

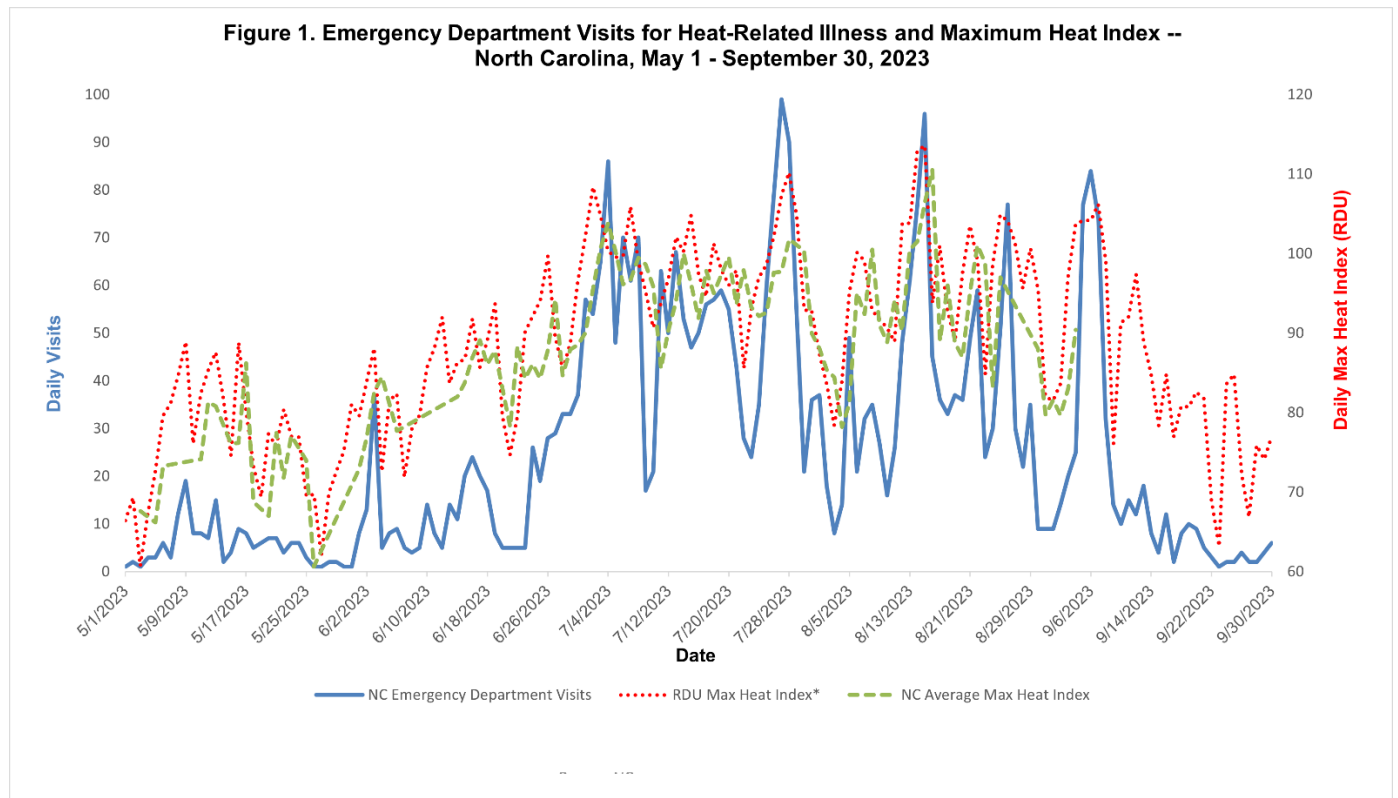
North Carolina Heat Report

May 1–September 30, 2023



2023 Season Summary

- Daily maximum heat indices ranged from 61°F to 114°F (median = 89°F) at Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU)
- 3,925 emergency department visits for heat-related illness were identified (Figure 1)
 - 69% of visits were among males (Table 1)
 - The highest proportion of visits were among patients aged 25–44 (31%) and patients aged 45–64 (28%) (Table 1)
 - The most frequent heat related diagnosis code was Heat Exhaustion (n = 1,393) (Table 2).
 - The highest proportion of visits occurred in hospitals in the Piedmont (59%) and Coastal (36%) regions
 - 15% of visits occurred in hospitals in the Sandhills sub-region¹
- The 2023 average proportion of emergency department visits for heat-related illness was 0.18%, similar to the 2022 average proportion of 0.17%, and the 2018-2022 average proportion of 0.19%. (Figure 2)



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.



