Occupational & Environmental Epidemiology

The 2014 North Carolina Heat Report

Last week (9/7-9/13/2014):

- Approximately 44 emergency department visits for heat-related illness were observed
- Daily maximum heat indices ranged from 82°F to 94°F (median = 84°F) at Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU)
- Common references in emergency department visit notes were for recreation (e.g., baseball, running) and work (e.g., working outside).

Season to date (5/1/14 – 9/13/14):

- Approximately 1889 heat-related illnesses were identified in emergency department visit records (figure 1)
- 82% of illness among males, mostly 25-64 years of age (figure 2)

Notes: 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 llness. 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.

Figure 1. Emergency department visits for heat-related illness and daily maximum heat index (RDU airport), 5/1/14 to 9/13/14, North Carolina.

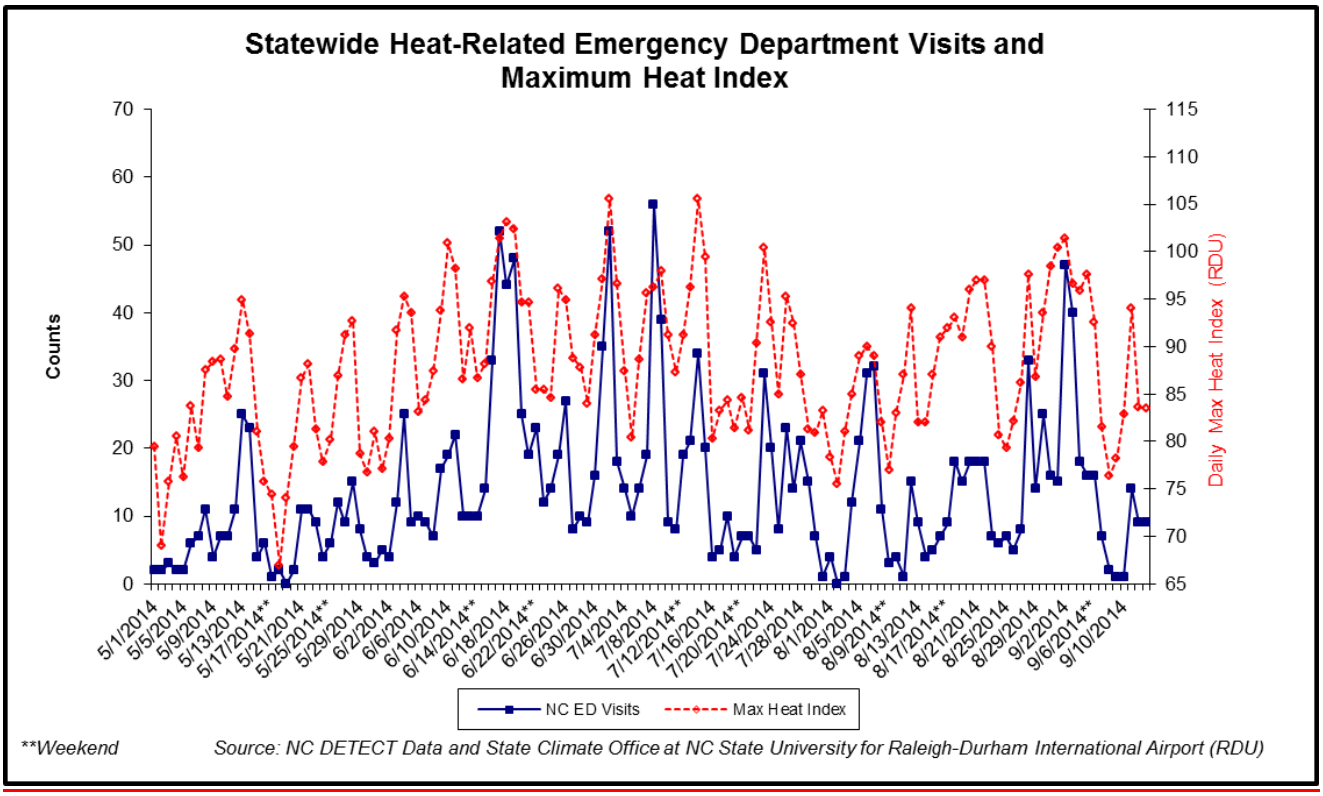


Figure 2. Emergency department visits for heat-related illness by age group, 5/1/14 to 9/13/14, North Carolina.

