

## Statewide Key Messages

The average weekly rate of heat-related illness (HRI) emergency department (ED) visits this season to date is **0.9 per 100,000 population**.

### This week (May 17-23, 2026):

- There were **268\*** HRI ED visits (0.3% of total ED visits), with a **rate of 2.5 per 100,000 population**
- The rate was highest among **males aged 65+ years (5.5 per 100,000 population)** (Figure 1)
- The rate of HRI ED visits was highest in the **Foothills (4.2 per 100,000 population)**, (Figure 2; Region 6)
- The most frequent heat related diagnosis code was **heat exhaustion (n = 74; 48.4%)** (Table 1)
- The maximum daily heat index ranged from **62.2 to 97.4°F** at Raleigh-Durham International Airport (Figure 3)
- There was **1** day when the minimum temperature was above 70°F.

Figure 1. Rate of Heat-Related Illness Emergency Department Visits by Sex and Age

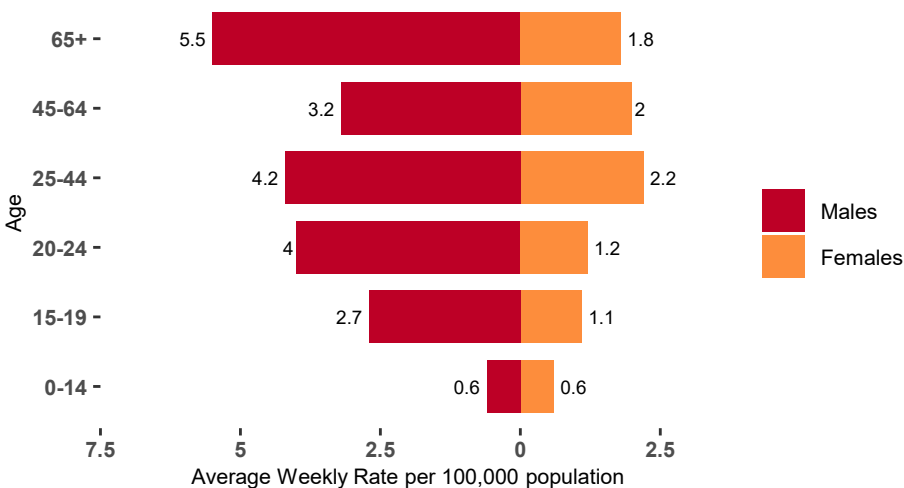
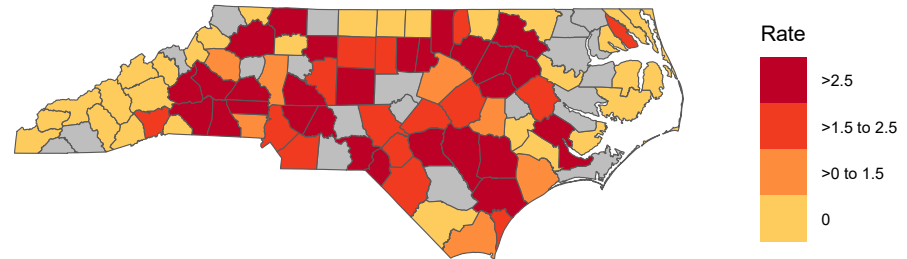


Figure 2. Rate of Heat-related Illness Emergency Department Visits per 100,000 Population



Rates based on counts between 1-4 are suppressed for counties with less than 500 total ED visits, as shown in gray.

Table 1. Heat-related illness ED visits by Severity

Severity <sup>§</sup>	Number (N=153 <sup>‡</sup> )	Percent <sup>†</sup>
Heat Stroke	6	3.9
Heat Exhaustion	74	48.4
Heat Syncope	25	16.3
Heat Cramps	4	2.6
Other Effects <sup>  </sup>	44	28.8

§ Definitions of heat-related illness severity categories:

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/heat-stress/about/illnesses.html>

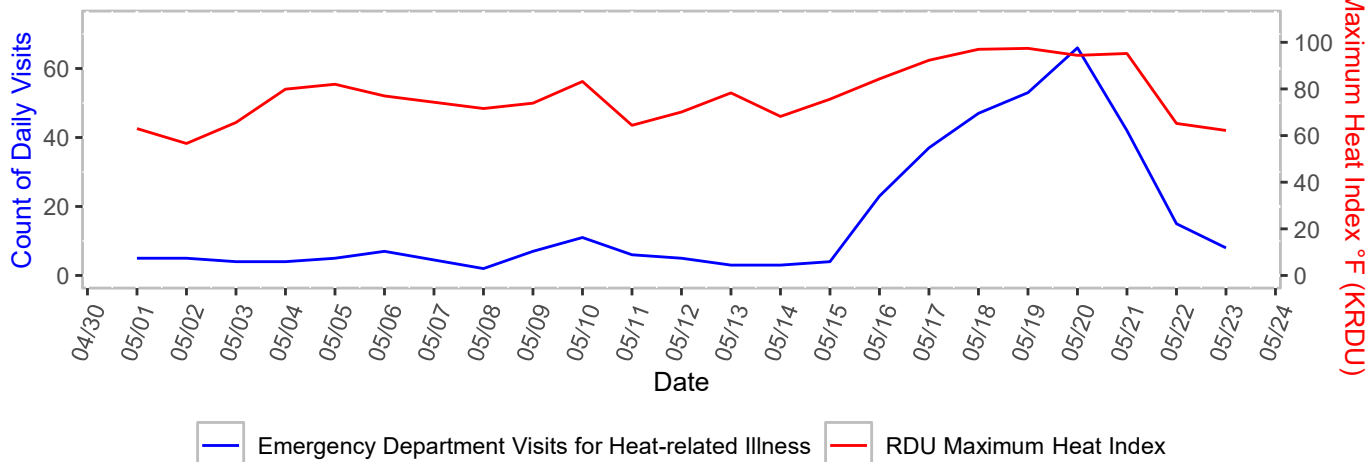
|| other effects include heat fatigue, heat edema, other effects of heat and light, and other effects unspecified

