

North Carolina Heat Report

September 6-12, 2015



Key Points

- ☀ Approximately 48 emergency department visits for heat-related illness were observed
- ☀ Daily maximum heat indices ranged from 81°F to 98°F (median = 90°F) at Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU)
- ☀ Common references in emergency department visit notes were for working outside, recreation (e.g., volleyball, races), and participation in parades

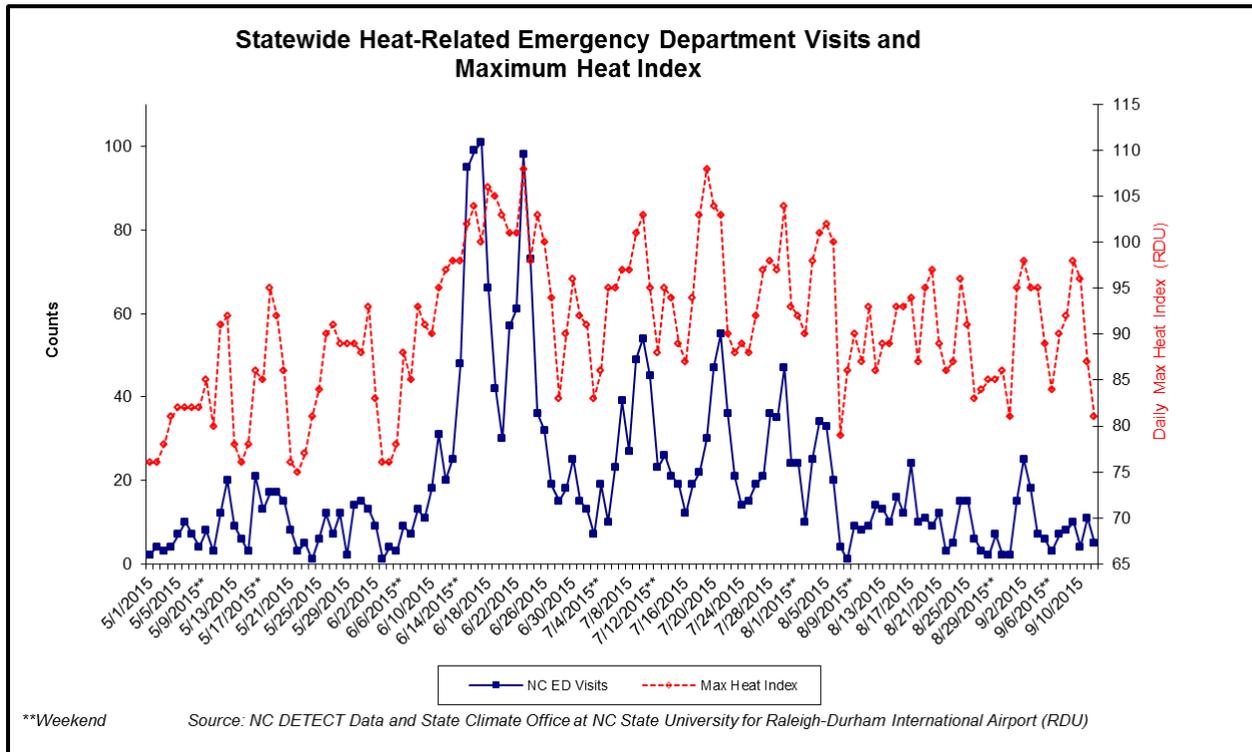
Season to Date (September 2015)

- ☀ Approximately 2,679 heat-related illnesses were identified in emergency department visit records (figure 1)
- ☀ 79% of illness was among males, mostly 25-44 years of age (figure 2)
- ☀ During the June heatwave, 917 illnesses were observed, and daily maximum heat indices of 98°F - 108°F were recorded at RDU

Regional Data

- ☀ All visits were seen in hospitals in the Piedmont and Coastal regions
- ☀ 21% of all visits were seen in hospitals in the Sandhills sub-region¹

Figure 1. Emergency department visits for heat-related illness and daily maximum heat index (RDU airport), 5/1/15 to 9/12/15, North Carolina.



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.

