



## **Public Health Preparedness and Situational Awareness Report: #2023:48**

Reporting for the week ending 12/2/23 (MMWR Week #48)

**December 8, 2023**

The weekly Public Health Preparedness and Situational Awareness (PHPSA) Report provides a snapshot of disease throughout Maryland. This report looks for different types of illnesses or disease clusters which may warn of a larger public health issue, including the potential for a bioterrorism event.

Data is gathered from Maryland's Emergency Departments using the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE). Additional data is compiled from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Health Alert Network, the Maryland Department of Health Prevention and Health Promotion Administration, the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS), the World Health Organization, the National Electronic Disease Surveillance System, and the Program for Monitoring Emerging Diseases (ProMED).

### **CURRENT HOMELAND SECURITY THREAT LEVELS**

<b>National:</b>	<b>No Active Alerts</b>
<b>Maryland:</b>	<b>Normal (MDEM status)</b>

## **SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE REPORTS**

**ESSENCE (Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics):** Graphical representation is provided for all syndromes (excluding the “Other” category; see Appendix 1) by Health and Medical Regions (See Appendix 2). Emergency Department chief complaint data is presented as rates per 100,000 residents using data from the 2010 census. Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-Based Epidemics (ESSENCE). Baltimore, MD: Maryland Department of Health; 2023.

## **Weekly Outbreak Summary Report 2023- 48 (November 26- December 2, 2023)**

---

### **Overview:**

There were 86 total outbreaks reported to MDH during MMWR Week 48.

### **By Type & Region:**

#### 2 Gastroenteritis outbreaks

1 outbreak of GASTROENTERITIS in a School (BMA)

1 outbreak of GASTROENTERITIS in a Residential Treatment Center (BMA)

#### 1 Other outbreak

1 outbreak of CONJUNCTIVITIS in a School (NCR)

#### 4 Rash outbreaks

3 outbreaks of HAND FOOT AND MOUTH in a Daycare (2 BMA, NCR)

1 outbreak of SCABIES in a Nursing Home (Southern)

#### 79 Respiratory illness outbreaks

24 outbreaks of COVID-19 in an Assisted Living Facility (13 BMA, 3 Eastern, 4 NCR, 4 Western)

23 outbreaks of COVID-19 in Nursing Homes (9 BMA, 10 NCR, 2 Western, Eastern, Southern)

5 outbreaks of COVID-19 in a Group Home (4 Western, BMA)

7 outbreaks of COVID-19 in a Hospital (6 BMA, Eastern)

3 outbreaks of COVID-19 in a Daycare (2 BMA, Western)

2 outbreaks of COVID-19 in a Correctional Facility (BMA, Western)

2 outbreaks of COVID-19 in a Day Program (BMA, Western)

2 outbreaks of COVID-19 in a Drug Rehab Facility (BMA, Southern)

1 outbreak of COVID-19 in a Shelter (BMA)

1 outbreak of COVID-19 in a Residential Treatment Center (Eastern)

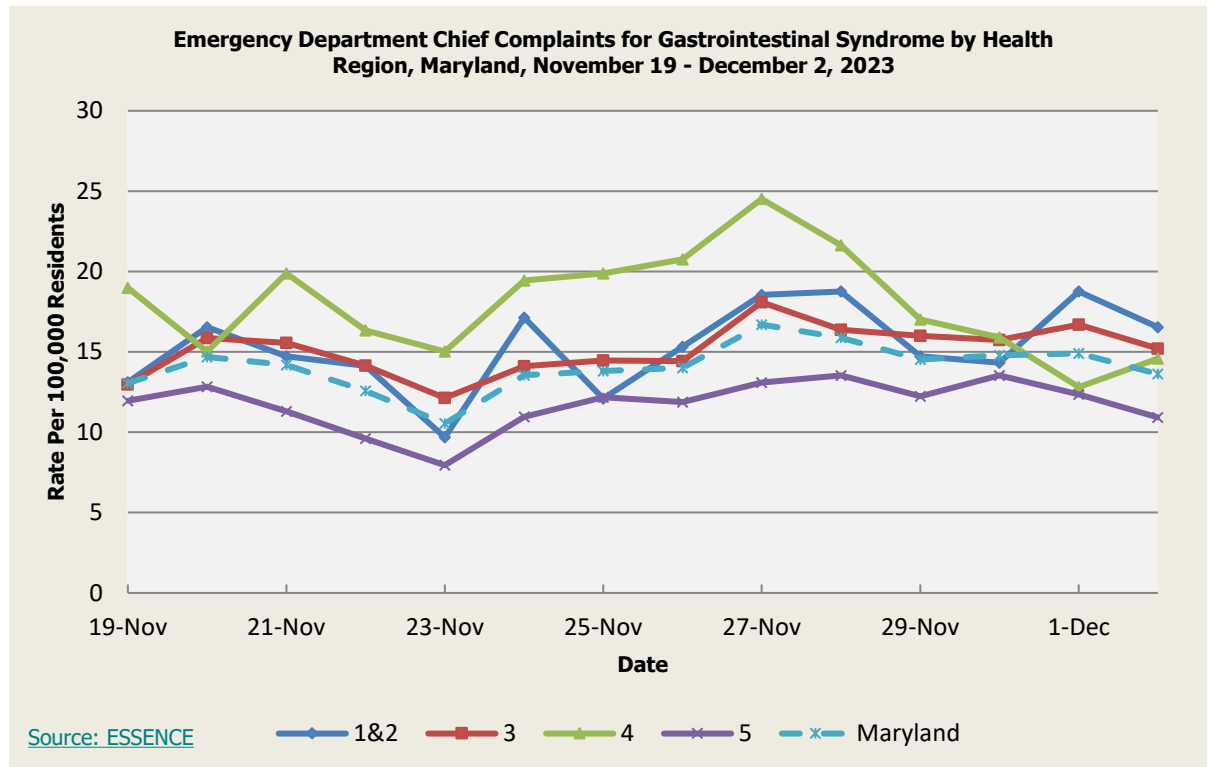
1 outbreak of COVID-19 in an Adult Medical Daycare (BMA)

1 outbreak of ILI (INFLUENZA) in a School (Eastern)

6 outbreaks of ILI (RSV) in a Daycare (2 BMA, 2 Eastern, 2 NCR)

1 outbreak of ILI (RSV) in a Nursing Home (BMA)

