



# Maryland 2023 Heat-Related Illness Surveillance Summary Report

Reporting Period: May 16, 2023, to September 11, 2023

Report Date: January 19, 2024

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Maryland 2023 Heat Season occurred from May 16, 2023, through September 11, 2023. Overall, in Maryland, the 2023 heat season was consistent with previous seasons and had an average high temperature of 86.4°F. Maryland's highest recorded temperature for the 2023 heat season was 91°F which occurred on Week 11 (07/25/23-07/31/23) and Week 17 (09/05/23-09/11/23). There were corresponding increases in heat-related emergency department/urgent care chief complaint visits and emergency medical services (EMS) calls for those weeks.

There were a total of 6,030 heat-related emergency department (ED) and urgent care (UC) chief complaint visits averaging 355 visits per week. This is comparable to last year (total visits: 6,471; average 380 per week in 2022). For the 2023 heat season, most of the heat-related illness ED/UC complaints were in the 18-44 age group (2,260) which is consistent with previous seasons.

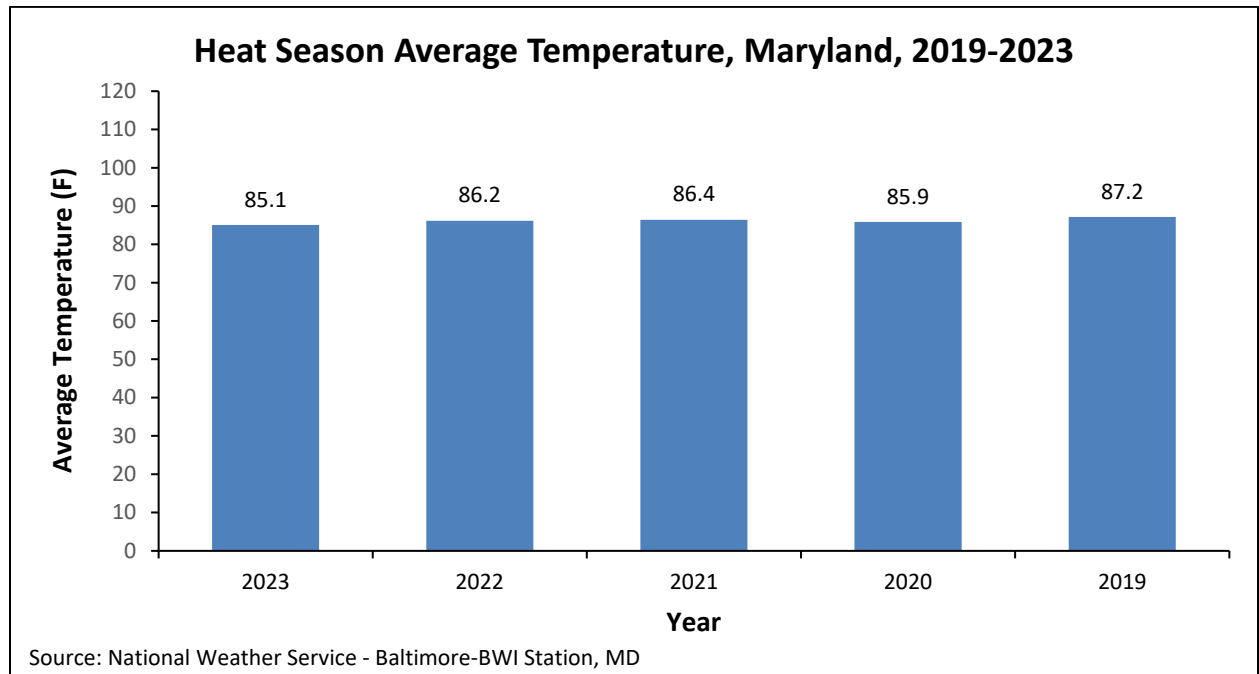
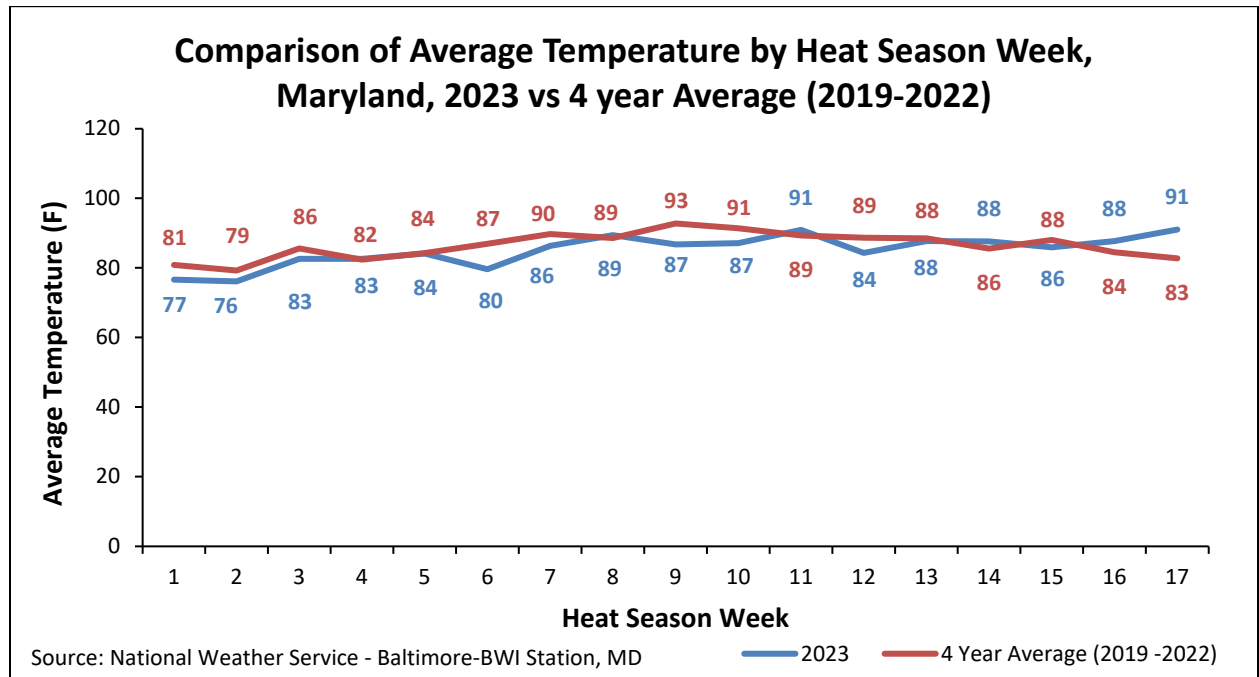
During the 2023 heat season, there were 9 heat-related deaths reported. This is a *slight increase* from last year (6 heat-related deaths) and a *decrease* from the 4-year (2019-2022) average of 16.3 heat-related deaths. The most affected demographic groups for 2023 heat season include males and those within the 45-64 year old (6 heat-related deaths) and 65 or older (3 heat-related deaths) age groups. None of the deaths for the 2023 heat season were among suspected or presumed homeless individuals.

