its own unique dataset for analysis purposes.

Independent Variables

Monthly temperature and precipitation were the primary variables of interest for an article's study period and location. Average monthly temperature data was taken from the Hadley Centre CRUTEM4 (version CRUTEM.4.5.0.0) dataset, or if unavailable, from the Global Historical Climatology Network-Monthly (GHCN-M) version 3 (v3.3.0.20170404) (44, 45). The Hadley Centre uses a more robust algorithm for choosing which weather stations to include in their dataset and thus was the preferred source for temperature data, when available. Monthly precipitation data was taken from GHCN-M version 2 (46). Adjusted precipitation data was used when available, otherwise the unadjusted precipitation data was used as reported.

All weather data came with associated station codes for cities, identifiable by name as well as latitude and longitude. If weather data was unavailable for the specific city that the study was conducted in, weather stations within 100 kilometers were used. If weather data was not available from a weather station within 100 kilometers, no weather data was collected for that study and it was excluded from the temperature and/or precipitation analysis. Only studies confined to one geographic location, defined by a single weather station, were included in the weather data analysis; studies that reported case data for large regions or from multiple cities were excluded from the temperature and precipitation analysis but were included in the seasonality analysis. In addition,

studies that reported aggregate monthly case count data in which cases were averaged across months for multiple years were also excluded for the weather data analysis but included in the seasonality analysis.

Each study location included in the quantitative synthesis was described in terms of other covariates. These included latitude, elevation, average monthly temperature, and average monthly precipitation or number of days of annual precipitation (using data from Weatherbase.com), in addition to country specific mortality strata, crude birth rate and population density as recorded by the World Health Organization and the United Nations (47-50). The norovirus dataset also included a variable indicative of a new strain year, i.e., dominated by a new pandemic strain of norovirus. Case data reported from July 2002-June 2003 or July 2006-June 2007 was classified as a pandemic month, while all other months were considered endemic (51).

Seasonality Analysis

Overall seasonality of diarrheagenic *E. coli*, norovirus, and *Cryptosporidium* were compared by plotting the combined pathogen-specific incidence by month (averaged over all study years) and stratified by geographic location. The geographic location was clustered by the northern hemisphere ($>23^{\circ}\text{N}$), the southern hemisphere ($>23^{\circ}\text{S}$), and the area bounded by the Tropic of Cancer on the north and the Tropic of Capricorn on the South, also known as the “tropics” (23°N - 23°S). Across a study period, the proportion of cases that fell within each calendar month of the study was determined and averaged across all studies for each pathogen. This was done to normalize the case count for all

studies, since the denominator for the monthly proportion of cases differed per study. To visualize a non-pathogen specific year, the same process was carried out irrespective of which pathogen a study belonged to.

The peak month, defined as the highest amount of cases per study, and the season strength, measured by the “peak-to-mean” ratio, was also evaluated. The ratio of the peak to mean values was calculated as the average number of cases in the month with the most cases, divided by the average number of cases per month over the course of the entire study. This was completed for each pathogen, stratified by geographic location.

Statistical Modeling

The relationship between climatic variables and disease incidence for diarrheagenic *E. coli*, *Cryptosporidium*, and norovirus for each study location was examined using generalized log-linear Poisson regression models in the R Statistical Programming Language (52). For each study within a pathogen specific dataset, monthly case counts were modeled as a function of monthly average temperature (°C), and as a function of monthly average precipitation (cm). A Newey-West regression approach was used to account for serial correlation of monthly data points within studies, a common problem with time-series comparisons (53). A series of forest plots were created using the `metan` function in Stata (version 10.1) for each pathogen to visualize the variability among studies (54).

All studies for each pathogen specific dataset were pooled together to calculate an overall association between monthly cases and mean monthly

temperature and precipitation using a generalized estimating equation (GEE) model with a Poisson distribution and an autoregressive correlation structure, clustered by study (55). The R `geeglm` function in the `geepack` library was used to account for temporal gaps of one or two consecutive months in the weather predictor data through the `waves` argument (14). The `waves` argument “names a positive integer-valued variable that is used to identify the order and spacing of observations within groups in a GEE model. This argument is crucial when there are missing values and gaps in the data” (56).

All models included WHO mortality stratum as a binary variable (developed country versus developing country (high-mortality developing or low-mortality developing)) to control for the country’s level of development, as well as a 1-month lag variable for both temperature and precipitation data. This lag variable was implemented to assess the effects of temperature or precipitation one month prior to incidence cases of disease. Temperature and precipitation levels were evaluated using a combined multivariate model as a result of several studies missing either temperature or precipitation data. The full model for each pathogen dataset thus included the following covariates: temperature and/or precipitation data, temperature and/or precipitation 1-month lag data, and the WHO mortality stratum binary variable.

Quasi-Akaike information criterion (QAIC) values were used for selecting a final GEE model using the Multi-Model Inference (MuMIn) R package (57). These information criterion scores balance explanatory power of the model with model complexity, and can account for different levels of overdispersion that would potentially occur from a high degree of variation in the outcome data,

specifically if a considerable amount of studies were missing temperature or precipitation data (58). The best model was selected based on the lowest QIC value. Model selection was evaluated using one full model, as well as four reduced models that allowed for different combinations of the four weather covariates while still including the mortality stratum variable in all models. Models with both temperature and temperature lag, or precipitation lag, were excluded from consideration.

RESULTS

Systematic Review

A total of 134 studies (*E. coli*=38, *Cryptosporidium*=47, norovirus=49) with 140 datasets (*E. coli*=39, *Cryptosporidium*=48, norovirus=53) were included in the final analyses (Table 1a-c and Figure 1). Included datasets had study locations in temperate (n=97) and tropical latitudes (n=43) with study periods ranging between 1973 and 2015. Each country was classified as low-mortality developing (LMD) (n=31), high-mortality developing (HMD) (n=42), or developed (n=64) per the WHO annual health report. Studies located in developing countries included 72% of *E. coli* studies, 51% of *Cryptosporidium* studies, and 42% of norovirus studies. Researchers targeted a range of ages within their study population, mostly enrolling either young children or indiscriminately enrolling patients of any age. Broadly classified, study settings included community or out-patient clinics, hospitals or emergency rooms, or data was used from laboratory reports or surveillance systems.

E. coli and norovirus were the only pathogens in which additional disease related information was collected for this study, specifically on pathotypes and new strain year, respectively. Of included *E. coli* studies, most were represented by ETEC, EPEC, and EAEC/EAggEC pathotypes. Among the included norovirus studies, 28 took place over a study period that was classified as a new strain year, based on specific pandemic months.

Seasonality

The distribution of all cases for each pathogen across a 12-month period was evaluated for all study years combined (Figure 2). The northern and southern hemisphere typically have anticipated seasonal patterns, while the tropics tend to have less variation, but do so according to the rainy and warm seasons throughout the year.

E. coli studies were found to have an average ratio of peak to mean values of 3.23 for the northern hemisphere, 3.94 for the southern hemisphere, and 2.73 for the tropics (Table 3). The temperate latitude seasonality plots demonstrate the typical pattern of *E. coli* incidence peaking in the summer months (Figure 2). In the northern hemisphere, 72% of studies peaked between June and August, while 67% of studies peaked between December and February in the southern hemisphere (Table 3).

Norovirus exhibited a typical trend of peaking in the winter and declining in the summer for the northern hemisphere, with a strong peak to mean ratio of 4.45 (Figure 2, Table 3). In the northern hemisphere, only 3% of studies saw June through August as the peak month for cases, while nearly half found cases to peak in December through February (Table 3). The southern hemisphere showed less of a typical seasonal pattern and had a lower peak to mean ratio of 3.46 (Table 3). This, however, could be attributed to the lack of studies in this geographic location, as only 6% of norovirus studies were conducted in the southern hemisphere (Table 2).

Cryptosporidium was found to have a strong season strength in the northern hemisphere with a peak to mean ratio of 6.48, followed by the tropics

with an average peak to mean level of 4.42 and the southern hemisphere at 3.42 (Table 3). Among studies conducted in the northern and southern hemispheres, 53% and 84%, respectively, saw cases peak in the spring (Mar-May for northern; September-November for southern) or fall (September-November for northern; Mar-May for southern) (Table 3). The peak month of cases was relatively evenly distributed across studies in the tropics.

Association with Climate Variables

The majority of studies showed a positive association between the incidence of disease and mean monthly temperature and precipitation (Figures 3-5). Temperature data was available for 21 studies of diarrheagenic *E. coli*; 15 of these studies (71%) showed a statistically significant, positive association with disease incidence and only three (14%) showed a negative association, all with a non-significant relationship. Approximately half of the 18 *E. coli* studies with available precipitation data showed a statistically significant, positive association with disease incidence, while only two (11%) showed a statistically significant, negative association.