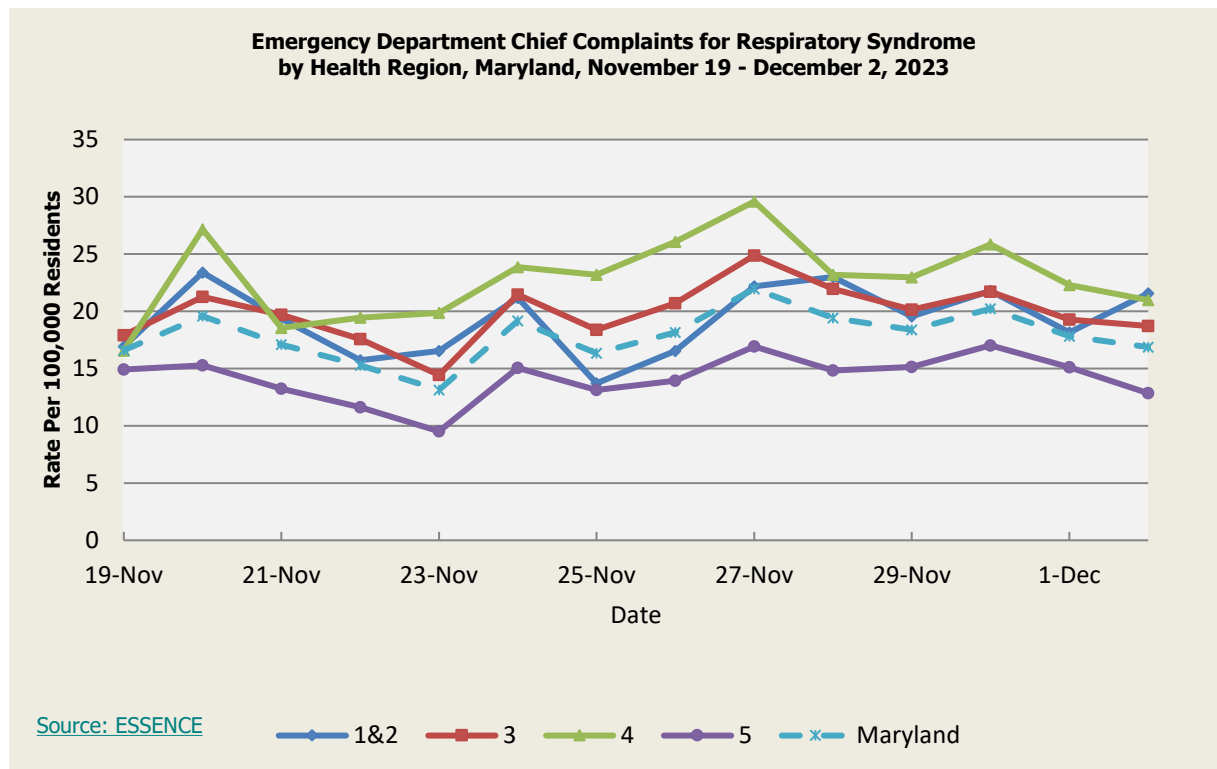
## Gastrointestinal Syndrome



Gastrointestinal Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	13.30	14.66	16.10	10.21	12.95
Median Rate*	13.21	14.58	15.68	10.22	12.95

\* Per 100,000 Residents

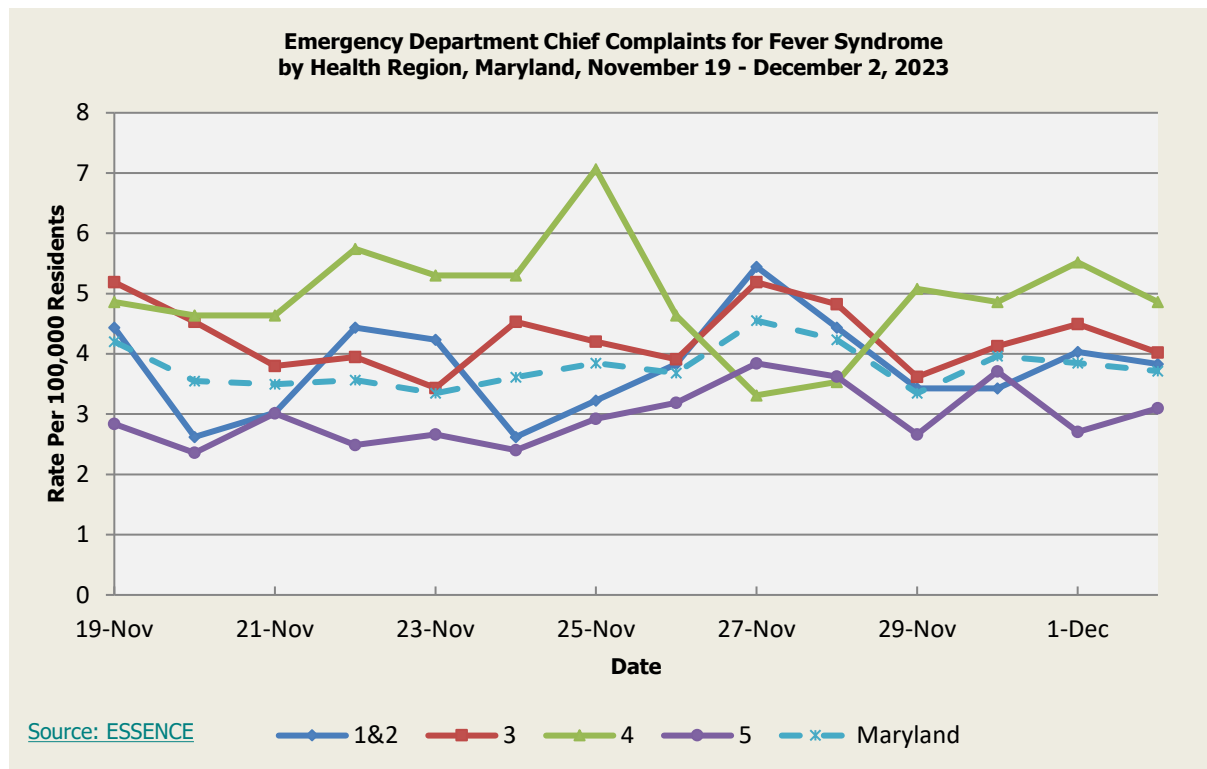
## Respiratory Syndrome



Respiratory Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	12.86	14.82	15.60	10.05	12.89
Median Rate*	12.50	14.18	14.80	9.65	12.35

