

Austin Public Health

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS AND MORTALITY SURVEILLANCE

Background

Austin Public Health initiated heat-related illness surveillance on May 15, 2018 and will continue through September 30, 2018. The primary data sources are: (1) emergency department (ED) chief complaint data from 15 Austin Metro Area hospitals and (2) City of Austin mortality records. Two sources are utilized for daily heat index, the National Weather Service (NWS) National Oceanic Atmospheric Association (NOAA) and the Iowa Environmental Mesonet at Iowa State University. This report provides summary findings for this data. Please note that ED Chief Complaints are pre-diagnostic. For additional details regarding methodology or incident definitions, please contact Ashley Hawes at Ashley.Hawes@austintexas.gov

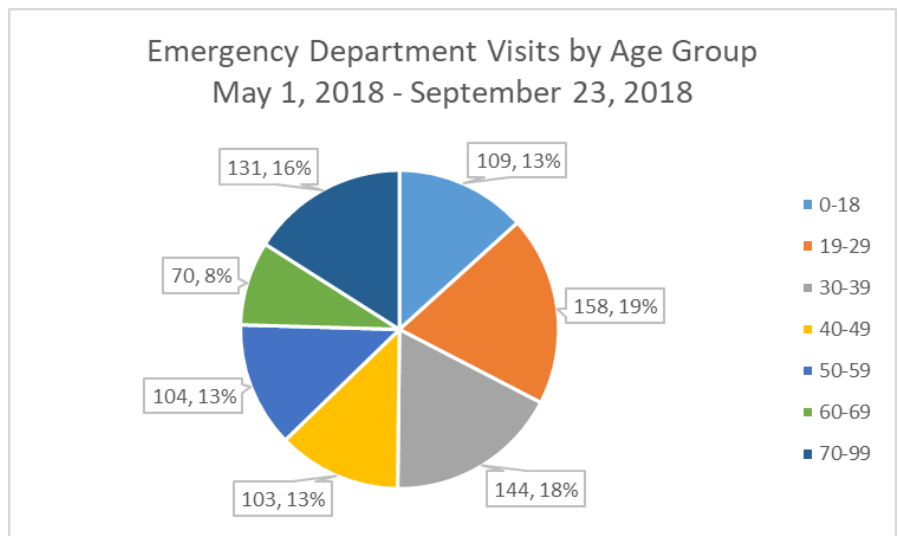
Monitoring Period Summary

May 1, 2018 – September 23, 2018

Heat Advisory/Warning	2 Heat Advisory, 1 Excessive Heat Warning
Heat-Related Deaths	4
Heat-Related Illness	819 including dehydration, 283 excluding dehydration
Drowning Information	6 deaths, 30 related ED visits

Number of Visits by Zip Code (20+ visits shown)	
78610	24
78626	25
78640	45
78660	31
78664	24
78701	25
78704	20
78745	24
78753	37
78758	48

