

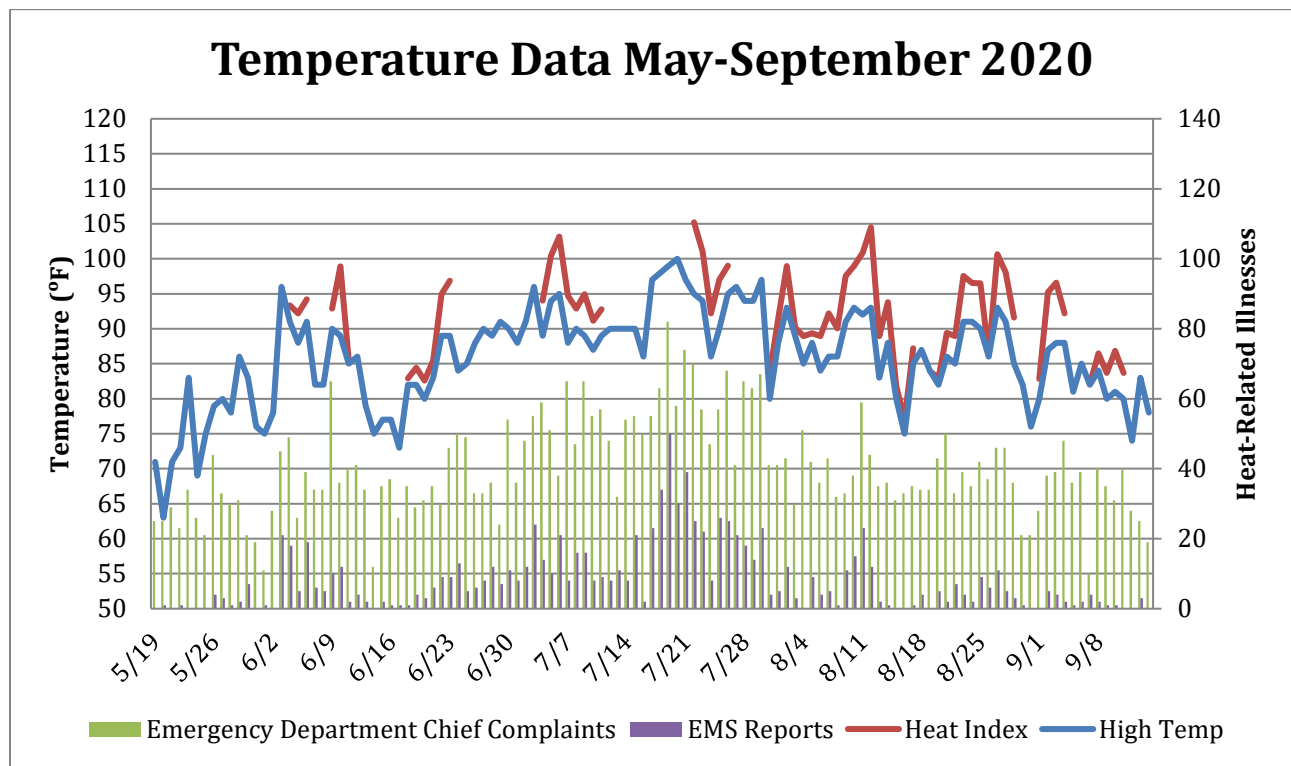


2020 Heat-related Illness Surveillance Summary Report

October 14, 2020

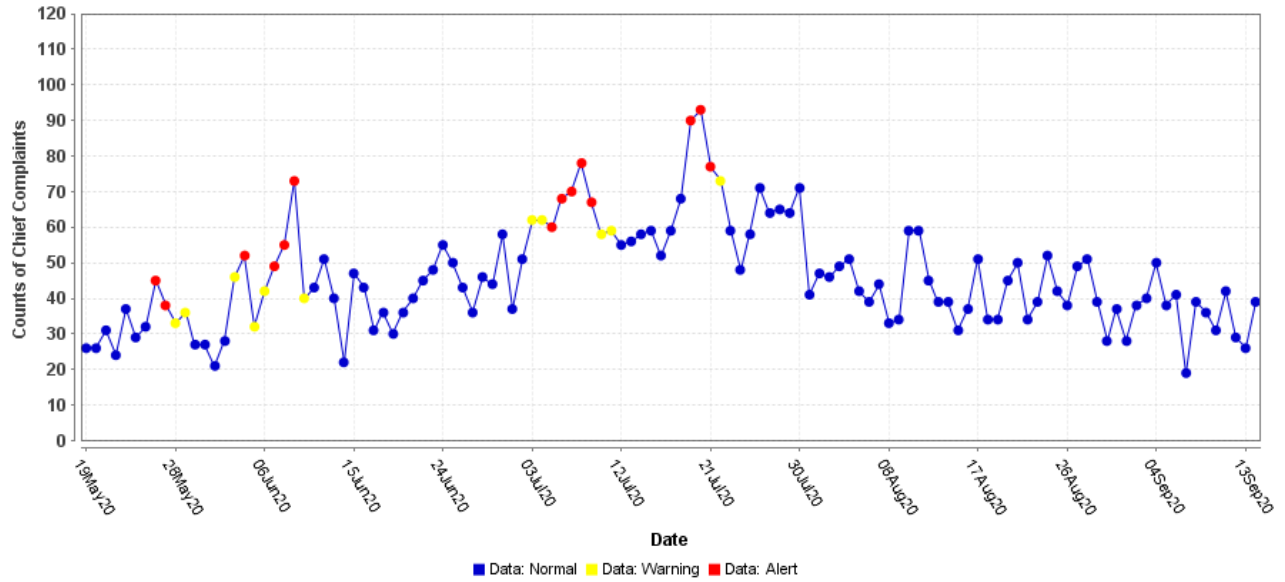
Reporting for May 19, 2020 to September 14, 2020