## BACKGROUND

The weekly Heat-Related Illness Surveillance Report is provided from May through September. The report focuses on extreme heat conditions including temperature and heat index, heat-related illness (e.g., hyperthermia, heat, dehydration, and sunburn), and heat-related deaths in Maryland.

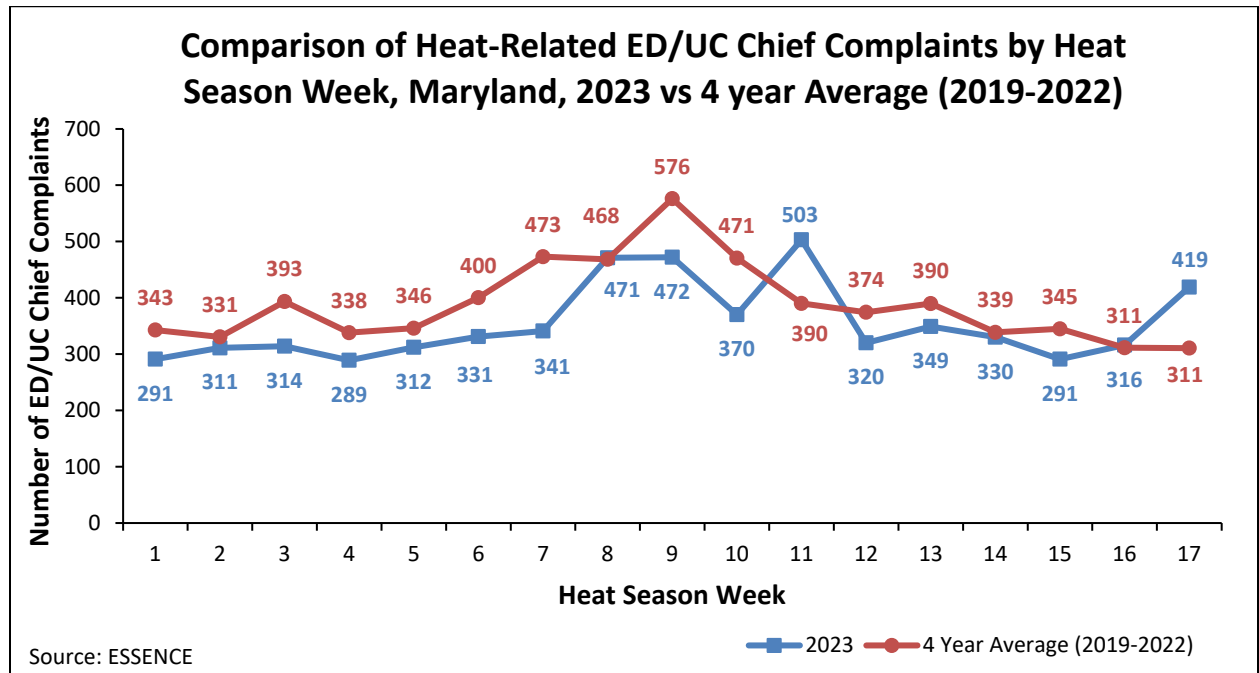
## WEATHER

Overall, the average temperature of the 2023 heat season was comparable with the average temperatures of the last 4 seasons (2019-2022).