‡ Missing severity data = 115

† May not total 100 due to rounding

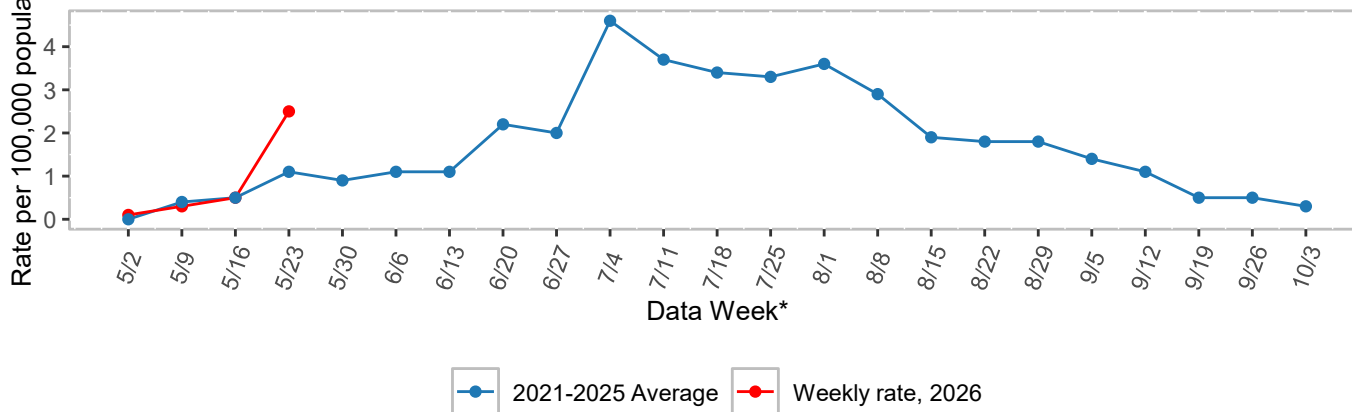
\*The 268 total HRI ED visits includes 8 visits that were missing county of residence. These 8 visits are excluded from the regional reports.

**Figure 3. Emergency Department Visits for Heat-related Illness and Max Heat Index North Carolina Statewide: May 1 - May 23, 2026**



Source: NC DETECT Data and State Climate Office at NC State University

**Figure 4. Rate of Emergency Department Visits for Heat-related Illness North Carolina: 2026 Compared to Historical Average**



Week ending dates may vary by a few days for earlier years.

For data week definitions see <https://ndc.services.cdc.gov/wp-content/uploads/MMWR-Week-Log-2025-2026.pdf>

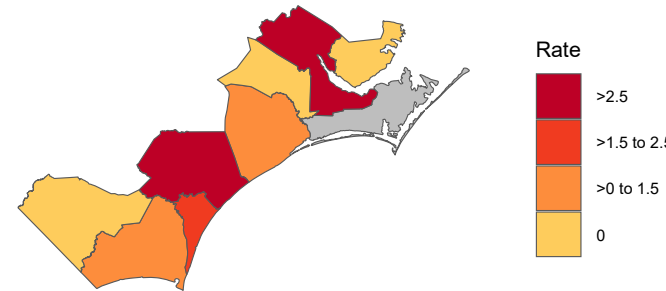
## Southeast (Region 1) Key Messages

The average weekly rate of heat-related illness emergency department visits **this season to date** is **0.9 per 100,000 population**.

### This week (May 17-23, 2026):

- There were **24 HRI ED visits** (0.3% of total ED visits), with a rate of **2.7 per 100,000 population**
- The rate was highest among **males aged 45-64 years (4.8 HRI ED visits per 100,000 population)** (Figure 1)
- The rate of HRI ED visits was highest in **Pender County (9.2 per 100,000 population)** (Figure 2)
- The most frequent heat related diagnosis code was **heat exhaustion (n = 8; 88.9%)** (Table 1)
- The maximum daily heat index ranged from **79.6 to 89.4°F** at Wilmington International Airport (Figure 3)
- There was **1** day when the minimum temperature was above 70°F.

Figure 2. Average Weekly Rate of Heat-Related Illness Emergency Department Visits per 100,000 Population Southeast (Region 1)



Rates based on counts between 1-4 are suppressed for counties with less than 500 total ED visits, as shown in gray.

Figure 3. Emergency Department Visits for Heat-related Illness Southeast (Region 1): May 1 - May 23, 2026

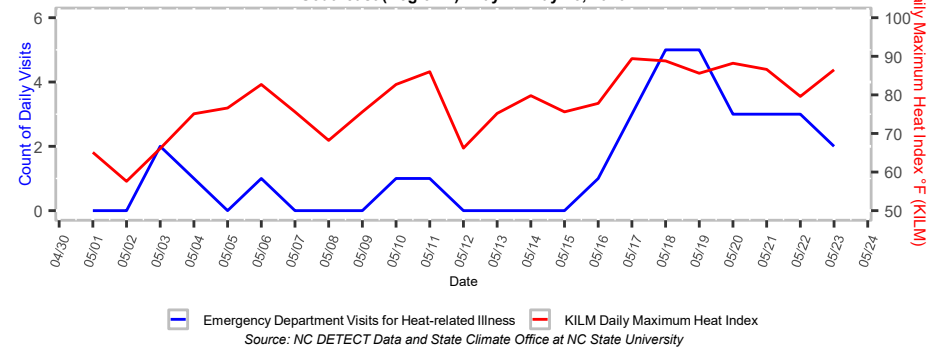


Figure 1. Rate of Heat-Related Illness Emergency Department Visits by Sex and Age Southeast (Region 1)

