

Occupational & Environmental Epidemiology



The 2012 North Carolina Heat Report

MMWR week 39 (9/23 – 9/29/2012):

- Approximately 5 heat-related illness ED visits were detected during this week
- ★ Daily maximum heat indices of 75°F to 87°F (median = 80°F) were recorded at RDU during this week
- * Common references in triage notes were for working outdoors (e.g., farm) and outdoor recreation (e.g., football)

Season to date (5/1/12 – 9/29/12):

- * Approximately 1,075 heat-related illnesses were identified in ED visit records (figure 1)
- Majority of illness among males 25-64 years of age (figure 2)
- * The 2012 'heat wave' during late June early July yielded a spike in ED visits consistent with early 'heat waves' in previous years (figure 3).

Heat wave 2012 (6/29/12 – 7/2/12):

- * Approximately 431 heat-related illnesses were observed using chief complaint and ICD-9 searches of ED visit records
- ☼ Daily maximum heat indices of 113°F 114°F were recorded at RDU during this heat wave

<u>Notes:</u> Heat-related illness is captured through a near real-time keyword search for 'heat,' 'hot,' 'hyperthermia,' 'heat exhaustion,' and 'heat stroke' in chief complaint and triage notes of emergency department records. These numbers under-estimate the true number of heat illness hospital visits. These numbers do not include ED visits that are coded using ICD-9-CM (unless otherwise stated). Please contact <u>lauren.thie@dhhs.nc.gov</u> for more information.

<u>Figure 1.</u> ED visits for heat-related illness and daily maximum heat index (RDU airport), 5/1/12 to 9/29/12, North Carolina.

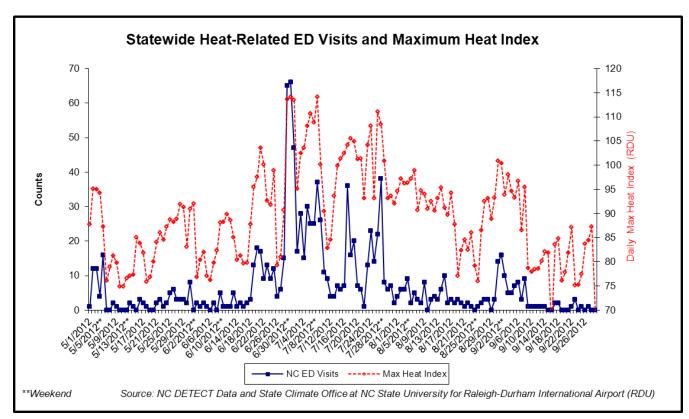


Figure 2. ED visits for heat-related illness by age group, 5/1/12 to 9/29/12, North Carolina. Statewide Heat-Related ED Visits by Age Group, 2012

Source: NC DETECT Data 70 60 50 40 # ED Visits 30 20 10 61912012 61612012 612312012 17/2012 711A12012 1212012 7128/2012 814/2012 81112012 9/1/2012 9/15/2012 5/19/2012 5/26/2012 6/2/2012 6/30/2012 81/8/2012 8/25/2012 9/8/2012 9/2/2012 511212012 9/29/2012 Week Ending

10-14 ——15-19 ——20-24 —

-65+

-25-44 **--**45-64

Revised 10/12

-0-1

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5-9

Figure 3. ED visits for heat-related illness by year, 2007-2012, North Carolina.