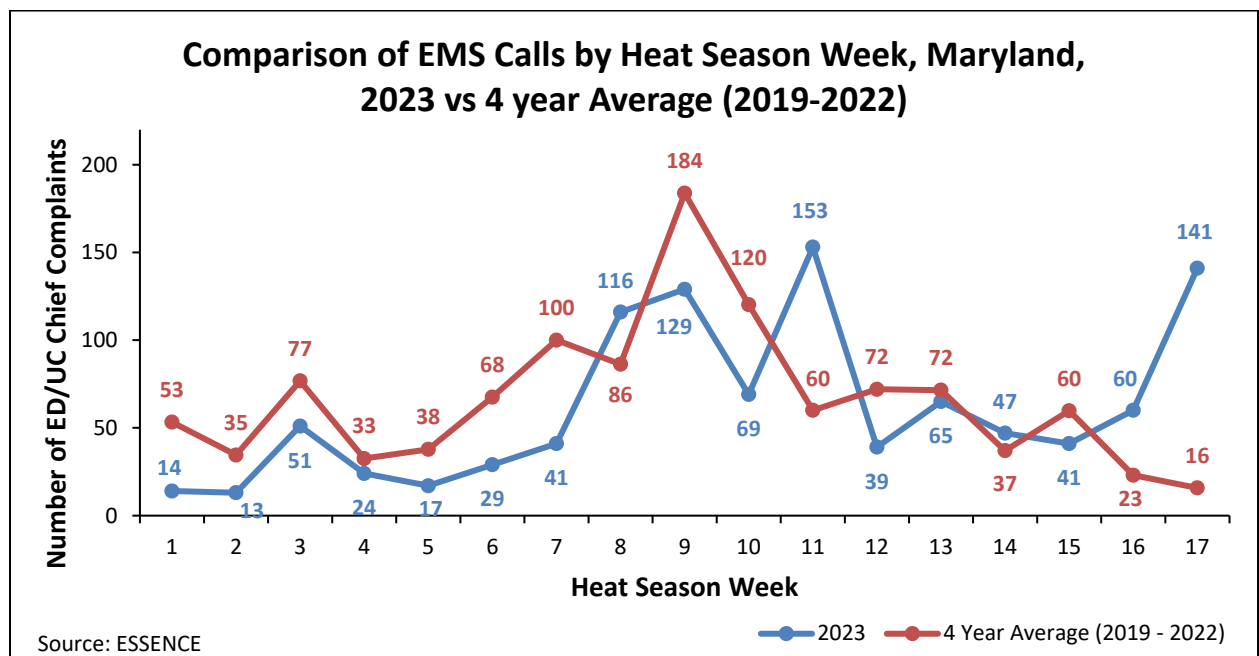


## HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS

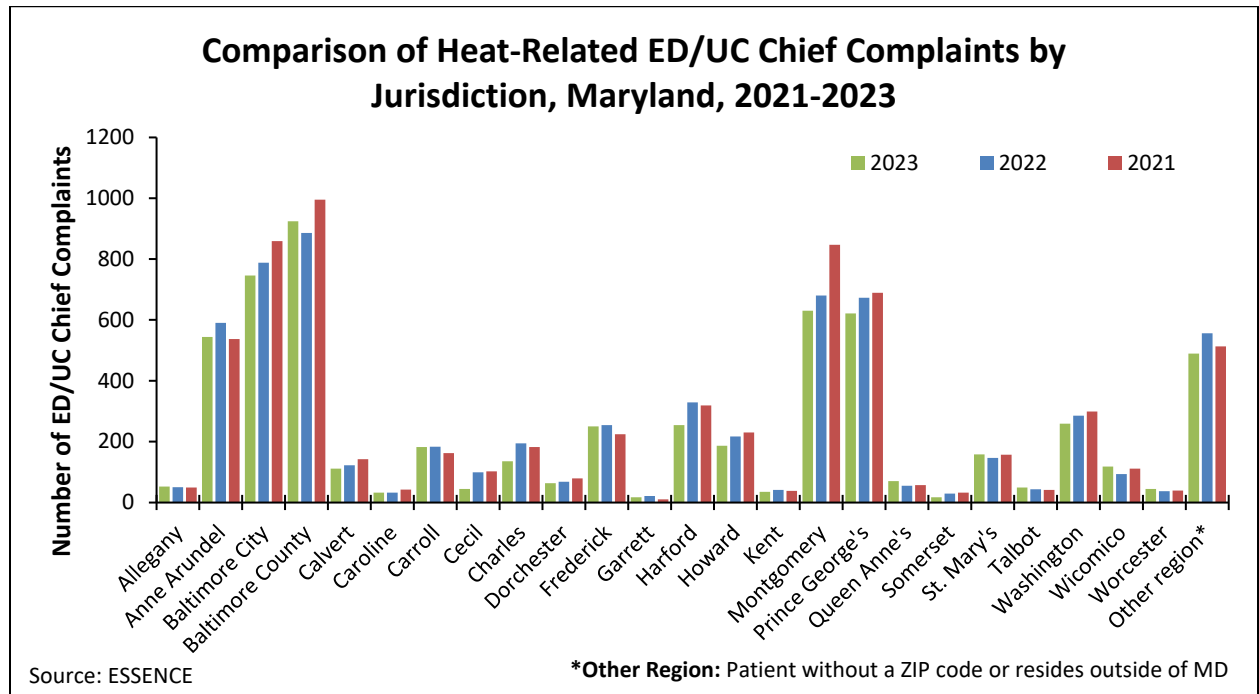
The number of heat-related ED/UC chief complaints for the 2023 season was slightly lower than the 4-year average from 2019-2022, except for heat season week 11 (07/25/23 – 07/31/23) and heat season week 17 (09/05/23 - 09/11/23) where the number of chief complaints as well as EMS calls surpassed the 4-year averages.