Of 23 *Cryptosporidium* studies with available temperature data, 20 studies (87%) showed a positive association between the incidence of infection and temperature – 15 of them (75%) proving to be statistically significant – and 16 of 22 studies (73%) with precipitation data showed a positive association between incidence and rainfall, nine (41%) being statistically significant. A negative correlation existed between *Cryptosporidium* disease incidence and

three temperature studies (13%) and six precipitation studies (27%), with only one of each being statically significant.

Results of the analysis proved to be more varied for norovirus. A negative relationship with disease incidence was found to be more common among both temperature and precipitation studies. Of the 26 studies with available temperature data, 19 of them (73%) had a negative correlation with incidence of infection and all but one were found to be statistically significant. Regarding the association with precipitation, 16 of the 22 studies (73%) with rainfall data resulted in a negative correlation with disease incidence, seven (32%) being significant, and only one of six positively correlated studies was found significant. Although some precipitation results proved to be significant, most exhibited a weak association, evident by the small effect sizes.

Results from the GEE models are shown in Tables 4-5. The best fit model for all pathogens was chosen by the lowest quasi-information criterion (QIC) value outputted with a model that included the WHO mortality strata variable, and did not include both a weather variable (temperature or precipitation) and its associated 1-month lag time (Tables 4a-b). The final, best-fit model for *E. coli* included temperature and precipitation, with estimates of the incidence rate ratios (IRR) of 1.08 (95% CI: 1.05-1.11) and 1.00 (95% CI: 0.99-1.01), respectively. However the only model coefficient that was found to be significant at the $P < 0.5$ level was temperature ($P < 0.0001$). The best-fit model for *Cryptosporidium* included the 1-month lag temperature variable and precipitation, with estimates of the incidence rate ratios of 1.06 (95% CI: 1.02-1.10) and 1.01 (95% CI: 0.99-1.02), respectively. Results revealed that only the lag

temperature variable was found to be significant ($P < 0.0033$). Similar to the final model of *E. coli*, the norovirus best-fit model included temperature and precipitation. The estimate of the IRR for temperature was 0.96 (95%CI: 0.92-1.00) and 0.99 (0.99-1.00) for precipitation. Norovirus slightly differed from the other two pathogen models by also requiring inclusion of the new strain year variable, in addition to the required WHO mortality strata variable. The incidence rate ratios that were found for each pathogen model represent the relative increase in disease for a 1° C increase in mean temperature or a 1 cm increase in mean rainfall across all studies included in the model.

DISCUSSION

The results presented in this analysis demonstrate a heterogeneous relationship of response to climatic variables amongst the three different pathogens assessed. A positive correlation with *E. coli* and *Cryptosporidium* and their associated weather variables was found evident, while a negative correlation was found between norovirus and its associated weather variables (Table 5). These results were expected based on the general understanding of the seasonal peaks and valleys associated with each pathogen – *E. coli* and *Cryptosporidium* cases typically peak during the summer months, and norovirus cases peak in the winter months, for temperate lateral regions. The quantification of these patterns is beneficial in creating a threshold for past and current seasonal patterns so changes can be assessed in future studies.

In the meta-analysis of each pathogen's pooled dataset across all studies, the best-fit model suggests that, on average, a 1°C increase in mean temperature is associated with an 8% (95% CI: 5%-11%) increase in the incidence of diarrheagenic *E. coli*, controlling for precipitation and country development status. For a 1°C increase in mean 1-month lagged temperature, a 6% (95% CI: 2%-10%) increase in the incidence of *Cryptosporidium* was found, controlling for precipitation and country development status. A 4% (95% CI: 0%-8%) decrease in the incidence of norovirus cases was found to be associated with a 1°C increase in average monthly temperature, controlling for precipitation, country development status, and new strain year. All three temperature-disease relationships were found to be statistically significant at the $P < 0.05$ level when the described variables were controlled for. These findings suggest that if other

bacterial diseases are similar to *E. coli* and peak in warmer conditions, then bacteria could potentially represent a larger attributable fraction of diarrheal disease under future warmer climatic conditions.

Other epidemiological studies by comparison have found similar associations between all-cause diarrhea incidence and changes in average temperature. Analyses conducted in Japan (Onozuka et al, 2010), Bangladesh (Hashizume et al, 2007), Peru (Checkley et al, 2000), and Fiji (Singh et al, 2001) found an increase in diarrhea incidence of 3-11% for a 1°C increase in ambient temperature (59-63). Carlton et al further confirmed these regional results in a meta-analysis demonstrating a 7% increase in all-cause diarrhea for a 1°C increase in temperature, with significant heterogeneity across pathogenic class (14, 64). The research from this analysis and from other published studies demonstrate a linear relationship between temperature and diarrhea rates, however other research has shown a non-linear relationship that is dependent upon the locally prevalent pathogens and climatic conditions (63). Checkley et al found that a 5°C increase in temperature in Peru was associated with an increase of diarrhea-related hospital admissions by 77% during the winter months but only by 21% during the summer (61).

This analysis did not reveal a strong relationship between incidence of diarrheal disease and monthly mean precipitation for any pathogen. This could be due to more potential inherent error in the rainfall data than temperature data since rainfall tends to vary more across smaller distances. In addition, average monthly precipitation data may not capture the appropriate effects of rainfall because heavy rainfall during or following wet seasons or extreme precipitation

events are more likely to drive the incidence of diarrhea than average rainfall, based on previous research (14, 60, 63, 65-67). Furthermore, any non-linear effects would not have been captured by the models used in this analysis. Mellor et al recommends using a mechanistic, systems-based approach to address such complexities of modeling diarrheal disease and climate change (63).

A consequence of using the QIC model selection method in this analysis is that explanatory variables that are non-significant at the $P < 0.05$ level are still included in the model, as was seen with all model coefficients, except temperature and lagged temperature. The confounding variables overall were restricted due to the ecological structure of the study, and thus data for other potentially significant variables was limited (14). A wide variety of factors can influence the rates of diarrheal disease besides country development status, including other environmental variables such as humidity, specific components related to pathogen growth and transmission, and factors influencing host susceptibility. Quantifying these variables would add complexity to the model and furthermore, not enough data describing such factors for incorporation exists. Additionally, this study did not account for co-infections and the dataset as a whole was limited since the majority of norovirus studies occurred in developed countries, while *E. coli* and *Cryptosporidium* studies mainly occurred in the developing world.

Future Directions

Further modeling should be carried out to predict the relative proportion of diarrheal disease attributable to each of these three pathogens under future

warming scenarios, according to the predictions of the models from this analysis. The data collected for this analysis would allow for modeling the change in pathogen cases for the expected temperature increase for any given region.

These data could also be used to help implement better-timed public health interventions for diarrheal disease. The demonstrated seasonal patterns can be applied to local areas to improve timing of targeted hygiene education campaigns, water treatment efforts, and vaccine distribution. This is important for both the developed and developing world, as studies have shown that the developed world is not impervious to diarrheal disease, particularly outbreaks.

Diarrheal diseases are often cited as one of the major types of negative health outcomes of climate change, but in reality, a large amount of uncertainty exists in the estimates associated with the relationship between climatic drivers and diarrheal disease. Kolstad et al carried out an analysis based on various emission scenarios estimating an increase in the incidence of diarrheal disease by up to 22%-29% by the year 2099, and concluded that a lack of exposure-disease relationship data, followed by non-linearities and potential threshold issues, contribute the greatest amount of uncertainty in predicting future conditions (68). Climate change threatens to undermine the substantial progress we have made in combatting diarrheal disease. Understanding the seasonality of diarrheal disease by gathering empirical data offers insight into the impact of weather on disease patterns, allowing us to anticipate the inevitable effects of climate change and properly prepare for the impact on infectious diseases around the world.

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TABLES

Table 1a. Characteristics of Studies Included in the Systematic Review of Climatic Drivers of diarrheagenic *Escherichia coli* incidence [Reference List: (29, 30, 69-103)].

