

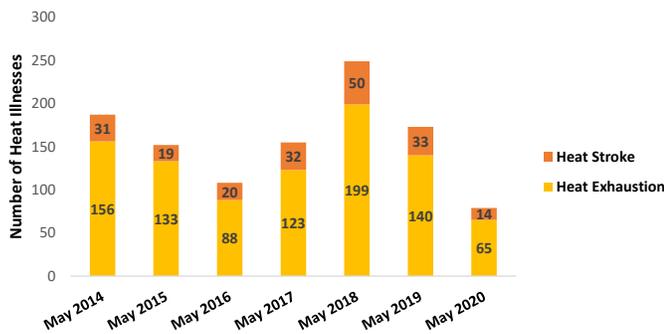


Army Public Health Center Heat Illness Report

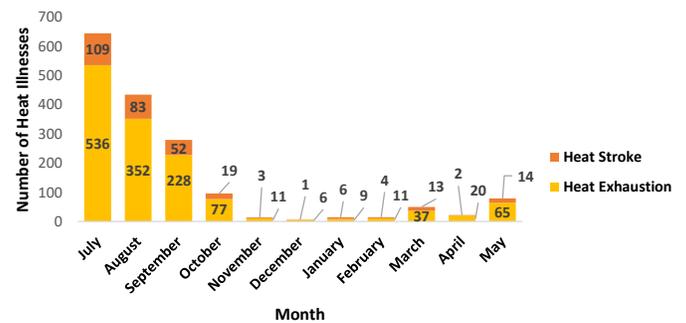
May 2020

Heat illnesses pose a significant threat to the medical readiness of Soldiers. Military leaders should remain vigilant about forecasted weather patterns, and ensure that Soldiers are equipped with the resources and knowledge to prevent heat-related illnesses. The HDQA EXORD 148-19, Heat Injury and Illness Prevention for 2019 - 2020 has been published and is available [here](#) (CAC-enabled website). It provides references for heat illness prevention policies and guidelines, and aims to ensure that leaders and Soldiers understand how to prevent, recognize, and quickly treat heat illnesses when they are occurring. Additionally, the EXORD includes risk management strategies and protective measures that can be taken to reduce the occurrence of heat illness.

Number of Heat Illnesses in May, 2014 - 2020



Number of Heat Illnesses, Season-to-Date 2019-2020



In May 2020, 79 heat illnesses were diagnosed (65 heat exhaustion cases, 14 heat stroke cases); this is the lowest number of heat illness for May months between 2014 and 2020. There were 54% fewer cases in May 2020 when compared to May 2019 (n=173). Ft. Benning accounted for 37% of all heat illnesses (n=29) reported in May 2020. Ft. Benning also had the highest number of heat illnesses to date for the season, accounting for 31% (n=510) of 1,658 reported cases. Junior Enlisted (JE) Service Members (SMs) were disproportionately affected, accounting for 75% (n=59) of the cases in May 2020. Commissioned Officers (COs) and Senior Enlisted (SE) SMs each accounted for 11% (n=9) of all heat illnesses; all other SMs accounted for 3% of total heat illness (n=2). There were three heat illness-related hospitalizations in May 2020; one hospitalization was due to heat exhaustion while the other two were due to heat stroke.

There have been 1,658 heat illness cases (1,352 heat exhaustion cases, 306 heat strokes) reported since the beginning of the heat illness season, which began in July 2019, to the end of May 2020. This represents a 4% increase compared to last season's number of cases (n=1,595) for the same time period. Additionally, there have been 46 hospitalizations since the beginning of the season; 21 have been due to heat exhaustion and 25 hospitalizations have been due to heat stroke. JE SMs accounted for 69.6% (n=32) of hospitalizations; SE SMs accounted for 19.6% (n=9); COs accounted for 8.7% (n=4), while all other ranks accounted for 2.1% (n=1). During the same time period last season, there were 44 hospitalizations.

Data as of 17 June 2020.

Information displayed in this report is from the Defense Health Agency's Weather-Related Injury Repository. The database is a composite of five data sources: the Disease Reporting System internet (DRSI), Comprehensive Ambulatory/Professional Encounter Record (CAPER), Standard Inpatient Data Record (SIDR), TRICARE Encounter Data (TED), and Theater Medical Data Store (TMDS). All cases are Army Service Members.