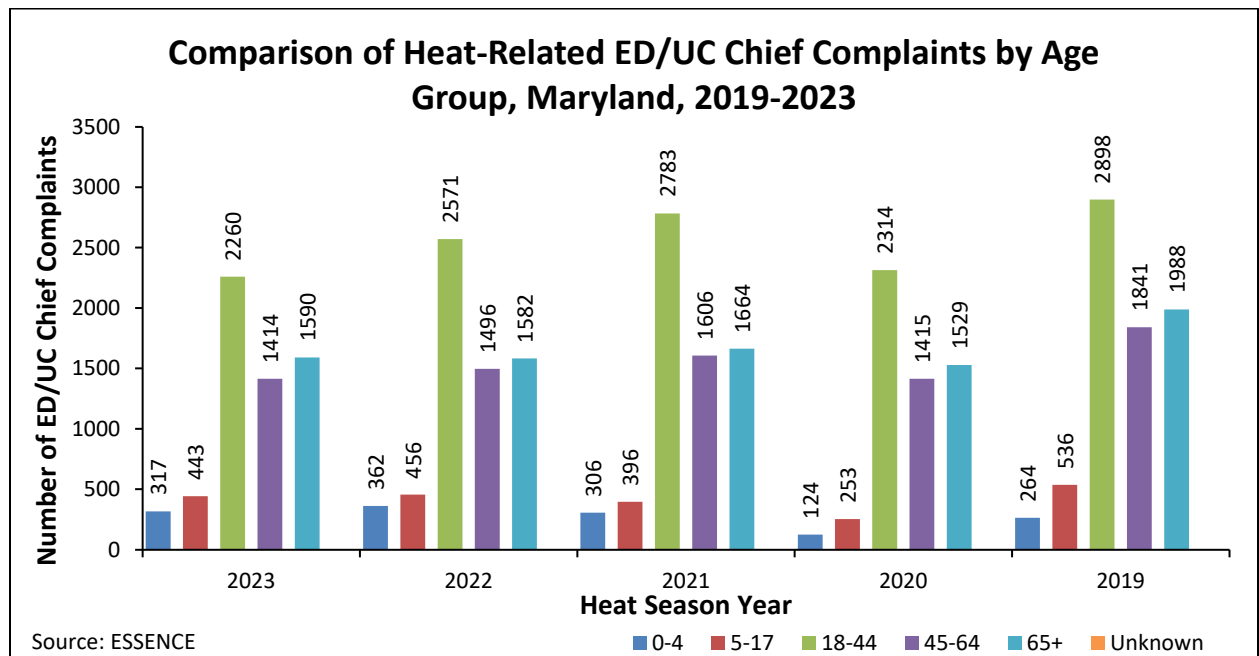
*\*Note: ESSENCE chief complaint query for heat-related illness contains the following terms: hyperthermia, heat, dehydration, and sunburn.*



Geographically, heat-related ED/UC chief complaint visits for 2023 were highest in Baltimore County followed by Baltimore City, Montgomery, Prince George’s, and Anne Arundel Counties.