Reference	<i>E. coli</i> Pathotype(s)	Location	Latitude	Elevation, m	Yearly Rainfall, mm, Mean	Yearly Temperature, degrees Celsius, Mean	Study Period	Study Duration, mo.	<i>E. coli</i> Cases, no.	Subject Age/Descriptor	Study Setting	Urban/Rural Setting	WHO Mortality Stratum	Temperature *	Rainfall *	Peak Season ^b
Alien et al	ETEC	Karachi, Pakistan	24°N	0	310	26	Jan 1977- Dec 2001	60	664	All	Hospital based (tertiary care facility)	Urban	HMD			summer
Raqul et al	ETEC	Muzab, Bangladesh	23°N	10	2320	25	May 1983- Apr 1984	12	399	All	Kitchen treatment center	Rural	HMD			hot, dry
Black et al	ETEC	Muzab, Bangladesh	23°N	10	2330	25	Apr 1978- Mar 1979	12	280	<5 y	Community	Rural	HMD			hot
Black et al	ETEC	Muzab, Bangladesh	23°N	10	2320	25	Feb 1977- Jan 1979	24	4184	All	Child based	Rural	HMD			hot, dry
Revens et al	VTTC	Brussels, Belgium	51°N	57	820	10	Apr 2008- Oct 2010	35	206	All	Hospital based and Lab reports	NA	Developed	+*	+	summer
Casas Bernad et al	ETEC, ETEC	Antananarivo, Madagascar	18°S	1275	1360	18	Nov 1988- Oct 1989	12	133	<14 y	Hospital based	Urban	HMD	+*	+*	warm and rainy
Cho et al	EPEC, EHEC, ETEC, EPEC, EPEC	South Korea	37°N	86	135 d	12	Jan 2005- Dec 2003	12	225	All	Child based	Urban and Rural	LMD			hot and wet summer months
Choudhury et al	ETEC	Dhaka, Bangladesh	23°N	9	2970	26	Mar 2008- Feb 2010	24	2248	All	Hospital based	Urban	HMD			NA
Cise et al	ETEC	Daba, Senegal	14°N	24	41 d	24	Feb 1985- May 1988	75	90	<15 y	Hospital based	Urban	HMD			cool, dry
Chen et al	EPEC	Cincinnati (OH), United States	39°N	905	907	13.6	Mar 1989- Feb 2000	12	80	Children	Hospital based	Urban	Developed			NA
Estrada-Garcia et al	ETEC, ETEC	Mexico City, Mexico	19°N	2239	682	15	Jan 1998- Dec 1998	12	26	<3 y	Community	Peri-urban	LMD	+	+	wet
Guti et al	ETEC	Cochabamba, Brazil	23°S	660	150 d	22	Oct 1983- Sep 1986	18	27	<3 y	Community	Urban	LMD	+*	+*	NA
Gonzalez et al	ETEC, EPEC, EPEC	Cochabamba and La Paz, Bolivia	17°S	4022	580	7	Jan 1997- Dec 2000	48	299	<60 mo	Hospital based	NA	HMD			cold, dry season
Goussard et al	ETEC	Feuchtwang, Brazil	4°S	24	1460	27	May 1978- Oct 1980	30	33	<5 y	Community	Peri-urban and Rural	LMD	+*	+	warm and rainy
Gurwith and Wetters	ETEC	Winnipeg, Canada	20°N	258	510	9	Dec 1973- Nov 1975	25	120	<16 y	Hospital based	Urban	Developed			summer, fall
Houckman et al	ETEC	Cape Town, South Africa	34°S	42	112 d	17	Apr 1980- Mar 1982	12	470	<1 y	Hospital based	Urban	HMD	+*	—*	warm, dry
Huang et al	ETEC, ETEC, ETEC, EPEC	Shanghai, China	31°N	7	1140	16	Jan 2002- Oct 2003	17	785	All	Hospital based	NA	LMD	+*	+*	July-Sept
Huber et al	EHEC	Bavaria, Germany	48°N	228	920	8	April 1996- May 1997	12	300	All	Case reports	NA	Developed			NA
Khan et al	ETEC	Dhaka, Bangladesh	23°N	9	2970	26	Jan 1983- Dec 1984	24	472	All	Hospital based	Urban	HMD			spring, autumn
Kim et al	ETEC	Seoul, South Korea	37°N	86	135 d	12	Feb 1984- Mar 1986	16	58	<15 y	Hospital based and Outpatient	Urban	LMD			cool, dry
Kim et al	EHEC, ETEC, EPEC, EPEC, EPEC	South Korea	37°N	70	1020	12	Jan 2014- Dec 2014	12	777	all	Lab reports	Urban and Rural	LMD			May; peak at June/July

Author	Strain	Location	Latitude	Longitude	Year	Age	Sample Size	Study Design	Setting	Population	Development	Seasonality
Klein et al	STEC	Seattle (WA), United States	47°N	86°W	Nov 1998- Oct 2001	11	36	39	Hospital based and Private practice	Urban	Developed	summer, fall
Mutanda et al	EPEC	Nairobi, Kenya	1°S	75°E	May 1975- Apr 1976	19	12	28	Hospital based	Urban	HMD	—
Onampa et al	EPEC, EPEC, STEC, EAEC	Owerri, Nigeria	9°N	11°E	April 2008- March 2009	23	12	61	Hospital based	Urban	HMD	NA
Ottroff et al	O157:H7	Washington, United States	47°N	86°W	Jan 1987- Dec 1987	11	12	93	Case reports	Urban and Rural	Developed	June-Sept
Pai et al	VTEC	Calgary, Canada	51°N	114°W	Jul 1984- Jun 1986	41	24	266	Hospital based	Urban	Developed	summer
Qadir et al (2000)	EPEC	Dhaka, Bangladesh	23°N	90°E	Apr 2002- Oct 2004	26	30	242	Community	Urban	HMD	spring
Qadir et al (2007)	EPEC	Dhaka, Bangladesh	23°N	90°E	Sep 1996- Aug 1998	26	24	662	Hospital based	Urban	HMD	summer
Qi et al	EPEC, EAEC, EPEC, EHEC, STEC	Beijing, China	40°N	116°E	Apr 2010- Dec 2014	12	57	118	Outpatient	NA	LMD	summer (Jan-Aug)
Rao et al	EPEC	Abu Homos, Egypt	31°N	30°E	Mar 1995- Feb 1998	20	36	933	Community	Rural	LMD	NA
Robins-Romero et al	EPEC	Johannesburg, South Africa	26°S	28°E	Oct 1974- Sep 1975	16	12	35	Hospital based	Urban	HMD	hot
Sunil et al	EPEC, EPEC, EAEGEC	Bhubaneswar, India	20°N	85°E	Jan 2004- Dec 2006	27	36	669	Hospital based	Urban	HMD	NA
Sunonis et al	EPEC	Heraklion, Greece	35°N	25°E	Jan 1992- Apr 1994	18.7	28	139	Hospital based	30% Urban, 60% Rural	Developed	NA
Sunsham et al	EPEC	Whitewater (AZ), United States	33°N	108°W	Jan 1988- Dec 1984	12.7	36	28	Community	Rural	Developed	—
Sunsham et al	EAEGEC, EPEC, EHEC, BHEC	Melbourne, Australia	37°S	145°E	Sep 1997- Feb 1999	14	18	53	Community	Urban	Developed	—
Stoll et al	EPEC	Dhaka, Bangladesh	23°N	90°E	Dec 1979- Nov 1980	26	12	624	Hospital based	Urban	HMD	hot, dry
Thomas et al	VTEC	United Kingdom	54°N	0°E	Jan 1989- Dec 1991	10.3	36	1275	Lab reports	NA	Developed	summer months
Wierzbicki et al	EPEC	Abu Homos, Egypt	31°N	30°E	May 2000- May 2002	20	25	148	Clinic based	Rural	LMD	NA
Wierzbicki et al	EPEC	Bertha, Egypt	31°N	30°E	May 2000- May 2002	21	25	111	Clinic based	Peri-urban	LMD	—

Abbreviations: EHEC, enterohemorrhagic E. coli; EPEC, enteropathogenic E. coli; ETEC, enterotoxigenic E. coli; EAEC/EAEGEC, enteraggative E. coli; STEC, shiga-like toxin producing E. coli; VTEC, verotoxin-producing E. coli.

HMD, high-mortality developing country; LMD, low-mortality developing country; NA, not available.

* Data denote the sign of the coefficient from generalized linear models performed to determine the relationship between monthly incidence of Norovirus and monthly temperature or monthly rainfall in studies for which these data were available.

† Data denote the peak season of cases and reflect the authors' terminology.

‡ Statistically significant ($P < 0.05$).

§ Tropical latitude.

Table 1b. Characteristics of Studies Included in the Systematic Review of Climatic Drivers of *Cryptosporidium* incidence [Reference List: (32-42, 104-134)].

