

Helping NC Communities Manage Extreme Heat

Andrea Webster
NC Department of Environmental Quality
State Resilience Office





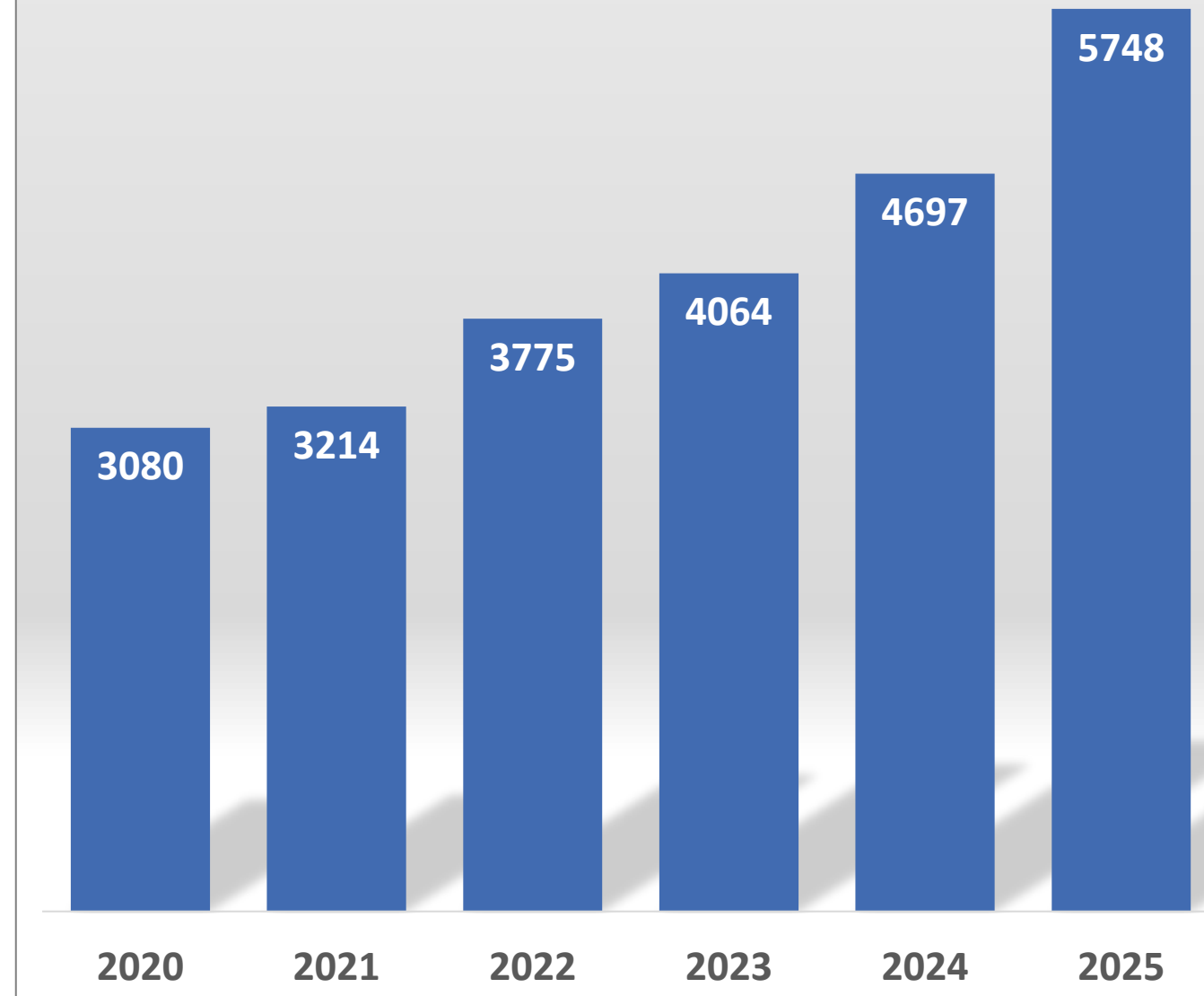