Total Heat Advisories Declared This Year: 8 (7/19, 7/20, 7/21, 7/22, 7/23, 7/28, 7/29, 8/2)

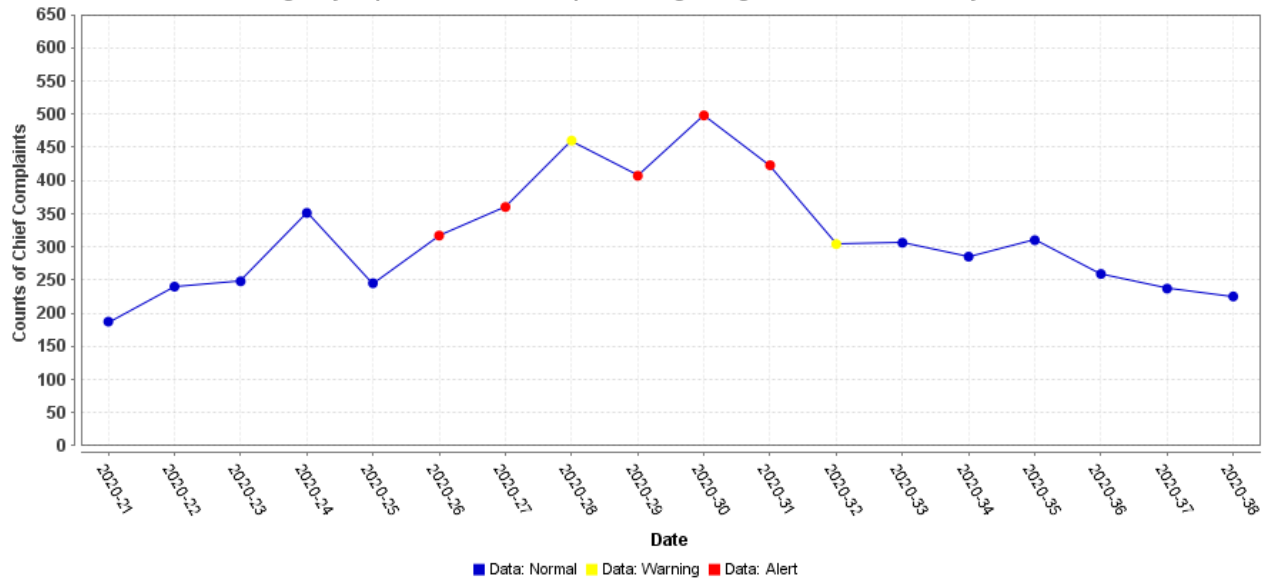


Note: Heat Indexes are only calculated for temperatures above 80°F with humidity of 43% or greater