Reference	Location	Latitude	Elevation, m	Yearly Rainfall, mm, Mean	Yearly Temperature, degrees Celsius, Mean	Study Period	Study Duration, mos.	Crypto Cases, no.	Subject Age/Descriptor	Study Setting	Urban/Rural Setting	WHO Mortality Stratum	Temperature ^b	Rainfall ^b	Peak Season ^a
Abel-Sobolev et al	Santiago de Compostela (Galicia), Spain	43°N	370	1886	12.6	Jan 2000-Dec 2008	108	812	All	Primary care and Hospital based	Urban and Rural	Developed	+	+	summer and autumn
Ajampur et al	Delhi, India	28°N	205	790	25.2	Dec 2005-Dec 2008	37	34	<5 y	Hospital based	NA	HMD	+	+	NA
Ajampur et al	Tirchi, India	11°N	70	886.4	26.9	Dec 2005-Dec 2008	37	16	<5 y	Hospital based	NA	HMD	NA	NA	NA
Ajampur et al	Vickers, India	13°N	528	945	26.3	Dec 2005-Dec 2008	37	20	<5 y	Hospital based	NA	HMD	NA	NA	NA
The ANOPEL Cryptosporidiosis National Network	France	48°N	96	637.4	12.4	Jan 2006-Dec 2009	48	497	All	Country level surveillance	Urban and Rural	Developed	NA	NA	mid/low summer-autumn
Amador-Rangel et al	Perth, Australia	32°S	20	800	18	Jan 1994-Dec 1988	35	100	<5 y	Hospital based	NA	Developed	+	-	summer and wet season
Bennett et al	Lima, Peru	10°S	50	82.4	20	Jan 1997-Aug 1998	39	133	<12 y	Community based	Peri-urban	HMD	+	NA	spring (winter (Oct-Dec)
Biggs et al	Melbourne, Australia	38°S	33	680	14	Nov 1994-Oct 1996	24	55	All	Community based	NA	Developed	+	-	warm, dry months
Choi et al	Hoengsang, South Korea	35°N	74	1077	12	Nov 1995-Dec 1997	12	77	All	Community based	Rural	LMD	NA	NA	spring and autumn
Chalmers et al	United Kingdom	51°N	60	750	10.3	Jan 2000-Dec 2006	84	11,208	All	Country level surveillance	Urban and Rural	Developed	NA	NA	autumn
Corbett-Treney et al	India	23°N	85	709	9.8	Feb 1984-Feb 1988	12	41	<12 y	Lab based study	Rural	Developed	NA	NA	April and May
Deod et al	Kowait City, Kowait	29°N	54	46.1	26	Jan 1998-Jan 1999	18	35	<8 y	Hospital based	Urban	LMD	-	+	March and April
Dai et al	Kolkata, India	22°N	32	1585.7	26.7	Jan 2003-Dec 2004	24	40	<5 y	Hospital based	Urban slums	HMD	+	+	rainy season and summer
Duong et al	Liencville, Gabon	0.27°N	14	2100	26	Oct 1989-Sep 1990	12	70	<2 y	Community based	Urban and Suburban	HMD	NA	+	wet season
Elhabib et al	Alqqa, Ghana	7°N	205	1410.7	25.8	May 2007-Sep 2008	17	116	<14 y	Hospital based	Rural	HMD	NA	-	Apr-Jul
El-Badry et al	Cairo, Egypt	30°N	NA	NA	NA	Jan 2003-Dec 2013	12	148	All	Hospital based	Urban and Peri-urban	LMD	NA	NA	summer and spring
Fripp et al	France, South Africa	30°S	1299	760	18	Oct 1982-Sep 1994	48	284	All	Hospital based	NA	HMD	+	+	mezzason season (Jan-Sep)
Garvey et al	Ireland	53°N	85	798	9.8	Jan 2004-Dec 2006	36	299	All	Country level surveillance	rural	Developed	NA	NA	spring and autumn
Goh et al	Aberdele and Copeland (North Cambria), England	54°N	81	921	9.4	Mar 1999-Feb 2000	48	132	All	Community based	NA	Developed	+	-	spring and autumn
Haider et al	Karachi, Pakistan	25°N	20	210	26	Jan 2007-Dec 2007	12	37	All	Lab based	Urban and Rural	HMD	+	+	rainy summer months
Health Protection Scotland	Scotland	56°N	7	900.7	9.6	Jan 2006-Dec 2010	60	378	All	Country level surveillance	NA	Developed	NA	NA	NA

Author et al.	Country/Province, South Korea	377N	71	111	12	26	29	29	NA	Hospital based	NA	Developed	summer and autumn
Ishii et al.	Kowloon, Kowloon	297N	54	46.6	26	24	51	51	Urban and Semi-urban	LMD	LMD	LMD	Jan-April
Iyer et al.	Hyderabad, India	179N ^a	544	790	26.4	48	56	56	NA	Hospital based	NA	HMD	August and September (monsoon season)
Kanamaru et al.	Surabaya, Indonesia	79S ^b	3	1470	28	12	41	41	NA	Hospital and Community based	NA	LMD	March (rainy season)
Liaw (ISSR data selectively)	New Zealand	37S	6	1150	15.5	187	1310	1310	Urban	County level surveillance	Urban	Developed	spring and autumn
Loughland et al.	Calgary Health Region, Canada	51N	1083	418.8	4.4	36	173	173	Urban and Rural	Lab based	Urban and Rural	Developed	late summer to early fall
Laurance et al.	New Zealand	417N	128	1220	12.9	91	6856	6856	Urban and Rural	Lab based	Urban and Rural	Developed	spring and autumn
Mai Nguyen et al.	Bern, Switzerland	477N	509	1028	7.9	12	31	31	NA	Hospital based	NA	Developed	August and September
Majowicz et al.	Ottawa, Canada	457N	172	852.9	7.7	24	451	451	Urban and Rural	Province level surveillance	Urban and Rural	Developed	August
Mizus et al.	Winnipeg (Manitoba), Canada	507N	218	510	2	12	39	39	Urban and Rural	Lab based	Urban and Rural	Developed	late summer to early fall
Milner et al.	Durban, South Africa	307N	7	1050	21	12	29	29	NA	Hospital based	NA	Developed	summer to early autumn
Mulhik et al.	Bissau, Guinea Bissau	129N ^c	35	53.6	27	36	259	259	Semi-urban	Community based	Semi-urban	HMD	rainy season
Nunes et al.	Belo Horizonte, Brazilian Fuso	117N ^d	419	1088	27	12	72	72	NA	Hospital based	NA	HMD	beginning of the rainy season
Nunoo et al.	Boston (MA), United States	427N	1	1071	10.7	120	102	102	Urban	State level surveillance	Urban	HMD	summer to early fall
Nunoo et al.	Lowell (MA), United States	427N	33	1101	9.4	120	18	18	Urban	State level surveillance	Urban	HMD	summer to early fall
Nunoo et al.	Worcester (MA), United States	427N	209	1061	8.9	120	58	58	Urban	State level surveillance	Urban	HMD	summer to early fall
Nzi et al.	Cape Town, South Africa	347N	42	580	17	12	63	63	NA	Hospital based	NA	HMD	warm months; lowest rainfall
Peng et al.	Shanghai, Malawi	159S ^e	777	880	22	20	69	69	NA	Hospital based	NA	HMD	rainy season (Oct-Mar)
Perch et al.	Boston, Greater Boston	129N ^c	35	53.6	27	84	351	351	Peri-urban	Community based	Peri-urban	HMD	beginning of or just before the rainy season (May-Jul)
Pitout et al.	Waterslo region (Ontario), Canada	437N	328	940	301.6.4	30	36	36	Urban and Rural	Region level surveillance	Urban and Rural	Developed	autumn
Shahid et al.	Dhaka, Bangladesh	247N	9	2146	26.1	12	71	71	NA	Hospital Based	NA	HMD	10C humid weather (Apr-Jul)
Shepherd et al.	Perth, Scotland	567N	8	1165	7.8	24	83	83	NA	Lab based	NA	Developed	spring and autumn
Storch et al.	Oregon, United States	457N	6	914.4	12.5	42	32	32	NA	Lab based	NA	Developed	summer and early autumn
Terfinkina et al. (BKI data submitted)	Germany	527N	47	566	9	72	994	994	NA	Country level surveillance	NA	Developed	late summer to early autumn
Vedova et al.	Ontario, Canada	437N	172	852.9	7.7	60	473	473	NA	Province level surveillance	NA	Developed	summer months
Woolson et al.	Boston (MA), United States	427N	1	6.4	10.7	12	43	43	Urban	Lab based	Urban	Developed	summer and fall

Abbreviations: HMD, high-mortality developing country; LMD, low-mortality developing country; NA, not available.

^a Data denote the sign of the coefficient from generalized linear models performed to determine the relationship between monthly incidence of *Neisseria meningitidis* and monthly temperature or monthly rainfall in studies for which these data were available.

^b Data denote the peak season of cases and reflect the authors' terminology.

^c Statistically significant ($P < .05$).

^d Tropical latitude.

Table 1c. Characteristics of Studies Included in the Systematic Review of Climatic Drivers of norovirus incidence [Reference List: (31, 41, 51, 135-178)].

