



Maryland 2022/2023 Cold-Related Illness Surveillance Summary Report

Reporting Period November 8, 2022 to March 27, 2023

Report Date: May 3, 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Maryland 2022/2023 Cold Season occurred from November 8, 2022 through March 27, 2023. Overall in Maryland, the 2022/2023 cold season was consistent with previous seasons and had an average low temperature of 32.1°F. Week 7 (12/24/22 - 12/26/22) had a below average temperature at 17°F and there was a corresponding increase in cold related emergency department/urgent care chief complaint visits that week.

There were a total of 492 cold related emergency department (ED) and urgent care (UC) chief complaint visits averaging 24.6 visits per week. This is comparable to last year (total visits: 481; average 24.1 per week in 2021/2022). Also, there were a total of 182 ED and UC visits related to carbon monoxide (CO) exposure averaging 9.1 visits per week. This is an *increase* from last year (total visits: 152; average 7.6 per week in 2021/2022). For the 2022/2023 season, most of the cold-related illness complaints were in the 65+ age group (184) which is consistent with previous seasons.

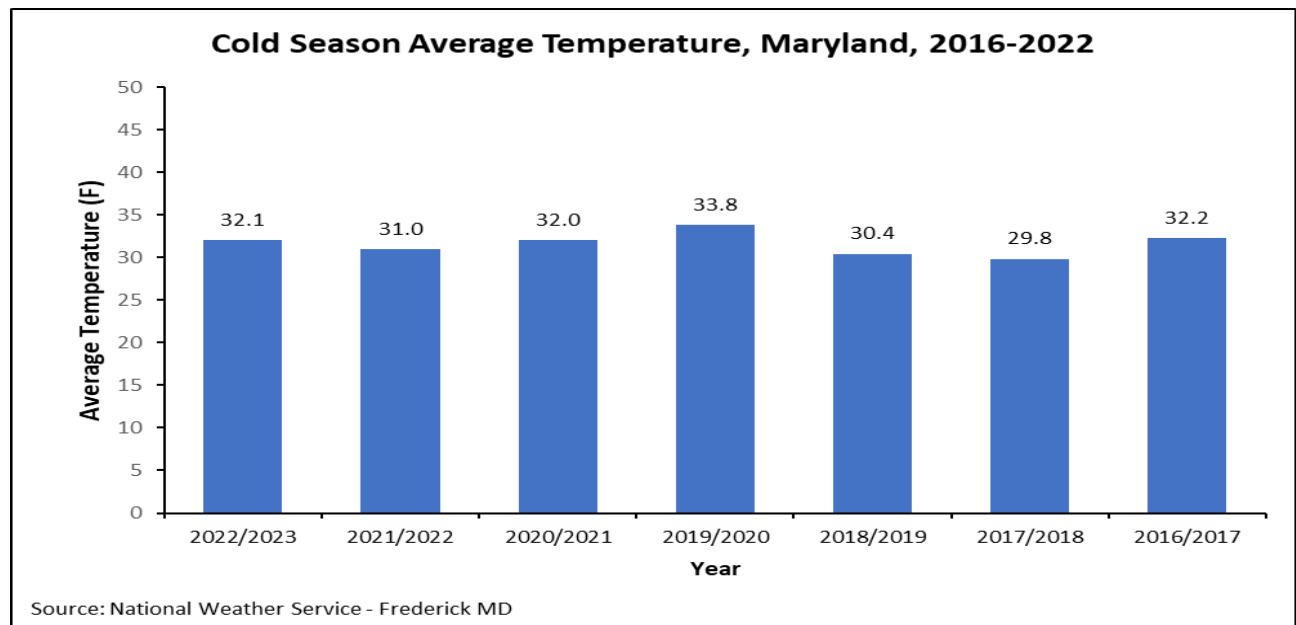
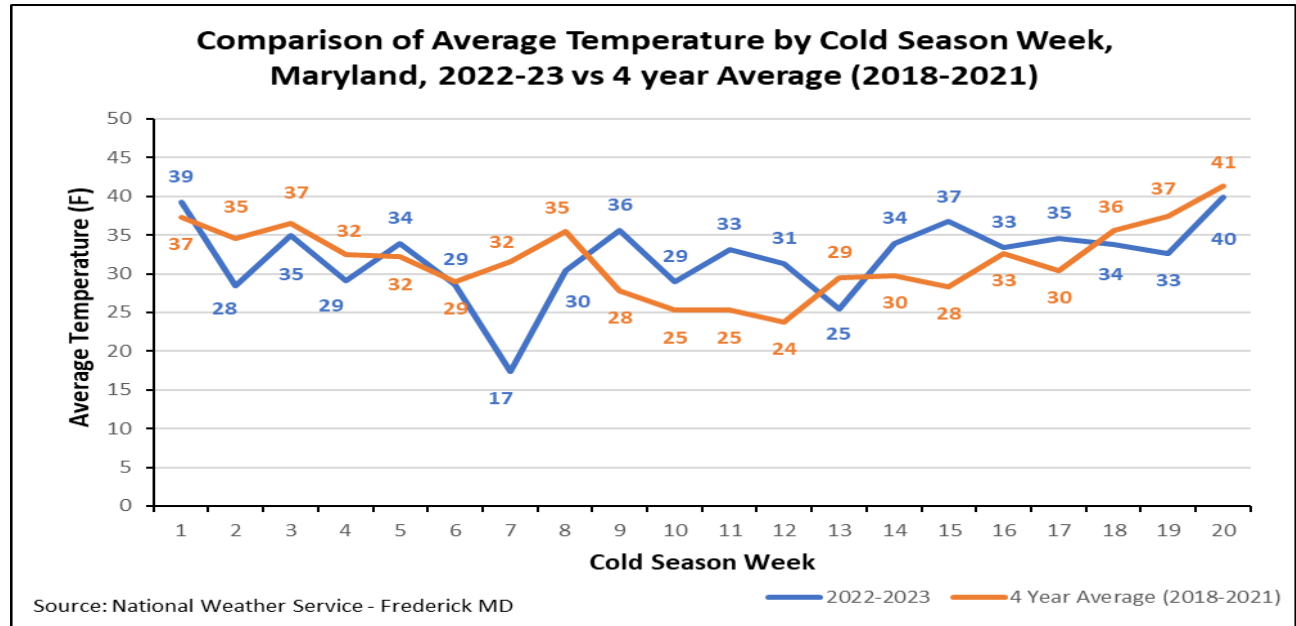
During the 2022/2023 cold season, there were 46 cold related deaths reported. This is a *slight increase* from last year (42 cold related deaths) and a *decrease* from the 4-year (2018-2021) average of 53 cold related deaths. The populations most affected include those older than 65 and males. 21 of the 2022/2023 cold seasons deaths were suspected or presumed homeless individuals.