[Click on images to enlarge](#)

For more information: APHC Heat Illness Prevention
Contact us: APHC Disease Epidemiology Program

Table 1: Locations where Heat Illnesses were Diagnosed - May 2020

Region	Installation	Heat Exhaustion	Heat Stroke	Total Number of Heat Illnesses
Atlantic	Eglin Air Force Base	1	0	1
	Ft. Benning	21	8	29
	Ft. Bragg	6	1	7
	Ft. Campbell	3	3	6
	Ft. Drum	1	0	1
	Ft. Rucker	4	0	4
	Ft. Stewart	1	0	1
Central	Ft. Hood	3	0	3
	Ft. Leonard Wood	2	0	2
	Ft. Polk	4	0	4
	Ft. Sill	5	2	7
	Goodfellow Air Force Base	1	0	1
	Joint Base (AF) San Antonio	1	0	1
	McGregor Range	1	0	1
Pacific	Joint Base (AF) Elmendorf-Richardson	1	0	1
	Schofield Barracks	4	0	4
Unknown	Unknown	6	0	6



Table 2: Timeliness of Reporting - May 2020

Region	Installation	Number of Heat Illnesses Entered in DRSi within 48 Hours	Total Number of Heat Illnesses	Percentage of Heat Illnesses Entered in DRSi within 48 Hours	Minimum Days	Maximum Days	Mean Days
Atlantic	Ft. Benning	16	25	64	1	7	3
	Ft. Bragg	0	4	0	6	8	7
	Ft. Campbell	6	6	100	1	2	1
	Ft. Rucker	0	1	0	3	3	3
Central	Ft. Hood	2	2	100	1	1	1
	Ft. Polk	4	4	100	0	1	1
	Ft. Sam Houston	0	1	0	3	3	3
	Ft. Sill	5	5	100	1	1	1

DA Pam 40-11 requires that most reportable medical events, including heat illnesses, be entered in DRSi within two business days of diagnosis.

Minimum Days= The least number of days noted for a heat illness to be reported.

Maximum Days= The highest number of days noted for a heat illness to be reported.

Mean Days= The average number of days for a heat illness to be reported.

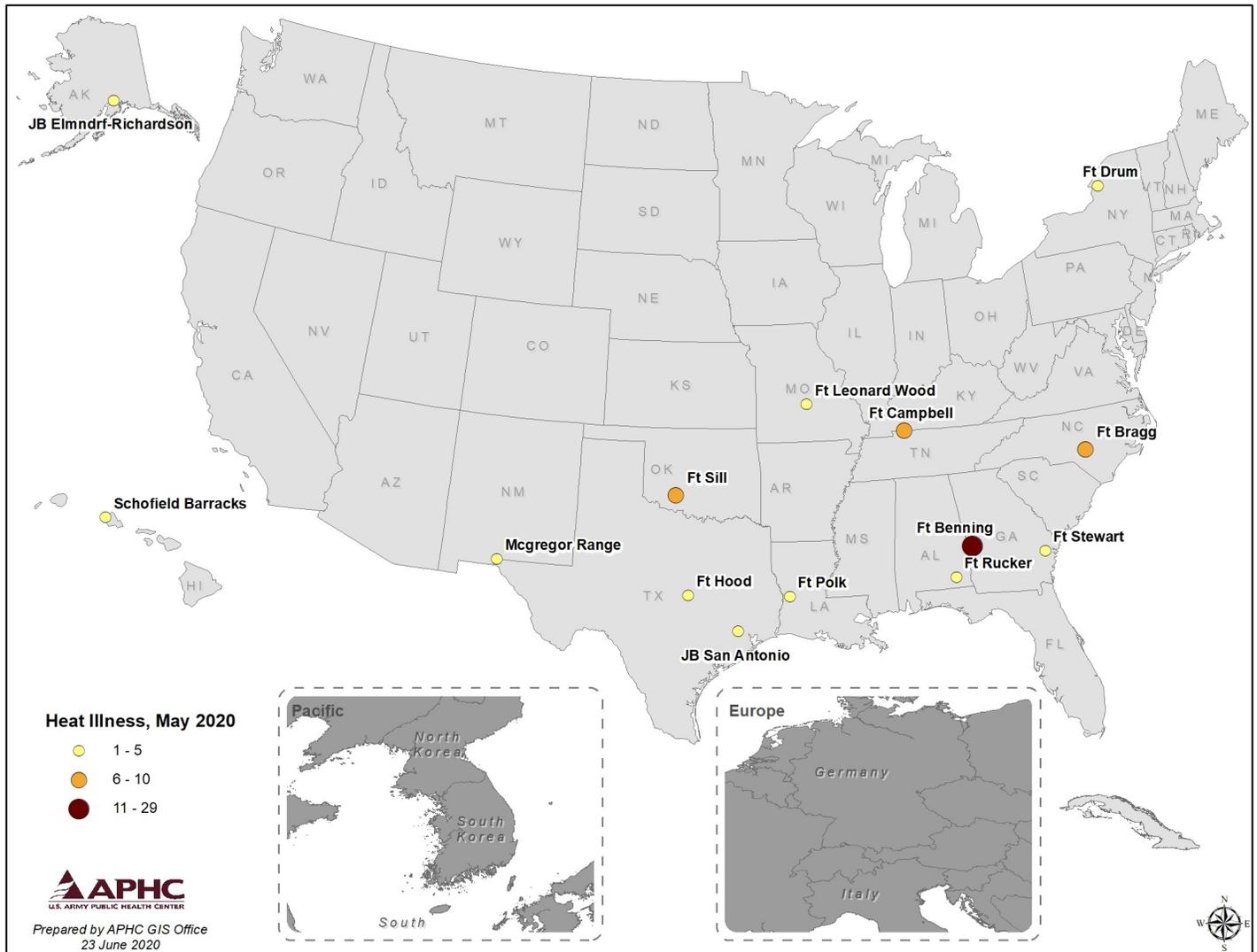
This table only displays data for cases that were extracted from DRSi; therefore, the total number of illnesses may be different than those reported in table 1.