\*Per 100,000 Residents

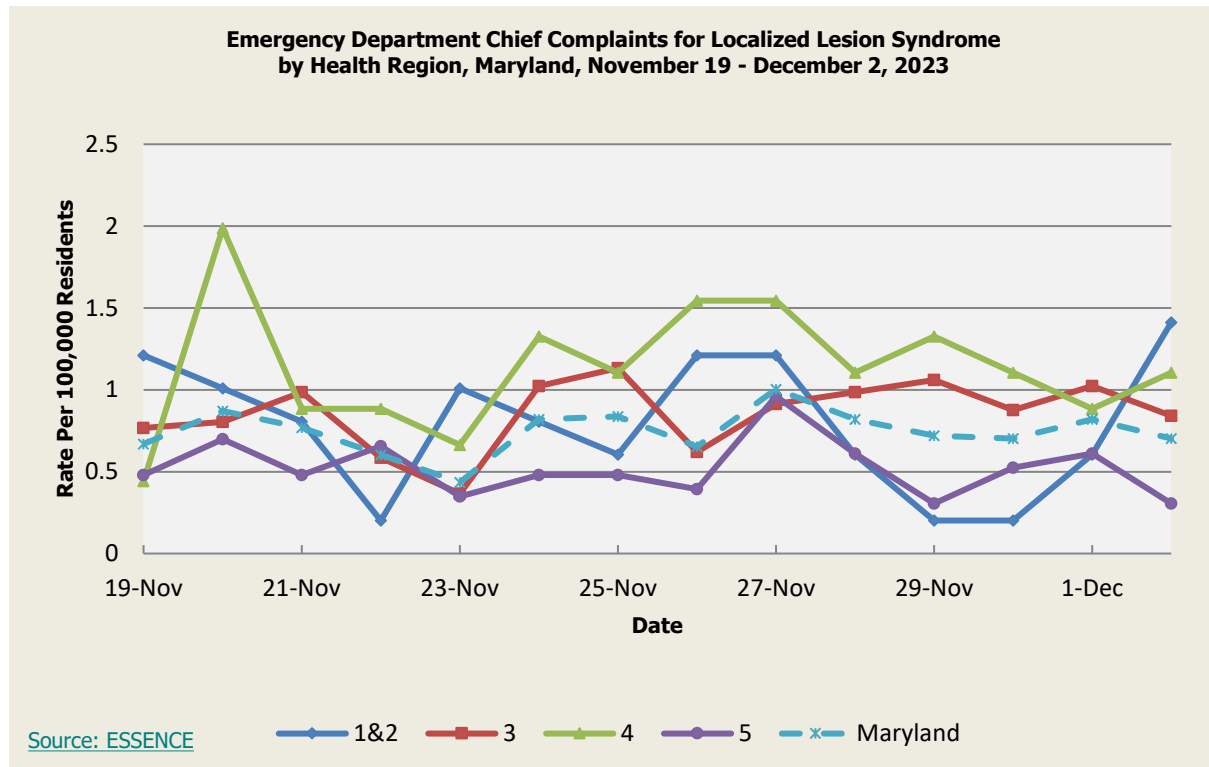
## Fever Syndrome



Fever Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	3.13	3.90	4.17	2.98	3.51
Median Rate*	3.02	3.76	3.97	2.88	3.40

*\*Per 100,000 Residents*

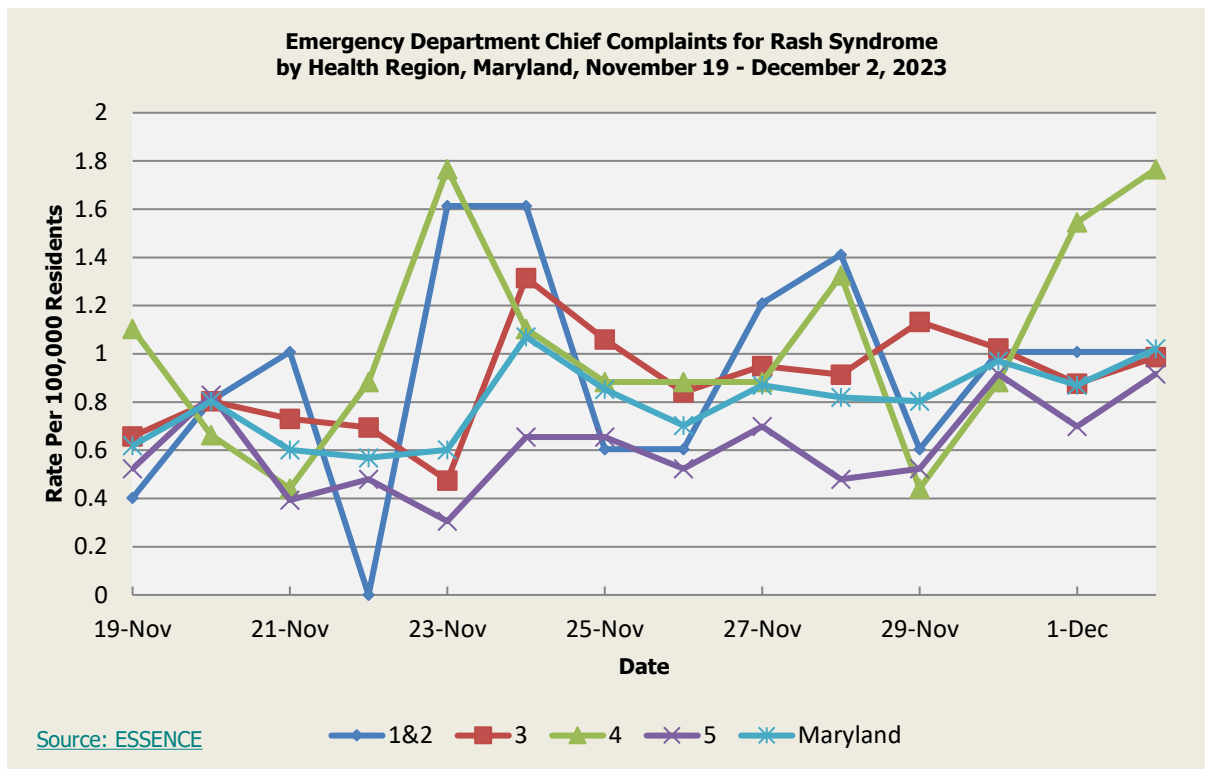
## Localized Lesion Syndrome



Localized Lesion Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	1.17	1.54	1.84	0.82	1.26
Median Rate*	1.01	1.50	1.77	0.79	1.20