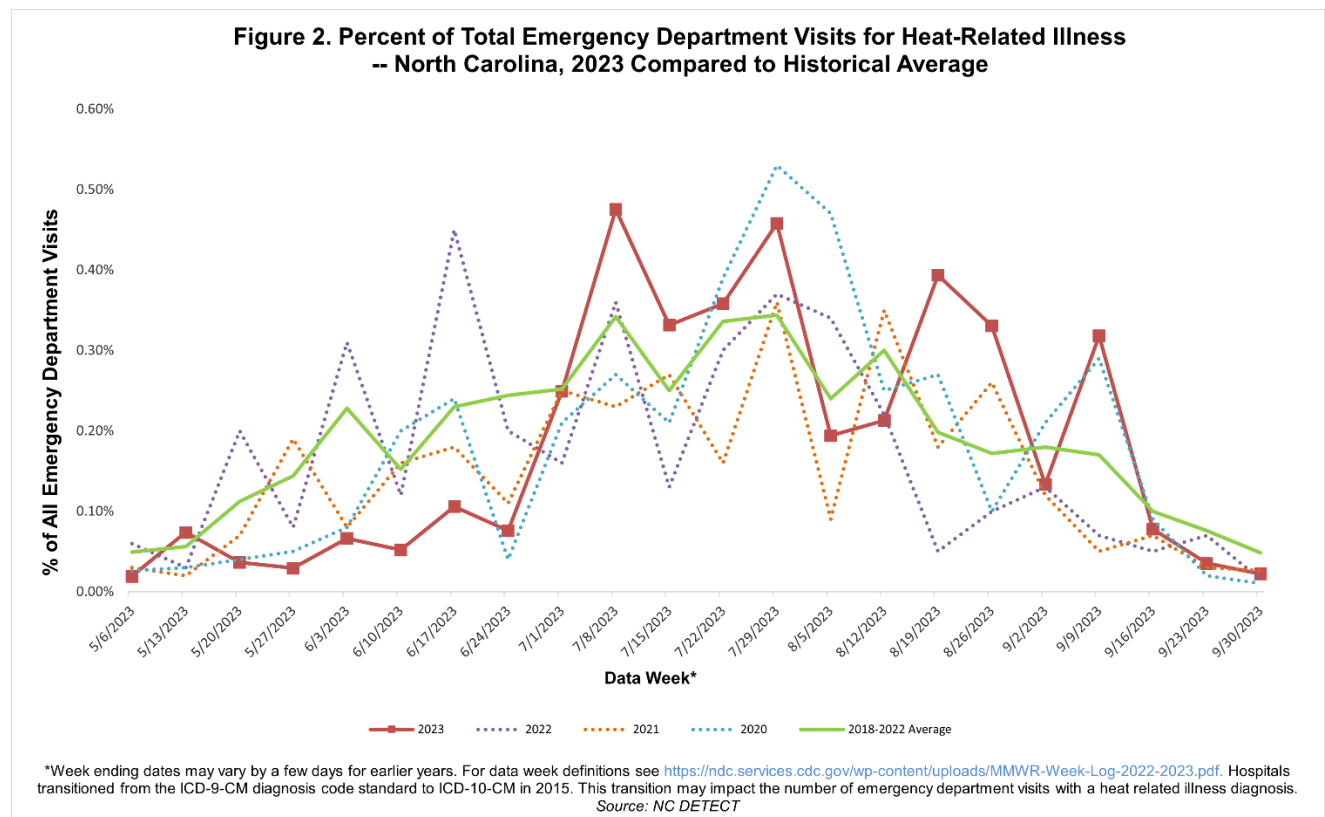
Table 1. Visits by sex and age group - May 1-September 30, 2023

	N=3,925	(%)†
Sex		
Male	2,710	(69)
Female	1,213	(31)
Unknown	2	(<1)
Age		
0-14	193	(5)
15-18	203	(5)
19-24	397	(10)
25-44	1,224	(31)
45-64	1,103	(28)
65+	804	(20)
Unknown	1	(<1)

Table 2. Visits by severity – May 1-September 30, 2023

	N=2,371‡	(%)†
Severity§		
Heat Cramps	89	(4)
Heat Exhaustion	1,393	(59)
Heat Stroke	60	(3)
Heat Syncope	284	(12)
Other Effects	545	(23)

† may not total 100 due to rounding ‡ missing severity data = 1,554 § definitions of heat related illness categories: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/heatrelillness.html> || other effects include heat fatigue, heat edema, other effects of heat and light, and other effects 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 autumn.locklear@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.