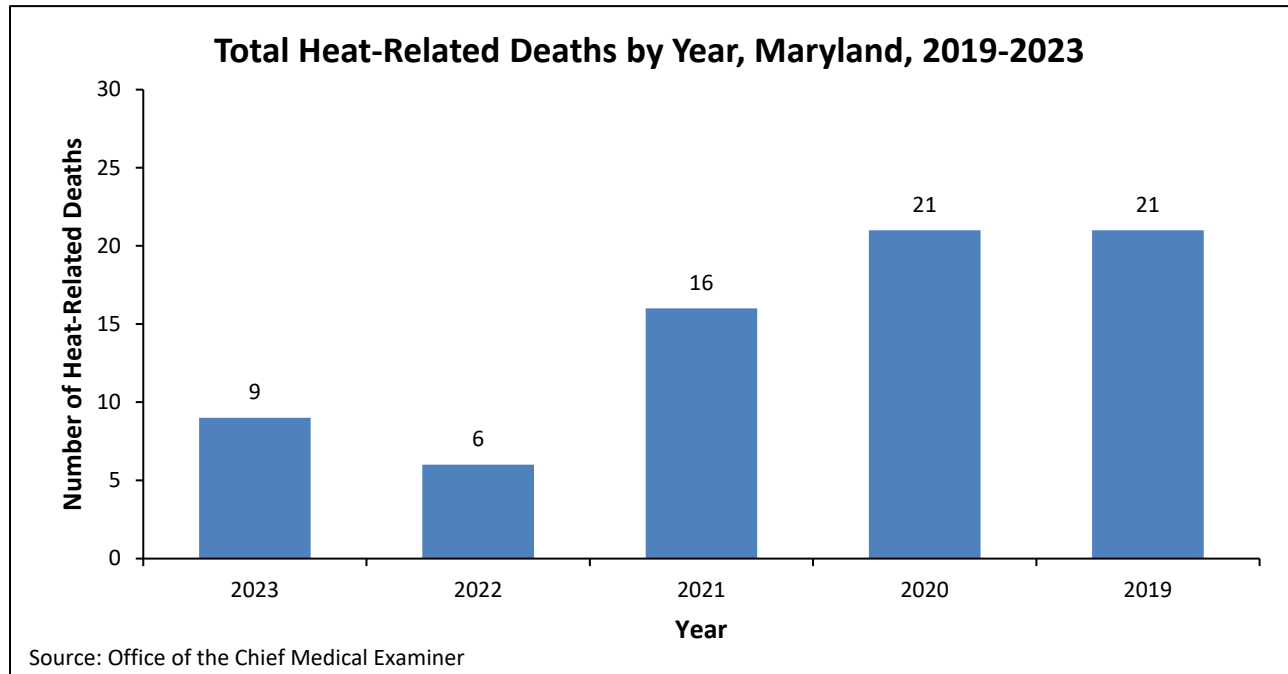
In terms of age group distribution for the 2023 heat season, the number of heat-related ED/UC chief complaints was highest in the 18-44 year old age group, followed by the 65+ and 45-64 year old age groups. This is consistent with previous years (2019 - 2022) where the 18-44, 65+ and 45-64 year old age groups had the largest number of ED/UC heat-related chief complaint visits.