Figure 2. Emergency department visits for heat-related illness by age group, 5/1/15 to 9/12/15, North Carolina.

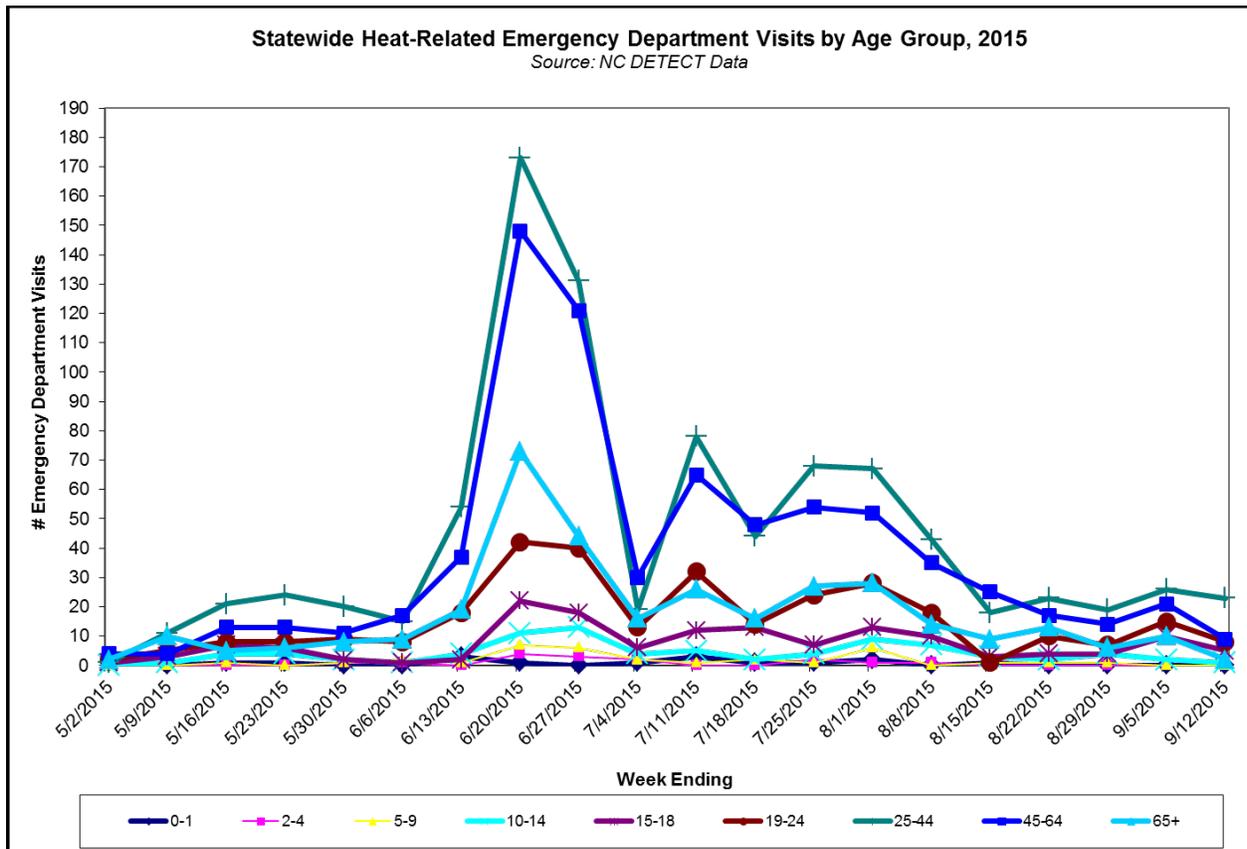
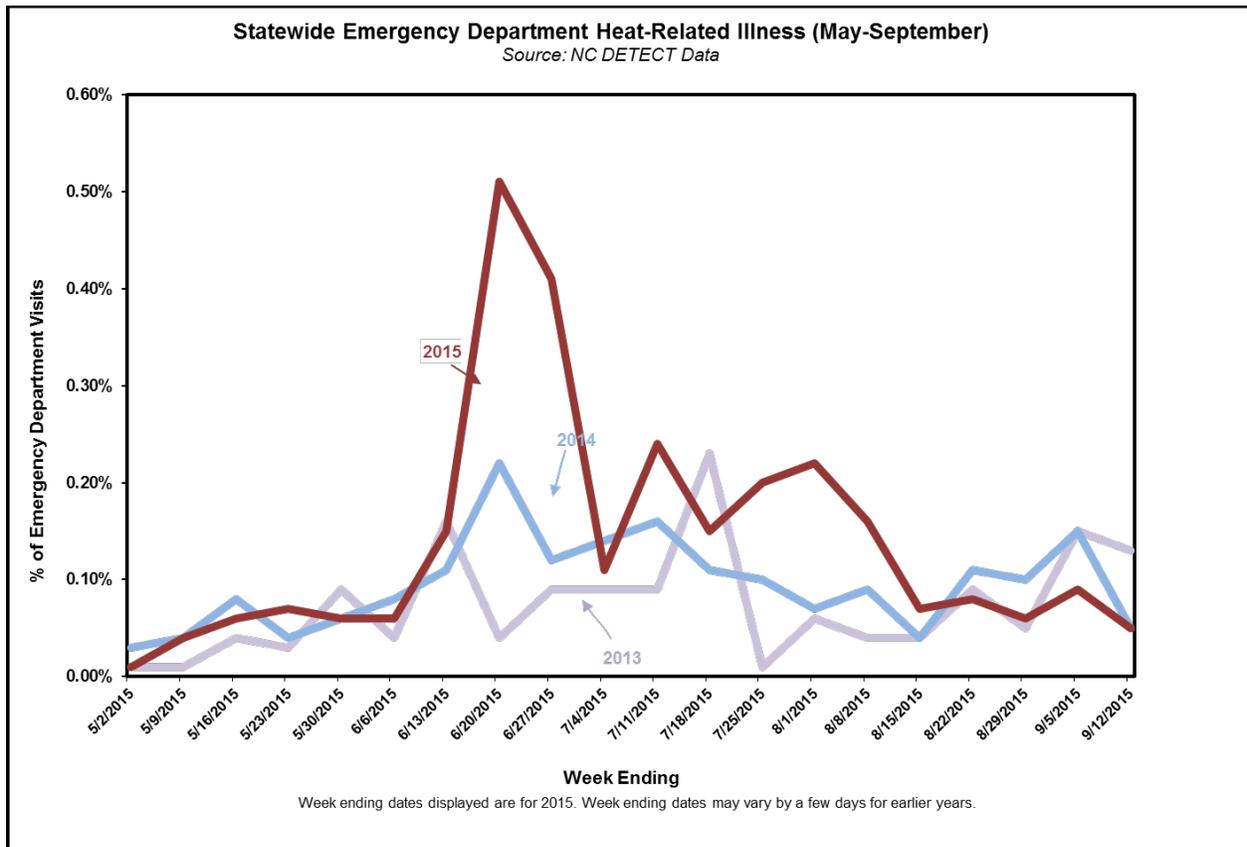


Table 1. Emergency department visits for heat-related illness by age group, 9/6/15 to 9/12/15, North Carolina.

	N (%)
Sex	
Male	38 (79)
Female	10 (21)
Age Group (yrs)	
0-14	1 (2)
15-18	5 (10)
19-24	8 (17)
25-44	23 (48)
45-64	9 (19)
65+	2 (4)

Figure 3. Emergency department visits for heat-related illness for selected years, 2013 to 2015, North Carolina.



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,’ and ‘heat 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.

Disclaimer: The North Carolina Disease Event Tracking and Epidemiologic Collection Tool (NC DETECT) is an advanced, statewide public health surveillance system. NC DETECT is funded with federal funds by North Carolina Division of Public Health (NC DPH), Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant (PHEP), and managed through a collaboration between NC DPH and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Department of Emergency Medicine’s Carolina Center for Health Informatics (UNC CCHI). The NC DETECT Data Oversight Committee does not take responsibility for the scientific validity or accuracy of methodology, results, statistical analyses, or conclusions presented. The NC DETECT Data Oversight Committee (DOC) includes representatives from the NC DPH, UNC NC DETECT Team and NC Hospital Association.