Reference	New Strain Year, Y/N ^a	Location	Latitude	Elevation, m	Yearly Rainfall, mm, Mean	Yearly Temperature, degrees Celsius, Mean	Study Period	Study Duration, mo.	Norovirus Cases, No.	Subject Age/Descriptor	Study Setting	Urban/Rural Setting	WHO Mortality Stratium	Temperature ^b	Rainfall ^b	Peak Season ^c
Assand et al	Y	Norway	59°N	17	760	6	Jan 2001-Jun 2008	90	3274	NA	Lab reports	NA	Developed	—	—	winter
Azusa et al	N	Gipuzkoa (Basque Country), Spain	43°N	7	1365	13.2	Jan 2005-Dec 2012	48	392	<13 y	Hospital and Clinic based	Urban	Developed	—	—	cold months (fall-winter)
Becerra et al	Y	Rotterdam, Netherlands	51°N	3	802	10	Jul 2002-Jan 2007	66	221	AE	Hospital based and Outpatient	NA	Developed	—	—	NA
Storr et al	N	Istanbul, Turkey	41°N	36	640	14	Jan 2006-Dec 2009	12	51	Children	Hospital based	Urban	Developed	+	—	winter-spring period
Brown et al	N	London, United Kingdom	51°N	61	750	10.3	Jul 2014-Jan 2015	12	144	0-18 y	Hospital based	Urban	Developed	—	—	NA
Chang et al	N	Tokyo, Sapporo, Saga, Osaka, and Matsuyama, Japan	35°N	7	1320	15	Jul 2007-Jan 2009	24	254	2 mo-15 y	Pediatric clinics	NA	Developed	—	—	winter months
Chhabra et al	Y	Pune, Nagpur, Aurangabad, India	18°N ^d	259	704	24	Jul 2005-Jan 2007	24	89	>7 y	Hospital based and Outpatient	NA	HMD	—	—	summer months
Dai et al	Y	Jiangnan, China	22°N ^e	14	1397.1	22.3	Sep 2005-Aug 2007	24	113	<3 y	Outpatient	NA	LMD	—	—	autumn/winter seasons
Dey et al (2007)	N	Dhaka, Bangladesh	23°N ^f	9	2146	26.1	Oct 2004-Sep 2005	12	41	infants and children	NA	NA	HMD	—	—	late autumn/winter seasons
Dey et al (2010)	Y	Sapporo, Tokyo, Matsuyama, Osaka, Sapporo, Kagawa, and Mie, Japan	35°N	7	1520	15	Jul 1995-Jan 2007	144	779	<13 y	NA	Urban and Rural	Developed	—	—	winter season
Dey et al (2011)	Y	Miyazaki, Tokyo, Sapporo, Sapporo, and Osaka, Japan	35°N	7	1320	15	Jul 2006-Jan 2007	12	99	<14 y	NA	NA	Developed	—	—	winter seasons
Devre et al	N	Marayya, Malawi	13°S ^g	777	880	22	Jul 1996-Jan 1999	12	26	1-24 mo	Hospital based	Urban	HMD	+	+	rainy seasons (March)
Blavez et al	N	Santa Rosa, Guatemala	14°N ^h	1498	1218	19	Oct 2007-Aug 2010	35	341	AE	Hospital based and Ambulatory clinics	35% Urban, 65% Rural	HMD	—	—	winter months, following rainy season
Gulstone et al	N	Azovskaya, Paraguay	23°S	100	1370	23	Jan 2004-Dec 2005	24	161	<5 y	Hospital based	Urban	LMD	+	+	no seasonal pattern
Georgiadis et al	Y	Ponta Alegre, Brazil	30°S	3	123 d	19.5	Oct 2006-Oct 2007	13	48	NA	Lab reports	NA	LMD	+	—	southern hemisphere spring
Haraman et al	N	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam	11°N ⁱ	18	1950	28	Dec 1999-Nov 2000	12	72	1 mo-15 y	Hospital based	Urban	LMD	—	—	end of rainy season, first half of dry season
Mullis et al	Y	Sweden	59°N	60	239	6	Jul 2005-Dec 2010	54	2289	NA	Lab reports	NA	Developed	—	—	NA
Irfani et al	N	Osaka City, Japan	34°N	14	1340	16	Apr 1996-Mar 2000	48	105	<12 y	Pediatric clinics	NA	Developed	—	—	late autumn-winter
Kim et al	N	Chonju, South Korea	36°N	25	1159	11	Jul 2010-Oct 2012	28	136	<10 y	Hospital based	Urban	LMD	—	—	winter and early spring
Lee et al	Y	Alberta, Canada	51°N	1003	418.8	4.4	Jan 2003-Apr 2004	16	141	<7 y	Lab reports	Urban	Developed	—	—	NA
Lindell et al	Y	Svechtviken, Sweden	59°N	60	239	6	Aug 2000-Jun 2003	25	829	AE	Hospital based and Lab reports	Urban	Developed	—	—	Nov-Mar
Lepstein et al	Y	Denmark	55°N	4	640	8	Jan 1995-Dec 2002	84	1896	NA	Lab reports	NA	Developed	—	—	NA
Lepstein et al	Y	Finland	66°N	56	630	5	Jan 1995-Dec 2002	84	1629	NA	Lab reports	NA	Developed	—	—	spring
Lepstein et al	Y	Slovenia	46°N	361	620	8	Jan 1995-Dec 2002	84	808	NA	Lab reports	NA	Developed	—	—	NA
Lepstein et al	Y	Sweden	59°N	60	239	6	Jan 1995-Dec 2002	84	3213	NA	Lab reports	NA	Developed	—	—	NA

Author et al	N	Melbourne, Australia	37°S	131	560	14	Sep 1997-Feb 1999	18	73	All	Community	Urban	Developed	+*	+	late spring/early summer
Mandall et al	Y	Parma, Italy	44°N	57	781	11	Jan 2000-Dec 2002	36	62	Children	Hospital based	Urban	Developed	—*	NA	Sep-Jan (Nov peak)
Naraino et al	N	Kolkata, India	22°N [§]	12	1383.7	26.7	Nov 2007-Oct 2009	24	78	All	Hospital based	Urban and Rural	HMD	+*	—	NA
Nguyen et al (2007)	Y	Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam	11°N [§]	18	1950	28	Oct 2002-Sep 2003	12	56	37-69 y	Hospital based	Urban and Rural	LMD	—	—	rainy season (May-Oct)
Nguyen et al (2008)	Y	Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam	11°N [§]	18	1950	28	Dec 2005-Nov 2006	12	32	children	Hospital based and Outpatient	Urban and Rural	LMD	—*	—*	rainy season (May-Oct)
Okak et al	N	Bialystok, Poland	53°N	150	380	6	Jul 2009-Jun 2010	12	40	<3 y	Hospital based	NA	Developed	—*	—*	rainy months (Sep-Nov, Jan-Mar)
Onishi et al	Y	Sora, Japan	37°N	67	1230	12	Sep 2001-Aug 2003	24	66	children	Hospital based	Rural	Developed	—*	—	rainy-winter
Pang et al	N	Alberta, Canada	51°N	1083	418.8	4.4	Jul 2008-Jul 2009	13	437	All	Hospital based, Community clinics, Hospital based and Outpatient	Urban and Rural	Developed	—*	NA	winter
Papavasiliou et al	N	Aranararivo, Madagascar	18°S [§]	1279	1360	18	May 2004-May 2005	13	14	5-16 y	Hospital based and Outpatient	NA	HMD	—	—	November and December
Park et al	Y	Seoul, South Korea	37°N	86	135.4	12	Mar 2007-Feb 2010	36	1379	All	Hospital based	NA	LMD	—*	—*	autumn and winter
Puustinen et al (2011)	N	Tampere, Finland	61°N	92	390	3	Sep 2009-Aug 2010	12	49	<15 y	Hospital based and Outpatient	NA	Developed	—*	—	NA
Puustinen et al (2011)	Y	Finland	61°N	92	390	3	Jul 1997-Jun 2007	180	1172	<3 y	Community	NA	Developed	—	—	NA
Rautanen et al	Y	Tampere, Finland	61°N	92	390	3	Sep 2009-Aug 2010	24	196	5-13 y	Hospital based and Outpatient	Urban	Developed	—*	—	Jan Feb-Apr
Sa et al	N	Formosa (Ceans state), Brazil	3°S [§]	24	1425.3	26.6	May 2008-April 2009	12	34	1 mo-10 y	Hospital based	NA	LMD	—*	+	NA
Siqueira, J. A. et al	N	Baturo (State of Para), Brazil	1°S [§]	16	2790	23.9	Jan 2000-Dec 2003	36	171	<5 y	Hospital based	NA	LMD	+	—	Sep, Oct, and Feb
Soni et al	Y	Japan	35°N	7	1520	15	May 2008-April 2011	36	3413	Young children	Pediatric clinics	NA	Developed	—	—	early winter
Teferinkola-Ladwig et al	Y	Germany	48°N	418	730	8	Jan 2002-Dec 2008	84	682562	All	NA	NA	Developed	—	—	Sep-Apr
Thongroochum et al (2013)	Y	Chiang Mai, Thailand	18°N [§]	313	1200	26	Jan 2006-Dec 2006	12	32	<5 y	Hospital based	NA	LMD	—*	—	rainy and winter seasons
Thongroochum et al (2015)	N	Hokkaido, Tokyo, Shizuoka, Kyoto, Osaka, and Saga, Japan	33°N	4	1631	15	Jul 2009-Jun 2013	48	938	5-15 y	Pediatric clinics	NA	Developed	—	—	winter
UK Data	Y	England/Wales	51°N	61	750	10.3	Jan 1997-Dec 2009	156	47109	All	NA	NA	Developed	—	—	NA
Vicentin et al	N	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	22°S [§]	6	1090	24.2	Jan 2004-Dec 2004	12	65	Children	Hospital based	NA	LMD	—	—	rainy and spring seasons (dry periods)
Wilhelms et al	Y	Charleston (WV), USA	38°N	228	1164	12.9	Jan 2007-Dec 2007	12	972	All	Hospital based	NA	Developed	—	—	NA
Xue et al	N	Shanghai, China	31°N	7	1140	16	May 2012-April 2014	24	963	All	Hospital networks	Urban	LMD	—*	—*	winter or cold seasons
Yoon et al	Y	Seoul, South Korea	37°N	86	135.4	12	Nov 2005-Nov 2006	13	114	<3 y	Hospital based	NA	LMD	—	—	winter (GI) and spring (ILI) (GI)
Zharkovskaya et al	Y	Novosibirsk, Russia	53°N	177	448	1.8	Jan 2003-Dec 2012	102	1291	<3 y	Hospital based	Urban and Rural	Developed	—*	NA	Dec-Mar
Zhang	N	Hangzhou, China	30°N	42	1440	16	Jul 2009-Aug 2010	14	195	NA	NA	NA	LMD	—*	—*	NA

