This Week

- Daily maximum heat indices ranged from 96°F to 105°F (median = 101°F) at Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU)
- 273 emergency department visits for heat-related illness were observed (Figure 1)
  - 71% of visits were for males, most were between ages 25 and 44.
  - The most frequent heat related diagnosis code was Heat Exhaustion (Table 2)
  - Most visits were seen in hospitals in the Piedmont (60%) and Coastal (35%) regions
  - 12% of visits were seen in hospitals in the Sandhills sub-region
- This week the proportion of emergency department visits for heat-related illness was 0.27%, similar to the historical average (Figure 2)

Season to Date (July 2022)

- 2347 emergency department visits for heat-related illness have been identified (Figure 1)
- Common activities preceding illness are working outdoors and recreation

---

1The Sandhills sub-region is comprised of the following counties from the Piedmont and Coastal regions: Bladen, Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, Robeson, and Scotland.
Table 1. Visits by sex and age group - July 17 – 23, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-14</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>(7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-24</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>(10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-44</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>(34)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>(23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>(23)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Visits by severity – July 17 – July 23, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Severity</th>
<th>N=137†</th>
<th>(%)†</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heat Exhaustion</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>(63)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heat Cramp</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>(5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heat Stroke</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>(4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heat Syncope</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>(7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Effects</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>(21)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Visit by sex and age group - July 17 – 23, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>N=273*</th>
<th>(%)†</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>(71)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>(29)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Visit by severity – July 17 – July 23, 2022

- * indicates that visits may vary from weekly total visits.
- † indicates that visits may not total 100 due to rounding.
- ‡ indicates missing severity data.

Visit by severity

- Heat Exhaustion
- Heat Cramp
- Heat Stroke
- Heat Syncope
- Other Effects

Visit by age group

- 0-14: 8 (3%)
- 15-18: 18 (7%)
- 19-24: 26 (10%)
- 25-44: 94 (34%)
- 45-64: 64 (23%)
- 65+: 63 (23%)

Visit by sex

- Male: 195 (71%)
- Female: 78 (29%)

Visit by severity

- Heat Exhaustion: 86 (63%)
- Heat Cramp: 7 (5%)
- Heat Stroke: 6 (4%)
- Heat Syncope: 10 (7%)
- Other Effects: 28 (21%)

Definitions of heat-related illness categories:

- Heat-related illness includes heat fatigue, heat edema, other effects of heat and light, and other unspecified effects.

NOTE: Emergency department visit records and maximum heat indices were obtained from NC DETECT and the State Climate Office at NC State University, respectively. Heat-related illness is captured through a near real-time keyword search for 'heat', 'hot', 'hyperthermia', 'heat exhaustion', 'heat stroke', and 'sun stroke' in chief complaint or triage notes of emergency department records or a diagnosis code for heat-related illness. These figures present an estimate of the number of emergency department visits for heat-related illness. Please contact lauren.thie@dhhs.nc.gov for more information.