\* Per 100,000 Residents

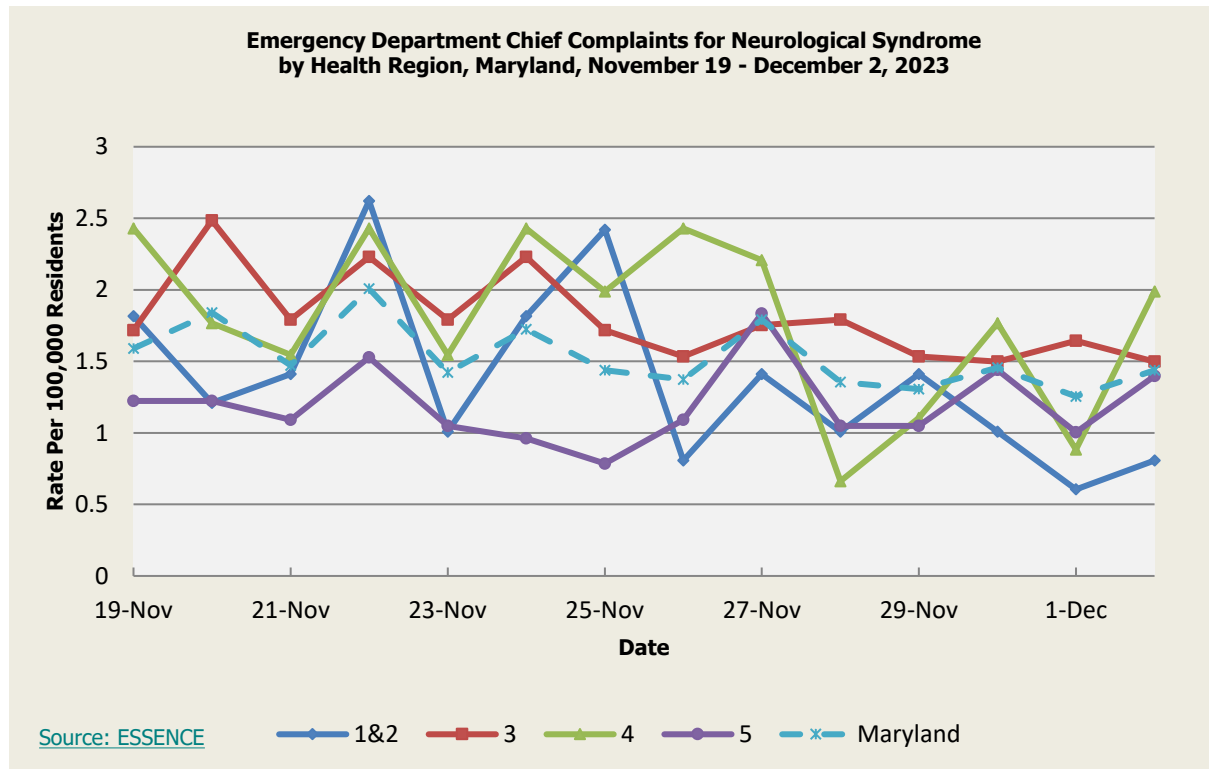
## Rash Syndrome



Rash Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	1.10	1.46	1.56	0.86	1.21
Median Rate*	1.01	1.42	1.55	0.83	1.19

\* Per 100,000 Residents

## Neurological Syndrome

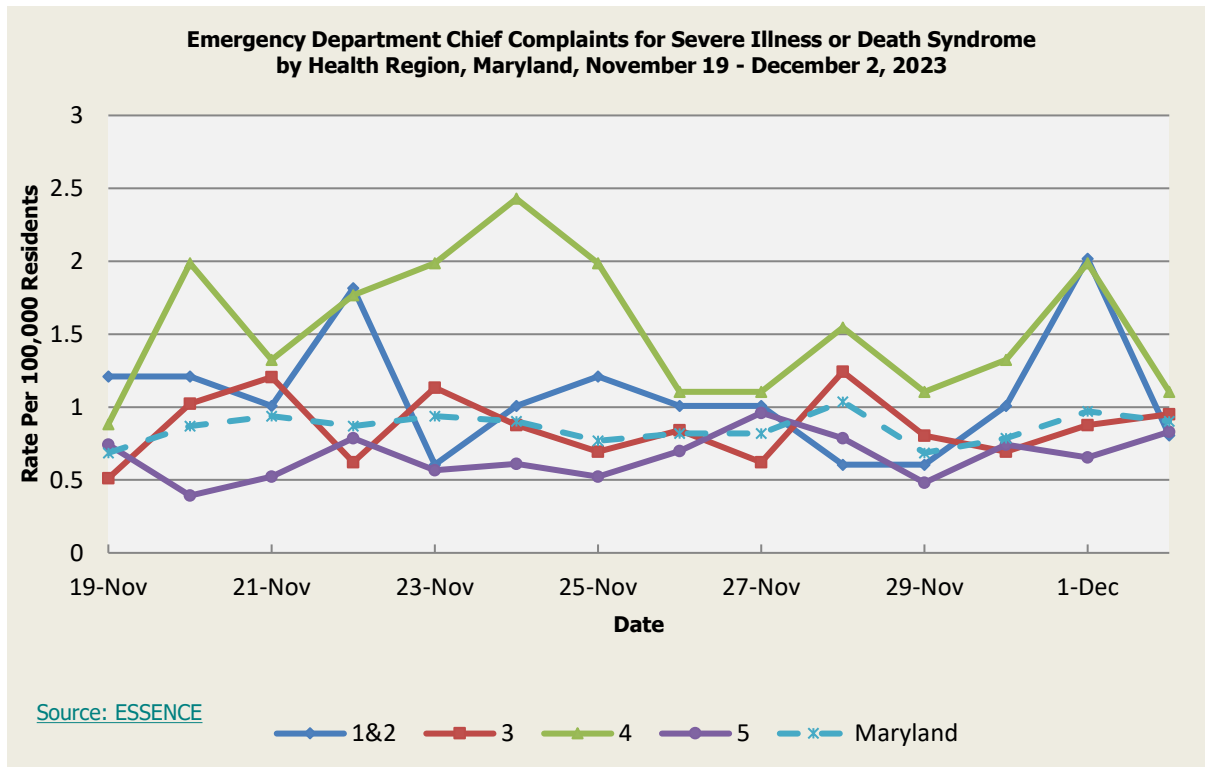


Neurological Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.90	1.12	1.06	0.74	0.95
Median Rate*	0.81	1.13	0.88	0.70	0.97

