

Emergency Department Visits for Diagnoses Directly Indicating Heat Exposure: Variation Across Counties in the United States, 2016–2020

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OVERVIEW

With climate change, there has been an increase in the number and intensity of climate-related events, such as heat waves, wildfires, hurricanes, droughts, flooding, and poor air quality. These climate-related events have a significant impact on the physical and behavioral health and well-being of individuals, and they place increased demands on healthcare systems. ¹⁻⁵ Recently, more than 200 medical journals issued a joint statement calling for emergency action on climate change, including a data-driven approach to understanding the optimal public health response to climate change. ⁶

Climate change is expected to continue, with an increase in the frequency, severity, and duration of heat waves in the coming decades. Heat-related conditions can occur when someone is exposed to high temperatures and his or her body is unable to cool itself sufficiently through sweating. Symptoms can range from mild rashes, swelling, and cramps to potentially fatal heat stroke and heat exhaustion. Heat is responsible for more fatalities than all other types of weather events in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an average of 702 heat-related deaths (i.e., deaths with heat as the underlying cause or a contributing cause as listed on the death certificate) occur each year. Moreover, mortality studies focused on estimates of excess deaths have suggested that the number of annual deaths attributable to heat may range between 5,600 and 12,000 across the United States, with population rates of excess deaths varying substantially by region and county. Additionally, the CDC reports that about 67,500 emergency department (ED) visits each year are due to heat and more than 9,200 people are hospitalized due to heat. A recent, more detailed study shows that the relationship between the heat index and cause-specific hospitalizations varies widely by geographic region.

Understanding geographic variation in ED utilization for diagnoses directly indicating heat exposure can help inform policy and target prevention efforts, such as heat alert protocols and action plans, changes to the built environment, and public education programs. ¹⁵

METHODS

County- and State-level population rates of ED visits with a diagnosis directly indicating heat exposure were derived from the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) 2016–2020 State Emergency Department Databases (SEDD) and State Inpatient Databases (SID). The SEDD capture information on treat-and-release ED visits that do not result in an admission (i.e., encounters for patients who were treated in the ED and then released from the ED, transferred to another hospital or health facility, left against medical advice, or died being treated in the ED). The SID contain information on patients seen in the ED and admitted to the hospital. Appendix A lists the HCUP Partner organizations. Appendix B provides background on the HCUP databases.

This analysis was limited to records of ED visits, regardless of hospital admission, at community hospitals, excluding rehabilitation and long-term acute care facilities, with any-listed diagnosis directly indicating heat exposure. Diagnoses include those for heat-related syncope, cramps, exhaustion, fatigue, and edema, in addition to effects of heat and light and exposure to excessive natural heat and sunlight (Appendix C). In 2019, there were about 80,000 ED visits with a diagnosis directly indicating heat exposure across 39 States and the District of Columbia. Because case identification is based on an explicit diagnosis code indicating heat exposure that often can be treated in the outpatient setting, the population rates of ED visits reflected in this brief are conservative, representing only a fraction of all heat-related ED visits and a fraction of all outpatient (e.g., primary care, urgent care, ED) visits related to heat exposure.

Counts of ED visits are summarized by the *patient's* county and State of residence, with one exception. In the cases in which people are exposed to heat while away from home (defined as the patient receiving care outside of their state of residence and more than 100 miles away from their ZIP code of residence), the encounter is counted in the *hospital's* county and State. Based on 2019 HCUP data, almost 90 percent of ED visits with a diagnosis directly indicating heat exposure are treated within 50 miles of the patient's residence. Because the HCUP databases are state specific, the ED encounters were combined across States and then reallocated by patient or hospital county and State, as appropriate, within a data year.

The urban-rural classification scheme for U.S. counties developed by the National Center for Health Statistics is used to identify counties as one of the following:

- Large metro including counties in metropolitan service areas (MSAs) with 1 million or more residents.
- Medium and small metro including counties in MSAs with less than 1 million residents.
- Micropolitan including counties in micropolitan service areas of 10,000–49,999 residents
- Rural including counties not in a metropolitan or micropolitan service area.

^a Note: Due to border crossing, ED encounters are not counted if the patient was treated in a State for which data are unavailable.