**But we live
in the
South!**



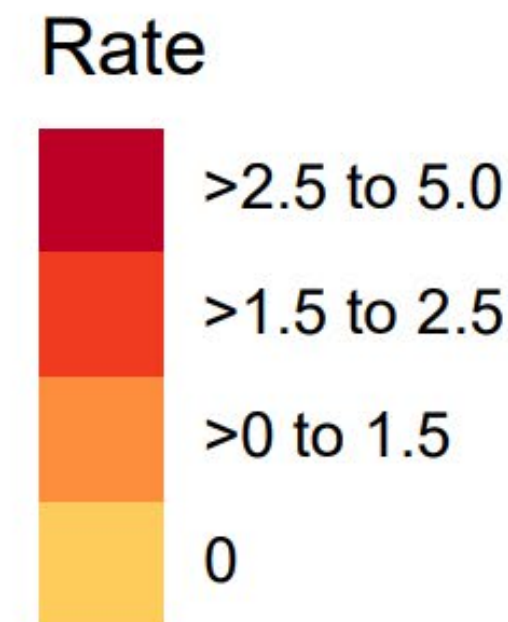
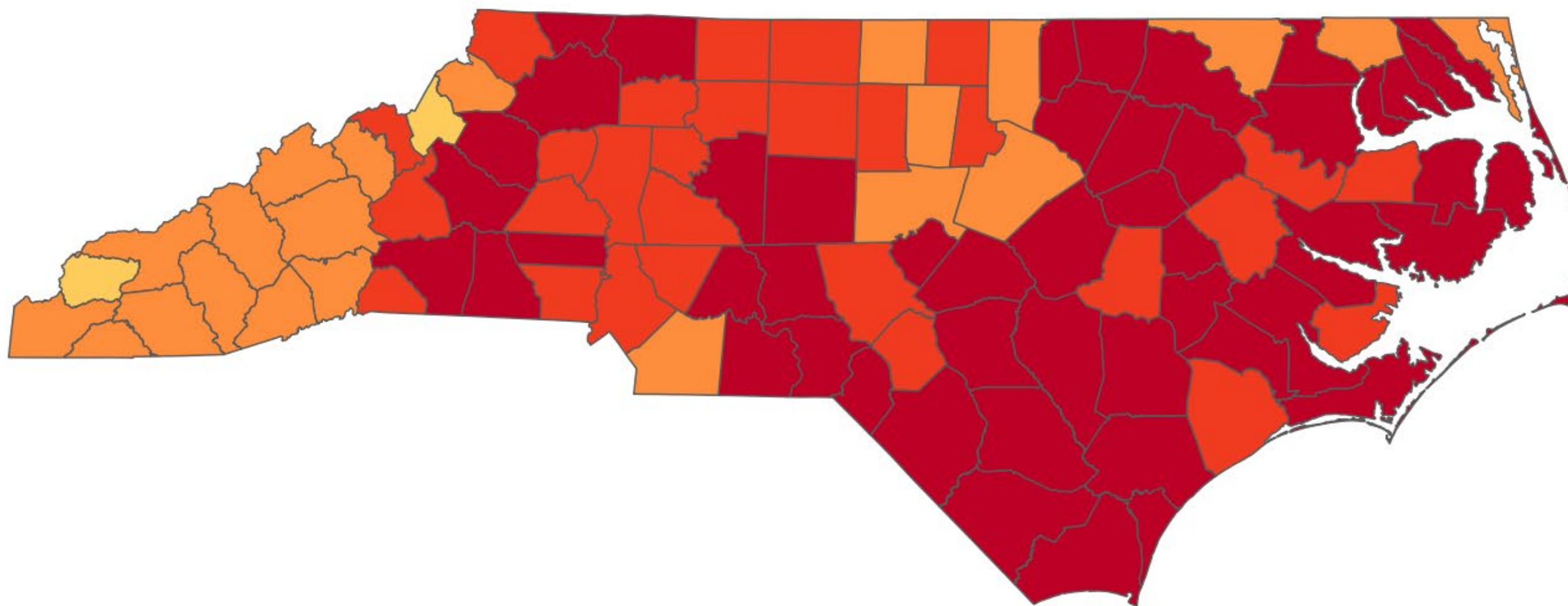
Hot weather is dangerous.