BACKGROUND

The weekly Cold-Related Illness Surveillance Report is provided from November through March. The report focuses on extreme cold conditions including temperature and wind chill, cold-related illness (e.g. frostbite, frostnip, hypothermia), carbon monoxide exposure and cold-related deaths in Maryland.

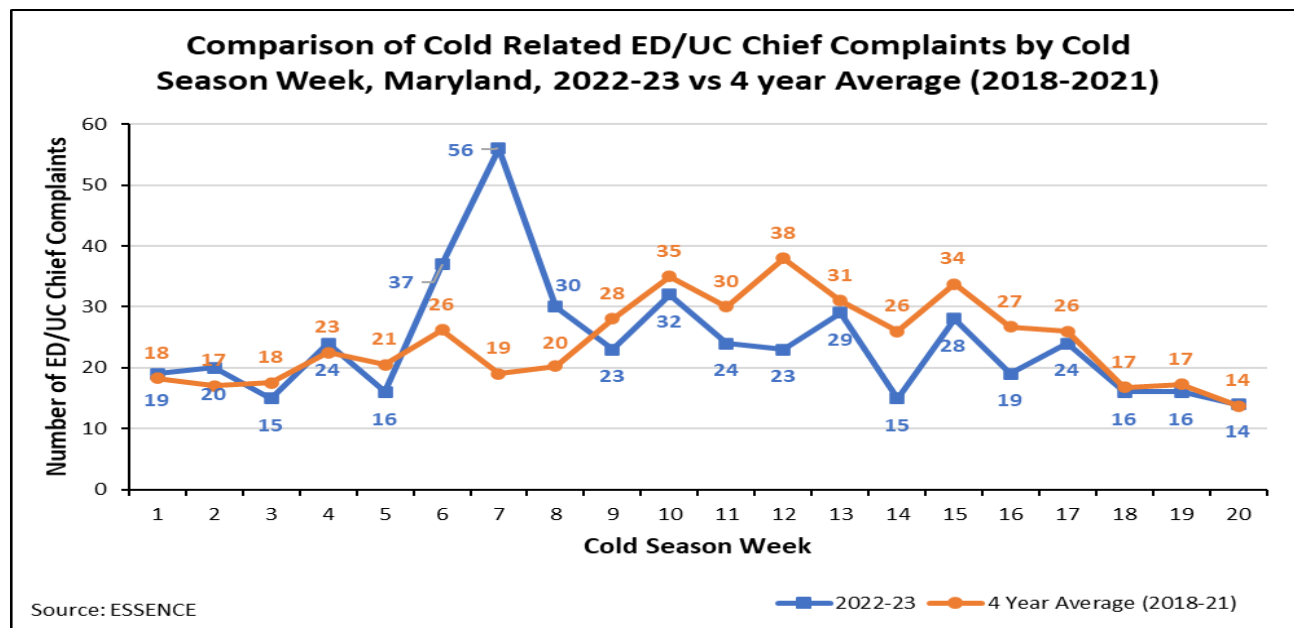
WEATHER

Overall, the 2022/2023 cold season was comparable with the average of the last 4 seasons (2018/2019 - 2021/2022). For week 7 (12/20/2022 - 12/26/2022), we did see a drop in temperature with the average temperature for that week down to 17°F which corresponded to an increase in cold related ED/UC chief complaints.