This analysis includes ED data from 2,550 counties in 39 States and the District of Columbia, representing 85 percent of the population and 81 percent of all counties in the United States in 2019.

Table 1. Distribution of the Resident Population by Urban-Rural Classification of Counties, 2019

| | То | tal in the U.S., | 2019 | Represented in this Analysis, 2019 | | | |
|-------------------|----------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-------------|------------|--------|
| Urban-Rural | Number | Total | Mean of | Number of Total | | Mean of | |
| Classification of | of | Population | County | Counties | Population | County | |
| Counties | Counties | Population | Population | (Percent) | (Percent) | Population | |
| Large metro | 436 | 183,510,068 | F10.069 420.90F | | 161,571,662 | 469,685 | |
| Large metro | 430 | 105,510,000 | 420,895 | (78.9%) | (88.0%) | 409,085 | |
| Medium and small | 730 | 98,746,811 | 135,270 | 556 | 79,076,839 | 142 225 | |
| metro | /30 | 96,740,611 | 155,270 | (76.2%) | (80.1%) | 142,225 | |
| Micropolitan | 641 | 27,304,537 | 41 27 204 527 | 42,597 | 528 | 21,901,003 | 41,479 |
| Micropolitali | 641 | | 42,397 | (82.4%) | (80.2%) | 41,479 | |
| Rural | 1,337 | 18,777,932 | 14,045 | 1,122 | 15,262,566 | 13,603 | |
| Nulai | 1,337 | | 14,043 | (83.9%) | (81.3%) | 13,003 | |
| All counties | 3,144 | 328,339,348 | 104,434 | 2,550 | 277,812,070 | 108,946 | |
| Air counties | 3,144 | 320,339,346 | | (81.1%) | (84.6%) | 100,940 | |

Source: Annual Resident Population Estimates for States and Counties: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2020 (CC-EST2020-ALL), U.S. Census Bureau. Release Date: May 2021. Accessed March 12, 2022.

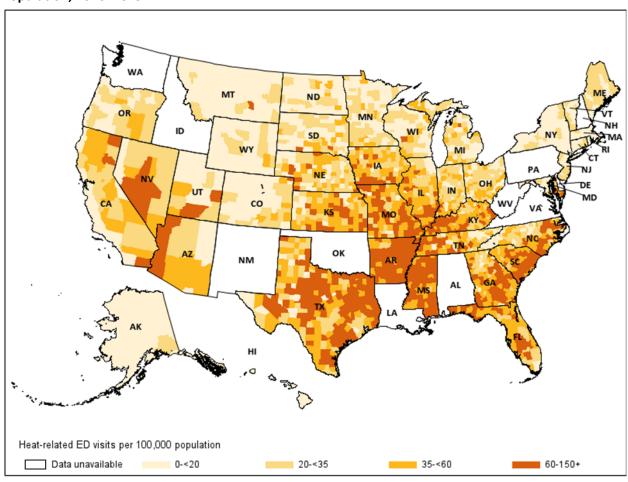
Population rates of ED visits were calculated using the HCUP data (numerator) and estimates of the annual resident population available from the U.S. Census Bureau (denominator).¹⁷ Quartiles for displaying the population rates of ED visits with a diagnosis directly indicating heat exposure were derived using the 2,550 counties with at least one ED visit in the 2016–2019 SEDD and SID (0-<20, 20-<35, 35-<60, and 60-150+ per 100,000 population). Sensitivity analysis to determine if higher population rates are due to small numerators (defined as less than 10 heat-related ED visits) shows the following distribution of counties with small numerators: 46.1 percent in the first (lowest) quartile, 32.1 percent in the second quartile, 16.2 percent in the third quartile, and 5.6 percent in the fourth (highest) quartile. The same criteria are applied to an analysis of 2020 data that are currently available.

RESULTS

County-Level Information on Emergency Department Visits with a Diagnosis Directly Indicating Heat Exposure per 100,000 Population, 2016–2019

Figures 1 and 2 display the county-level population rates of ED visits with a diagnosis directly indicating heat exposure per 100,000 population by the years 2016–2019 combined and then individually.

