

The Heat Health Vulnerability Tool

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The HHVT (www.sercc.com/hhvt) is a web-based tool that predicts the daily number of emergency department visits for heat-related illness across North Carolina. The current version of the tool inputs 5-day NWS point forecasts of heat index and employs empirical relationships to translate these values into useful information regarding the probability of emergency department visits due to the heat. It is geared towards public health officials and emergency management personnel across the state of North Carolina. The current, updated version of the tool incorporates important feedback gained from community engagements with stakeholders. In this talk, I will briefly address the geography of heat illness in North Carolina, describe the relationships used to generate the predictions in the model, and discuss the features of the second version of the model based upon engagement sessions with stakeholders. I will also address upcoming work on how the model might be expanded to a broader user base.