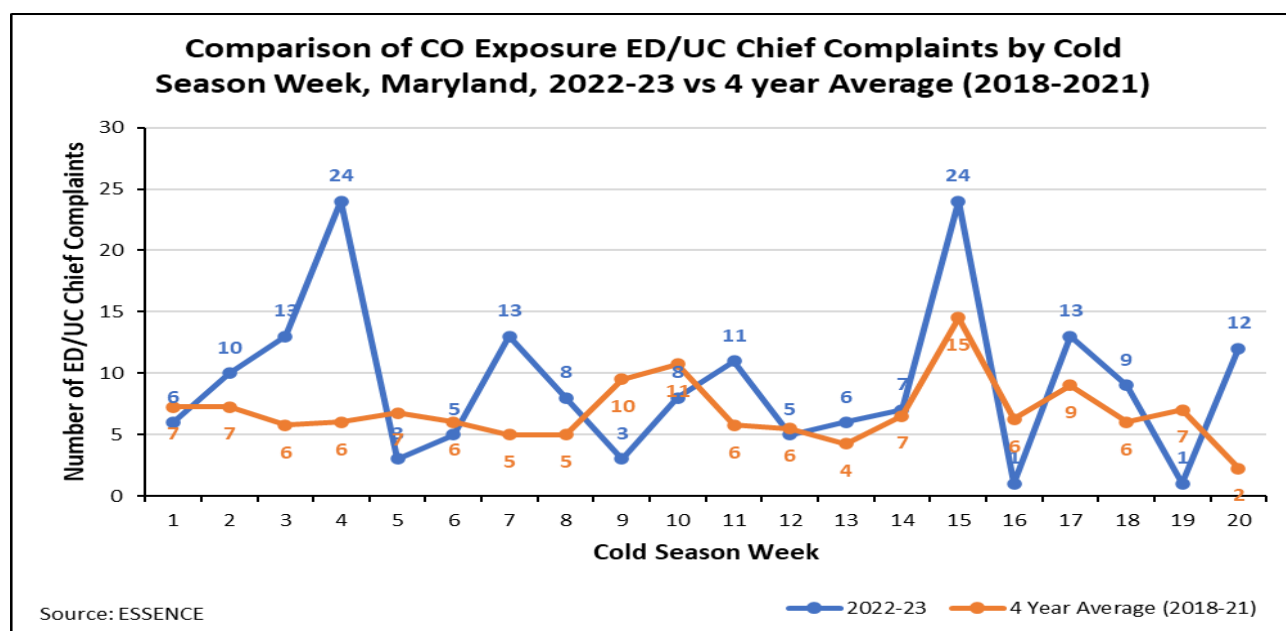


COLD RELATED ILLNESS

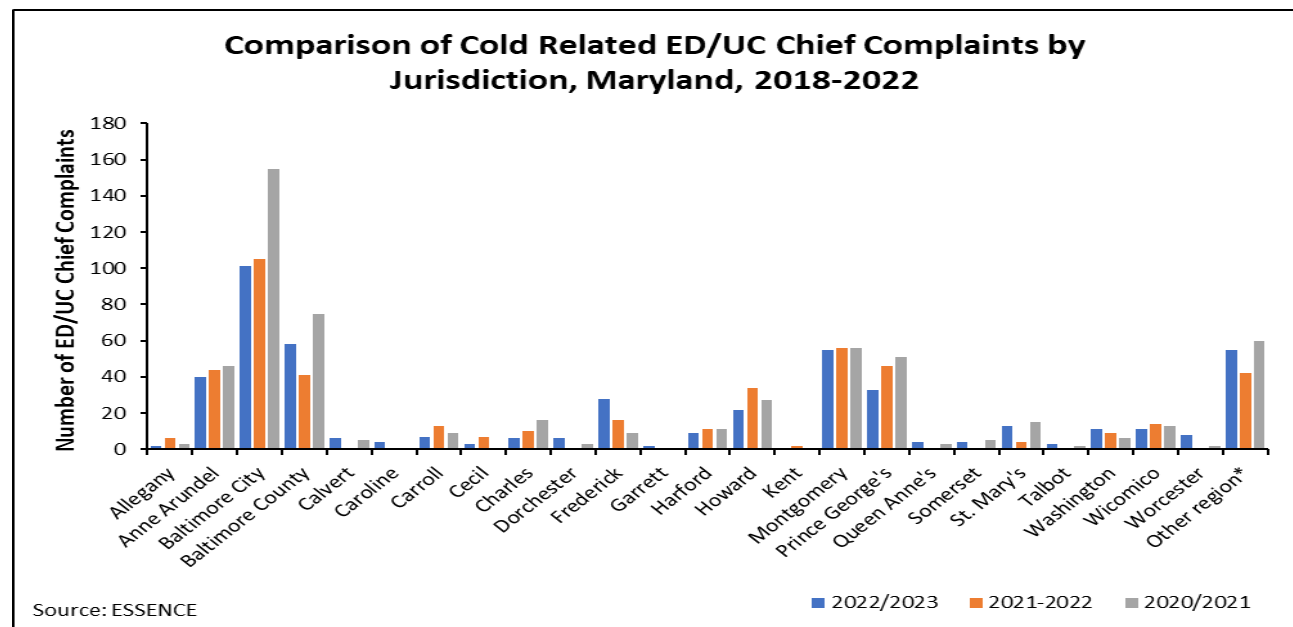
The number of cold related ED/UC chief complaints for the 2022/2023 season was slightly lower than the average from 2018/2019 - 2021/2022 with the exception of week 7 (12/20/22 - 12/26/22) where there was a spike in chief complaints. This corresponds to the decrease in weekly average temperature that we recorded for week 7. As for CO Exposure chief complaints, there were a few