Abbreviations: HMD, high-mortality developing country; LMD, low-mortality developing country; N.A., not available

* Data denote the emergence of a variant strain between July 2002-June 2003 or July 2006-2007.

† Data denote the sign of the coefficient from generalized linear models performed to determine the relationship between monthly incidence of Norovirus and monthly temperature or monthly rainfall in studies for which those data were available.

‡ Tropical climate.

§ Statistically significant (P<.05).

Table 2. Summary of Studies Included in the Final Analyses

Pathogen	Seasonality Analysis (No. datasets)	Temperature Models (No. datasets)	Precipitation Models (No. datasets)	Northern Hemisphere ^a No. (%)	Southern Hemisphere ^b No. (%)	Tropics ^c No. (%)
<i>E. coli</i>	39	21	18	19 (48.72)	3 (7.69)	17 (43.59)
<i>Cryptosporidium</i>	48	24	23	29 (60.42)	7 (14.58)	12 (25.00)
Norovirus	53	26	21	36 (67.92)	3 (5.66)	14 (26.42)

^a Northern Hemisphere: (>23°N)

^b Southern Hemisphere: (>23°S)

^c Tropics: (23°N-23°S)

Table 3. Summary of Seasonal Peaks of Incidence Cases Reported by Studies, by Geographic Location

Pathogen	Location	Peak Month, Studies, No. (%) ^a				Ratio of Peak to Mean Values, Mean ^b
		Dec-Feb	Mar-May	Jun-Aug	Sep-Nov	
<i>E. coli</i>						
	North hemisphere	0 (0)	2 (11)	13 (72)	3 (17)	3.23
	South hemisphere	2 (67)	1 (33)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3.94
	Tropics	0 (0)	12 (71)	5 (29)	0 (0)	2.73
<i>Cryptosporidium</i>						
	North hemisphere	2 (7)	6 (21)	11 (39)	9 (32)	6.48
	South hemisphere	1 (17)	4 (67)	0 (0)	1 (17)	3.42
	Tropics	2 (17)	3 (25)	5 (42)	2 (17)	4.42
Norovirus						
	North hemisphere	17 (47)	7 (19)	1 (3)	11 (31)	4.45
	South hemisphere	1 (33)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (67)	3.46
	Tropics	3 (21)	5 (36)	2 (14)	4 (29)	3.08

^a Peak month reflects the single calendar month averaged over all years of the study with the highest pathogen case load.

^b Calculated as the mean number of cases in the month with the most cases, divided by the mean number of cases per month over the course of the entire study.

The ratio reported here reflects the ratio of peak to mean values by geographic location.

Tables 4a-c: Comparison of the Best-Fit Generalized Estimating Equation Models with Poisson Distribution, Controlling for Serial Correlation and Clustering by Study

Table 4a: *E. coli* Model Selection

Model	Temp.	Temp. 1-mo Lag	Precip.	Precip. 1-mo Lag	Developed vs Developing ^a	QIC ^b	Delta ^c
Temperature + Precipitation ^d	0.07525	NA	0.00273	NA	0.67136	-9235	0
Temperature Lag + Precipitation	NA	0.06916	-0.00158	NA	1.02316	-9104	131
Temperature + Precipitation Lag	0.07821	NA	NA	-0.00151	0.73965	-9139	96
Temperature Lag + Precipitation Lag	NA	0.066903	NA	0.000286	0.984727	-8999	236

^a WHO mortality strata classification, grouped as developed or developing (high- and low-mortality developing).

^b Quasi-information criterion (QIC) values shown for each model, based on running all pathogen-specific models in a common dataset.

^c Delta values denote the difference in QIC values, based on the best fit model.

^d Best fit model, as evaluated by lowest quasi-information criterion (QIC) value.

Table 4b: *Cryptosporidium* Model Selection

Model	Temp.	Temp. 1-mo Lag	Precip.	Precip. 1-mo Lag	Developed vs Developing ^a	QIC ^b	Delta ^c
Temperature + Precipitation	0.05201	NA	0.00782	NA	-0.38431	-1242	69
Temperature Lag + Precipitation ^d	NA	0.05783	0.00639	NA	-0.58277	-1311	0
Temperature + Precipitation Lag	0.0493	NA	NA	-0.00844	-0.38641	-1037	274
Temperature Lag + Precipitation Lag	NA	0.05492	NA	-0.00888	-0.59813	-1127	184

^a WHO mortality strata classification, grouped as developed or developing (high- and low-mortality developing).

^b Quasi-information criterion (QIC) values shown for each model, based on running all pathogen-specific models in a common dataset.

^c Delta values denote the difference in QIC values, based on the best fit model.

^d Best fit model, as evaluated by lowest quasi-information criterion (QIC) value.

Table 4c: Norovirus Model Selection

Model	Temp.	Temp. 1-mo Lag	Precip.	Precip. 1-mo Lag	Developed vs Developing ^a	New Strain Year ^b	QIC ^c	Delta ^d
Temperature + Precipitation ^e	-0.0411	NA	-0.00146	NA	0.72894	0.17157	-19515	0
Temperature Lag + Precipitation	NA	-0.04156	-0.00115	NA	0.24468	0.15922	-19020	495
Temperature + Precipitation Lag	-0.0386	NA	NA	-0.0136	0.5508	0.1992	-19499	16
Temperature Lag + Precipitation Lag	NA	-0.03772	NA	-0.01308	0.22574	0.16399	-18950	565

^a WHO mortality strata classification, grouped as developed or developing (high- and low-mortality developing).

^b Emergence of a variant strain between July 2002-June 2003 or July 2006-2007.

^c Quasi-information criterion (QIC) values shown for each model, based on running all pathogen-specific models.

^d Delta values denote the difference in QIC values, based on the best fit model.

^e Best fit model, as evaluated by lowest quasi-information criterion (QIC) value.

Table 5. Results of Best-Fit Generalized Estimating Equation Models with Poisson Distribution, Controlling for Serial Correlation and Clustering by Study

	Model	IRR (95% CI) ^a	P-value	Studies, No.	Months, No.	QIC ^b
<i>E. coli</i>	temperature, precipitation			18	329	-9235
	temperature	1.08 (1.05-1.11)	<0.0001			
	precipitation	1.00 (0.99-1.01)	0.41			
	developing vs developed	1.96 (0.41-9.38)	0.40			
<i>Cryptosporidium</i>	temperature lag, precipitation			21	718	-1311
	temperature 1-mo lag	1.06 (1.02-1.10)	0.00			
	precipitation	1.01 (0.99-1.02)	0.17			
	developing vs developed	0.56 (0.17-1.91)	0.35			
Norovirus	temperature, precipitation			21	464	-19515
	temperature	0.96 (0.92-1.00)	0.05			
	precipitation	0.99 (0.99-1.00)	0.65			
	developing vs developed	2.07 (0.75-5.72)	0.16			
	new strain year	1.19 (0.65-2.17)	0.58			

^a Incidence rate ratios (IRRs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) are shown for a 1°C change in temperature and a 1 cm change in rainfall.

^b Quasi-information criterion (QIC) values are shown for each model, based on running all pathogen-specific models in a common dataset.

FIGURES

Figure 1. PRISMA diagram of the study selection process.

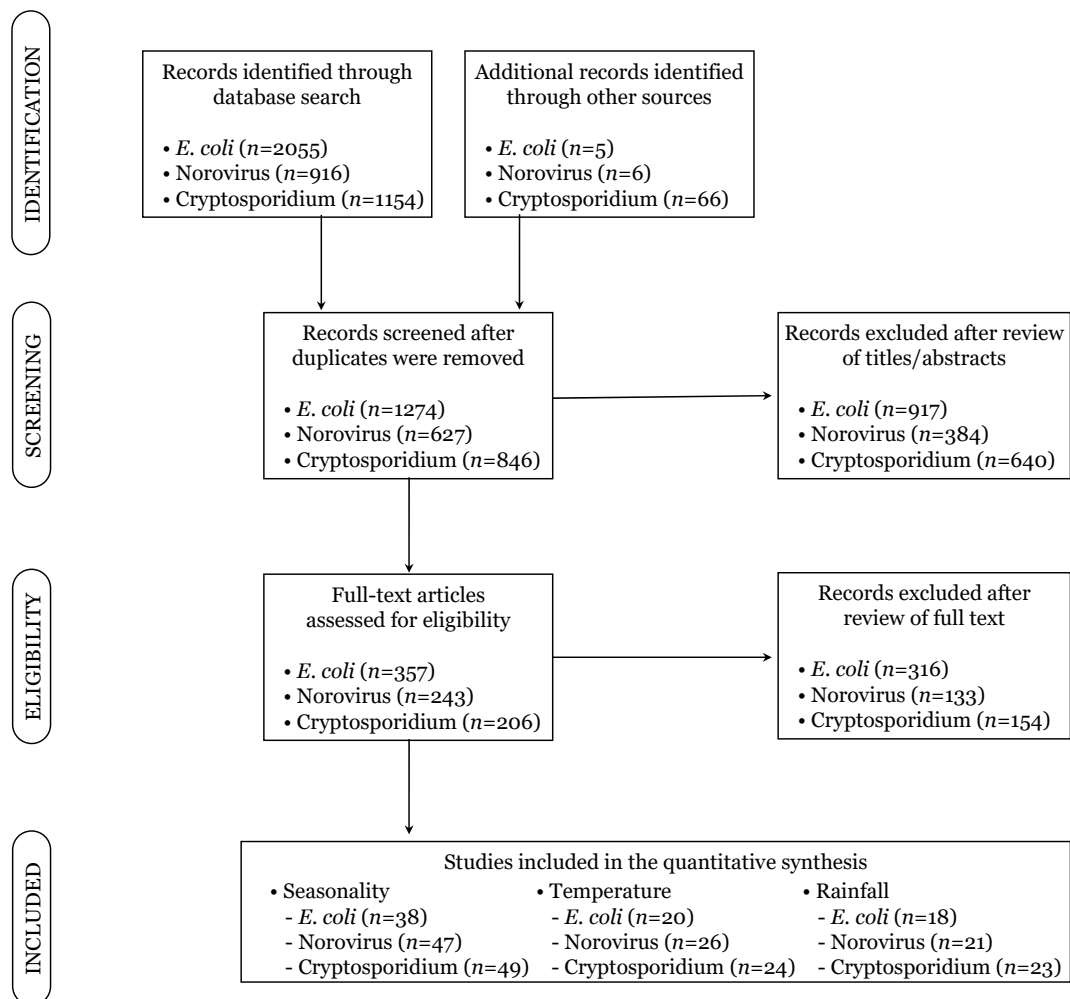
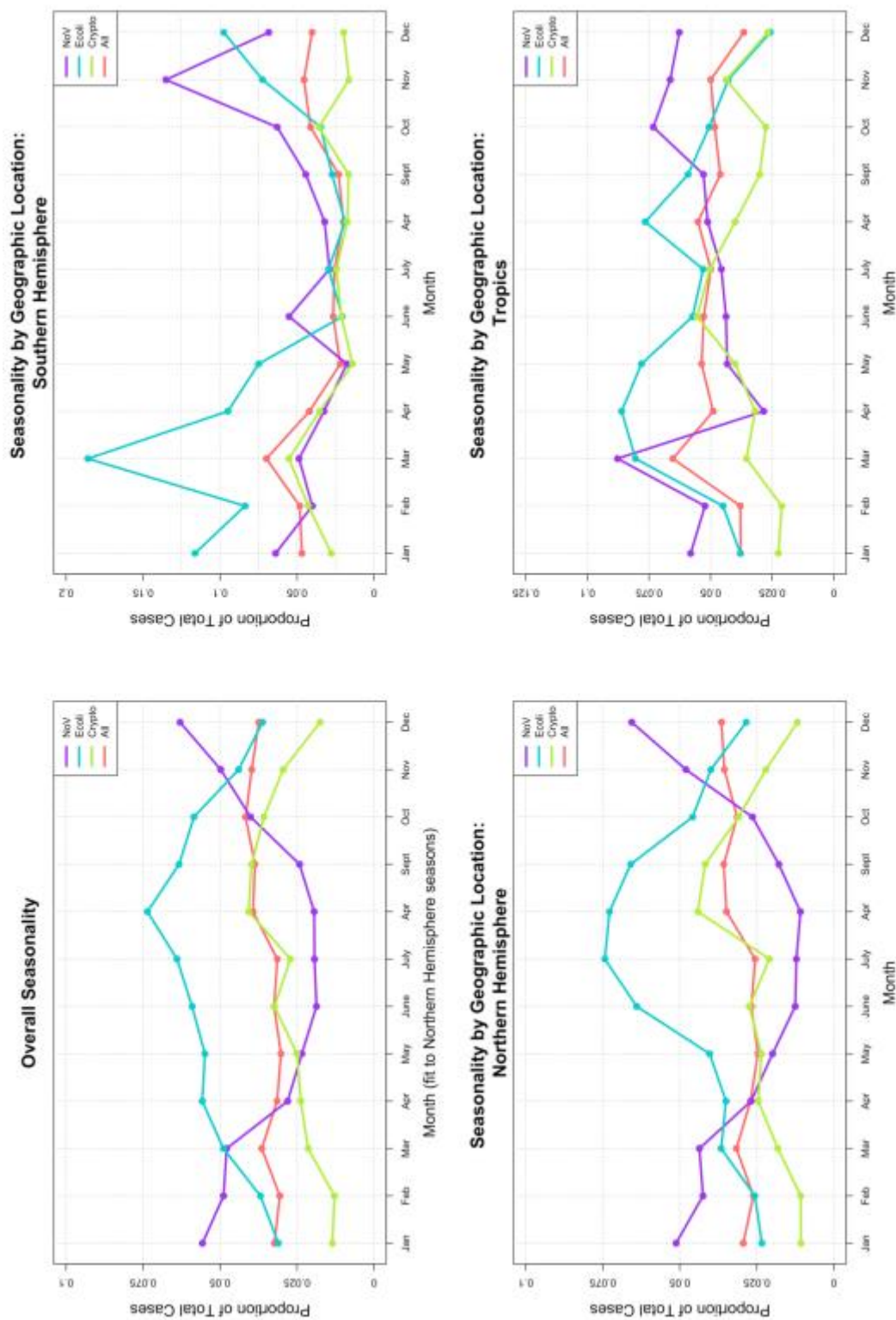


Figure 2: Seasonality patterns of each pathogen over 12-months for all studies, clustered by geographic location.



Figures 3-5: Forest plots show incidence rate ratios (IRR) and 95% confidence intervals (CI), calculated with generalized log-linear Poisson regression models and using Newey-West standard errors, for the relationship between pathogen incidence and (A) monthly mean temperature (°C) and (B) rainfall (cm) for each study.

Figure 3: Forest plots of the relationship between diarrheagenic *E. coli* incidence and monthly mean temperature (°C) and (B) rainfall (cm) for each study.