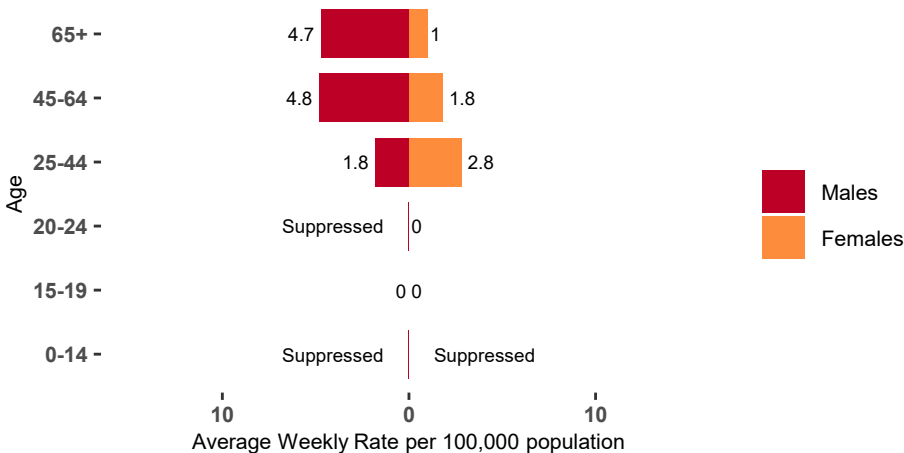


Table 1. Heat-related illness ED visits by Severity

Severity <sup>§</sup>	Number (N=9 <sup>‡</sup> )	Percent <sup>†</sup>
Heat Stroke	0	0.0
Heat Exhaustion	8	88.9
Heat Syncope	1	11.1
Heat Cramps	0	0.0
Other Effects <sup>  </sup>	0	0.0

§ Definitions of heat-related illness severity categories:

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/heat-stress/about/illnesses.html>

|| other effects include heat fatigue, heat edema, other effects of heat and light, and other effects unspecified

‡ Missing severity data = 15

† May not total 100 due to rounding

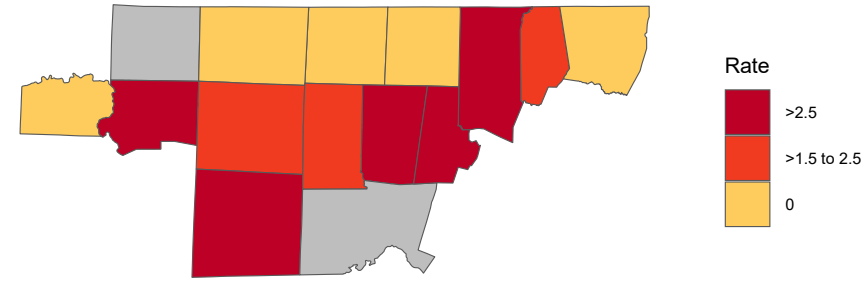
## North Central (Region 2) Key Messages

The average weekly rate of heat-related illness emergency department visits **this season to date** is **0.8 per 100,000 population**.

### This week (May 17-23, 2026):

- There were **55 HRI ED visits** (0.3% of total ED visits), with a rate of **2.5 per 100,000 population**
- The rate was highest among **males aged 65+ years (6.6 HRI ED visits per 100,000 population)** (Figure 1)
- The rate of HRI ED visits was highest in **Randolph County (4.1 per 100,000 population)** (Figure 2)
- The most frequent heat related diagnosis code was **heat exhaustion (n = 20; 58.8%)** (Table 1)
- The maximum daily heat index ranged from **58.1 to 90.6°F** at Piedmont Triad International Airport (Figure 3)
- The daily minimum temperature was below 70°F on all **7 days** this week.

Figure 2. Average Weekly Rate of Heat-Related Illness Emergency Department Visits per 100,000 Population North Central (Region 2)



Rates based on counts between 1-4 are suppressed for counties with less than 500 total ED visits, as shown in gray.

Figure 3. Emergency Department Visits for Heat-related Illness North Central (Region 2): May 1 - May 23, 2026

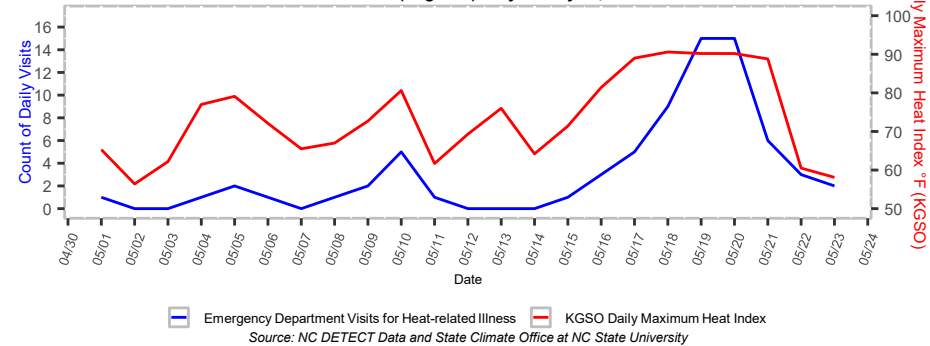


Figure 1. Rate of Heat-Related Illness Emergency Department Visits by Sex and Age North Central (Region 2)

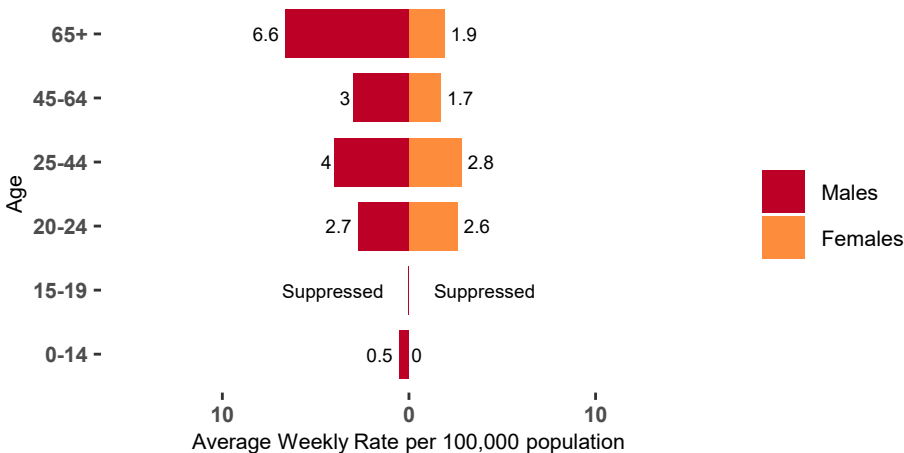


Table 1. Heat-related illness ED visits by Severity

Severity <sup>§</sup>	Number (N=34 <sup>‡</sup> )	Percent <sup>†</sup>
Heat Stroke	1	2.9
Heat Exhaustion	20	58.8
Heat Syncope	6	17.6
Heat Cramps	0	0.0
Other Effects <sup>  </sup>	7	20.6

§ Definitions of heat-related illness severity categories:

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/heat-stress/about/illnesses.html>

|| other effects include heat fatigue, heat edema, other effects of heat and light, and other effects unspecified

‡ Missing severity data = 21

† May not total 100 due to rounding

## Northeast (Region 3) Key Messages

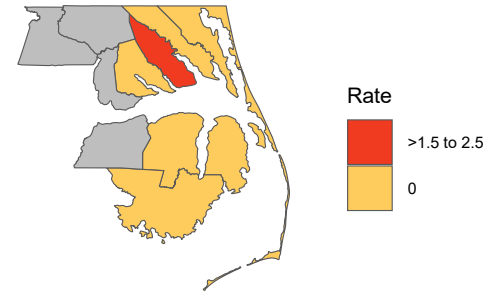
The average weekly rate of heat-related illness emergency department visits **this season to date** is **1.3 per 100,000 population**.

