



# 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):

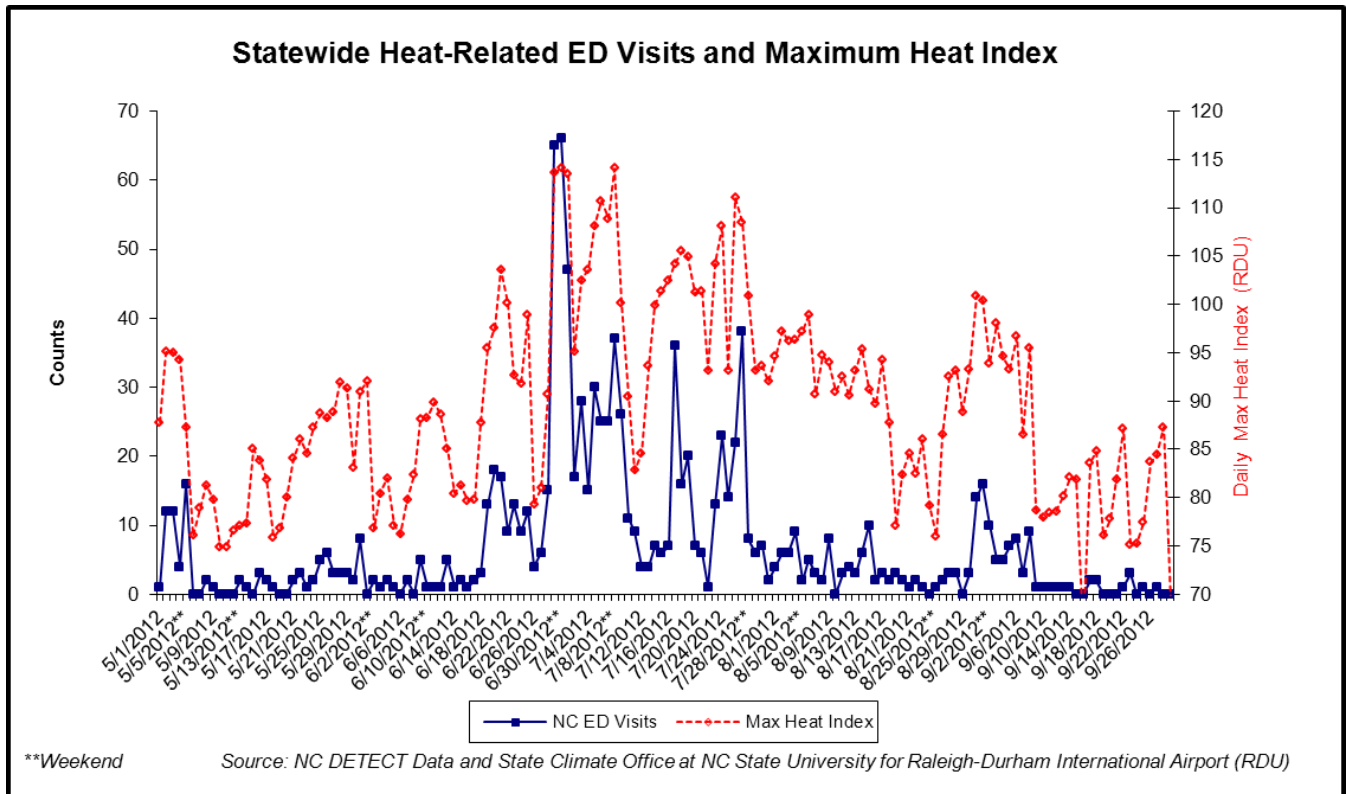
- ☀ Approximately 1,075 heat-related illnesses were identified in ED visit records (figure 1)
- ☀ Majority of illness among males 25-64 years of age (figure 2)
- ☀ The 2012 ‘heat wave’ during late June – early July yielded a spike in ED visits consistent with early ‘heat waves’ in previous years (figure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