Figure 1. Emergency Department Visits with a Diagnosis Directly Indicating Heat Exposure per 100,000 Population, 2016–2019



Source: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP), State Emergency Department Databases (SEDD) and State Inpatient Databases (SID), 2016–2019

Abbreviation: ED, emergency department

Notes: Quartiles for the population rates of ED visits with a diagnosis directly indicating heat exposure were derived using the 2,550 counties with at least one ED visit in the 2016–2019 SEDD and SID. Diagnoses directly indicating heat exposure include heat-related syncope, cramps, exhaustion, fatigue, and edema, in addition to effects of heat and light and exposure to excessive natural heat and sunlight.

2016 2017

2018 2019

Heat-related ED visits per 100,000 population

Data unavailable 0-<20 20-35 35-60 60-150+

Figure 2. Emergency Department Visits with a Diagnosis Directly Indicating Heat Exposure per 100,000 Population by Year, 2016–2019

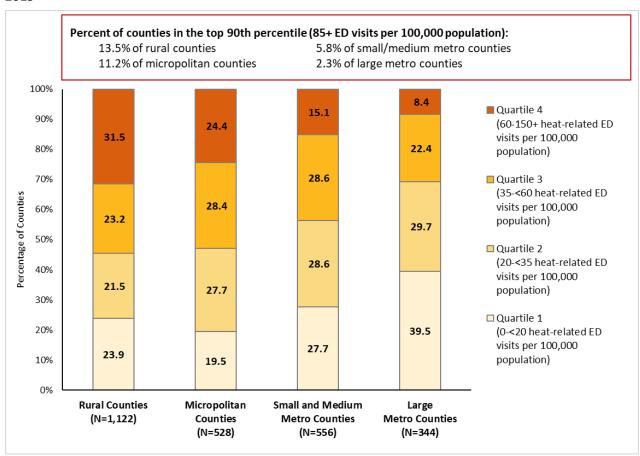
Source: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP), State Emergency Department Databases (SEDD) and State Inpatient Databases (SID), 2016–2019

Abbreviation: ED, emergency department

Notes: Quartiles for the population rates of ED visits with a diagnosis directly indicating heat exposure were derived using the 2,550 counties with at least one ED visit in the 2016–2019 SEDD and SID. Diagnoses directly indicating heat exposure include heat-related syncope, cramps, exhaustion, fatigue, and edema, in addition to effects of heat and light and exposure to excessive natural heat and sunlight.

The average population of counties in 2019 with the highest heat-related population rate of ED visits (quartile 4) was 34,322 residents (rural: 14,484; micropolitan: 36,004; small/medium metro: 90,799; large: 67,827). In contrast, the average population of counties with lowest heat-related population rate of ED visits (quartile 1) was 161,428 residents (rural: 10,589; micropolitan: 41,742; small/medium metro: 165,327; large metro: 671,159).

Figure 3. Distribution of Counties by the Population Rate of Emergency Department Visits with a Diagnosis Directly Indicating Heat Exposure per 100,000 Population, by Urban-Rural Location, 2016–2019



Source: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP), State Emergency Department Databases (SEDD) and State Inpatient Databases (SID), 2016–2019

Abbreviation: ED, emergency department

Notes: Quartiles for the population rates of ED visits with a diagnosis directly indicating heat exposure were derived using the 2,550 counties with at least one ED visit in the 2016–2019 SEDD and SID. Diagnoses directly indicating heat exposure include heat-related syncope, cramps, exhaustion, fatigue, and edema, in addition to effects of heat and light and exposure to excessive natural heat and sunlight.

County-Level Map of Emergency Department Visits with a Diagnosis Directly Indicating Heat Exposure per 100,000 Population, 2020

Figure 4 shows the 2020 population rates of ED visits with a diagnosis directly indicating heat exposure per 100,000 population. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, ED visits overall in 2020 were much lower than in prior years.

WA MT ND MN WI NY NH NH MA CT IN NH MA CT IN

Figure 4. Emergency Department Visits with a Diagnosis Directly Indicating Heat Exposure per 100,000 Population, 2020

Source: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP), State Emergency Department Databases (SEDD) and State Inpatient Databases (SID), 2020

20-<35

35-<60

Abbreviation: ED, emergency department

Heat-related ED visits per 100,000 population

0-<20

Data unavailable

Notes: Quartiles for the population rates of ED visits with a diagnosis directly indicating heat exposure were derived using the 2,550 counties with at least one ED visit in the 2016–2019 SEDD and SID. Diagnoses directly indicating heat exposure include heat-related syncope, cramps, exhaustion, fatigue, and edema, in addition to effects of heat and light and exposure to excessive natural heat and sunlight.