North Carolina Heat-Related Emergency Department Visits

Source: NCDHHS Heat Related Illness Surveillance Summaries 2020-2025



Average Weekly Rate of Heat-related Illness Emergency Department Visits per 100,000 Population North Carolina, 2025



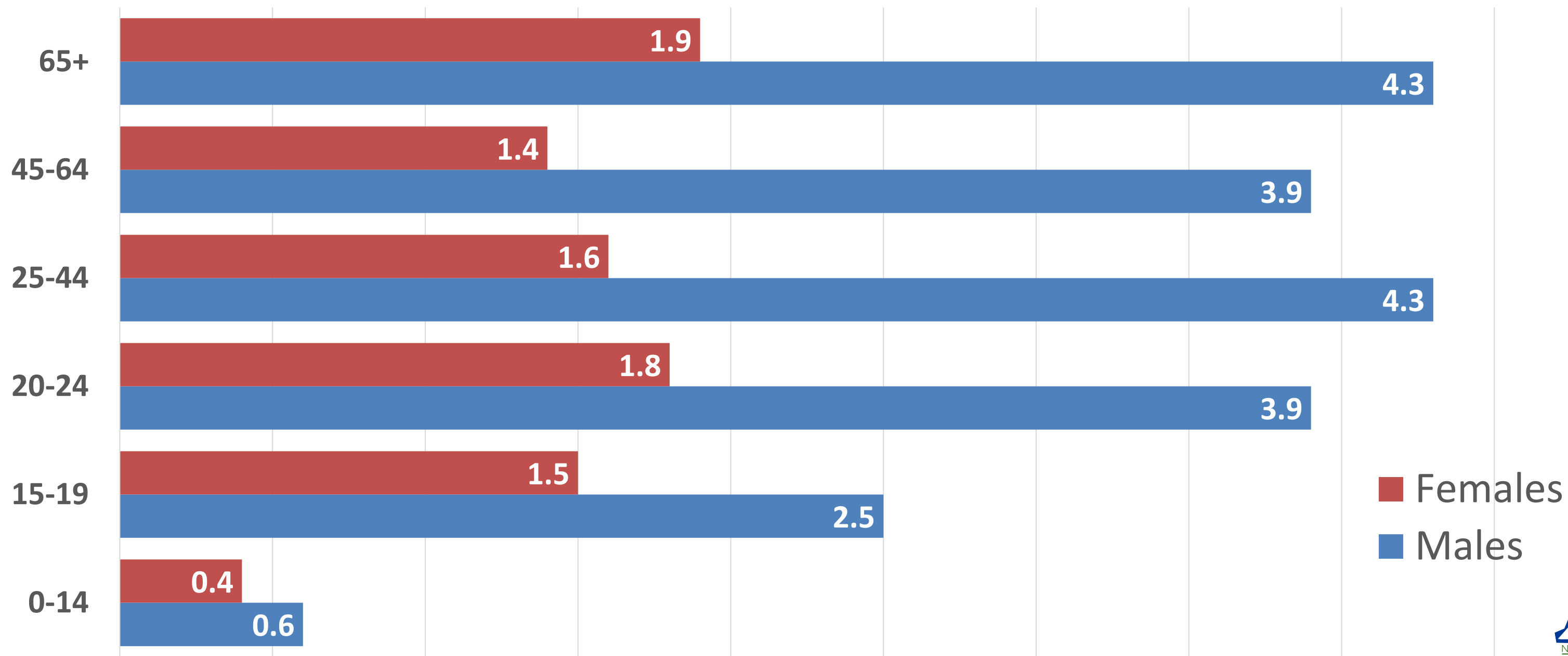


Average Weekly Rate of Heat-Related Illness Emergency Department Visits per 100,000 Population by Sex and Age North Carolina, 2025



Average Weekly Rate of Heat-Related Illness Emergency Department Visits per 100,000 Population by Sex and Age