\* Per 100,000 Residents



## Severe Illness or Death Syndrome

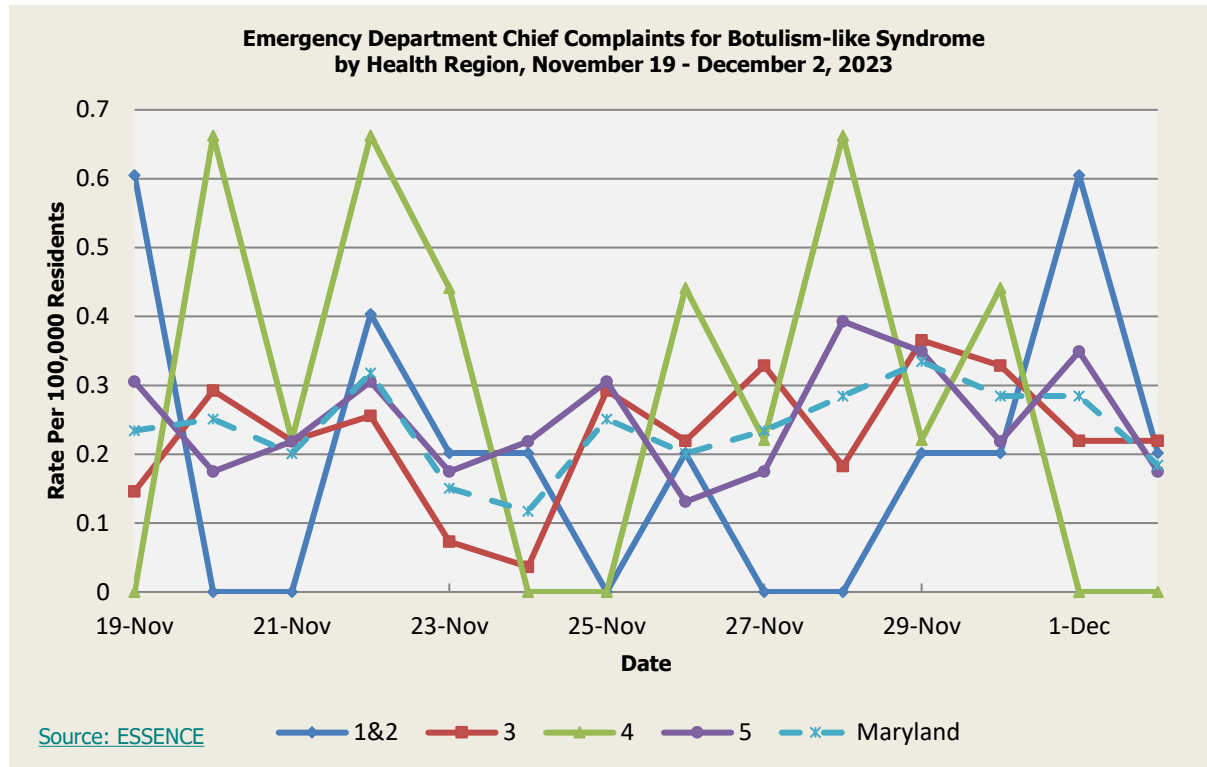


Severe Illness or Death Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.71	0.86	0.90	0.57	0.74
Median Rate*	0.60	0.80	0.88	0.52	0.72

\* Per 100,000 Residents

## SYNDROMES RELATED TO CATEGORY A AGENTS

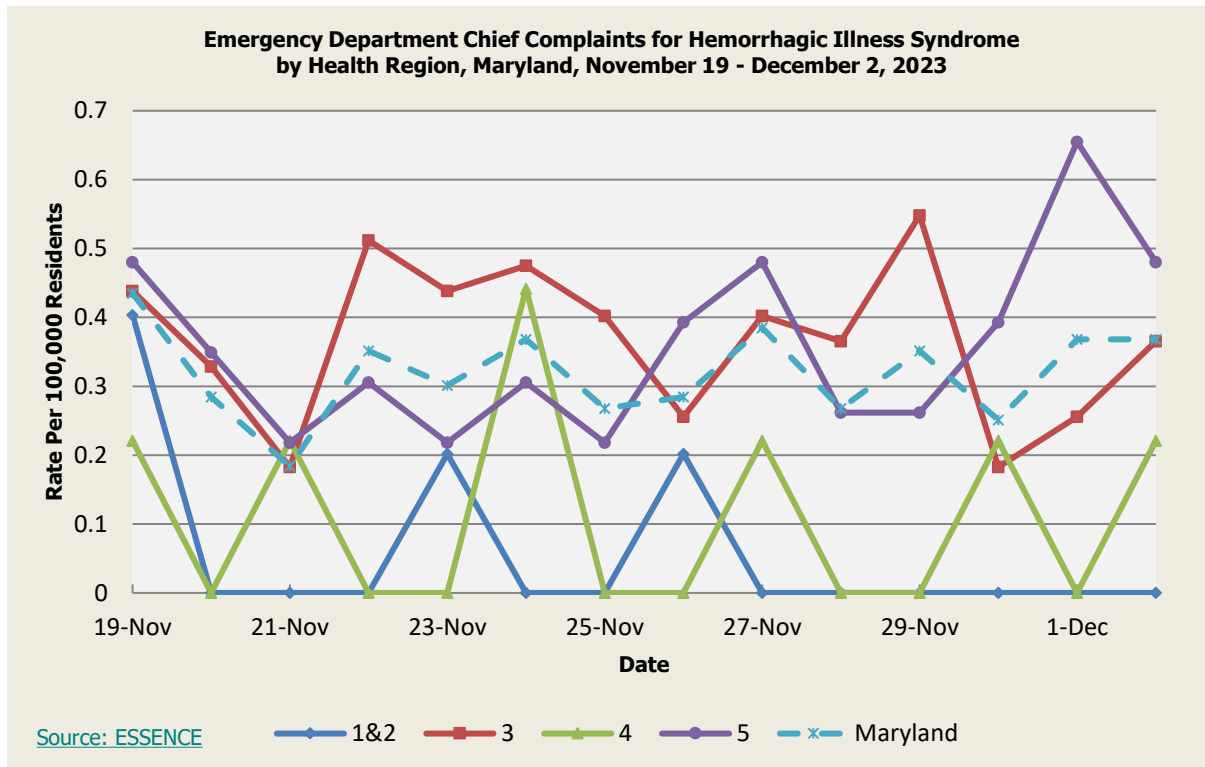
### Botulism-like Syndrome



Botulism-like Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.10	0.16	0.08	0.12	0.13
Median Rate*	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.09	0.13