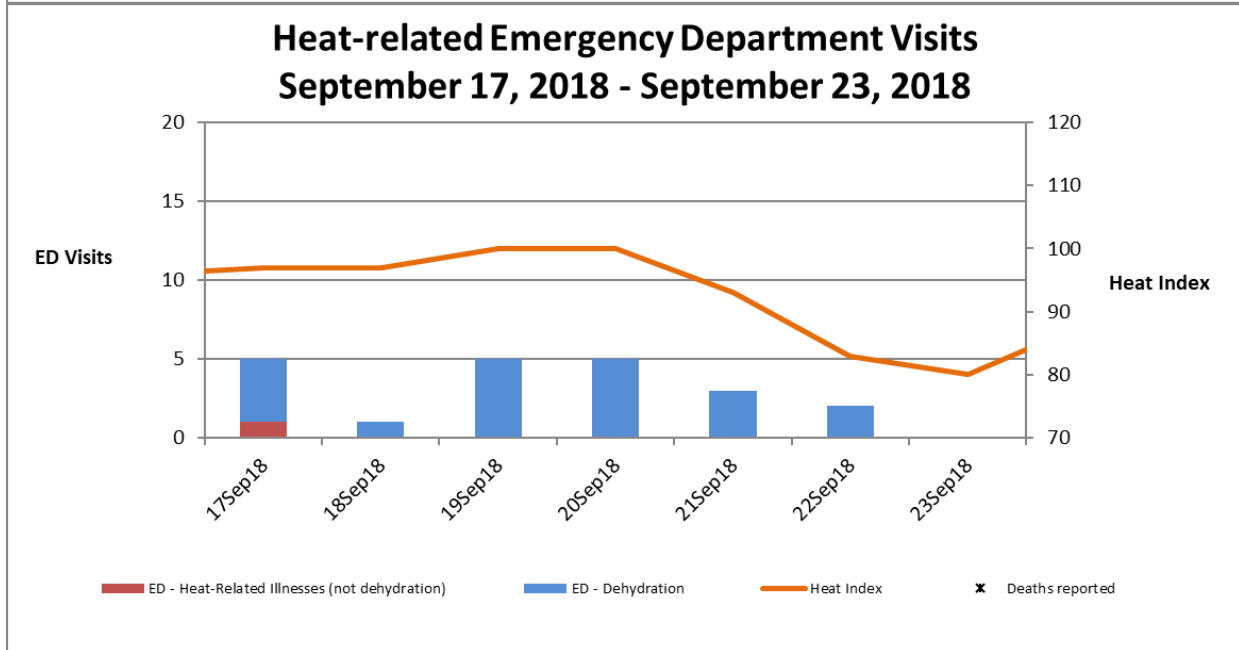
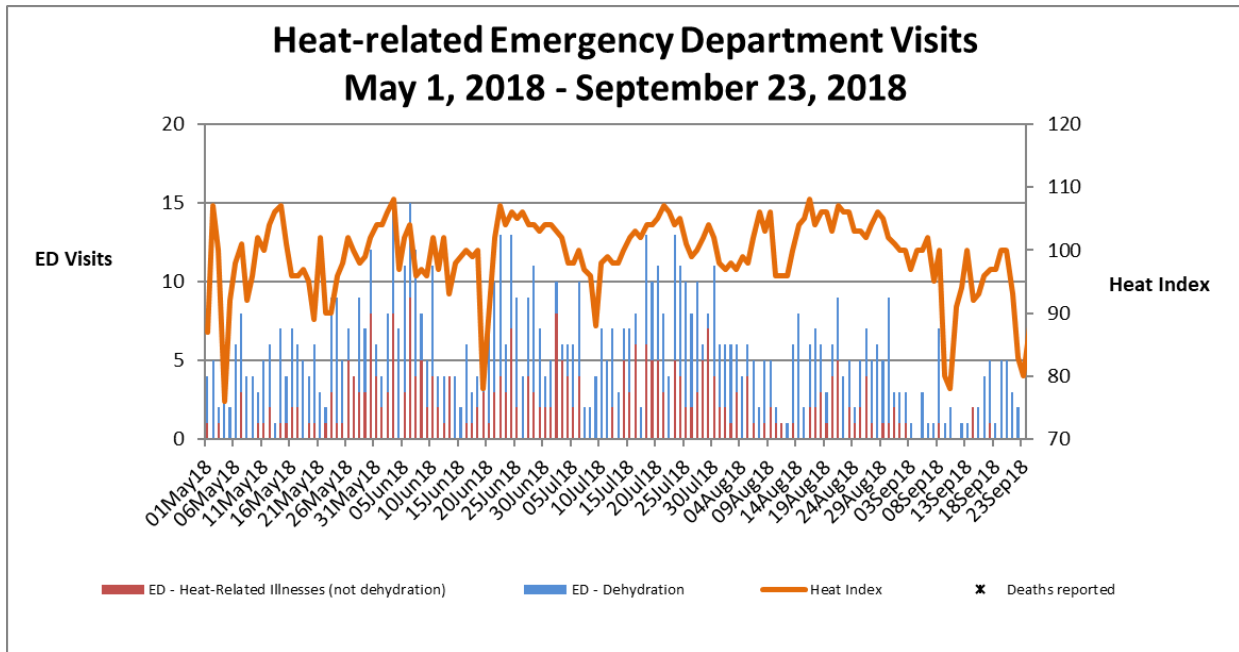
Count of ED Visits by Gender	
Female	352
Male	467
Total	819



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WEATHER FORECAST:				
Day	Date	High Temp (°F)	Heat Index (°F)	Conditions
Today	24-Sept	86	88	Overcast
Tues	25-Sept	91	99	Mostly sunny, 20% chance of rain
Wed	26-Sept	86	91	Mostly cloudy, storms likely
Thurs	27-Sept	80	81	Mostly cloudy, 40% chance of storms
Fri	28-Sept	84	90	Mostly cloudy, 40% chance of storms
Sat	29-Sept	85	92	Mostly cloudy, 40% chance of storms

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Related Media (September 17, 2018 – September 23, 2018)

No noteworthy news articles related to heat for this period

Please Note

Last weekly report will be sent out Monday October 1, 2018
Final heat season summary will be sent out by October 31, 2018

Definitions

Excessive Heat Warning

An Excessive Heat Warning is issued within 12 hours of the onset of extremely dangerous heat conditions. The general rule of thumb for this Warning is when the maximum heat index temperature is expected to be 105° or higher for at least 2 days and night time air temperatures will not drop below 75°; however, these criteria vary across the country, especially for areas not used to extreme heat conditions. If you don't take precautions immediately when conditions are extreme, you may become seriously ill or even die.

Heat Advisory

A Heat Advisory is issued within 12 hours of the onset of extremely dangerous heat conditions. The general rule of thumb for this Advisory is when the maximum heat index temperature is expected to be 100° or higher for at least 2 days, and night time air temperatures will not drop below 75°; however, these criteria vary across the country, especially for areas that are not used to dangerous heat conditions. Take precautions to avoid heat illness. If you don't take precautions, you may become seriously ill or even die.

Heat Index

The Heat Index is a measure of how hot it really feels when relative humidity is factored in with the actual air temperature.

For more heat-related weather information: <https://www.weather.gov/safety/heat>