North Carolina, 2025



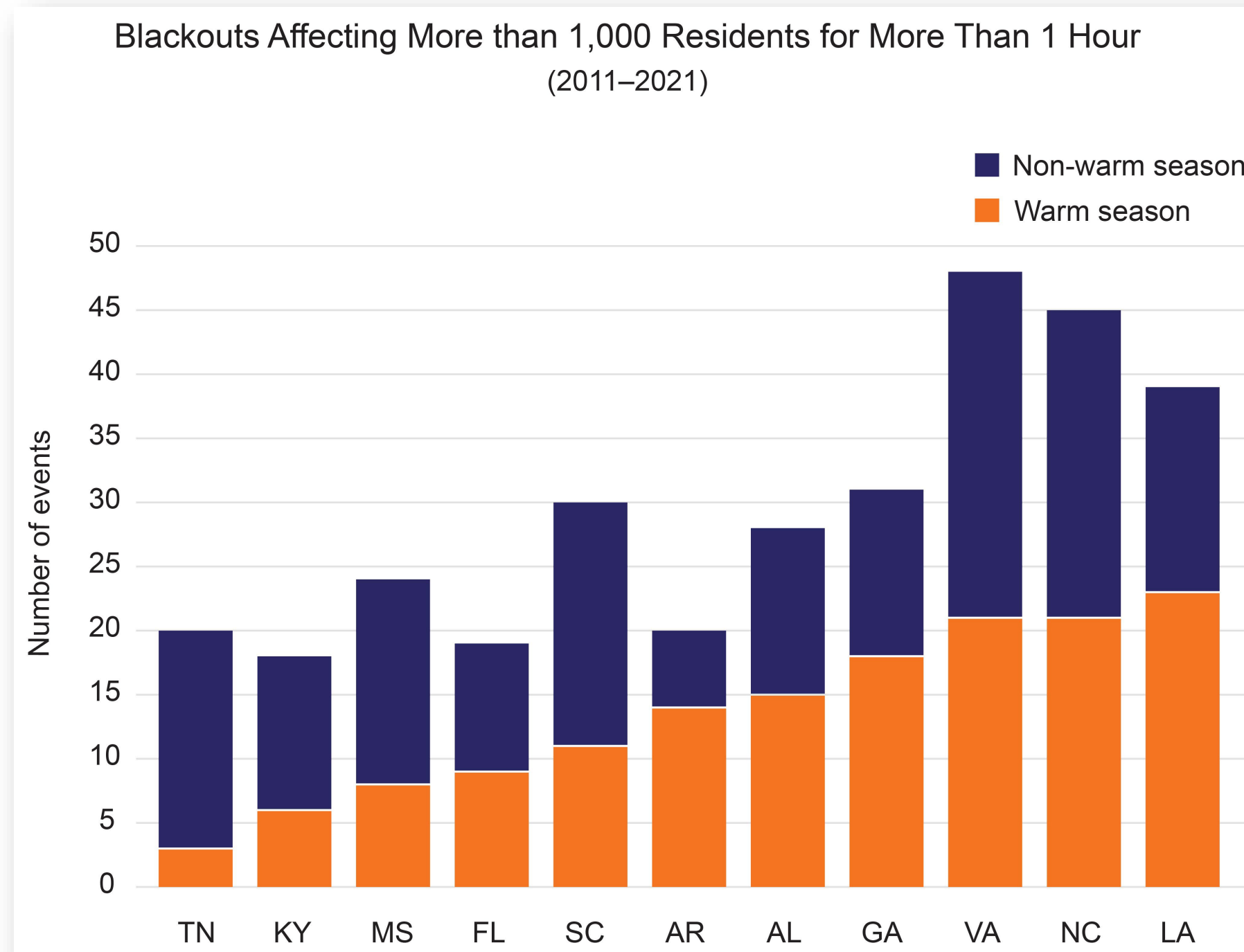


Heat Season overlaps with Hurricane Season in North Carolina

May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Heat Season						
	Hurricane Season					



