

For more information on syndromic surveillance and the purpose of seasonal hazard reports, please see the last page of this report.

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SUMMARY:

This report includes total daily counts of ED and urgent care visits in Oregon and counts for heat-related illness, submersion events, wildfire-related smoke inhalation, and air quality-related respiratory illness.

WHAT ARE YOU SEEING?

- Visits for heat-related illness (HRI) remain steady despite recent increases in temperatures.
- No increases for total visits or visits related to submersion events, smoke inhalation, or air quality-related respiratory illness.

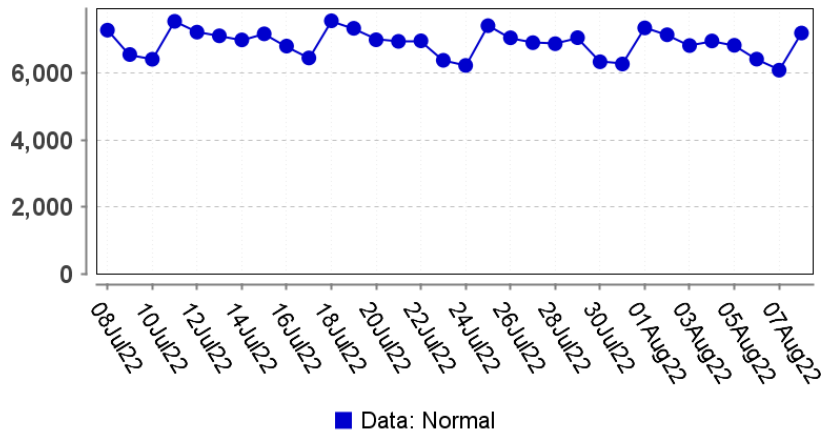
Summer hazard-related visits can be associated with outdoor conditions, extreme weather events, or recreational activities. The charts below show visit counts matching each query. See the left sidebar for more information on how to read the charts.

HOW TO READ THESE CHARTS

Visit counts for each day are color-coded in the charts to the right. Blue dots indicate normal visit counts. Yellow or red dots mean the counts for that week are higher than expected. A warning or alert does not necessarily indicate an event of public health significance. We are looking for sudden or sustained increases in visits. Data are considered preliminary and are subject to change.

TOTAL VISITS QUERY includes all visits to EDs and participating urgent care centers across the state. This query shows the total burden to the Oregon healthcare system and provides context for the queries and syndromes shown below.

TOTAL VISITS QUERY

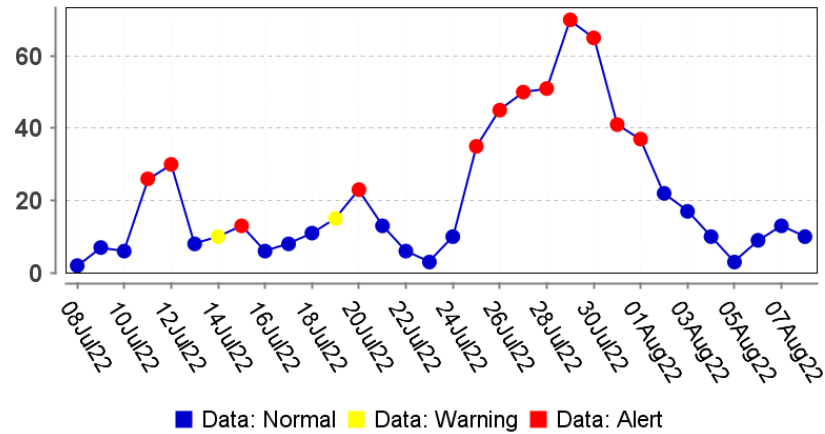


FINDINGS

In this chart, we see that total visits are currently at expected levels.

HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS (HRI) QUERY

HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS (HRI) QUERY looks for the codes for HRI (including ICD-9 code 992 and ICD-10 code T67) or words like “heat,” “sun stroke,” and “hyperthermia.”