spikes throughout the season but overall it remained consistent with the average from 2018/2019 - 2021/2022.



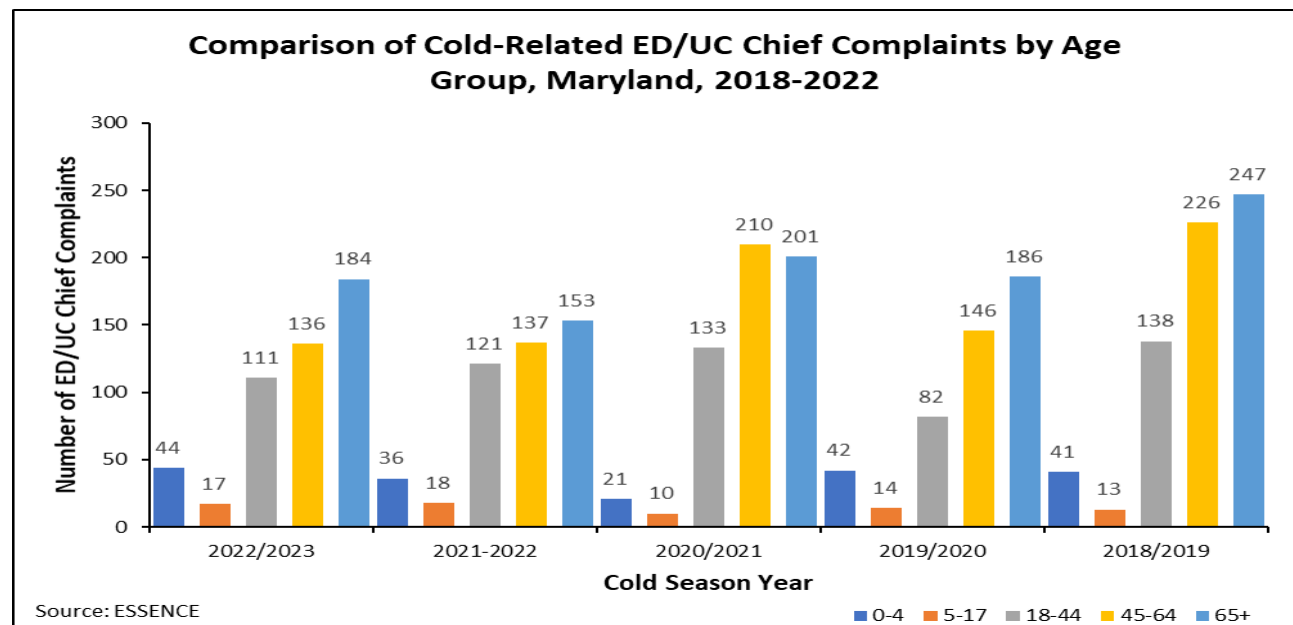
**Note: ESSENCE chief complaint query for cold-related illness contains the following terms: frostbite, frostnip, hypothermia, chilblain, and trench foot*



Geographically, the cold related ED/UC chief complaints visits were highest in Baltimore City followed by Baltimore County, Anne Arundel, Montgomery and Prince George's counties.