Emergency Department Chief Complaints Regarding Heat-related Illness by Day

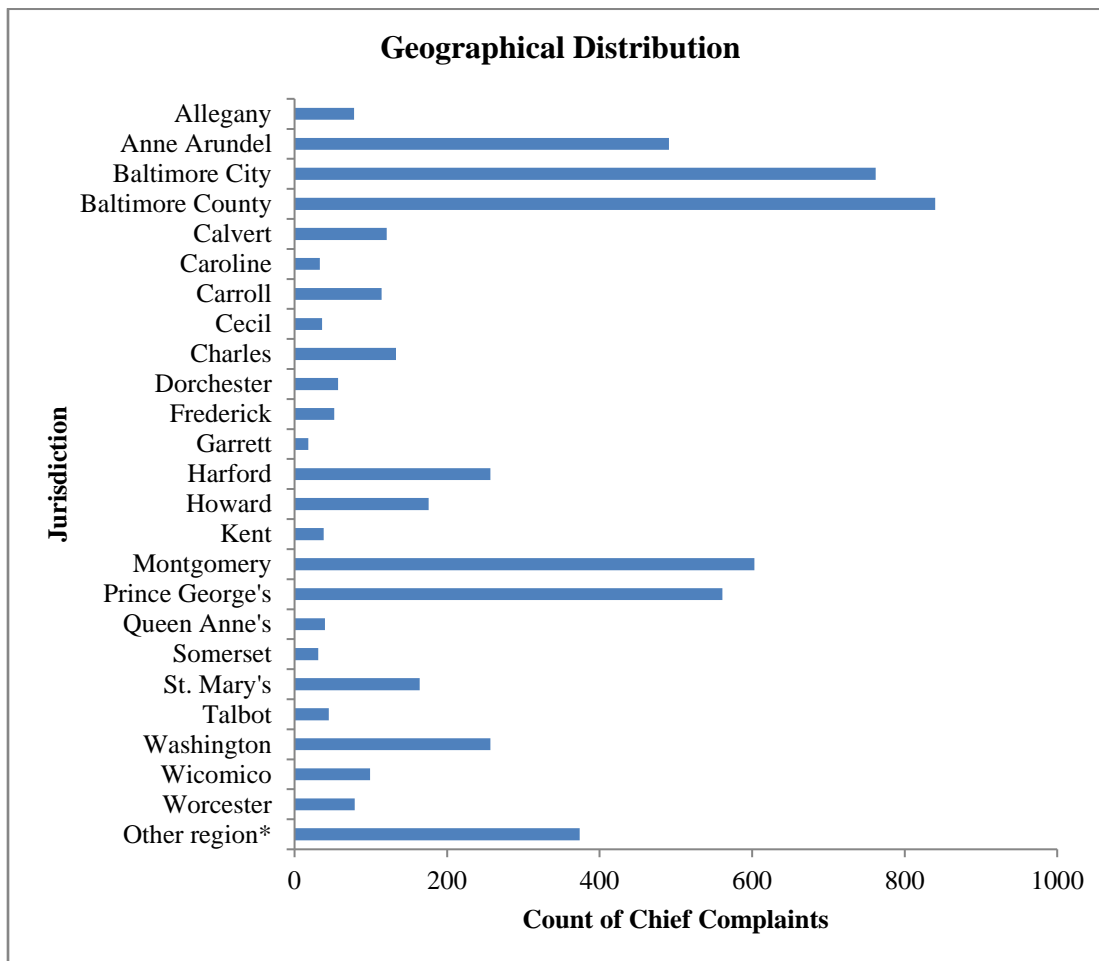


Emergency Department Chief Complaints Regarding Heat-related Illness by Week



**Note: ESSENCE chief complaint query for heat-related illness contains the following terms: hyperthermia, heat, dehydration and sunburn*

