# Article information:

How the weather affects the pain of citizen scientists using a smartphone app | npj Digital Medicine  
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41746-019-0180-3>

# Article summary:

1. Weather has been thought to affect symptoms in patients with chronic disease since the time of Hippocrates.

2. Cloudy with a Chance of Pain is a national United Kingdom smartphone study that collects data to examine the relationship between local weather and daily pain in people living with long-term pain conditions.

3. The study app was downloaded by 13,207 users over the 12-month recruitment period, with 10,584 participants having complete baseline information and at least one pain entry.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article “How the weather affects the pain of citizen scientists using a smartphone app” is an informative piece that provides insight into how weather can affect chronic pain in individuals living with long-term conditions. The article is well written and provides detailed information on the study design, recruitment process, and results. However, there are some potential biases that should be noted when considering this article’s trustworthiness and reliability.

First, the article does not provide any information on potential confounding factors such as diet or lifestyle habits that could influence the results of this study. Additionally, it does not discuss any possible risks associated with participating in this type of research or any ethical considerations related to collecting data from individuals living with chronic pain conditions.

Second, while the authors do mention other studies examining the relationship between weather and pain, they do not provide any counterarguments or alternative perspectives on their findings. This could lead to a one-sided reporting of their results which may not accurately reflect all aspects of this topic.

Finally, it is important to note that this study was conducted using a smartphone application which may limit its generalizability as it relies on self-reported data from participants who have access to smartphones and are willing to use them for research purposes.

In conclusion, while this article provides useful information about how weather can affect chronic pain in individuals living with long-term conditions, there are some potential biases that should be taken into consideration when assessing its trustworthiness and reliability such as lack of discussion on confounding factors or risks associated with participating in this type of research as well as one-sided reporting without providing counterarguments or alternative perspectives on their findings.

# Topics for further research:

* Confounding factors in chronic pain research
* Risks associated with chronic pain research
* Ethical considerations in chronic pain research
* Counterarguments to weather-pain relationship
* Alternative perspectives on weather-pain relationship
* Generalizability of smartphone-based research

# Report location:

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