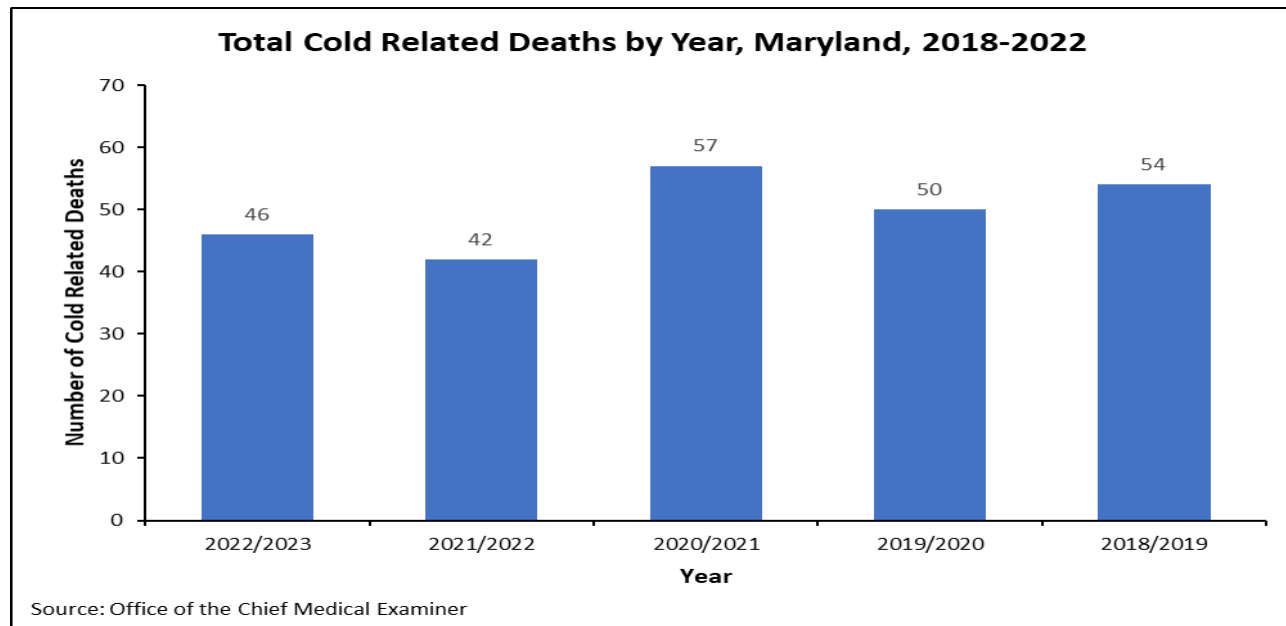
In addition, the distribution by age group in the 2022/23 cold season was highest in the 65+ age group followed by the 45-64 year age group. This is consistent with previous years (2018/2019 - 2021/2022) where the 65+ and 45-64 age groups had the largest number of ED/UC cold related chief complaint visits.