60-150+

State-Level Rates of Emergency Department Visits with a Diagnosis Directly Indicating Heat Exposure per 100,000 Population

Table 2 presents State-level rates (and associated rank) of ED visits with a diagnosis directly indicating heat exposure per 100,000 population for 2016–2019. Table 3 provides similar information for 2020.

Table 2. Emergency Department Visits with a Diagnosis Directly Indicating Heat Exposure per 100,000 Population by Patient State of Residence, 2016–2019

| Rate of ED Visits with a Diagnosis Directly Indicating Heat Exposure Based on Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project State Emergency Department Databases (SEDD) and State Inpatient Databases (SID) | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Year | 2016 | | 2017 | | 2018 | | 2019 | |
| State | Rate ^a | Rank ^b | Ratea | Rank ^b | Rate ^a | Rank ^b | Rate ^a | Rank ^b |
| Alabama | С | | С | | С | | С | |
| Alaska | С | | С | | С | | 8.5 | 40 |
| Arizona | 46.9 | 6 | 44.7 | 4 | 47.3 | 6 | 42.5 | 8 |
| Arkansas | 83.1 | 2 | 58.6 | 2 | 77.6 | 2 | 78.8 | 2 |
| California | 15.8 | 28 | 23.0 | 16 | 18.0 | 29 | 16.6 | 24 |
| Colorado | С | | 9.7 | 36 | 12.5 | 37 | 11.2 | 36 |
| Connecticut | 14.9 | 31 | 12.4 | 31 | 18.9 | 26 | 16.2 | 26 |
| Delaware | С | | С | | С | | С | |
| District of Columbia | 27.2 | 17 | 17.8 | 19 | 17.8 | 30 | 19.1 | 21 |
| Florida | 37.8 | 12 | 38.2 | 7 | 35.0 | 12 | 39.2 | 11 |
| Georgia | 36.9 | 13 | 28.9 | 13 | 33.3 | 13 | 41.4 | 9 |
| Hawaii | 9.0 | 37 | С | | С | | 12.9 | 32 |
| Idaho | С | | С | | С | | С | |
| Illinois | 24.0 | 21 | 16.5 | 24 | 26.3 | 20 | 20.0 | 19 |
| Indiana | 28.8 | 16 | 20.8 | 17 | 31.6 | 15 | 25.0 | 16 |
| Iowa | 39.6 | 9 | 31.6 | 11 | 39.3 | 11 | 32.7 | 13 |
| Kansas | 42.1 | 7 | 30.8 | 12 | 41.8 | 9 | 40.8 | 10 |
| Kentucky | 52.2 | 5 | 34.5 | 8 | 51.9 | 4 | 47.2 | 4 |
| Louisiana | С | | С | | С | | С | |
| Maine | 15.6 | 29 | 17.1 | 22 | 27.2 | 18 | 19.3 | 20 |
| Maryland | 26.1 | 18 | 17.4 | 20 | 25.4 | 21 | 22.6 | 18 |
| Massachusetts | 13.1 | 33 | 11.0 | 35 | 17.2 | 31 | 12.8 | 33 |
| Michigan | С | | С | | 18.9 | 27 | 13.6 | 31 |
| Minnesota | 15.9 | 27 | 13.1 | 29 | 19.2 | 25 | 14.1 | 30 |
| Mississippi | 88.4 | 1 | 64.4 | 1 | 84.9 | 1 | 94.8 | 1 |
| Missouri | 58.4 | 4 | 40.0 | 6 | 55.5 | 3 | 46.5 | 5 |
| Montana | 12.8 | 34 | 17.3 | 21 | 11.1 | 38 | 10.7 | 37 |
| Nebraska | 28.9 | 15 | 25.6 | 15 | 27.4 | 17 | 27.8 | 15 |
| Nevada | 38.1 | 11 | 41.3 | 5 | 40.5 | 10 | 36.0 | 12 |
| New Hampshire | С | | С | | С | | С | |