### This week (May 17-23, 2026):

- There were **7 HRI ED visits** (0.3% of total ED visits), with a rate of **3.6 per 100,000 population**
- The rate of HRI ED visits was highest in **Pasquotank County (2.5 per 100,000 population)** (Figure 2)
- The most frequent heat related diagnosis code was **heat exhaustion (n = 3; 60%)** (Table 1)
- The maximum daily heat index ranged from **77.5 to 95.3°F** at Pitt-Greenville Airport (Figure 3)
- The daily minimum temperature was below 70°F on all **7 days** this week.

Figure 1 is not provided for the Northeast region this week due to the small number of ED visits for heat-related illness.

Figure 2. Average Weekly Rate of Heat-Related Illness Emergency Department Visits per 100,000 Population Northeast (Region 3)



Rates based on counts between 1-4 are suppressed for counties with less than 500 total ED visits, as shown in gray.

Figure 3 is not provided for the Northeast region this week due to the small number of ED visits for heat-related illness.

Table 1. Heat-related illness ED visits by Severity

Severity <sup>§</sup>	Number (N=5 <sup>‡</sup> )	Percent <sup>†</sup>
Heat Stroke	1	20.0
Heat Exhaustion	3	60.0
Heat Syncope	0	0.0
Heat Cramps	0	0.0
Other Effects <sup>  </sup>	1	20.0

<sup>§</sup> Definitions of heat-related illness severity categories:

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/heat-stress/about/illnesses.html>

<sup>||</sup> other effects include heat fatigue, heat edema, other effects of heat and light, and other effects unspecified

<sup>‡</sup> Missing severity data = 2

<sup>†</sup> May not total 100 due to rounding

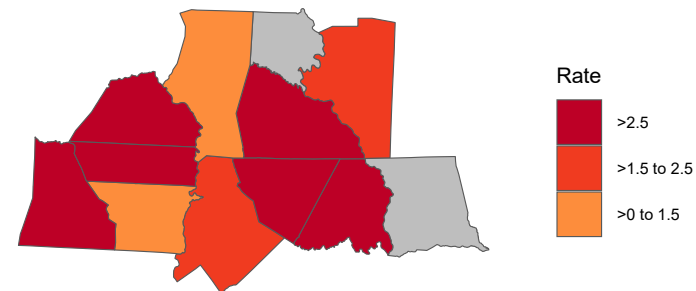
## South Central (Region 4) Key Messages

The average weekly rate of heat-related illness emergency department visits **this season to date** is **0.7 per 100,000 population**.

### This week (May 17-23, 2026):

- There were **56 HRI ED visits** (0.2% of total ED visits), with a rate of **2.1 per 100,000 population**
- The rate was highest among **males aged 65+ years (6.9 HRI ED visits per 100,000 population)** (Figure 1)
- The rate of HRI ED visits was highest in **Cleveland County (4 per 100,000 population)** (Figure 2)
- The most frequent heat related diagnosis code was **other effects (n = 13; 39.4%)** (Table 1)
- The maximum daily heat index ranged from **65.5 to 91.3°F** at Charlotte/Douglas International Airport (Figure 3)
- The daily minimum temperature was below 70°F on all **7 days** this week.

Figure 2. Average Weekly Rate of Heat-Related Illness Emergency Department Visits per 100,000 Population South Central (Region 4)



Rates based on counts between 1-4 are suppressed for counties with less than 500 total ED visits, as shown in gray.

Figure 3. Emergency Department Visits for Heat-related Illness South Central (Region 4): May 1 - May 23, 2026

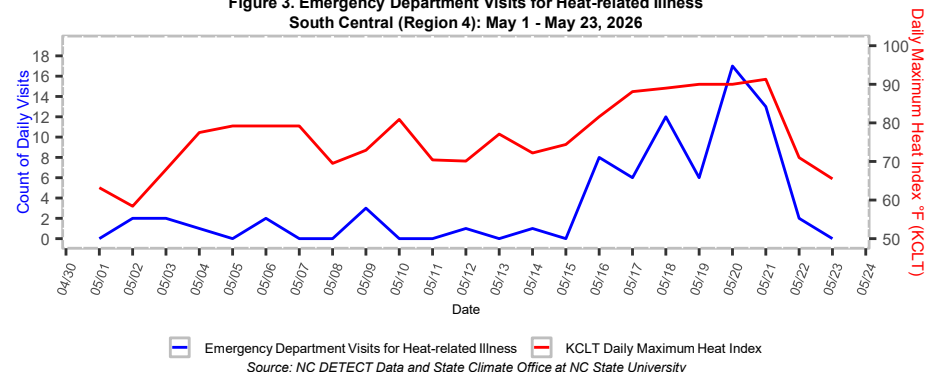


Figure 1. Rate of Heat-Related Illness Emergency Department Visits by Sex and Age South Central (Region 4)