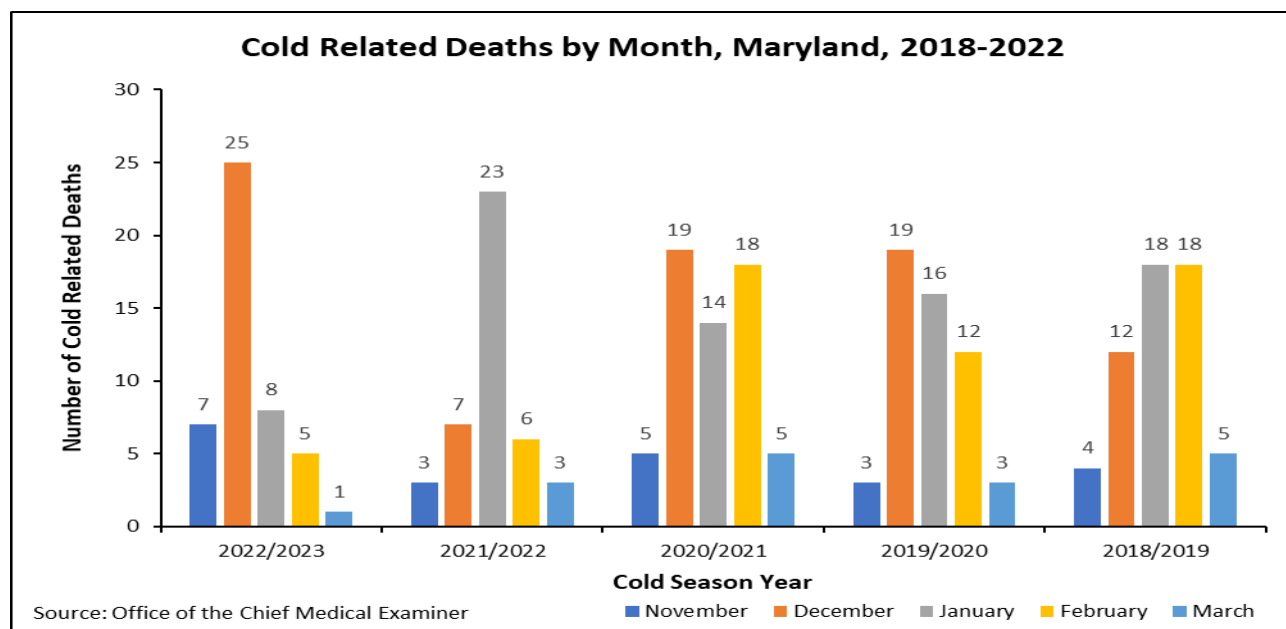
Note: Weekly numbers for ED/UC chief complaint visits and CO exposure are collected throughout the season and may change as ESSENCE is updated daily. These weekly numbers may therefore not match the summary numbers which are collected at the end of the season.