Blackouts: Hurricanes and Hot Weather



Source: Fifth National Climate Assessment, Southeast Chapter

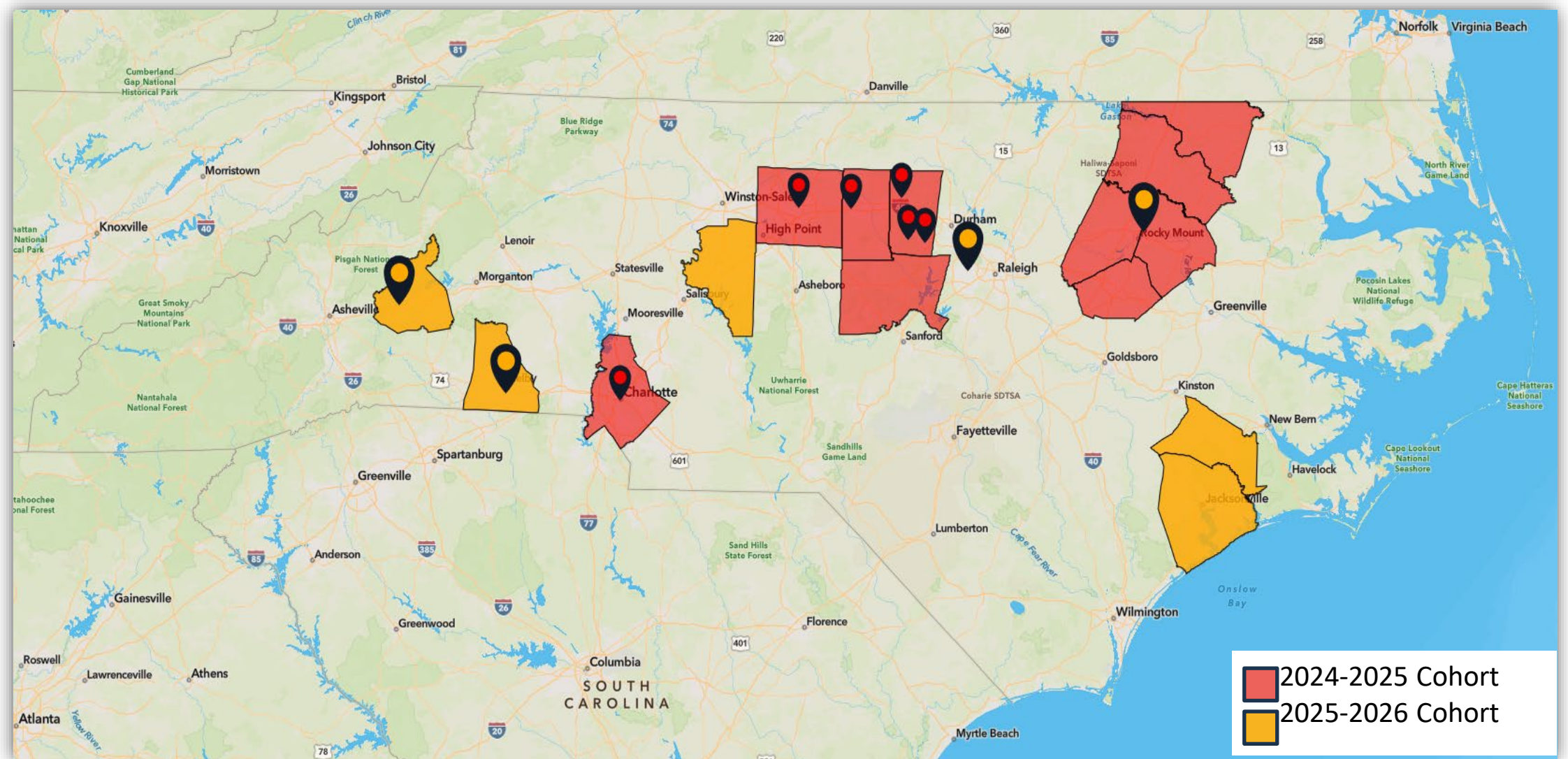


North Carolina Planning for Extreme Heat Cohort Program



- Build a heat action plan
- No cost to participate
- Bi-weekly virtual training sessions

Participating Communities:



North Carolina Planning for Extreme Heat Cohort Program



DEQ
NORTH CAROLINA
Department of Environmental Quality
State Resilience Office

NORTH CAROLINA CLIMATE OFFICE

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Public Health

Duke **NICHOLAS INSTITUTE**
for ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT
& SUSTAINABILITY
Fueling ambitions. Powering networks. Accelerating solutions.