### Heat wave 2012 (6/29/12 – 7/2/12):

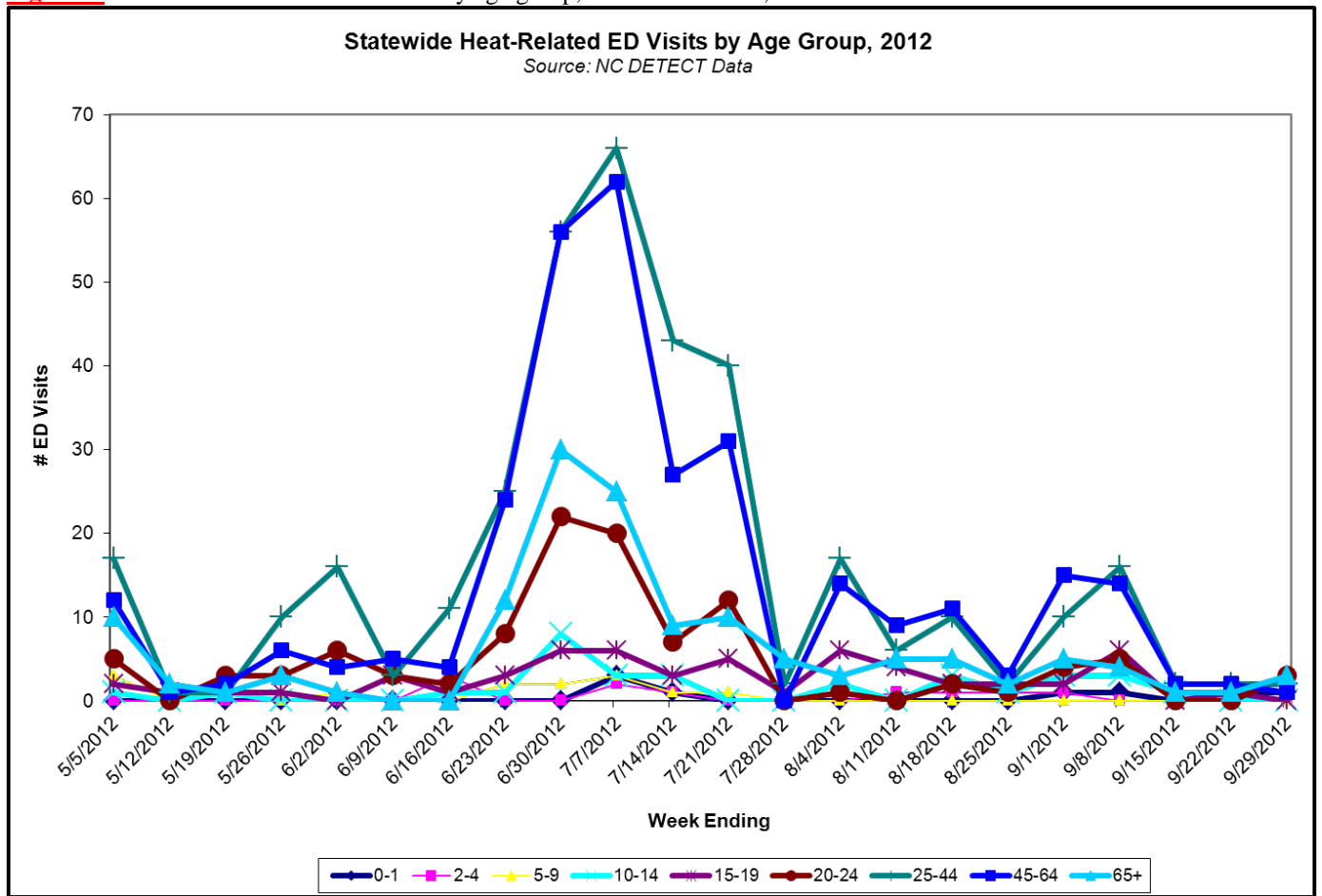
- ☀ Approximately 431 heat-related illnesses were observed using chief complaint and ICD-9 searches of ED visit records
- ☀ Daily maximum heat indices of 113°F - 114°F were recorded at RDU during this heat wave

**Notes:** 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 [lauren.thie@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:lauren.thie@dhhs.nc.gov) for more information.

**Figure 1.** 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.



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