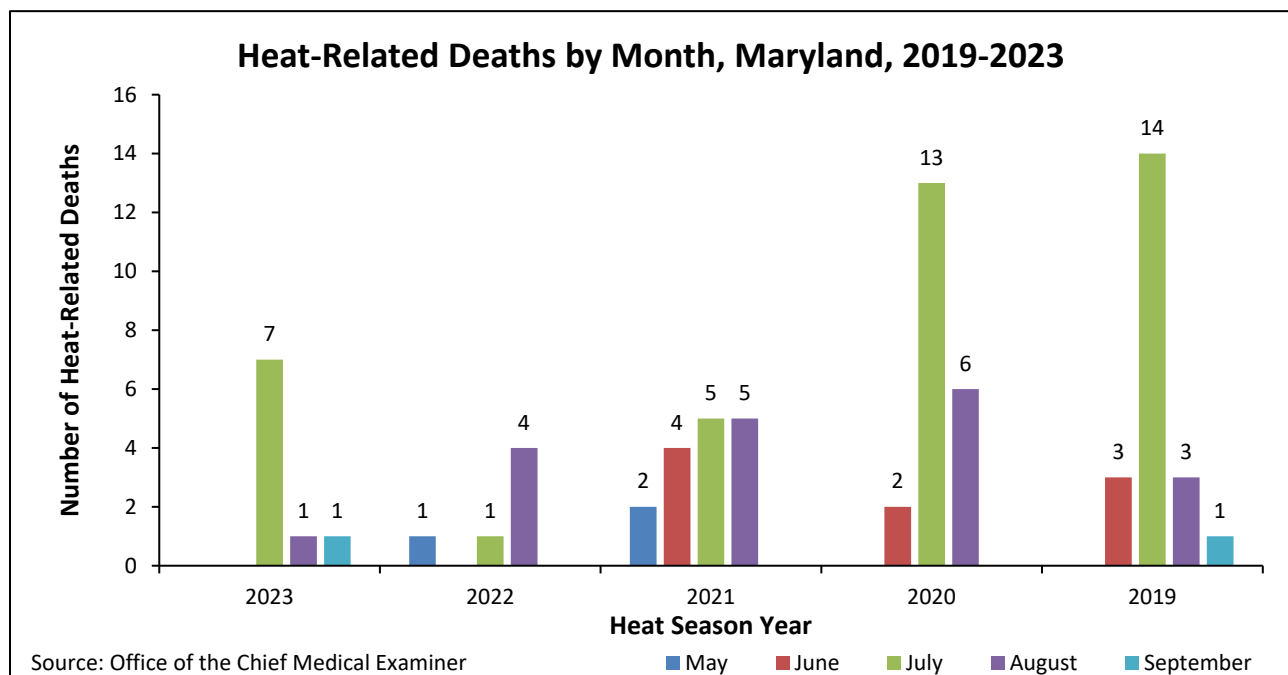
Note: Weekly numbers for ED/UC chief complaint visits by Age Group are collected throughout the season and may change as ESSENCE is updated daily. These weekly numbers may therefore not match the summary numbers which are collected at the end of the season.

