

**STATE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INDICATORS COLLABORATIVE (SEHC)
CLIMATE CHANGE INDICATORS**

Indicator: CC1: Heat related health outcomes

Measure(s): CC1.3: Annual number and rate of heat related emergency department (ED) visits

MEASURE DESCRIPTION

CC1.3: Annual number and rate of heat related ED visits	
Last updated:	September 28, 2008
Measurement units:	Number and rate per 100,000 population
Geographic scale:	Statewide
Time scale:	Annual, 1999-2005
Significance/background:	
Rationale:	
Data resources:	Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) HCUPnet: http://hcupnet.ahrq.gov/
Limitations:	Annual counts for many states are too small for producing stable rate calculations. Other options for presenting rates are to combine years or states (for example, by region). The first-listed diagnosis is the diagnosis that appears first on the record. For ED visits that result in hospital admission, this is the principal diagnosis (see below). For ED visits that result in discharge (no hospital admission), it may not be the principal diagnosis but may simply be the diagnosis that appears first on the record. All-listed diagnoses include the first-listed diagnosis plus additional conditions that coexist at the time of admission, or that develop during the stay, and which have an effect on the treatment or length of stay in the hospital.
Related indicators (from other projects):	
Recommendations:	

HOW-TO GUIDE: CC1.3 Annual number and rate of heat related ED visits

1. Go to the AHRQ web site: <http://hcupnet.ahrq.gov/>
2. On this first screen, select **State Statistics on All ED Visits** under the section **Statistics on Emergency Department Use**.
3. On the next screen, select **All ED Visits** for the type of visits/stays you are interested in.
4. On the next screen, click on the arrow under 2005 for your state (if it is one of the states with ED data on HCUPnet).
5. On the next screen, click on the third option **Specific diagnoses by ICD-9-CM**.
6. On the next screen, select **All-listed diagnoses**.
7. On the next screen, you will see a box for entering specific codes. In this box, type **992.0-992.9** and check the option for statistics for **All codes combined**.
8. For the outcome options on the next screen, choose **Number of discharges**.
9. For patient and hospital characteristics on the next screen, select **All patients in all facilities**.
10. The next screen is the results screen. This screen shows the total number of heat hospitalizations for the year you selected for your state.
11. To calculate the annual rates per 100,000 population, obtain the total population for your state for the year of interest from census data. Divide the number of heat related hospitalizations by the total population and then multiply by 100,000.