Rate of ED Visits with a Diagnosis Directly Indicating Heat Exposure Based on Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project State Emergency Department Databases (SEDD) and State Inpatient Databases (SID)

| Year | 201 | L6 | 2017 | | 2018 | | 2019 | |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| State | Rate ^a | Rank ^b |
| New Jersey | 17.8 | 25 | 11.5 | 33 | 16.3 | 33 | 15.4 | 28 |
| New Mexico | С | | С | | С | | С | |
| New York | 11.4 | 36 | 7.9 | 37 | 13.5 | 36 | 10.5 | 38 |
| North Carolina | 36.5 | 14 | 25.8 | 14 | 32.3 | 14 | 32.7 | 14 |
| North Dakota | 17.7 | 26 | 13.0 | 30 | 20.1 | 24 | 15.6 | 27 |
| Ohio | 25.5 | 19 | 16.2 | 25 | 27.8 | 16 | 22.7 | 17 |
| Oklahoma | С | | С | | С | | С | |
| Oregon | 13.9 | 32 | 20.1 | 18 | 16.8 | 32 | 12.6 | 35 |
| Pennsylvania | С | | С | | С | | С | |
| Rhode Island | 18.8 | 24 | 11.6 | 32 | 18.0 | 28 | 16.7 | 23 |
| South Carolina | 63.6 | 3 | 49.5 | 3 | 51.8 | 5 | 57.2 | 3 |
| South Dakota | 24.9 | 20 | 17.1 | 23 | 21.8 | 23 | 18.1 | 22 |
| Tennessee | 41.9 | 8 | 32.2 | 10 | 43.1 | 7 | 44.1 | 7 |
| Texas | 39.6 | 10 | 32.4 | 9 | 42.9 | 8 | 45.8 | 6 |
| Utah | 15.4 | 30 | 15.3 | 26 | 14.9 | 34 | 12.8 | 34 |
| Vermont | 22.4 | 22 | 13.8 | 27 | 26.4 | 19 | 14.3 | 29 |
| Virginia | С | | С | | С | | С | |
| Washington | С | | С | | С | | С | |
| West Virginia | С | | С | | С | | С | |
| Wisconsin | 19.9 | 23 | 13.4 | 28 | 23.5 | 22 | 16.3 | 25 |
| Wyoming | 12.1 | 35 | 11.4 | 34 | 14.0 | 35 | 9.3 | 39 |

Source: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP), State Emergency Department Databases (SEDD) and State Inpatient Databases (SID), 2016–2019

Abbreviation: ED, emergency department

Notes: Cells within the table are coded based on the distribution of the State-specific heat-related population rates in 2019: the first quartile (lightest yellow) includes rates from 0-<15, second quartile (yellow) includes rates from 15-<20, third quartile (orange) includes rates from 20-<40, and fourth quartile (red) includes rates ≥ 40 .

^a Rate of ED visits with a diagnosis directly indicating heat exposure per 100,000 population. Diagnoses directly indicating heat exposure include heat-related syncope, cramps, exhaustion, fatigue, and edema, in addition to effects of heat and light and exposure to excessive natural heat and sunlight.

^b Rank of the population rate within year

^c No HCUP data are available for this State and year combination.

Table 3. Emergency Department Visits with a Diagnosis Directly Indicating Heat Exposure per 100,000 Population by Patient State of Residence, 2020

Rate of ED Visits with a Diagnosis Directly Indicating Heat Exposure Based on Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project State Emergency Department Databases (SEDD) and State Inpatient Databases (SID)