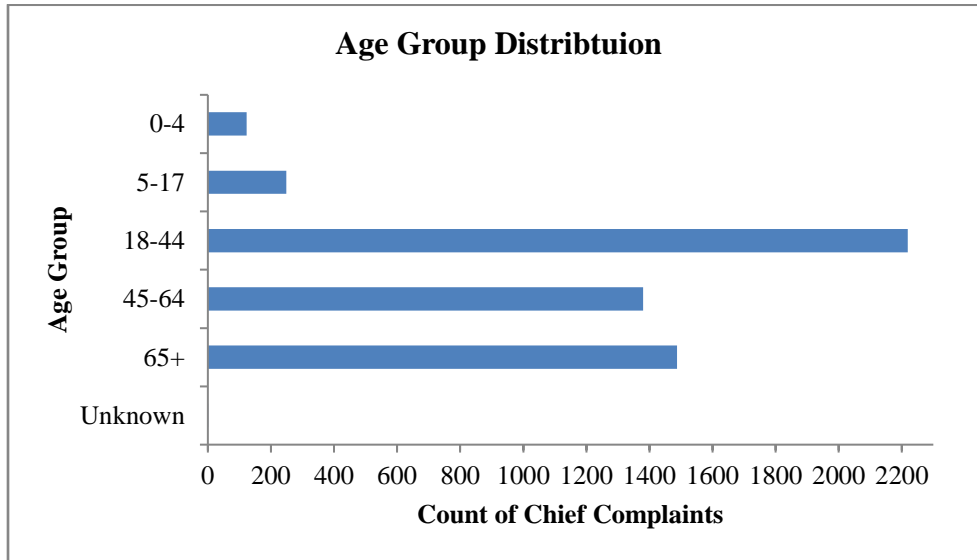
Geographical Distribution of Emergency Department Chief Complaints Regarding Heat-related Illnesses for May 19, 2020 to September 14, 2020



**Geographical distribution of emergency department chief complaints is based on patients' jurisdictions of residence. The "Other Region" category includes patient records without a ZIP code and patients who reside outside of Maryland.*

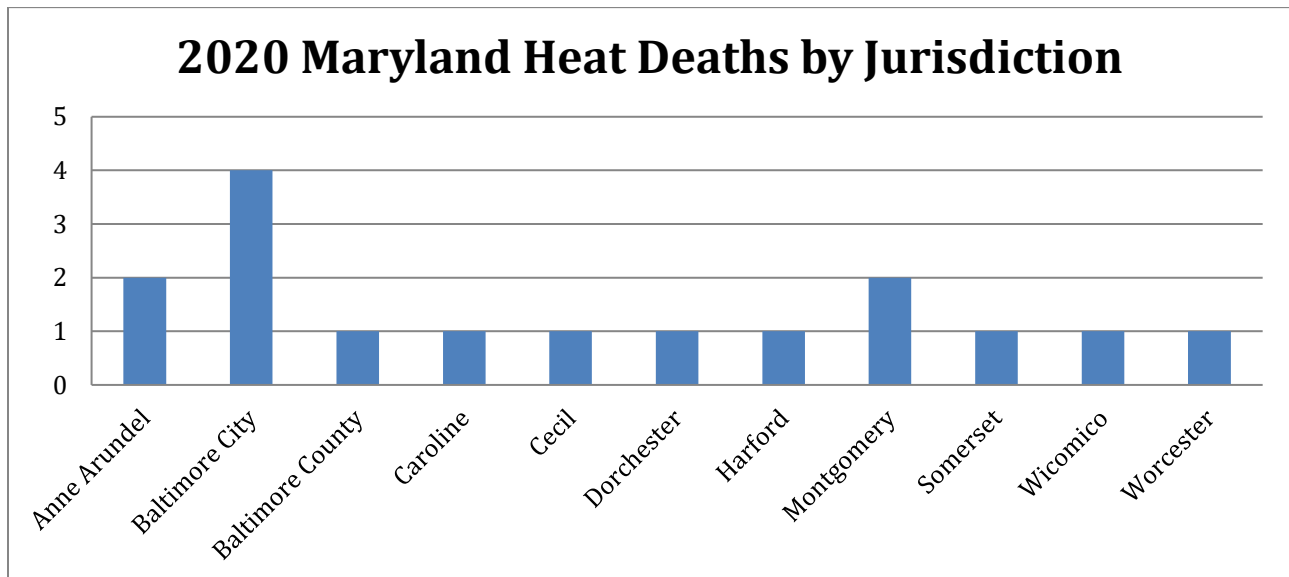
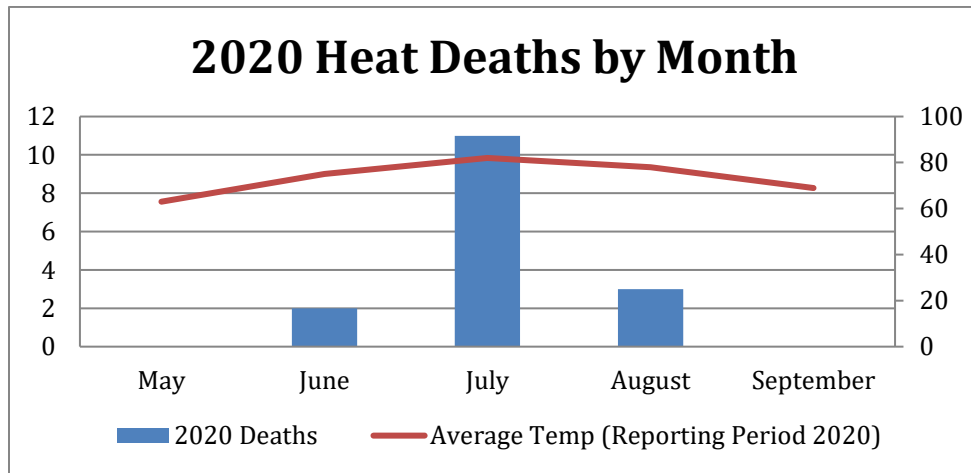
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Age Group Distribution of Emergency Department Chief Complaints Regarding Heat-related Illnesses for May 19, 2020 to September 14, 2020