## HEAT-RELATED DEATHS

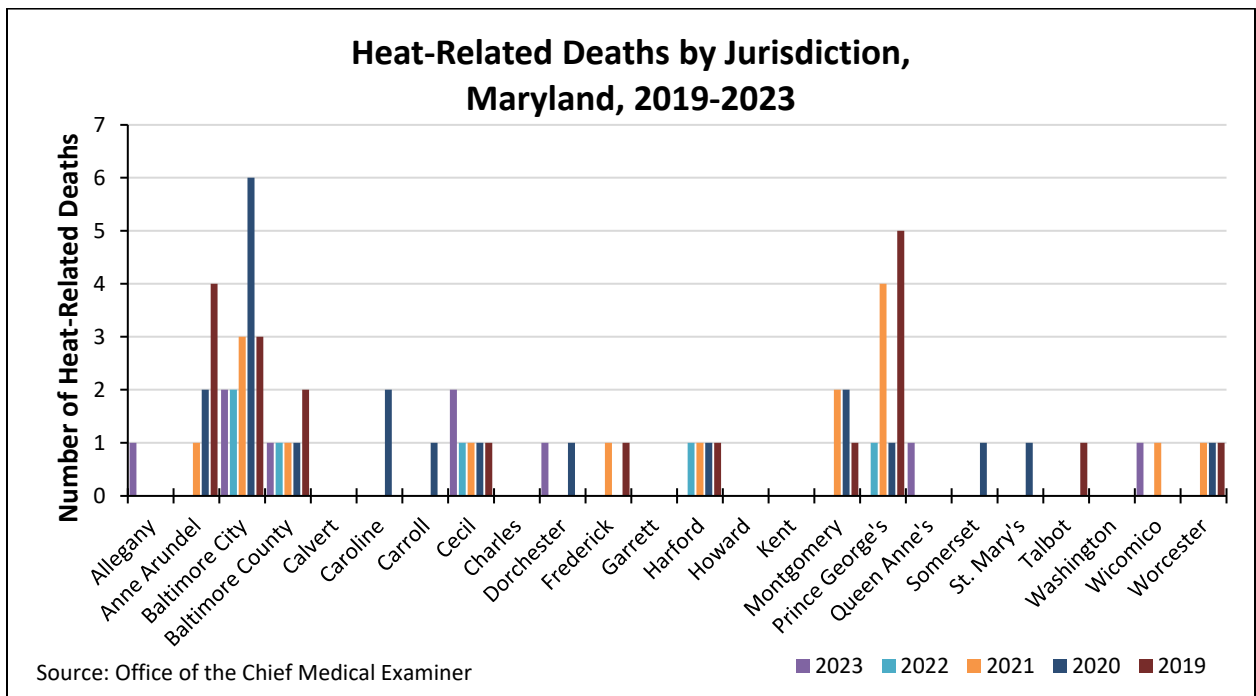
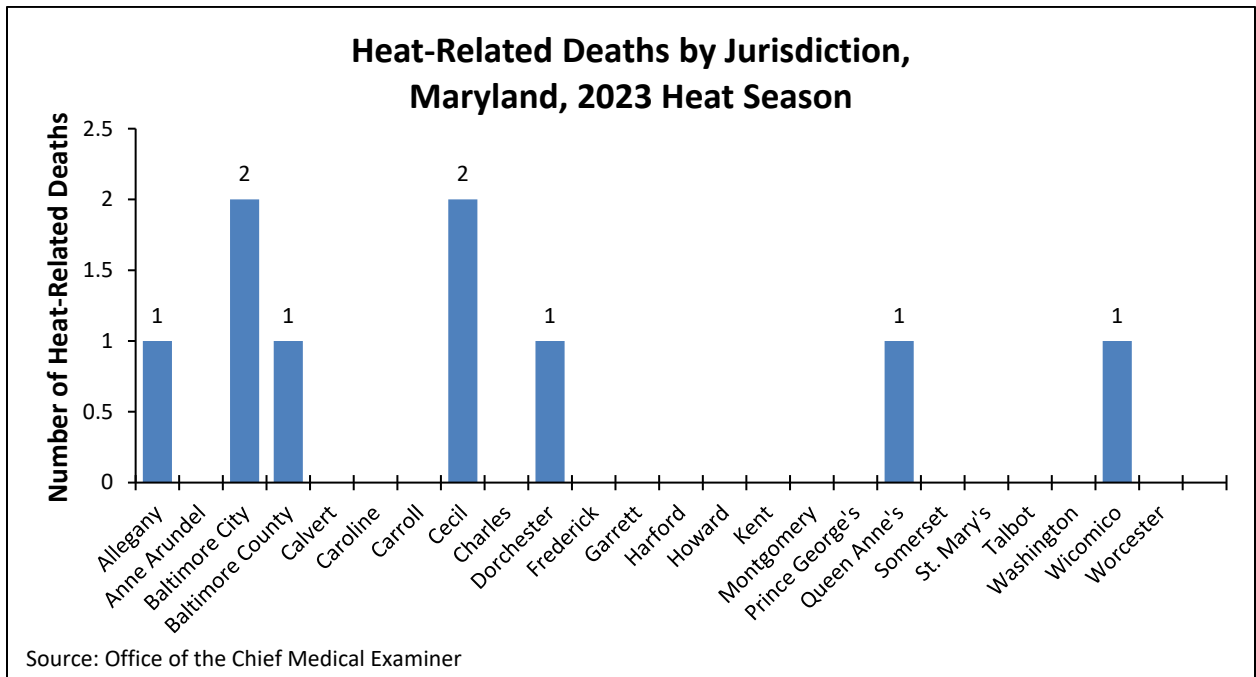
There were 9 heat-related deaths, as reported by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, in Maryland during the 2023 heat season. This is slightly higher than 2022 but lower when compared to 2019- 2021.