NOAA **Climate Adaptation Partnerships**
Formerly RISA

NC STATE UNIVERSITY
Climate and Sustainability Academy

Carolinas CAP
A NOAA CAP Team



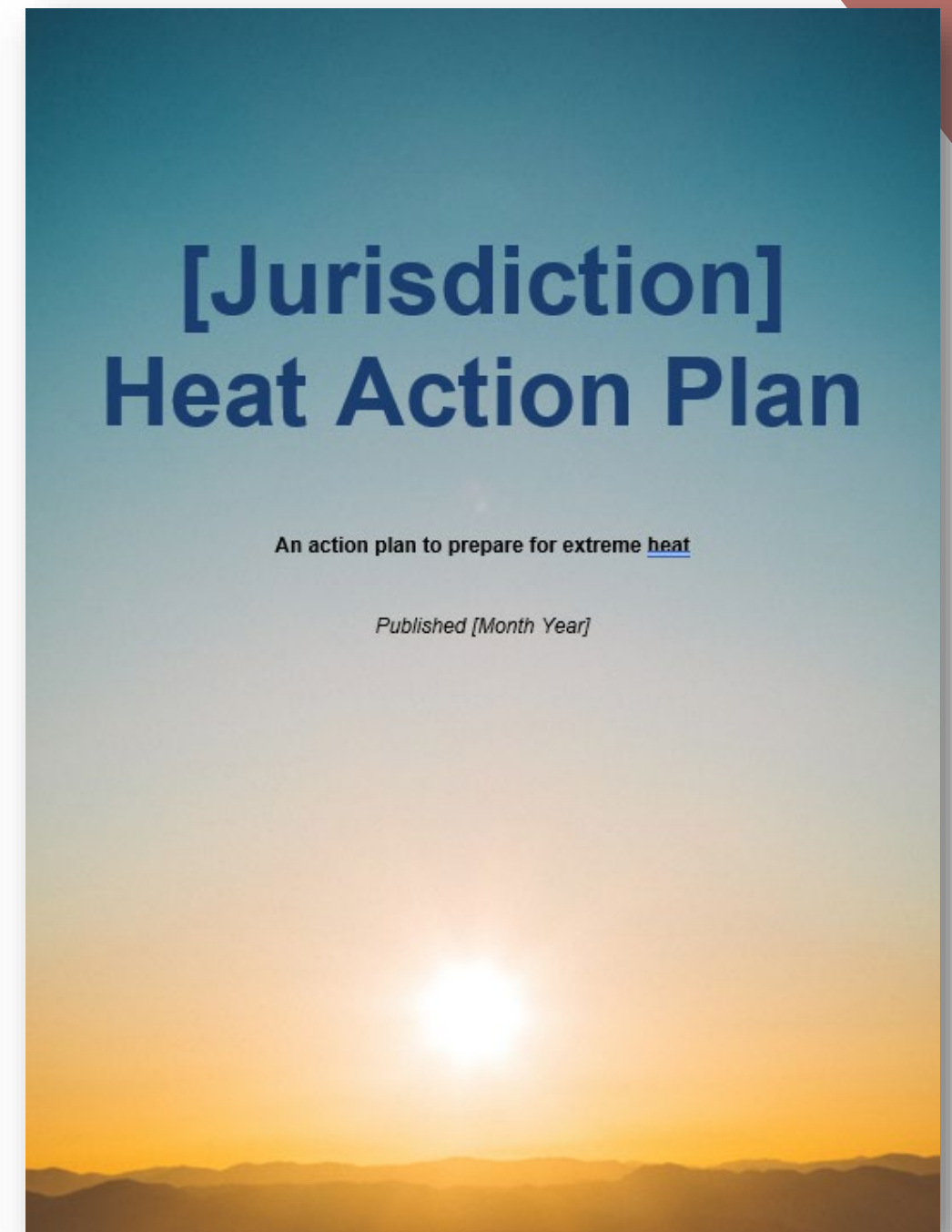
North Carolina Planning for Extreme Heat Cohort Program



Within 14 Sessions, Participants Learned:

- The basics: Heat 101
- To locate heat data
- To define local heat wave
- Best practices for managing heat
- From their NC and US peers

North Carolina Heat Action Plan Toolkit



Cohort Outcomes

Heat Cohorts Hosted

2

Participating Local Governments

18

% NC Population with a Heat Plan in Development

22.5%

% Participants Engaging with Peers

71%





Thank you.

Andrea Webster

Resilience Policy Advisor

State Resilience Office, NC DEQ

andrea.webster@deq.nc.gov