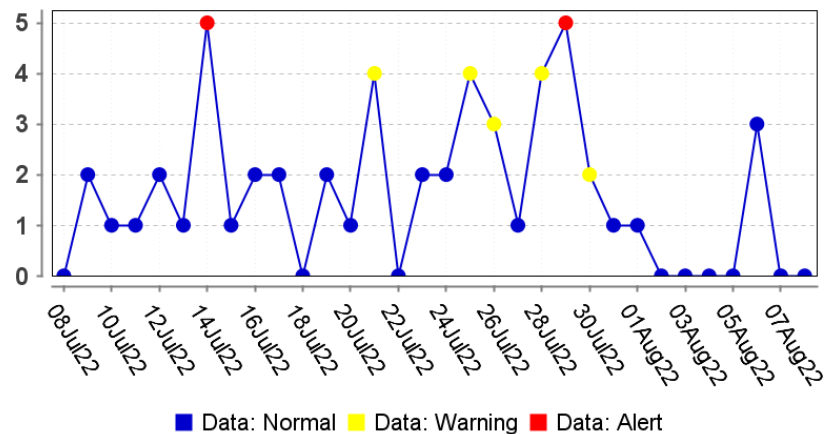


FINDINGS

In this chart, we see a steady amount HRI visits, despite slightly warmer weather experienced in some parts of the state during those time periods. To reduce the risk of HRI, drink plenty of fluids, wear light colored clothing and sunscreen, and schedule outdoor activities during cooler times of the day. For more information, see the [Oregon Health Authority’s HRI prevention website](#).

SUBMERSION AND NON-FATAL DROWNING QUERY

SUBMERSION AND NON-FATAL DROWNING QUERY looks for the codes for non-fatal drowning (ICD-10 code T751) or words like “drown” or “under water,” as long as the patient doesn’t say it “feels like drowning.”

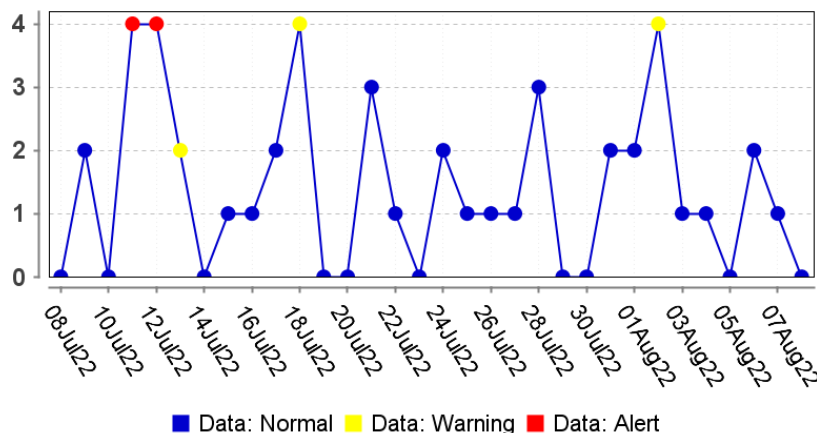


FINDINGS

In this chart, we see that visits for submersion events are starting to rise, which usually occurs as people begin spending more time outside engaging in water activities. Most drowning deaths and injuries are preventable. Many visits were for children. Always supervise children when they are in or near water, including bathtubs. Wear personal flotation devices when out on boats, near open bodies of water or participating in water sports. Learn how to swim and how to perform CPR. Never swim alone, and always wear a personal flotation device when boating.

FIRE AND SMOKE INHALATION

FIRE AND SMOKE INHALATION QUERY looks for the codes for smoke inhalation (ICD-10 code J70.5) or words like “wildfire.”



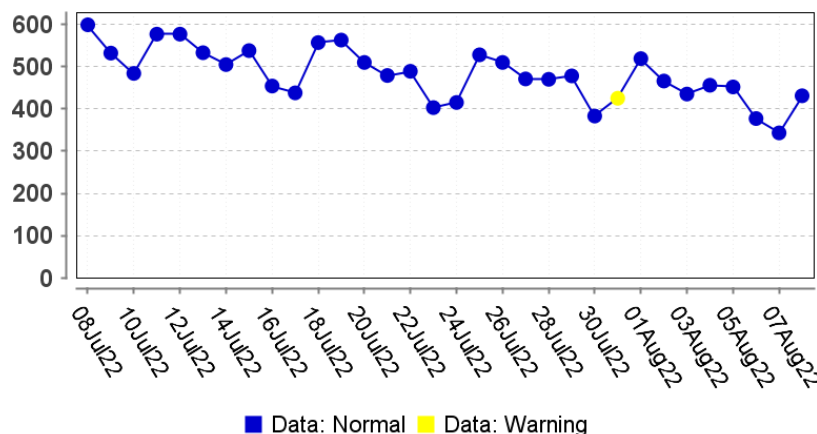
■ Data: Normal ■ Data: Warning ■ Data: Alert

FINDINGS

In this chart, we see that smoke-related visits are currently at expected levels. Avoid outdoor activities when the air quality is unhealthy. Check the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Air Quality Index. If there is an air quality monitor near you, the website can give you information about what time of day the smoke levels are lowest. The DEQ Air Quality Index can be found on the Oregon Smoke Blog: <http://www.oregonsmoke.blogspot.com/>.

AIR QUALITY-RELATED RESPIRATORY ILLNESS

AIR QUALITY-RELATED RESPIRATORY ILLNESS QUERY looks for the codes for words and codes for respiratory illnesses that can be exacerbated by worsening air quality, including asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, as well as or words like “wheezing” and “shortness of breath.” This query does not include search terms for air quality.