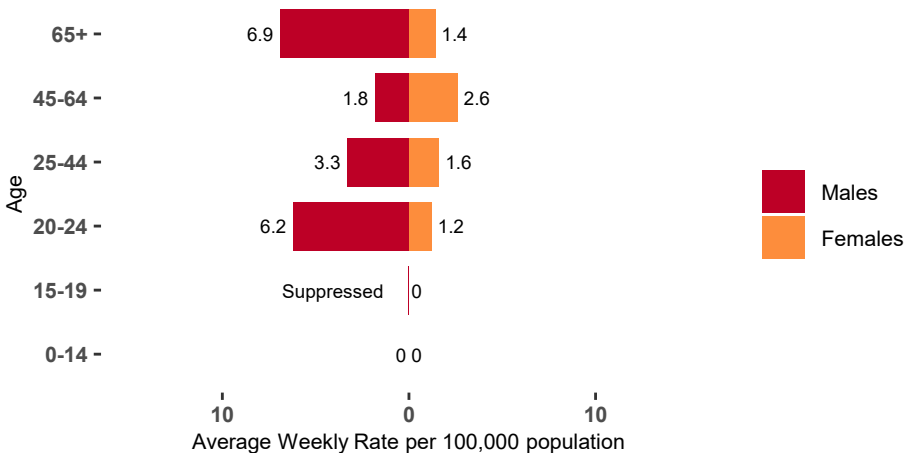


Table 1. Heat-related illness ED visits by Severity

Severity <sup>§</sup>	Number (N=33 <sup>‡</sup> )	Percent <sup>†</sup>
Heat Stroke	1	3.0
Heat Exhaustion	12	36.4
Heat Syncope	6	18.2
Heat Cramps	1	3.0
Other Effects <sup>  </sup>	13	39.4

§ Definitions of heat-related illness severity categories:

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/heat-stress/about/illnesses.html>

|| other effects include heat fatigue, heat edema, other effects of heat and light, and other effects unspecified

‡ Missing severity data = 23

† May not total 100 due to rounding

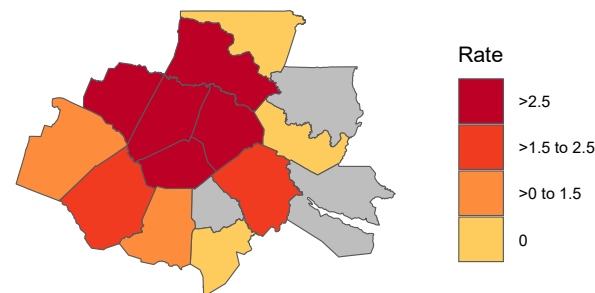
## North Coastal Plain (Region 5) Key Messages

The average weekly rate of heat-related illness emergency department visits this season to date is **0.7 per 100,000 population**.

### This week (May 17-23, 2026):

- There were **49 HRI ED visits** (0.2% of total ED visits), with a rate of **2.2 per 100,000 population**
- The rate was highest among **males aged 45-64 years (4.3 HRI ED visits per 100,000 population)** (Figure 1)
- The rate of HRI ED visits was highest in **Edgecombe County (10.3 per 100,000 population)** (Figure 2)
- The most frequent heat related diagnosis code was **heat exhaustion (n = 12; 44.4%)** (Table 1)
- The maximum daily heat index ranged from **68.2 to 94.8°F** at Rocky Mount-Wilson Regional Airport (Figure 3)
- The daily minimum temperature was below 70°F on all **7 days** this week.

Figure 2. Average Weekly Rate of Heat-Related Illness Emergency Department Visits per 100,000 Population North Coastal Plain (Region 5)



Rates based on counts between 1-4 are suppressed for counties with less than 500 total ED visits, as shown in gray.

Figure 3. Emergency Department Visits for Heat-related Illness North Coastal Plain (Region 5): May 1 - May 23, 2026

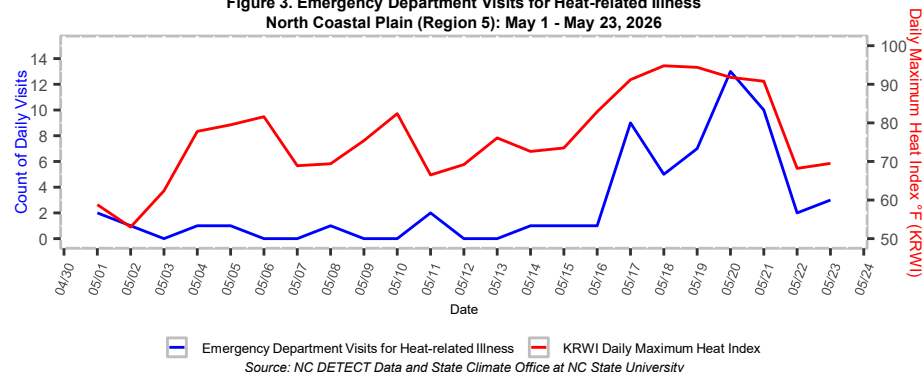


Figure 1. Rate of Heat-Related Illness Emergency Department Visits by Sex and Age North Coastal Plain (Region 5)

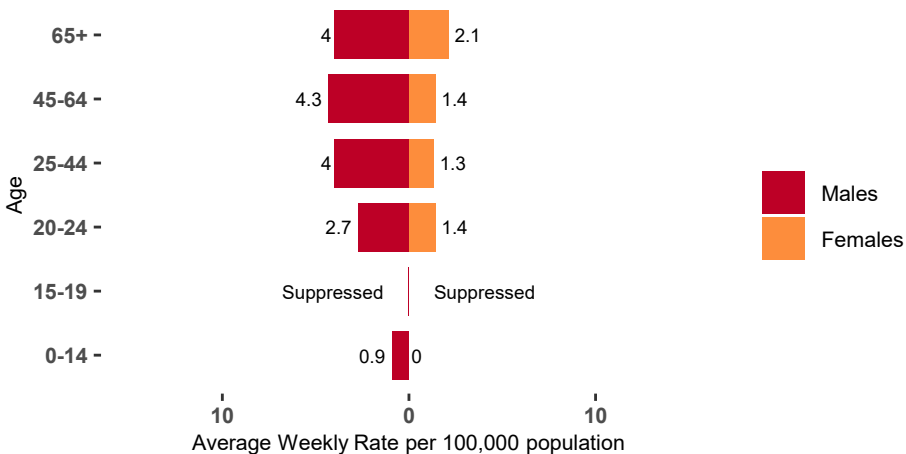


Table 1. Heat-related illness ED visits by Severity

Severity <sup>§</sup>	Number (N=27 <sup>‡</sup> )	Percent <sup>†</sup>
Heat Stroke	1	3.7
Heat Exhaustion	12	44.4
Heat Syncope	5	18.5
Heat Cramps	1	3.7
Other Effects <sup>  </sup>	8	29.6