\* Per 100,000 Residents

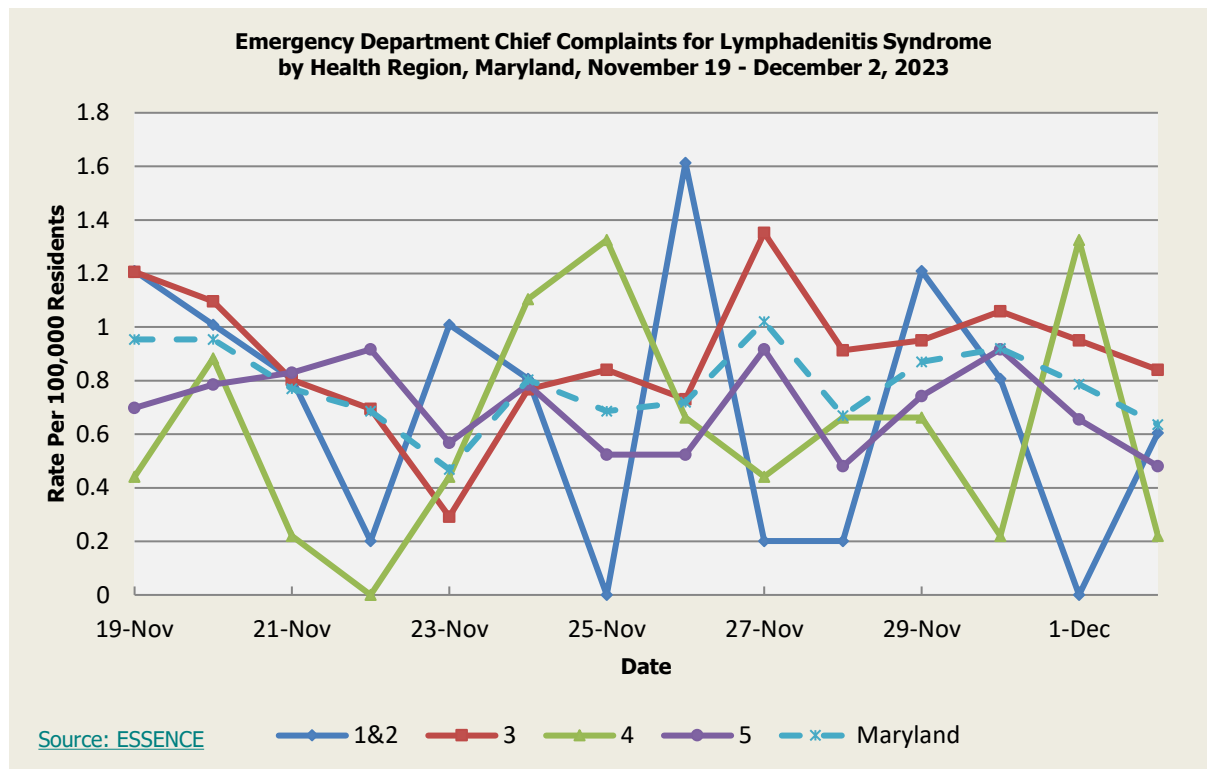
## Hemorrhagic Illness Syndrome



Hemorrhagic Illness Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.06	0.19	0.05	0.17	0.16
Median Rate*	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.13	0.15

\* Per 100,000 Residents

## Lymphadenitis Syndrome



Lymphadenitis Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.47	0.65	0.44	0.45	0.54
Median Rate*	0.40	0.66	0.44	0.44	0.57

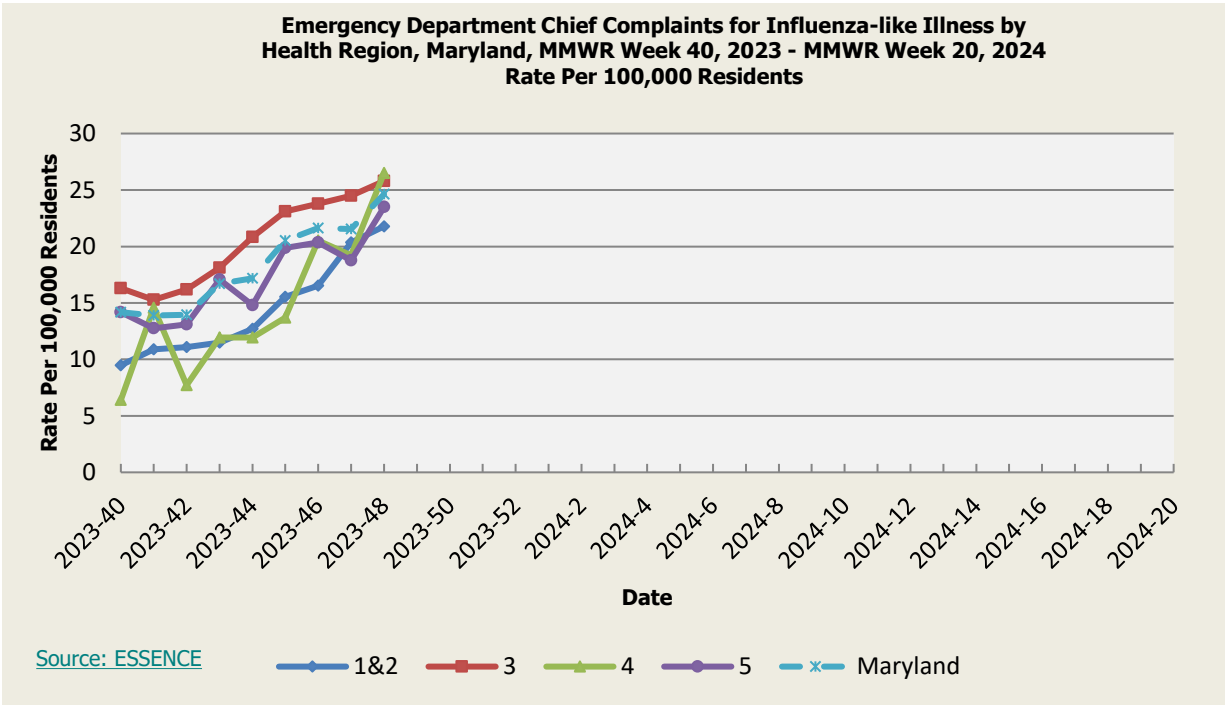
\* Per 100,000 Residents

**SYNDROMIC INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE**

Seasonal Influenza reporting occurs from MMWR Week 40 through MMWR Week 20 (October 2023 through May 2024).

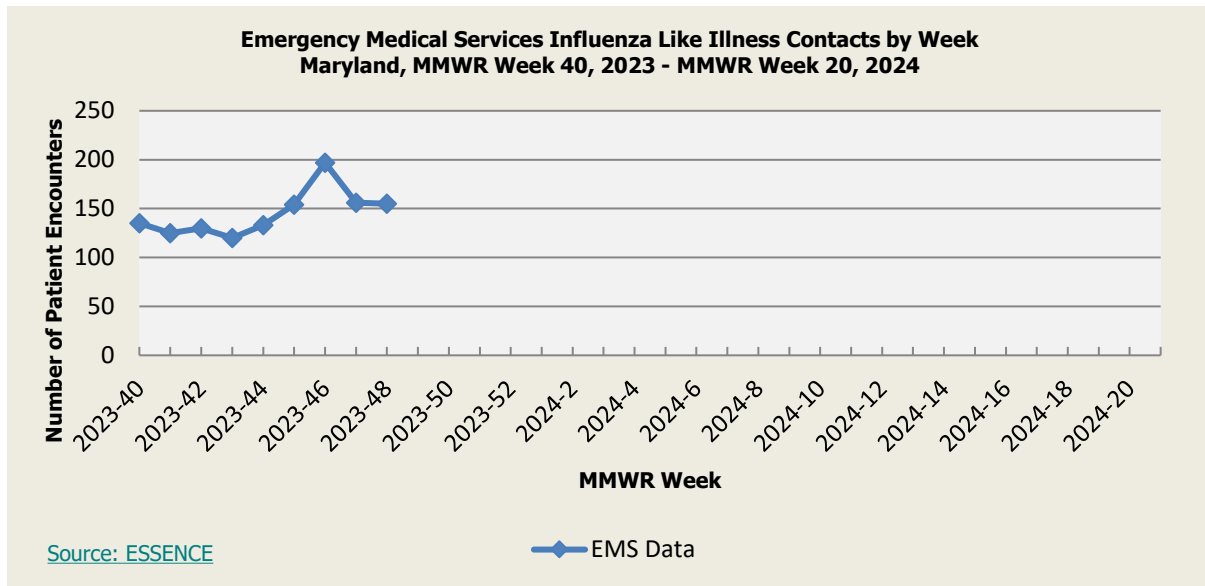
**Seasonal Influenza activity for Week 48 was: Moderate.**