■ Data: Normal ■ Data: Warning

FINDINGS

In this chart, we see visits for respiratory illnesses that may be related to or exacerbated by air quality conditions are currently at expected levels. Persons with asthma or other chronic respiratory diseases are more likely to have health effects from wildfire smoke. Additionally, persons with cardiovascular disease, infants, young children and the elderly, pregnant women, smokers and persons with COVID-19 are particularly sensitive to air pollution, including wildfire smoke.

VISIT INFORMATION is collected from EDs and urgent care centers across the state. Currently, all 60 eligible hospitals are sending ED data every day for syndromic surveillance. Some urgent care centers are currently reporting, and we are in the process of onboarding more.

SEASONAL HAZARDS for summer include elevated temperatures and dry conditions, which can lead to wildland fires and unhealthy air quality in the Pacific Northwest. Water-related activities include the risk of submersion, drowning, or exposure to harmful algal blooms.

MONITORING Oregon ESSENCE provides key information on population health during seasonal hazard events. ESSENCE users can now reproduce these queries themselves and look at regional health effects not captured in the statewide view by following instructions posted at www.healthoregon.org/essence

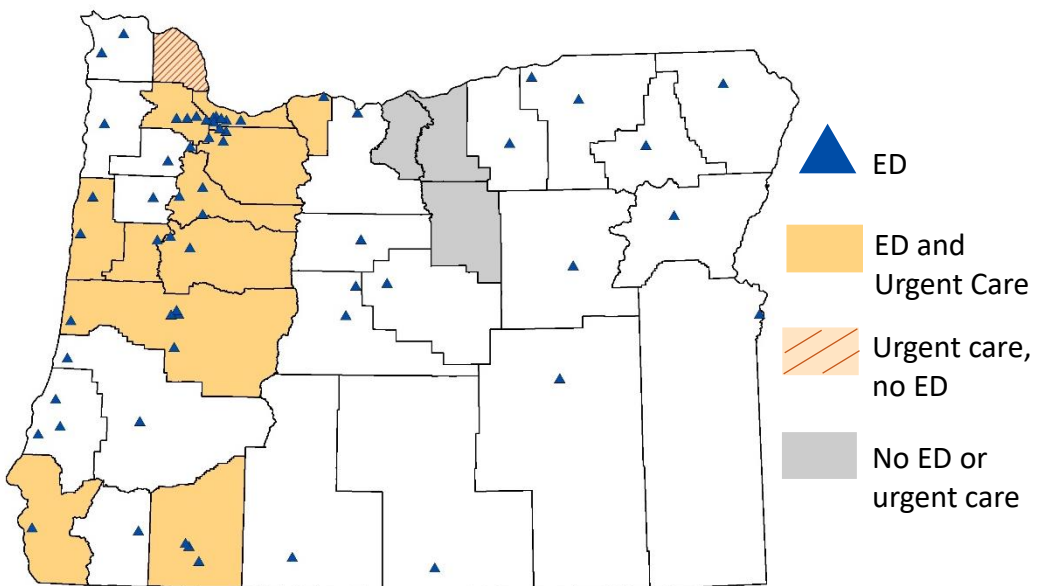
SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE is the near real-time monitoring of key health indicators in emergency department (ED) and urgent care visits. Oregon’s syndromic surveillance project (Oregon ESSENCE) tracks the number of visits for specific patient symptoms using chief complaints (what the patient says is the reason for their visit) and discharge diagnosis codes. We look at symptoms associated with known health effects of seasonal hazards.

SIMILAR SYMPTOMS are grouped together into “syndrome” categories. For example, “wheezing” and “difficulty breathing” are grouped into the asthma-like query. By comparing the counts we see against those we would expect to see, we can identify trends in visits.

HEALTH EFFECTS OF SUMMER HAZARDS

- Extreme heat makes many groups, including people with chronic disease, young children, older adults, and outdoor workers, vulnerable to heat-related illness (HRI). HRI refers to a variety of conditions resulting from elevated body temperatures such as heat stroke, heat syncope (fainting), heat exhaustion, and heat cramps.
- Wildfire smoke, air pollution, and pollen can exacerbate respiratory conditions such as asthma. Wildfires occur every year in Oregon and are projected to increase in frequency and magnitude. Oregon Health Authority’s [Climate and Health Program](#) is working to study and plan for the health effects of climate change in Oregon.
- Recreational activities in pools and natural waterways can lead to an increase in submersion and near-fatal drownings.

SYNDROMIC COVERAGE by county is detailed in the map below.



OREGON PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
Acute & Communicable Disease Prevention

