This Week

- Daily maximum heat indices ranged from 81°F to 100°F (median = 90°F) at Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU)
- 289 emergency department visits for heat-related illness were observed (Figure 1)
  - 73% 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 (56%) and Coastal (40%) regions
  - 17% of visits were seen in hospitals in the Sandhills sub-region
- This week the proportion of emergency department visits for heat-related illness was 0.28%, similar to the historical average (Figure 2)

Season to Date (June 2022)

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

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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 - May 29 - June 4, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>N=289* (%)†</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>210 (73)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>79 (27)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-14</td>
<td>14 (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-18</td>
<td>5 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-24</td>
<td>33 (11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-44</td>
<td>100 (35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-64</td>
<td>71 (24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>66 (23)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*May vary from weekly total visits †may not total 100 due to rounding ‡missing severity data = 113 §definitions of heat related illness categories
https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/heatillness.html Other effects include heat fatigue, heat edema, other effects of heat and light, and other unspecified

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 cramp’, ‘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.

Table 2. Visits by severity – May 29 – June 4, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Severity%</th>
<th>N=176‡ (%)†</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heat Exhaustion</td>
<td>100 (57)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heat Cramp</td>
<td>4 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heat Stroke</td>
<td>5 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heat Syncope</td>
<td>19 (11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Effects</td>
<td>48 (27)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2. Percent of Total Emergency Department Visits for Heat-Related Illness -- North Carolina, 2022 Compared to Historical Average

*Data begins 05/01/2015 to 2021 reporting period. Week ending dates may vary by a few days for earlier years. For data week definitions see https://hixxn.cdc.gov/hendix/downloads.html. Hospitals transitioned from the ICD-9-CM diagnosis code standard to ICD-10-CM in 2015. This transition may impact the number of emergency department visits with a heat related illness diagnosis. Source: NC DETECT