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There was a total of sixteen (16) heat-related deaths in Maryland during the 2020 heat monitoring period. Three deaths were of suspected or presumed homeless individuals. For one death there is not enough information to determine whether the individual was suspected or presumed homeless. Two deaths were reported after the final report was distributed but occurred within the 2020 heat monitoring period.

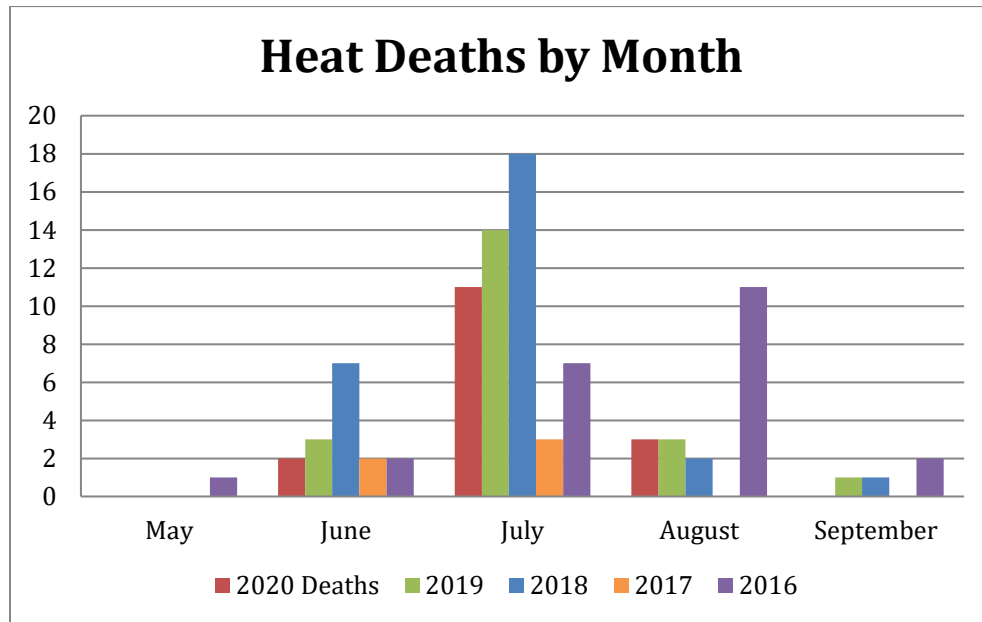


**Note: Heat-related death numbers, listed on this page and these charts, may differ in future reports as the OCME potentially may unpend death reports from this reporting period after the release of this Summary Report*

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Trends in Heat-related Deaths (2016-2020)

