



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Heat-related deaths and injuries continue to increase

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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In this time of record-breaking heat in Alabama the number of heat-related deaths reported since Aug. 1 has risen to 12 as of Aug. 21, according to the Alabama Department of Public Health.

Alabama hospital data indicate that the heat has been the principal cause of 78 hospital admissions and was the reason an additional 274 persons came to hospital emergency rooms for treatment.

“We urge everyone to take precautions to protect themselves from the heat and to spend at least a portion of the day in an air-conditioned area,” said Dr. Donald Williamson, state health officer.

A review of the hospital data by age for totals of emergency room visits and admissions related to heat is as follows:

- 1 through 14 years – 14 persons
- 15 through 24 years – 69 persons
- 25 through 44 years -- 135 persons
- 45 through 59 years -- 79 persons
- Over age 60 – 65 persons

Males outnumbered females in the representation the number of heat-related admissions and deaths in the state-- 282 males compared to 82 females.

Heat-related deaths have been reported in these Alabama counties this month: Autauga, Chilton, Coffee, Elmore, Greene, Henry, Montgomery and Morgan.

To help keep the public updated about heat-related illnesses reported, the Alabama Department of Public Health Web site, www.adph.org, now includes a link on its front page. A state map provides the number of cumulative heat-related illnesses and deaths by county. Other information classifies totals by status, age group and sex.