**Influenza-like Illness**



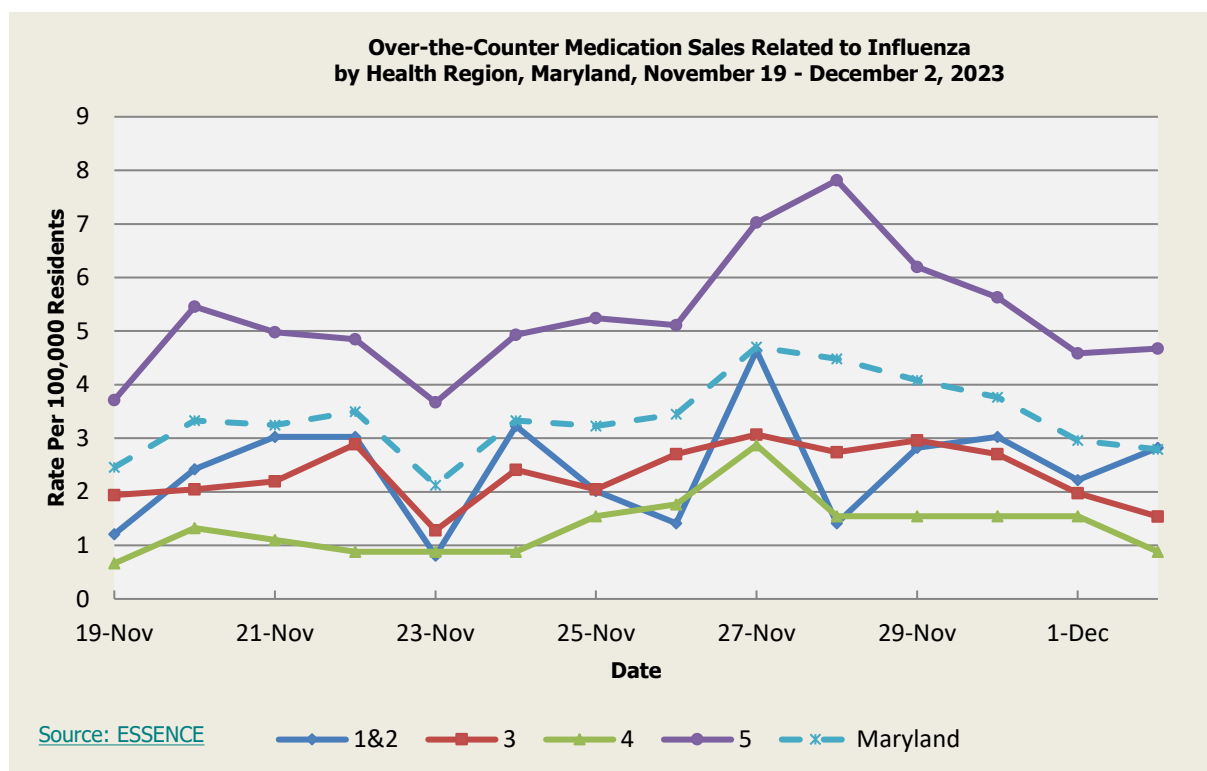
Influenza-like Illness Baseline Data Week 1 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	11.06	15.25	14.16	12.68	13.83
Median Rate*	7.86	10.98	9.94	9.30	10.07

## Influenza-like Illness from Emergency Medical Services (EMS) by Week



**Disclaimer on EMS flu related data:** These data are based on EMS Pre-hospital care reports where the EMS provider has selected “flu like illness” as a primary or secondary impression of 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 influenza the actual numbers may be low. These data are reported for trending purposes only.

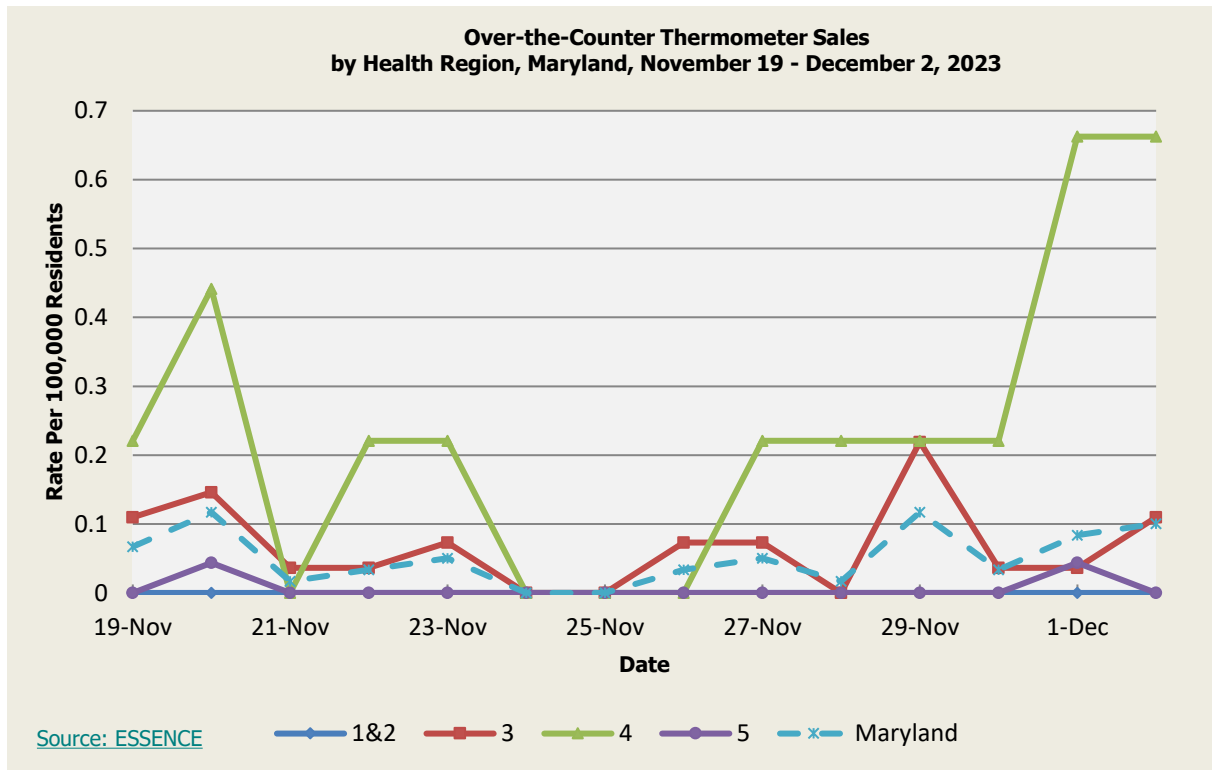
## Over-the-Counter Influenza-Related Medication Sales



