

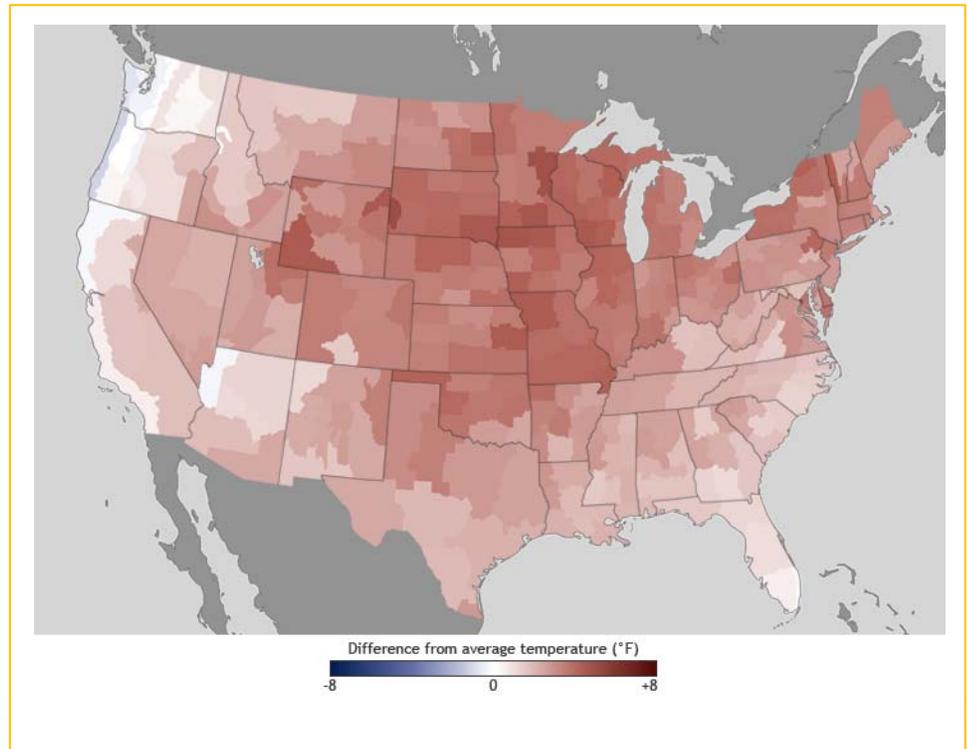


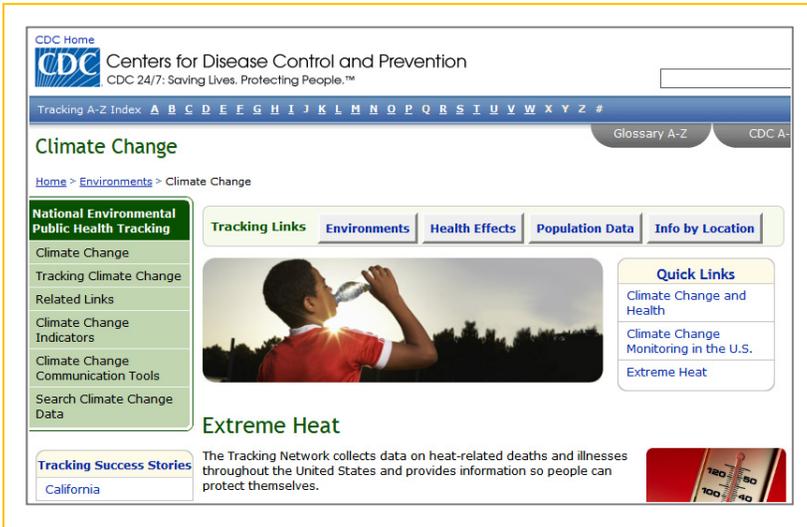
2012 Hottest Year on Record:

National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program Investigates Link between Heat and Health

The year 2012 was the hottest year on record in the U.S. According to the National Climatic Data Center, an estimated 99.1 million people experienced 10 or more days of summer temperatures greater than 100°F, nearly one-third of the nation's population.

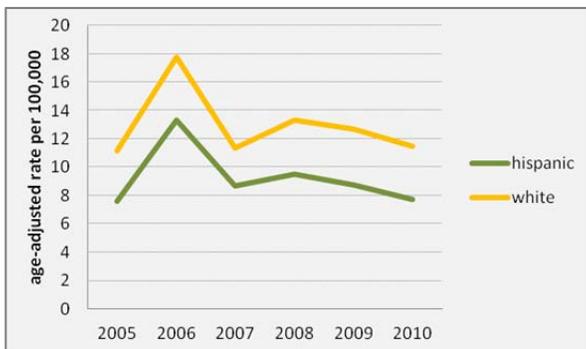
The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has stated “with high certainty” that heat waves will increase in frequency and duration, and will occur earlier in the season in the U.S. (IPCC, 2007). When temperatures increase, communities across the U.S. are vulnerable to heat illnesses, such as cramps and heat exhaustion, which may lead



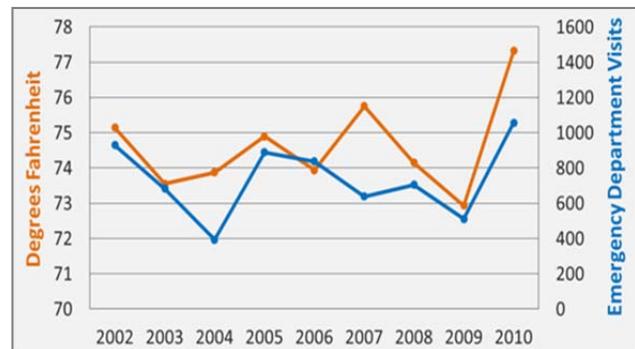


Soon, data from 21 states and 3 cities which participate in the NEHTP will be available on emergency department (ED) visits and inpatient hospitalizations for heat illness. In California, heat-related ED visits peaked during the major 2006 heat wave in which record temperatures combined with unusual humidity to produce dangerously hot conditions across the state. In Massachusetts, trends in heat-related ED visits and average summer temperatures appear to mirror one another, except for deviations observed during years 2004 and 2007. These observations, notably in 2007,

have prompted state environmental public health officials to look more closely at what may have contributed to lower rates of ED visits in MA during those years. These important data will allow states, health and emergency response planners to understand trends in illnesses, whether specific age and racial/ethnic groups are at higher risk of heat illness, and how to plan for medical responses as heat waves become more common.



Emergency department visits due to heat in California in summer months, 2005–2010



Heat stress ED visits and average of daily maximum summer temperatures in Massachusetts, 2002–2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- NEHTP: <http://ephtracking.cdc.gov/showHome.action>
- CDC Climate and Health Program: <http://www.cdc.gov/climatechange/>
- Co-chairs of NEHTP climate change group: Paul English: paul.english@cdph.ca.gov and Juli Trtanj: juli.trtanj@noaa.gov

REFERENCES

- Knowlton K, Rotkin-Ellman M, Geballe L, Max W, Solomon GM.(2011). Six climate change-related events in the United States accounted for about \$14 billion in lost lives and health costs. *Health Affairs*, 30(11):2167-76.
- IPCC, 2007: Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Solomon, S., D. Qin, M. Manning, Z. Chen, M. Marquis, K.B. Averyt, M. Tignor and H.L. Miller (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, 996 pp.