§ Definitions of heat-related illness severity categories:

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/heat-stress/about/illnesses.html>

|| other effects include heat fatigue, heat edema, other effects of heat and light, and other effects unspecified

‡ Missing severity data = 22

† May not total 100 due to rounding

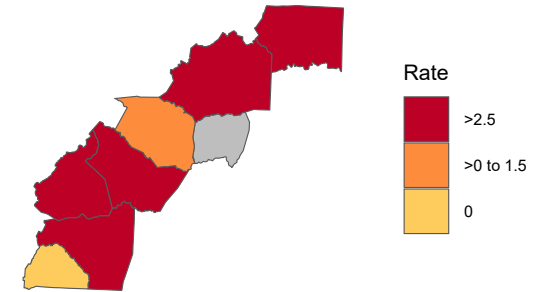
## Foothills (Region 6) Key Messages

The average weekly rate of heat-related illness emergency department visits this season to date is **1.3 per 100,000 population**.

### This week (May 17-23, 2026):

- There were **20 HRI ED visits** (0.4% of total ED visits), with a rate of **4.2 per 100,000 population**
- The rate was highest among **males aged 25-44 years (12.9 HRI ED visits per 100,000 population)** (Figure 1)
- The rate of HRI ED visits was highest in **Burke County (6.8 per 100,000 population)** (Figure 2)
- The most frequent heat related diagnosis code was **heat exhaustion (n = 6; 50%)** (Table 1)
- The maximum daily heat index ranged from **61.4 to 91.7°F** at Morganton-Lenoir Airport (Figure 3)
- The daily minimum temperature was below 70°F on all **7 days** this week.

Figure 2. Average Weekly Rate of Heat-Related Illness Emergency Department Visits per 100,000 Population Foothills (Region 6)



Rates based on counts between 1-4 are suppressed for counties with less than 500 total ED visits, as shown in gray.

Figure 3. Emergency Department Visits for Heat-related Illness Foothills (Region 6): May 1 - May 23, 2026

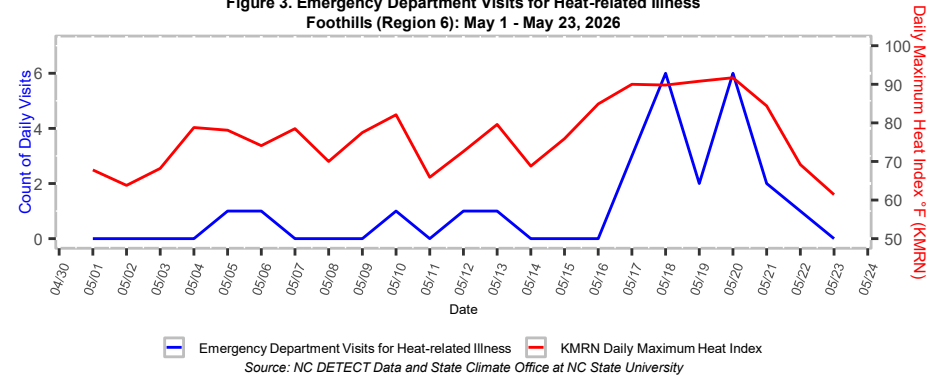


Figure 1. Rate of Heat-Related Illness Emergency Department Visits by Sex and Age Foothills (Region 6)

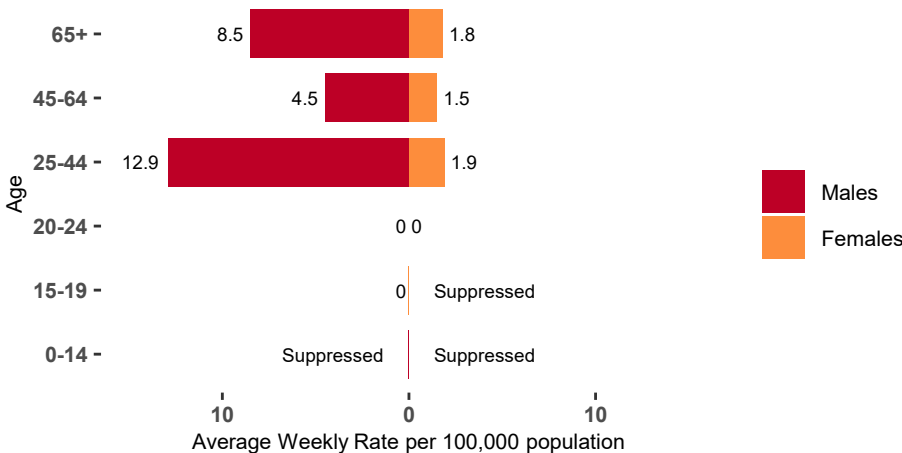


Table 1. Heat-related illness ED visits by Severity

Severity <sup>§</sup>	Number (N=12 <sup>‡</sup> )	Percent <sup>†</sup>
Heat Stroke	1	8.3
Heat Exhaustion	6	50.0
Heat Syncope	1	8.3
Heat Cramps	0	0.0
Other Effects <sup>  </sup>	4	33.3

<sup>§</sup> Definitions of heat-related illness severity categories:

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/heat-stress/about/illnesses.html>

<sup>||</sup> other effects include heat fatigue, heat edema, other effects of heat and light, and other effects unspecified

<sup>‡</sup> Missing severity data = 8

<sup>†</sup> May not total 100 due to rounding

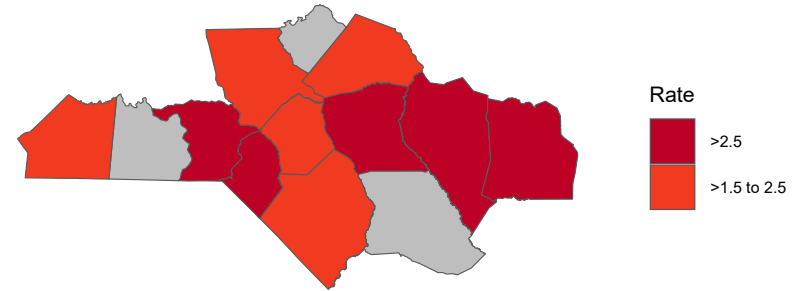
### Sandhills (Region 7) Key Messages

The average weekly rate of heat-related illness emergency department visits **this season to date** is **1.1 per 100,000 population**.