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Heat Illnesses, May 2020



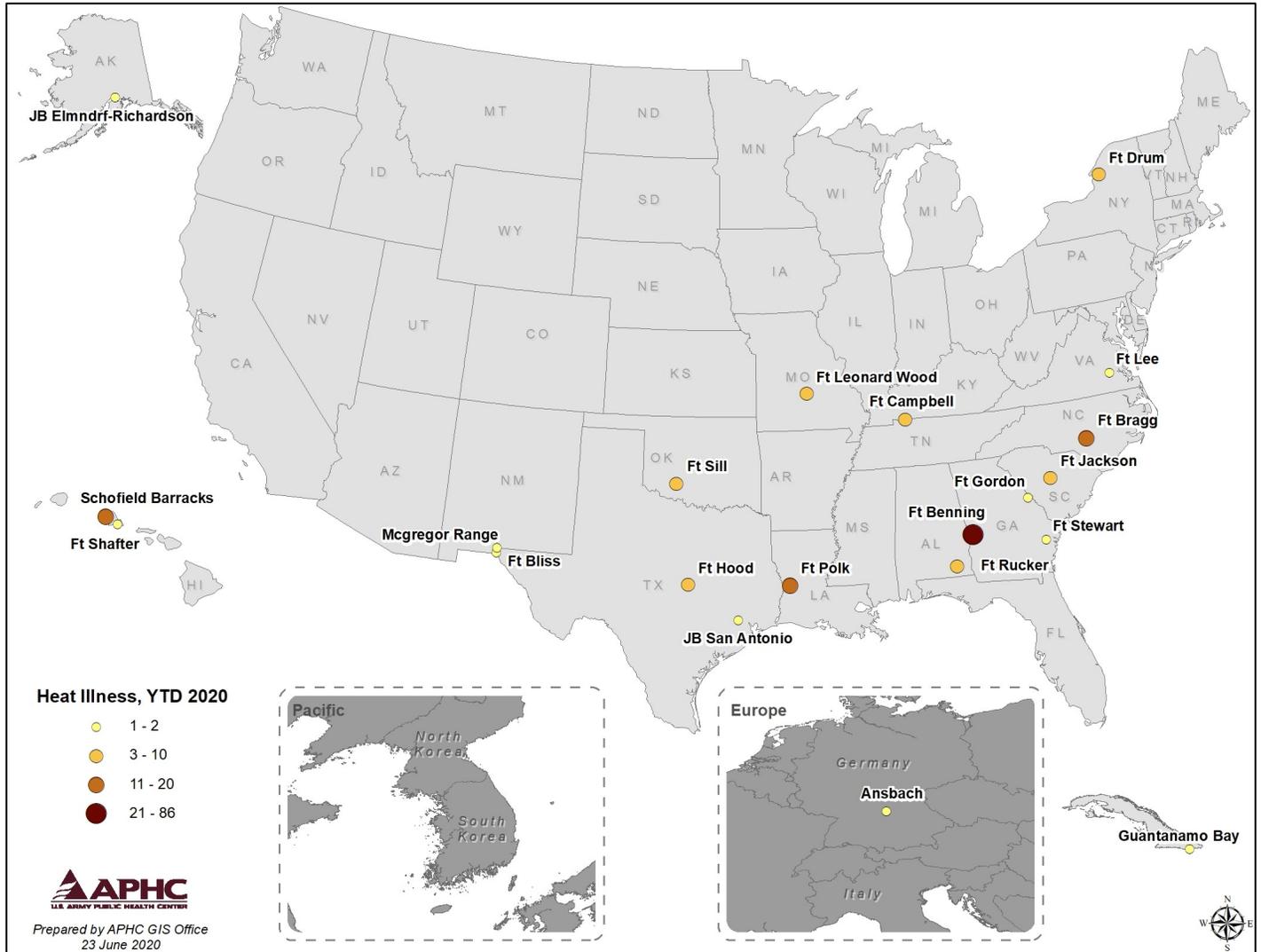
This map only represents cases diagnosed at, diagnosed near, or reported by Army and Joint Base installations.