| 2020 | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| State | Rate ^a | Rank ^b | State | Rate ^a | Rank ^b | | |
| Alabama | С | | Montana | 9.3 | 32 | | |
| Alaska | 1.6 | 36 | Nebraska | С | | | |
| Arizona | 37.3 | 4 | Nevada | 40.8 | 3 | | |
| Arkansas | 45.7 | 2 | New Hampshire | С | | | |
| California | 15.2 | 18 | New Jersey | 9.4 | 31 | | |
| Colorado | 8.1 | 33 | New Mexico | С | | | |
| Connecticut | 9.8 | 30 | New York | С | | | |
| Delaware | С | | North Carolina | 20.1 | 12 | | |
| District of Columbia | 12.6 | 24 | North Dakota | 18.2 | 14 | | |
| Florida | 27.2 | 9 | Ohio | 15.4 | 17 | | |
| Georgia | 20.1 | 13 | Oklahoma | С | | | |
| Hawaii | 7.3 | 34 | Oregon | 10.7 | 29 | | |
| Idaho | С | | Pennsylvania | С | | | |
| Illinois | 13.9 | 22 | Rhode Island | 6.8 | 35 | | |
| Indiana | 16.6 | 16 | South Carolina | 33.9 | 5 | | |
| Iowa | 29.0 | 6 | South Dakota | 14.2 | 20 | | |
| Kansas | 27.4 | 8 | Tennessee | 26.9 | 11 | | |
| Kentucky | 28.8 | 7 | Texas | 27.0 | 10 | | |
| Louisiana | С | | Utah | 13.1 | 23 | | |
| Maine | 17.9 | 15 | Vermont | 10.7 | 28 | | |
| Maryland | 14.3 | 19 | Virginia | С | | | |
| Massachusetts | С | | Washington | С | | | |
| Michigan | 11.6 | 26 | West Virginia | С | | | |
| Minnesota | 12.6 | 25 | Wisconsin | 14.0 | 21 | | |
| Mississippi | 48.3 | 1 | Wyoming | 11.3 | 27 | | |
| Missouri | С | | | | | | |

Source: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP), State Emergency Department Databases (SEDD) and State Inpatient Databases (SID), 2020

Abbreviation: ED, emergency department

Notes: Cells within the table are coded based on the distribution of the State-specific heat-related population rates in 2019: the first quartile (lightest yellow) includes rates from 0–<15, second quartile (yellow) includes rates from 15–<20, third quartile (orange) includes rates from 20–<40, and fourth quartile (red) includes rates ≥40.

^a Rate of ED visits with a diagnosis directly indicating heat exposure per 100,000 population. Diagnoses directly indicating heat exposure include heat-related syncope, cramps, exhaustion, fatigue, and edema, in addition to effects of heat and light and exposure to excessive natural heat and sunlight.

^b Rank of the population rate within year

^c No HCUP data are available for this State and year combination.

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APPENDIX A. HCUP PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services

Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association

Arizona Department of Health Services

Arkansas Department of Health

California Department of Health Care Access and Information

Colorado Hospital Association

Connecticut Hospital Association

Delaware Division of Public Health

District of Columbia Hospital Association

Florida Agency for Health Care Administration

Georgia Hospital Association

Hawaii Laulima Data Alliance

Hawaii University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Illinois Department of Public Health

Indiana Hospital Association

Iowa Hospital Association

Kansas Hospital Association

Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Louisiana Department of Health

Maine Health Data Organization

Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission

Massachusetts Center for Health Information and Analysis

Michigan Health & Hospital Association

Minnesota Hospital Association (provides data for Minnesota and North Dakota)

Mississippi State Department of Health

Missouri Hospital Industry Data Institute

Montana Hospital Association

Nebraska Hospital Association

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services

New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services

New Jersey Department of Health

New Mexico Department of Health

New York State Department of Health

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

North Dakota (data provided by the Minnesota Hospital Association)

Ohio Hospital Association

Oklahoma State Department of Health

Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems

Oregon Office of Health Analytics

Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council

Rhode Island Department of Health

South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office

South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations

Tennessee Hospital Association

Texas Department of State Health Services

Utah Department of Health

Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems

Virginia Health Information

Washington State Department of Health

West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, West Virginia Health Care Authority

Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Wyoming Hospital Association

APPENDIX B. HEALTHCARE COST AND UTILIZATION PROJECT (HCUP) DATABASES

The Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) is a family of healthcare databases and related software tools and products developed through a Federal-State-Industry partnership and sponsored by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). HCUP databases bring together the data collection efforts of State data organizations, hospital associations, and private data organizations (HCUP Partners) and the Federal government to create a national information resource of encounter-level healthcare data. HCUP includes the largest collection of longitudinal hospital care data in the United States, with all-payer, encounter-level information beginning in 1988. These databases enable research on a broad range of health policy issues, including cost and quality of health services, medical practice patterns, access to healthcare programs, and outcomes of treatments at the national, State, and local market levels.

