

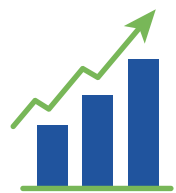
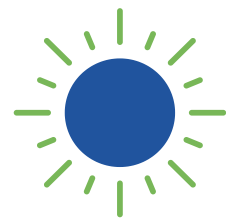
# Extreme heat and emergency department visits among children in Southwestern Ontario

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## BACKGROUND

- Extreme heat occurs when temperatures are higher than the average temperature for the entire heat wave period
- Information on how extreme heat impacts the health of children is limited
- This study took place between June and August of 2002-2019 at two hospitals that are part of the London Health Sciences Centre-Children's Hospital and University Hospital
- Researchers explored the relationship between extreme heat and daily visits to two emergency departments (ED)



## STUDY FINDINGS



- There was a relationship between extreme heat and visits to the ED among children in Southwestern Ontario



- The effects were most evident for ages 1-12 for all causes (excluding injury) and infectious diseases
- This relationship mostly occurred between the 2nd and 5th day after the extreme heat day (suggesting a slightly delayed effect)



- Children ages 1-12 experienced 63.5% of the ED visits

## NEXT STEPS

- Hospitals should develop surge-capacity and emergency preparedness procedures
- Develop a better understanding of the impact of heat on child health at the regional and national level
- Improve monitoring and surveillance strategies
- Target effective interventions to reduce the impact of health-related illness on children



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