COLD RELATED DEATHS

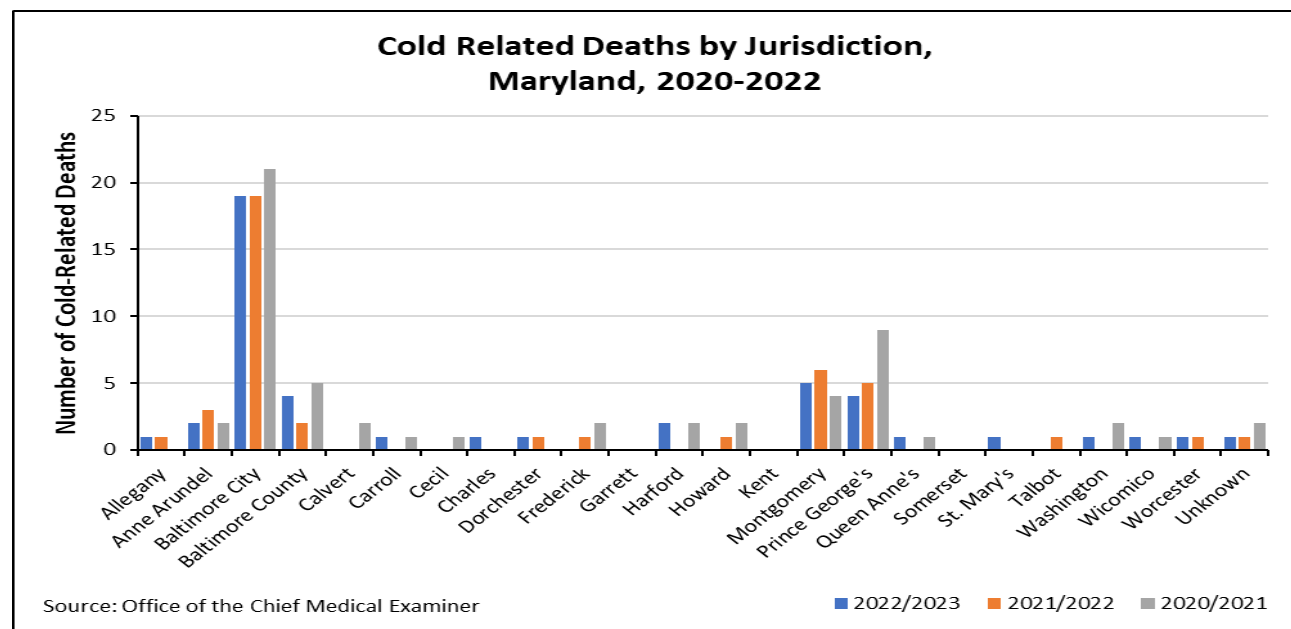
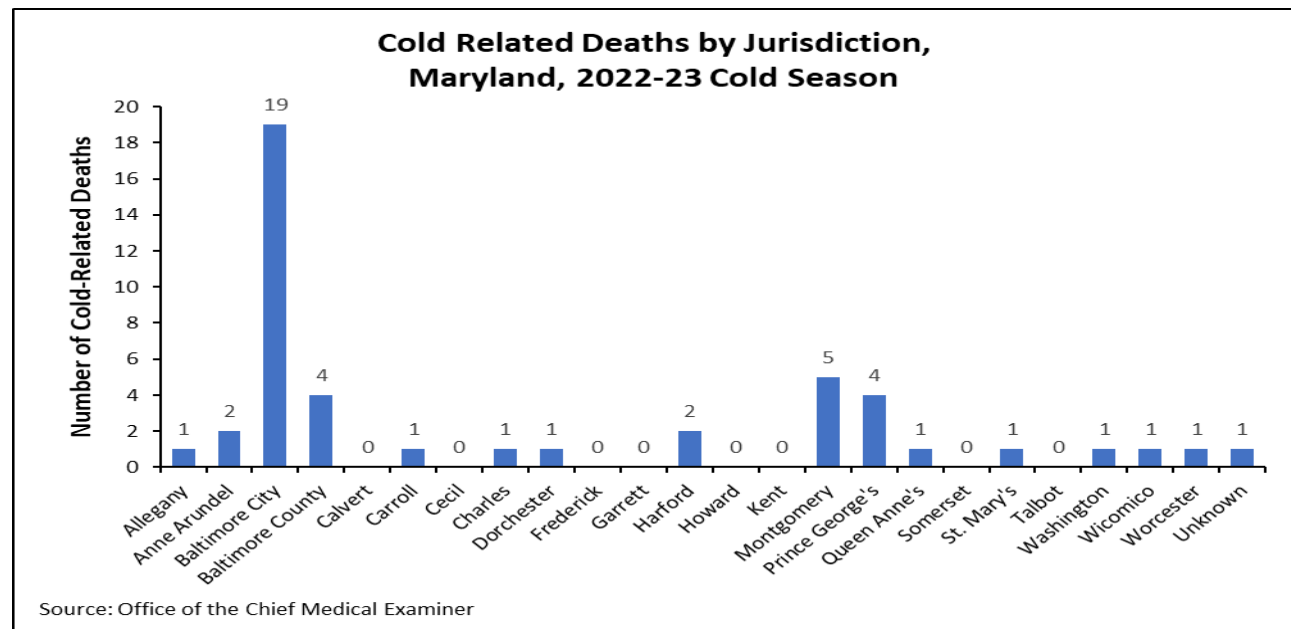
There were 46 cold-related deaths, as reported by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, in Maryland during the 2022/2023 cold season. This is slightly lower than previous years (2018/2019 - 2020/2021) but slightly higher than the 2021/2022 cold season with 42 deaths. 21 of these deaths were suspected or presumed homeless individuals.



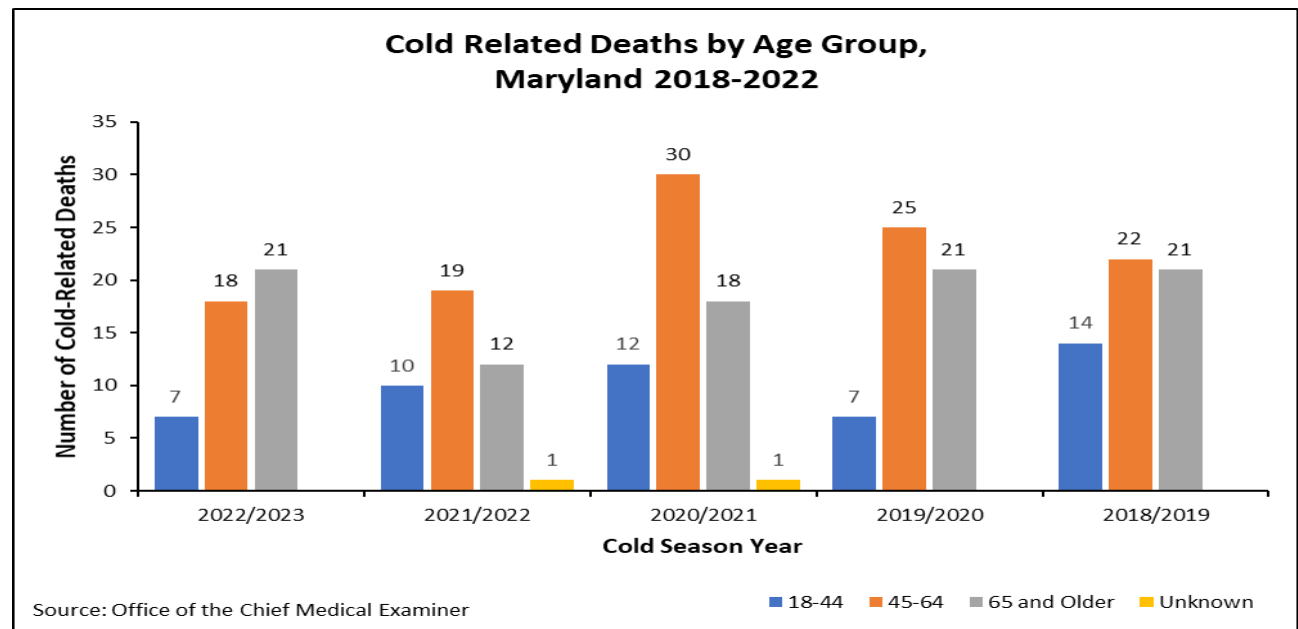
The largest number of deaths during the 2022/2023 cold season occurred during the month of December with 25 deaths. In the 2021/2022 cold season, most of the deaths occurred in January with 23 deaths. Historically, the months with the largest numbers of cold related deaths have occurred in December and January.



