

Climate Change

About

The National Climate Assessment (U.S. Global Change Research Program, 2014) summarizes the current status of climate change in the United States and outlines potential impacts for the future. Specifically related to the Southeastern United States, increasing temperatures and the associated increase in frequency, intensity, and duration of extreme heat events is expected to affect public health, natural and built environments, energy, agriculture, and forestry.

About the Measures

The LDH Health Data Portal contains information on the following climate change measures:

- Number of days with Min Temp 80°F degrees or higher
- Number of days with Max Temp 95°F degrees or higher

About the Data

Daily temperature data for nine different weather stations was obtained from the Southern Regional Climate Center's Climate Information Data Portal (SRCC CLIMDAT). Nine weather stations were used to represent Louisiana's Climate Divisions. Stations were selected based on their high accuracy and availability of historical data.

<i>Climate Division</i>	<i>Weather Station Name</i>	<i>Weather Station ID</i>
<i>Northwest</i>	Shreveport Regional Airport	13957
<i>North Central</i>	Monroe Regional Airport	13942
<i>Northeast</i>	Tallulah-Vicksburg Regional Airport	3996
<i>West Central</i>	Leesville	165266
<i>Central</i>	Alexandria International Airport	13934
<i>East Central</i>	Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport (Ryan Field)	13970
<i>Southwest</i>	Lake Charles Municipal Airport	3937
<i>South Central</i>	Lafayette Regional Airport	13976
<i>Southeast</i>	New Orleans International Airport	12916

Using the daily temperature data, the number of days with a minimum temperature over 80°F or a maximum temperature over 95°F was calculated and summed by month or year. Only the months May – September are displayed because these are the months when the temperatures are the highest.

Disclaimer

Data are intended to spur further research and should be used only as a starting point to understanding how the environment and other contributing factors may be connected to disease. Datasets presented on this site are intended to answer some basic questions, but should ultimately lead to further inquiry and more detailed study.

Data limitations should be noted if conducting exploratory ecological studies with these data. Limitations may include data gaps, reporting discrepancies (for example, a disruption of reporting or instrument recording following hurricanes) and insufficient data on all potentially confounding factors. There are numerous additional factors which may contribute to disease onset. These include genetics, access to health care, existing health conditions, medicines, other chemical substances we come into contact with or ingest, nutrition, route and duration of exposure, level of activity, level of stress, and many others.

Responsible use of this data therefore requires exercising caution when drawing conclusions based solely on views of the limited available data. Any perceived relationship, trend, or pattern apparent in the data should not be interpreted to imply causation; may in fact be unrelated; and should be regarded as preliminary, and potentially erroneous, until more in-depth study and if applicable, statistical evaluation, can be applied. The LDH Bureau of Health Informatics and Environmental Public Health Tracking Program cannot guarantee the completeness of the information contained in these datasets and expressly disclaim liability for errors and omissions in their content.

Data Sources

- [Southern Regional Climate Center – Climate Information Data Portal](#)

Additional Information

- [National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences - Health Impacts of Climate Change](#)
- [CDC Climate and Health](#)
- [CDC Extreme Heat and Your Health](#)

Questions

- Email: healthdata@la.gov