The HCUP **State Inpatient Databases (SID)** are hospital inpatient databases from data organizations participating in HCUP. The SID contain the universe of the inpatient discharge abstracts in the participating HCUP States, translated into a uniform format to facilitate multistate comparisons and analyses. Together, the SID encompass more than 95 percent of all U.S. community hospital discharges. The SID capture information on all types of inpatient discharges, including those admitted through the ED of the hospital, direct admissions, and transfers from acute care hospitals and other types of health facilities. Researchers and policymakers use the SID to investigate questions related to inpatient care unique to one or more States, to conduct market area research or small variation analyses, and to identify State-specific trends.

The HCUP **State Emergency Department Databases (SEDD)** include information from hospital-owned EDs from data organizations that provide ED data to HCUP, translated into a uniform format to facilitate multistate comparisons and analyses. The SEDD capture information on ED visits that do not result in an admission to the same hospital (i.e., encounters for patients who are treated in the ED and then discharged, are transferred to another hospital or health facility, left against medical advice, or died receiving treatment in the ED). Researchers and policymakers use the SEDD to investigate questions related to ED care unique to one or more States, to conduct market area research or small variation analyses, and to identify State-specific trends.

The HCUP databases contain more than 100 clinical and nonclinical data elements included in an ED visit or hospital discharge abstract, such as the following:

- First-listed/principal and secondary diagnoses and procedures
- Admission type and discharge status
- Patient demographic characteristics (e.g., sex, age, and, for some States, race and ethnicity)
- Expected payment source
- Total charges
- Length of stay

More information is available on the HCUP User Support website (www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/).

APPENDIX C. ICD-10-CM CODES INDICATING HEAT EXPOSURE

Diagnoses directly indicating heat exposure were identified by any of the codes listed in Table C.1 as a first-listed or secondary diagnosis on the hospital record.

Table C.1. Coding Criteria for Diagnoses Directly Indicating Heat Exposure

| ICD-10-CM Code | ICD-10-CM Code Description |
|----------------|---|
| T671XXA | Heat syncope, initial encounter |
| T671XXD | Heat syncope, subsequent encounter |
| T671XXS | Heat syncope, sequela |
| T672XXA | Heat cramp, initial encounter |
| T672XXD | Heat cramp, subsequent encounter |
| T672XXS | Heat cramp, sequela |
| T673XXA | Heat exhaustion, anhydrotic, initial encounter |
| T673XXD | Heat exhaustion, anhydrotic, subsequent encounter |
| T673XXS | Heat exhaustion, anhydrotic, sequela |
| T674XXA | Heat exhaustion due to salt depletion, initial encounter |
| T674XXD | Heat exhaustion due to salt depletion, subsequent encounter |
| T674XXS | Heat exhaustion due to salt depletion, sequela |
| T675XXA | Heat exhaustion, unspecified, initial encounter |
| T675XXD | Heat exhaustion, unspecified, subsequent encounter |
| T675XXS | Heat exhaustion, unspecified, sequela |
| T676XXA | Heat fatigue, transient, initial encounter |
| T676XXD | Heat fatigue, transient, subsequent encounter |
| T676XXS | Heat fatigue, transient, sequela |
| T677XXA | Heat edema, initial encounter |
| T677XXD | Heat edema, subsequent encounter |
| T677XXS | Heat edema, sequela |
| T678XXA | Other effects of heat and light, initial encounter |
| T678XXD | Other effects of heat and light, subsequent encounter |
| T678XXS | Other effects of heat and light, sequela |
| T679XXA | Effect of heat and light, unspecified, initial encounter |
| T679XXD | Effect of heat and light, unspecified, subsequent encounter |
| T679XXS | Effect of heat and light, unspecified, sequela |
| X30XXXA | Exposure to excessive natural heat, initial encounter |
| X30XXXD | Exposure to excessive natural heat, subsequent encounter |
| X30XXXS | Exposure to excessive natural heat, sequela |
| X32XXXA | Exposure to sunlight, initial encounter |
| X32XXXD | Exposure to sunlight, subsequent encounter |
| X32XXXS | Exposure to sunlight, sequela |

Abbreviation: ICD-10-CM: International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification