

Increasing violence predicted as the result of climate change

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President Barack Obama wipes sweat off his face as he unveils his plan on climate change June 25, 2013 at Georgetown University in Washington.

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Researchers from the [University of California at Berkeley](http://www.berkeley.edu/) and [Princeton University](http://www.princeton.edu/main/) are the first to predict an increasing level of [violence](http://www.examiner.com/topic/violence) between individuals and between groups of people and countries as the result of [climate change](http://www.examiner.com/topic/climate-change) based on historically accurate records. The [research](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2013-08/pu-ch1080113.php) was presented in the Aug. 1, 2013, issue of the journal [Science](http://www.sciencemag.org/).

Increasing temperatures, drought, and increased rainfall were correlated with increasing levels of personal violence, crime, group violence, political instability, and major changes in governing institutions.

The scientists compiled data from history, climatology, archaeology, economics, political science, and psychology. The researchers also examined the data from 60 recent research works that assess the effect of climate change on the level of violence in individuals and between groups of people.

Climate change over history has produced an increased level of violence among people. Increased violence is attributed to competition for water, forced movement due to rain, and a reduction in food sources that resulted from climate change in the past.

The researchers found the highest correlation of violence between individuals and in groups of people was with changes in temperature.

The expected increase in global temperature of two degrees Celsius over the next century may produce higher levels of individual acts of violence like murder, rape, and domestic violence as well as higher levels of civil war, boundary disputes, and the collapse of governments.