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Heat Illnesses, Year-to-Date 2020



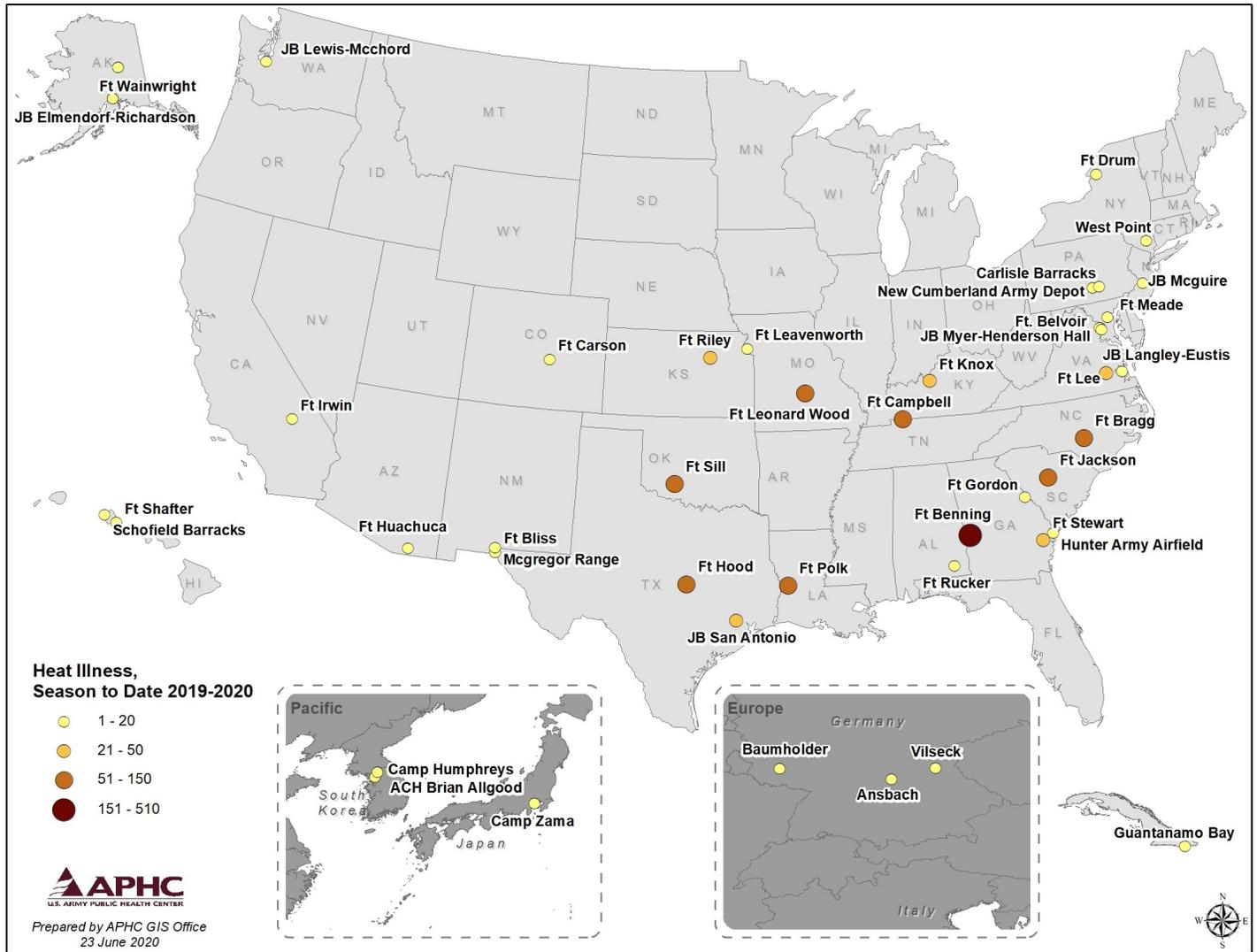
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Heat Illnesses, Season-to-Date 2019-2020



This map only represents cases diagnosed at, diagnosed near, or reported by Army and Joint Base installations.

The 2019-2020 heat season began 1 July 2019.