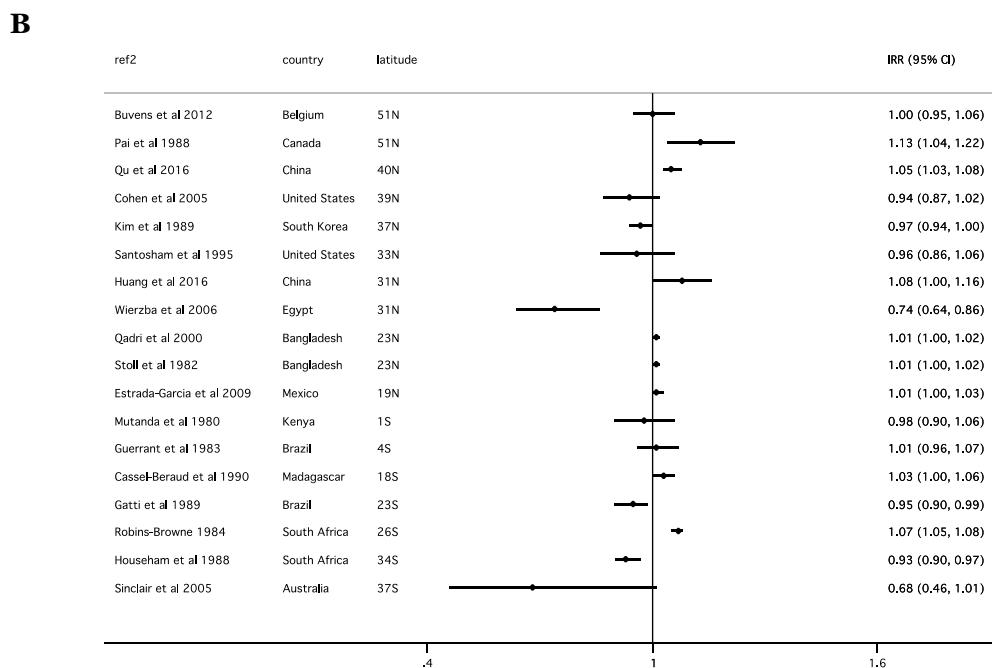
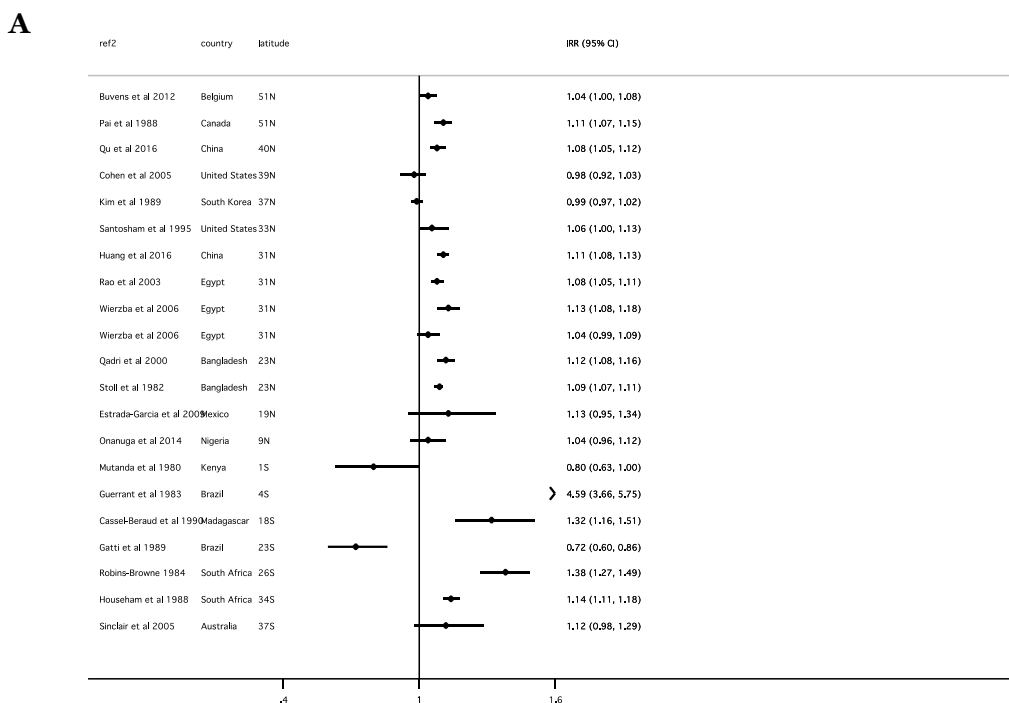
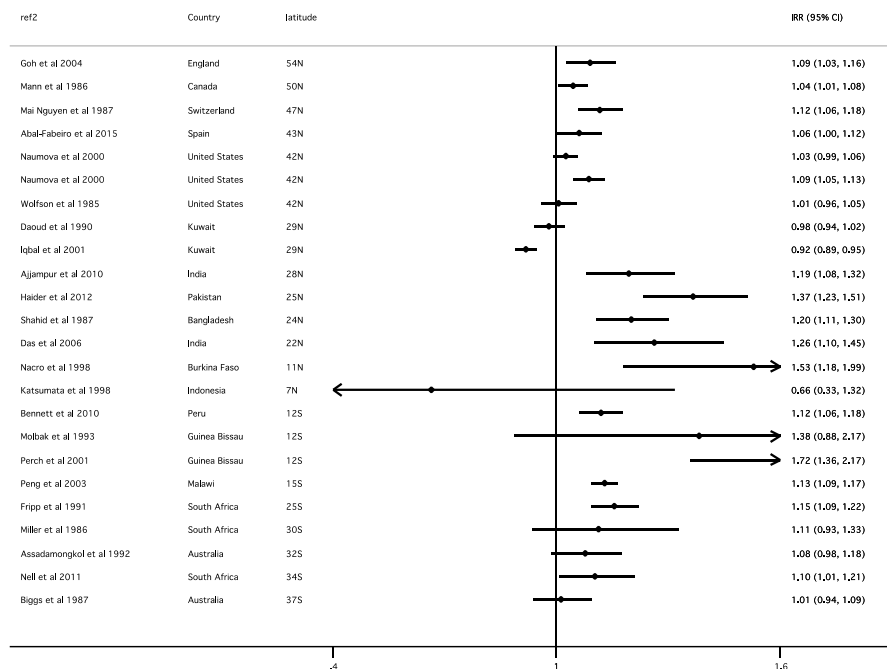


Figure 4: Forest plots of the relationship between *Cryptosporidium* incidence and monthly mean temperature (°C) and (B) rainfall (cm) for each study.

A



B

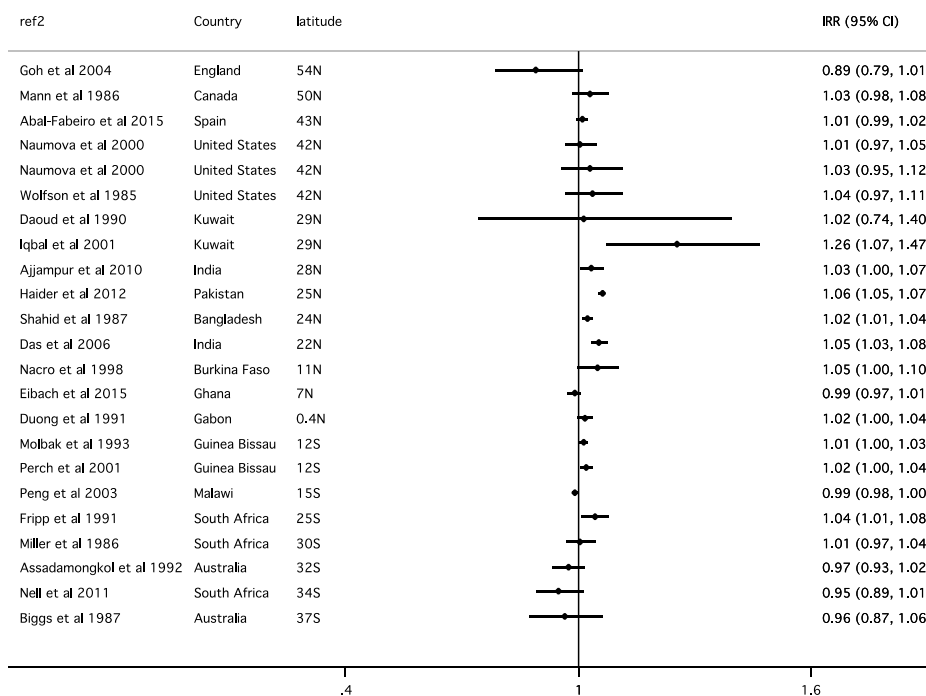


Figure 5: Forest plots of the relationship between norovirus incidence and monthly mean temperature (°C) and (B) rainfall (cm) for each study.