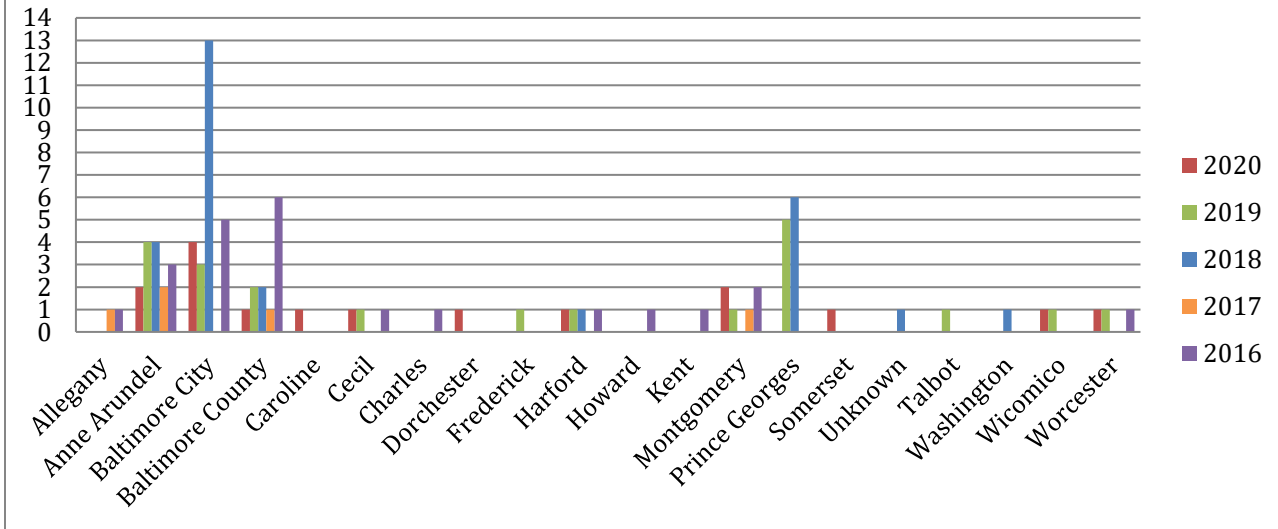
There were 23 heat-related deaths in Maryland during the 2016 heat monitoring period, 5 heat-related deaths during the 2017 heat monitoring period, 28 heat-related deaths during the 2018 heat monitoring period, and 21 heat-related deaths in Maryland during the 2019 heat monitoring period. There was a total of 16 heat-related deaths in Maryland during the 2020 heat monitoring period.



**Note: Heat-related death numbers, listed on this page and chart, may differ in future reports as the OCME potentially may unpend death reports from this reporting period after the release of this Summary Report.*

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2016-2020 Maryland Heat Deaths by Jurisdiction



**Note: Heat-related death numbers, listed on this chart, may differ in future reports as the OCME potentially may unpend death reports from this reporting period after the release of this Summary Report.*

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Heat Advisory Criteria: The National Weather Service will issue a Heat Advisory when the heat index value is expected to reach 105 to 109 degrees Fahrenheit within the next 12 to 24 hours. A Heat Advisory may be issued for lower criteria if it is early in the season or during a multiday heat wave. NWS will issue an Excessive Heat Warning when the heat index value is expected to reach or exceed 110 degrees Fahrenheit within the next 12 to 24 hours. An Excessive Heat Warning may be issued for lower criteria if it is early in the season or during a multiday heat wave.

Emergency Department Data: The results from the query used in ESSENCE, an electronic biosurveillance system, to track heat-related illnesses may be an overestimation of the actual burden of illness related to the hot weather. This overestimation is due to the nature of the query, which includes the term dehydration, a condition that may be caused by factors other than heat. ***As of November 2019, visit data from 23 urgent care centers are now included in ESSENCE emergency department visit data.***

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Data: These data are based on EMS pre-hospital care reports where the EMS provider has selected “Heat Exhaustion/Heat Stroke” and/or “Hyperthermia” as a primary or secondary impression a patient’s illness. This impression is solely based on the signs and symptoms seen by the provider, not on any diagnostic tests. Since these numbers do not include all primary or secondary impressions that may be seen with heat exposure the actual numbers may be low. These data are reported for trending purposes only.

Suspected Homeless Death Data: Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) Field Investigators use the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [homeless definition](#) to determine suspected homeless deaths. Homeless deaths are listed as suspected due to the limited information available to the Field Investigators at the time of investigation, which may result in some misclassifications.

For more information about extreme cold and emergency preparedness, follow the Office of Preparedness and Response on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

For media inquiries, please contact the Office of Communications: [410-767-6490](tel:410-767-6490)

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