#### This week (May 17-23, 2026):

- There were **41 HRI ED visits** (0.3% of total ED visits), with a rate of **3.1 per 100,000 population**
- The rate was highest among **males aged 65+ years (5.6 HRI ED visits per 100,000 population)** (Figure 1)
- The rate of HRI ED visits was highest in **Richmond County (11.8 per 100,000 population)** (Figure 2)
- The most frequent heat related diagnosis code was **heat exhaustion (n = 10; 37%)** (Table 1)
- The maximum daily heat index ranged from **69.9 to 93.7°F** at Fayetteville Regional/Grannis Field Airport (Figure 3)
- The daily minimum temperature was below 70°F on all **7 days** this week.

Figure 2. Average Weekly Rate of Heat-Related Illness Emergency Department Visits per 100,000 Population Sandhills (Region 7)



Rates based on counts between 1-4 are suppressed for counties with less than 500 total ED visits, as shown in gray.

Figure 3. Emergency Department Visits for Heat-related Illness Sandhills (Region 7): May 1 - May 23, 2026

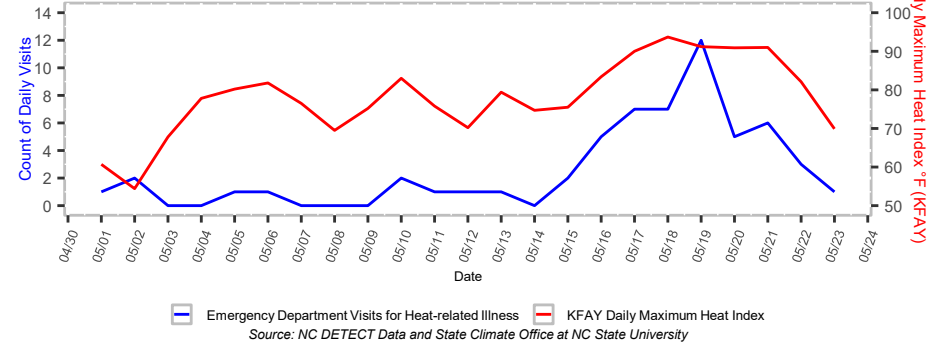


Figure 1. Rate of Heat-Related Illness Emergency Department Visits by Sex and Age Sandhills (Region 7)

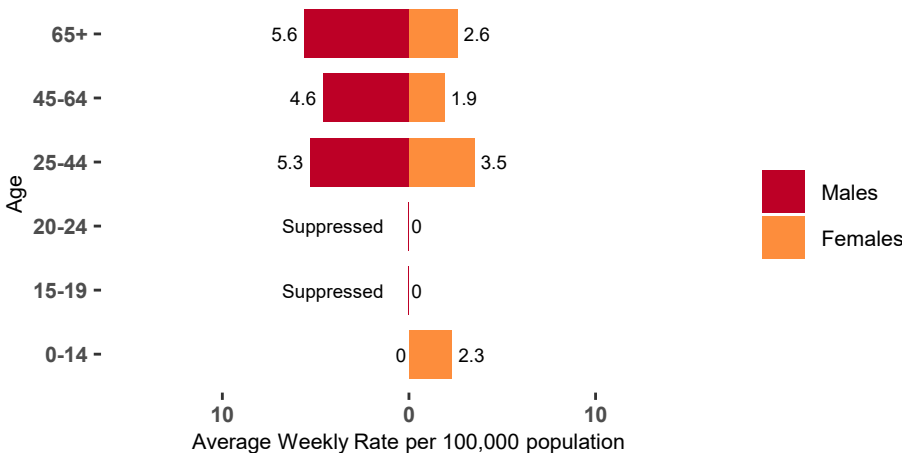


Table 1. Heat-related illness ED visits by Severity

Severity <sup>§</sup>	Number (N=27 <sup>‡</sup> )	Percent <sup>†</sup>
Heat Stroke	1	3.7
Heat Exhaustion	10	37.0
Heat Syncope	5	18.5
Heat Cramps	2	7.4
Other Effects <sup>  </sup>	9	33.3

§ Definitions of heat-related illness severity categories:

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/heat-stress/about/illnesses.html>

|| other effects include heat fatigue, heat edema, other effects of heat and light, and other effects unspecified

‡ Missing severity data = 14

† May not total 100 due to rounding

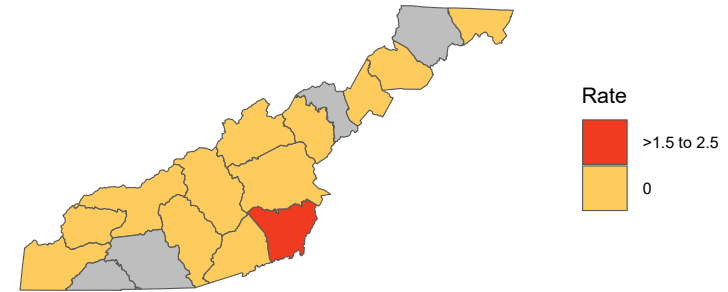
### Mountains (Region 8) Key Messages

The average weekly rate of heat-related illness emergency department visits **this season to date** is **0.4 per 100,000 population**.

#### This week (May 17-23, 2026):

- There were **8 HRI ED visits** (0.1% of total ED visits), with a rate of **1 per 100,000 population**
- The rate was highest among **females aged 45-64 years (2.8 HRI ED visits per 100,000 population)** (Figure 1)
- The rate of HRI ED visits was highest in **Henderson County (1.7 per 100,000 population)** (Figure 2)
- The most frequent heat related diagnosis code was **heat exhaustion (n = 2; 66.7%)** (Table 1)
- The maximum daily heat index ranged from **66.3 to 85.4°F** at Asheville Regional Airport (Figure 3)
- The daily minimum temperature was below 70°F on all **7 days** this week.

Figure 2. Average Weekly Rate of Heat-Related Illness Emergency Department Visits per 100,000 Population Mountains (Region 8)



Rates based on counts between 1-4 are suppressed for counties with less than 500 total ED visits, as shown in gray.

