

README: Historical CalHeatScore Data

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Maintained by: Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)

Overview

CalHeatScore is a heat-health ranking system maintained by OEHHA's Extreme Heat Ranking System Development Section. This README is a companion to the historical datasets available on the [CalHeatScore data archive](#) and provides versioning information, file naming and variable descriptions, known issues and limitations, usage guidelines and recommended data citation, and contact information for the CalHeatScore team.

The current version of CalHeatScore is **Version 2.0**, launched on January 1, 2026. The [CalHeatScore methods documentation](#) has further details about the current statistical model underlying CalHeatScore, and the [CalHeatScore website](#) has the latest description of the CalHeatScore ranks and associated guidance. The previous version of CalHeatScore, Version 1.0, launched on December 30, 2024. The [CalHeatScore V1.0 methods document](#) has detailed documentation on the previous version. OEHHA will periodically update CalHeatScore data and methodology. These updates may occur without notice. Users should verify the dataset version by referring to the CalHeatScore website and the section on versioning below.

Versioning

Version	Release Date	Description
v2.0	01/01/2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Updated CalHeatScore thresholds are determined from an updated heat-health model based on 2008-2018 emergency department dataWith these updated thresholds, daily CalHeatScores are determined with heat index values calculated from National Weather Service (NWS) forecasted air temperature and relative humiditySee all version details in the CalHeatScore V2.0 methods document

Version	Release Date	Description
v1.0	12/30/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial CalHeatScore thresholds from a zip-code level heat-health model based on 2016-2018 emergency department data With the modeled thresholds, CalHeatScores are determined from NWS forecasted apparent temperature See all version details in the CalHeatScore V1.0 methods document

File Naming and Variable Descriptions

The current CalHeatScore data archive contains annual and monthly historical CalHeatScore data files with the following naming conventions, with YYYY indicating the year and mm indicating the month of the provided data:

- Annual data files are named CHS_YYYY.csv
- Monthly data files are named CHS_YYYY-mm.csv

The table below provides descriptions of the variables included in each CalHeatScore data file.

Variable Name	Data Type	Description
Date	String	Date in mm/dd/yyyy format
ZIP_CODE	String	5-digit US Postal Service zip code
Day_0, Day_1, Day_2, Day_3, Day_4, Day_5, Day_6	Integer	CalHeatScore values ranging from 0-4 forecasted over a 7-day period, where the day number (e.g., _1) represents the number of days ahead the forecast is relative to the specified date. For example, Day_1 represents the forecasted CalHeatScore value one day after the current day (Day_0)

Known Issues and Limitations

- Missing values are denoted as “NA.”
 - CalHeatScore began archiving historical data on 01-18-2025 and previous days are marked accordingly.
 - Missing data have been noted for the following days: 01-19-2025, 10-06-2025, 10-07-2025, 10-08-2025, 11-01-2025, 11-02-2025, 11-03-2025, 11-04-2025.

Missing data resulted from minor interruptions in daily CalHeatScore operations and occasional missing forecast data from NWS.

- In 2025, CalHeatScores were determined with NWS forecasted apparent temperature¹ instead of the heat index for all temperature conditions. Due to this, CalHeatScores for zip codes with thresholds between 50 and 80°F may be impacted by minor differences between heat index and apparent temperature values. This was revised on January 1, 2026.

Usage Guidelines

- Materials and information are provided as a public service. These materials and information are generated, compiled, or assembled at public expense and are free for public use consistent with the Public Records Act (California Government Code Section 6250 et. seq.), provided that OEHHA is credited when using these materials and information (see below for citation).
- **Preferred Citation for historical CalHeatScore data:** Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). *CalHeatScore*. California Environmental Protection Agency. <https://calheatscore.calepa.ca.gov/>.

Contact Information

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¹ NWS defines apparent temperature as a combination of wind chill, air temperature, and the heat index depending on the ambient temperature. [This NWS webpage](#) provides more detail regarding the NWS definition.