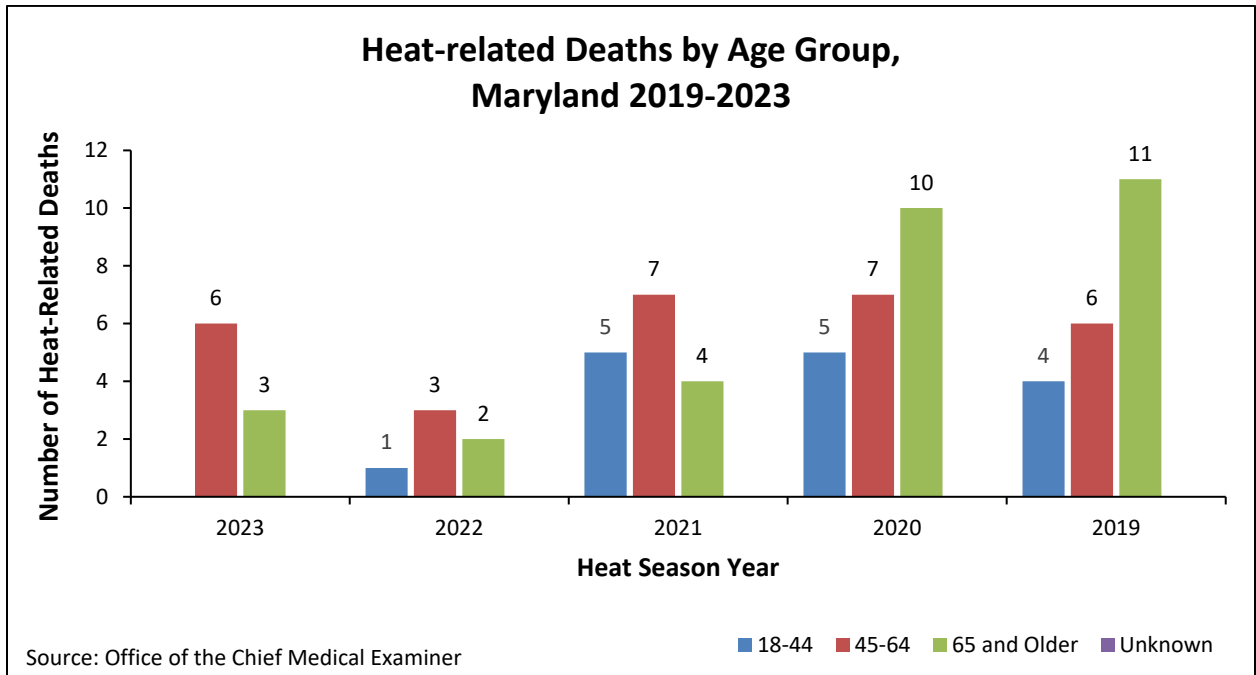
During the 2023 heat season, the largest number of deaths occurred during the month of July with 7 deaths. Historically, July is the month with the largest number of heat-related deaths, except for 2022, where August had the highest number of reported deaths.



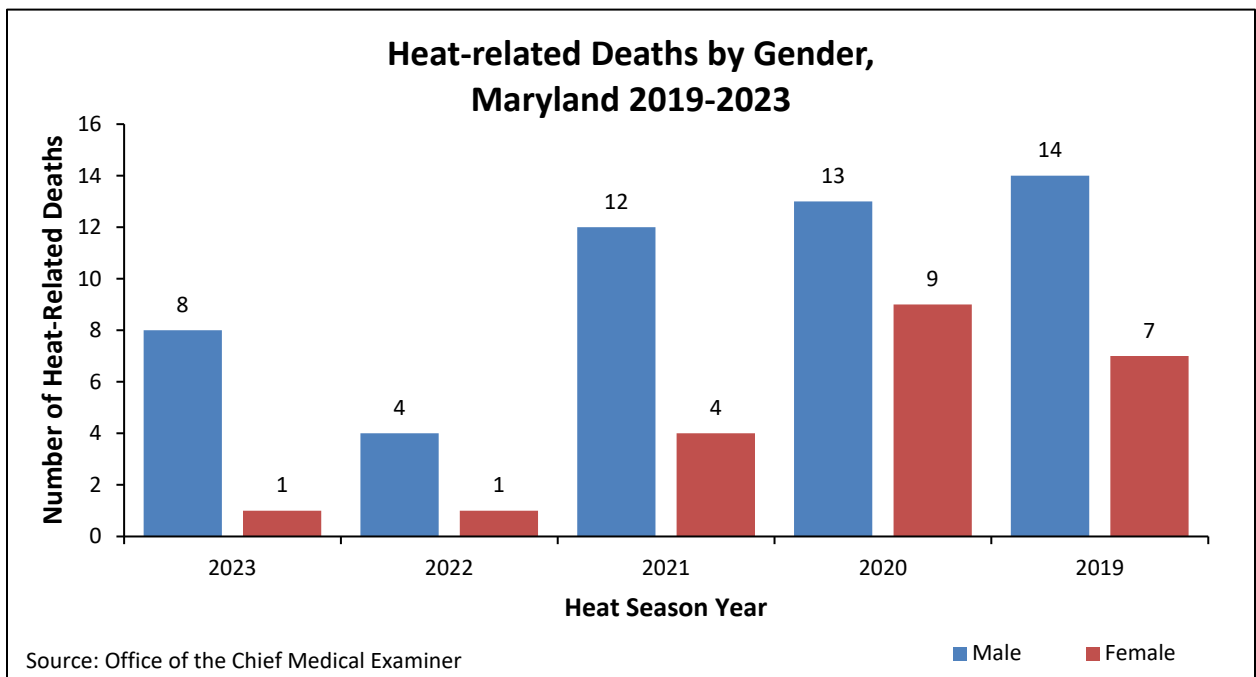
In 2023, the jurisdictions with the largest number of heat-related deaths were Baltimore City and Cecil County. This is partly inconsistent with prior years' data (2019-2022), where Baltimore City and Prince George's County had the highest number of deaths.



For the 2023 heat season, the age group with the most heat-related deaths was the 45-64 year old age group followed by the 65 and older age group.



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



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