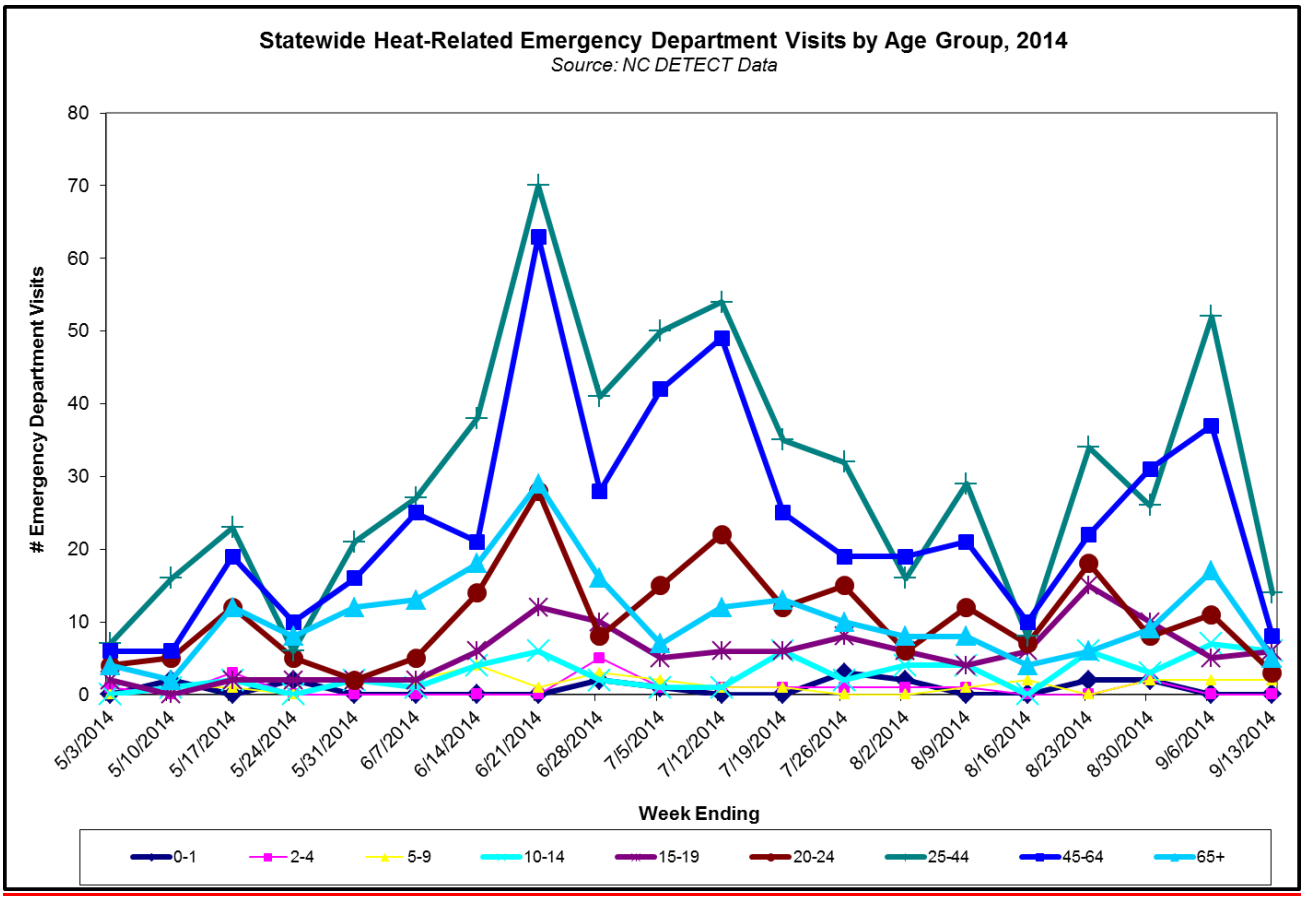
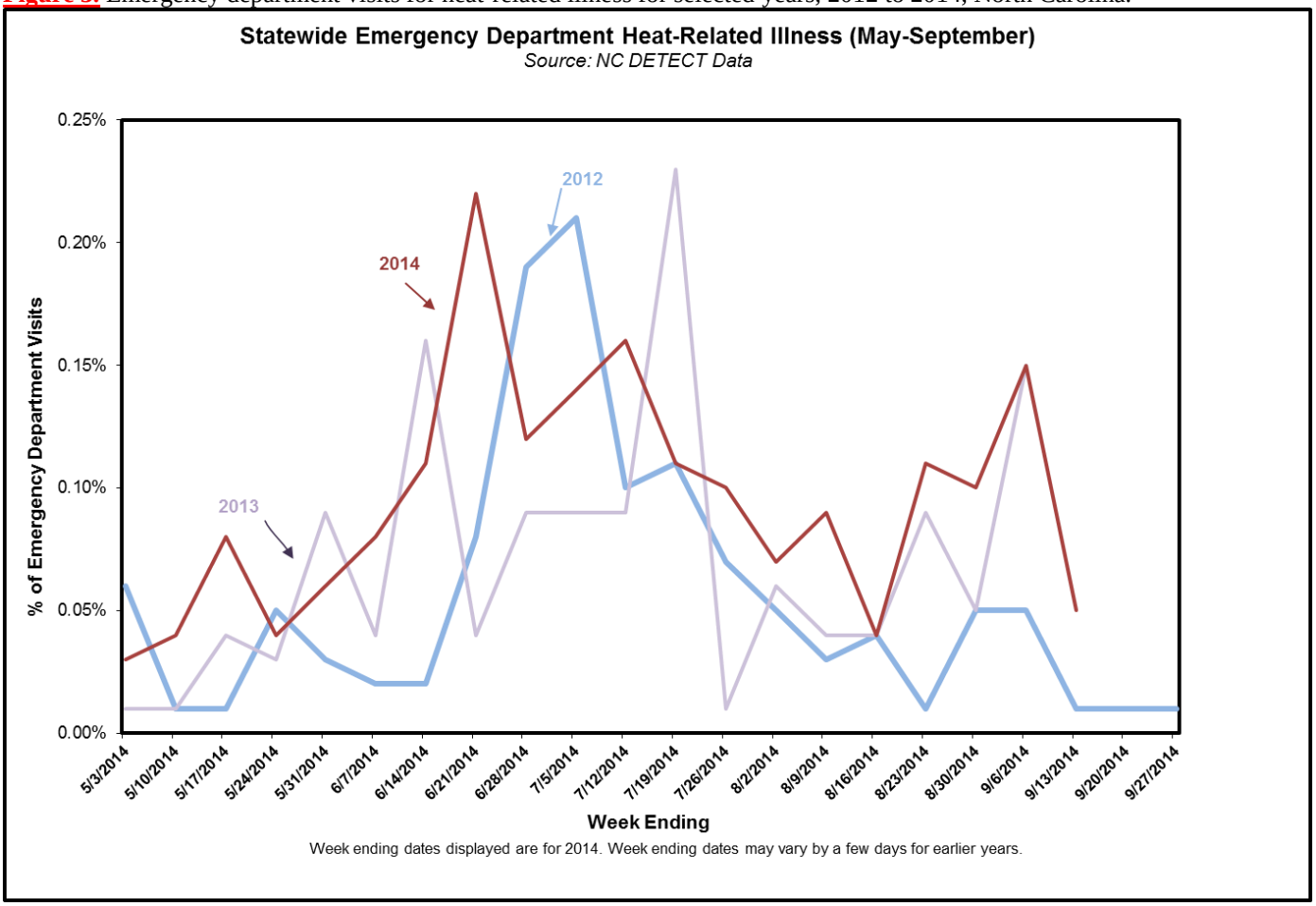


Figure 3. Emergency department visits for heat-related illness for selected years, 2012 to 2014, North Carolina.



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.