

## EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AND URGENT CARE VISITS FOR HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS IN VIRGINIA

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June 18-19, 2018

### Background

At the time of this report, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) received data on visits to 77 acute care hospital emergency departments (EDs), 16 free-standing EDs, and 43 urgent care centers (UCCs) in Virginia for purposes of public health surveillance. The purpose of this report is to characterize ED and UCC visit trends for heat-related illness.

Chief complaints and discharge diagnoses of ED visits are analyzed by VDH to identify and monitor issues of public health concern across Virginia. The chief complaint is a free-text field that captures the patient's primary reason for seeking medical care as interpreted by the ED registration staff. The discharge diagnosis is a coded field that uses standardized values outlined by the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) 10<sup>th</sup> Revision and SNOMED Clinical Terms (CT) code sets. Analyses were conducted by sex, age group, and [VDH Health District](#).

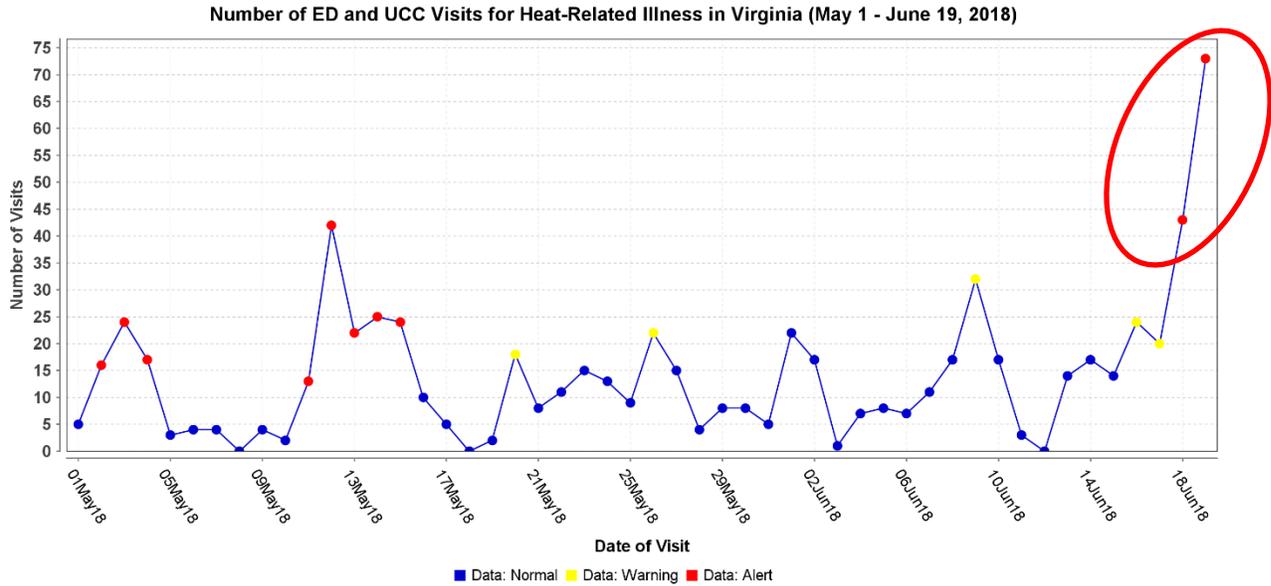
Readers are strongly encouraged to review [syndromic surveillance data limitations](#) when interpreting this report.

### Methodology

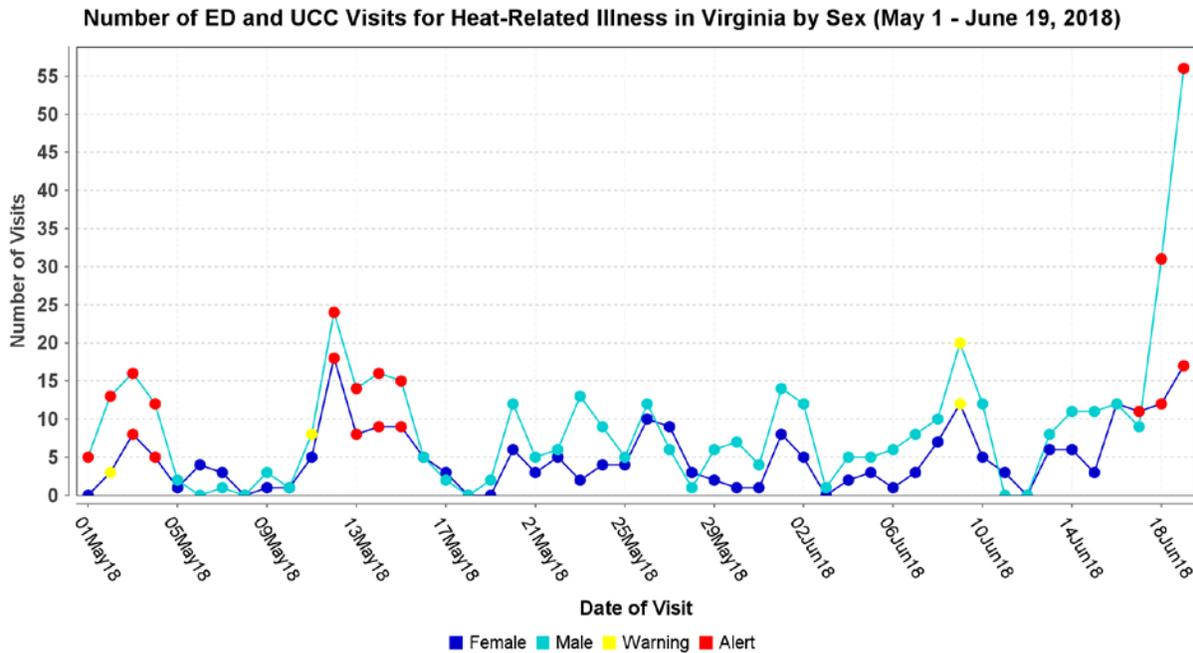
ED and UCC visits for **heat-related illness** were identified based on the [Heat-Related Illness Syndrome Query](#) definition published by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) using the following terms for Chief Complaint and Discharge Diagnosis: *heat exhaustion; heat exposure; heat cramps; heat stroke; hyperthermia*; ICD-10 codes: *T67, X30.*; and SNOMED CT codes: *95868006, 95867001*.

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On June 18th and 19th, 2018, 116 ED and UCC visits for heat-related illness were observed, with 43 visits on Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup> (37%) and 73 visits on Tuesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> (63%). The largest proportion of visits were among patients 20-29 years old (23%, N=26). The graph below displays the daily number of heat-related visits in Virginia between May 1 and June 19, 2018.



Of the total 116 visits between June 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 75% occurred among males (N=87). However, both males and females saw a significant increase in heat-related visits. The graph below shows ED and UCC heat-related illness visits in Virginia stratified by sex.



The map below displays [VDH Health Districts](#) with significant increases in heat-related visits on June 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> compared to baseline levels. Twenty-three out of the 35 VDH Health Districts experienced elevated levels for heat-related illness (red alerts: p-value < 0.01; yellow warning: p-value < 0.05).

