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Heat stress results in considerable increases and intraseasonal shifts in total mortality and mortality due to cardiovascular diseases in the Czech Republic. A comparison of two different approaches used in studies dealing with heat related mortality (a traditional one, based on the analysis of relationships between individual meteorological variables and mortality, and a synoptic one, which links mortality to objectively determined air masses and takes the entire weather situation into account) is presented in this contribution. Potential impacts of the greenhouse gas induced climate change on heat related mortality in the Czech Republic, based on scenarios of the summer temperature increase in 2050 and simulations with a stochastic model, are discussed as well. The long-term acclimatization as well as observed changes towards decreased vulnerability of populations in developed countries to heat stress are likely to moderate the impacts of future warming but the climate change is still expected to slightly enhance heat related mortality in the Czech Republic.