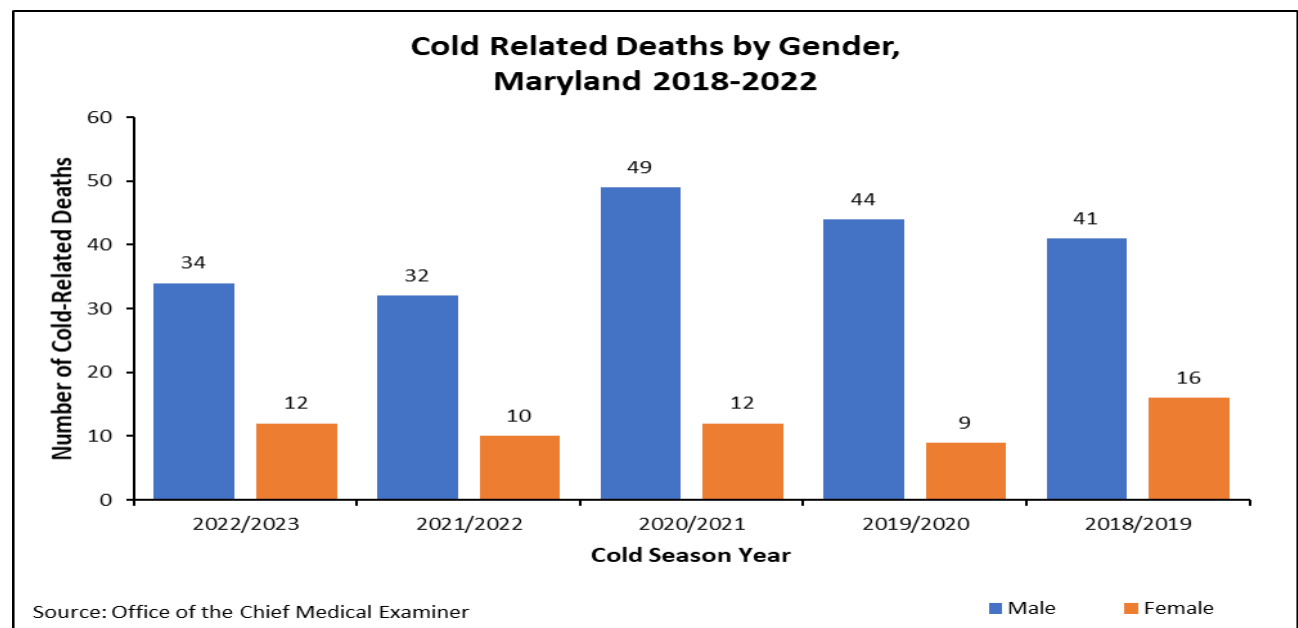
Geographically, the jurisdiction with the largest number of reported deaths was Baltimore City followed by Montgomery, Prince George's, and Baltimore County. This is consistent with the number of deaths by jurisdiction reported in 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 cold seasons.



For the 2022-2023 cold season, the age group that recorded the most deaths was the 65 and older age group. This is in contrast to previous seasons (2018/2019 - 2021/2022) where the age group with the most deaths had been the 45-64 age group.



Most of the deaths in the 2022-2023 cold season were in the male gender category. This is consistent with previous years.



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