Figure 3. Emergency Department Visits for Heat-related Illness Mountains (Region 8): May 1 - May 23, 2026

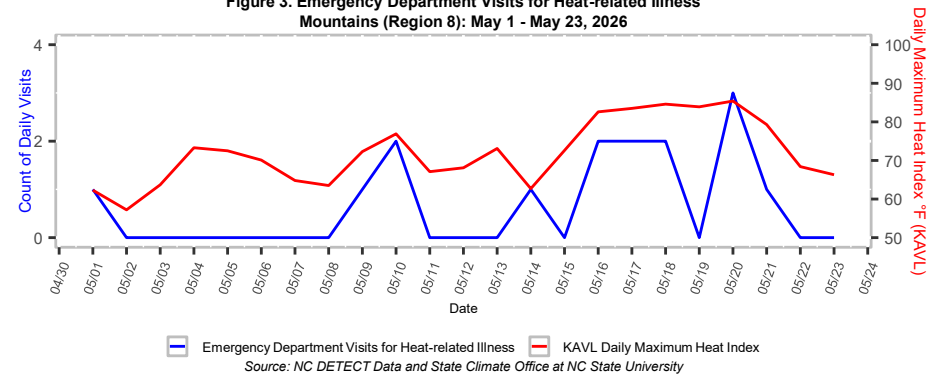


Figure 1. Rate of Heat-Related Illness Emergency Department Visits by Sex and Age Mountains (Region 8)

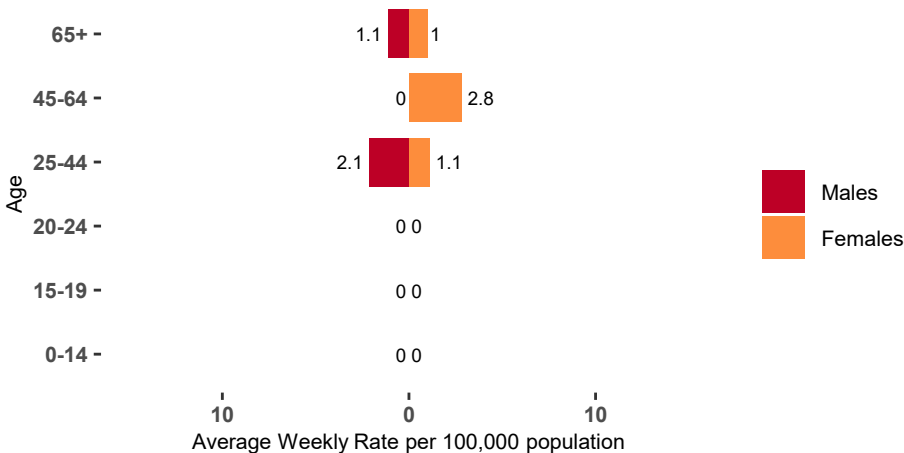


Table 1. Heat-related illness ED visits by Severity

Severity <sup>§</sup>	Number (N=3 <sup>‡</sup> )	Percent <sup>†</sup>
Heat Stroke	0	0.0
Heat Exhaustion	2	66.7
Heat Syncope	1	33.3
Heat Cramps	0	0.0
Other Effects <sup>  </sup>	0	0.0

§ Definitions of heat-related illness severity categories:

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/heat-stress/about/illnesses.html>

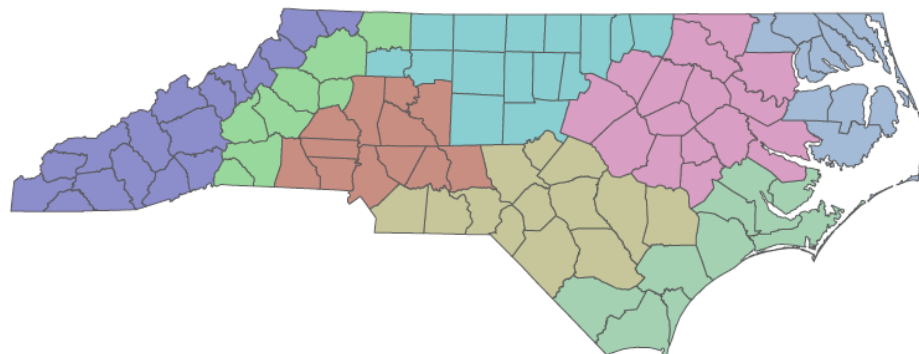
|| other effects include heat fatigue, heat edema, other effects of heat and light, and other effects unspecified



‡ Missing severity data = 5

† May not total 100 due to rounding

## North Carolina HRI Surveillance Regions

*(updated for 2025 to match the new Heat Health Alert System regions)*



- |  |  |
|--|--|
|  1. Southeast           |  2. North Central |
|  3. Northeast           |  4. South Central |
|  5. North Coastal Plain |  6. Foothills     |
|  7. Sandhills           |  8. Mountains     |

### About the data

The heat-related illness data in the report is from NC DETECT. NC DETECT is a statewide public health syndromic surveillance system, funded by the NC Division of Public Health (NC DPH) Federal Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant and managed through collaboration between NC DPH and the UNC-CH Department of Emergency Medicine’s Carolina Center for Health Informatics. The NC DETECT Data Oversight Committee is not responsible for the scientific validity or accuracy of methodology, results, statistical analyses, or conclusions presented.

### Climate data

The maximum heat index and minimum temperature data in this report are from the North Carolina State Climate Office. The Raleigh-Durham International Airport weather station (RDU) was selected to represent the climate data for the statewide report. One weather station from each region was selected to represent the climate data for each region. The weather station locations and their corresponding regions are as follows:

Wilmington International Airport (ILM) – Southeast (Region 1), Piedmont Triad Airport (GSO) – North Central (Region 2), Pitt-Greenville Airport (PGV) – Northeast (Region 3), Charlotte/Douglas International Airport (CLT) – South Central (Region 4), Rocky Mount-Wilson Regional Airport (RWI) – North Coastal Plain (Region 5), Morganton-Lenoir Airport (MRN) – Foothills (Region 6), Fayetteville Regional/Grannis Field Airport (FAY) – Sandhills (Region 7), Asheville Regional Airport (AVL) – Mountains (Region 8). During 6/19, climate data was obtained from the NC School of Science and Math - Morganton (MORG) EcoNet weather station (Foothills, Region 6).

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