OTC Medication Sales Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	2.92	3.60	2.25	6.74	4.65
Median Rate*	2.22	2.52	1.77	5.50	3.55

\* Per 100,000 Residents

## Over-the-Counter Thermometer Sales



Thermometer Sales Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	2.21	2.10	1.78	2.74	2.33
Median Rate*	1.81	2.01	1.55	2.71	2.34

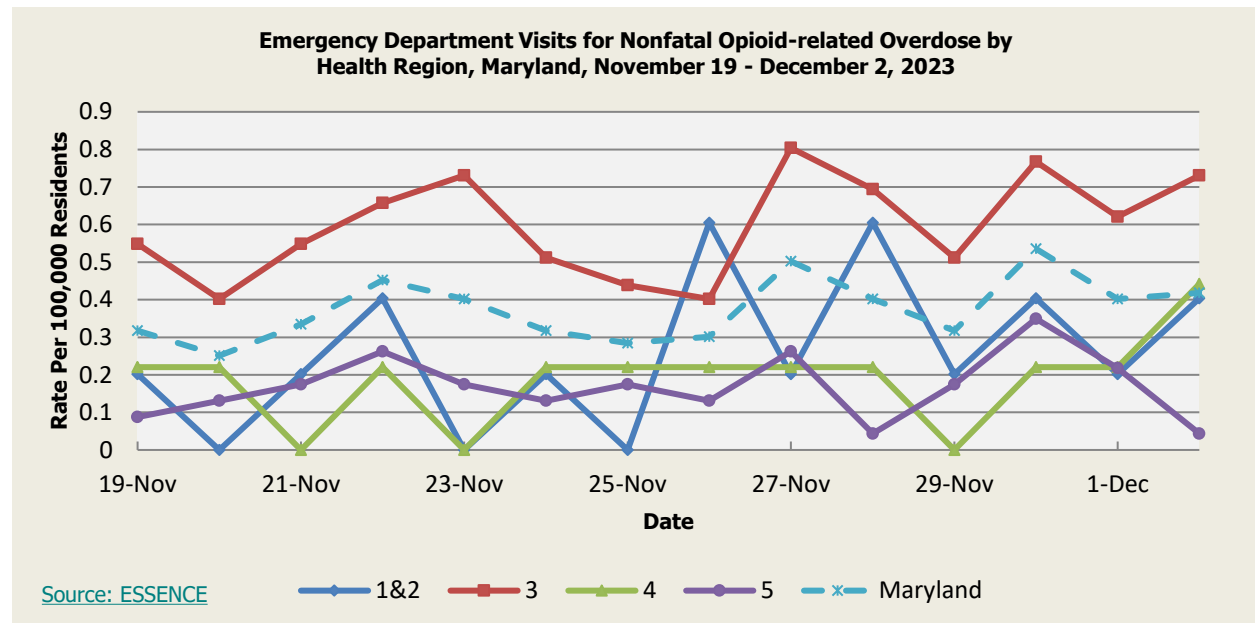
\* Per 100,000 Residents



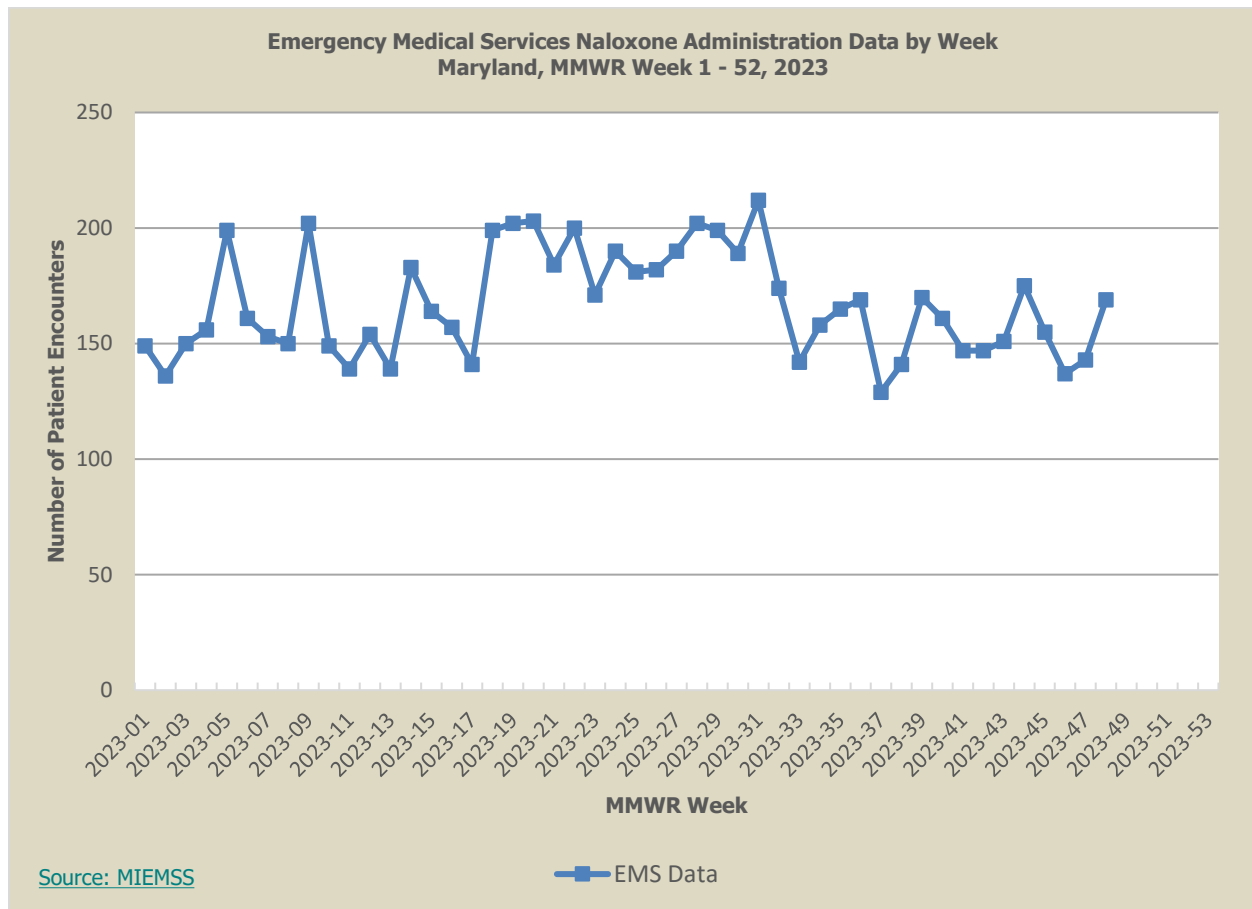
## **SYNDROMIC OVERDOSE SURVEILLANCE**

The purpose of this section is to characterize nonfatal overdose trends among Maryland residents captured by ESSENCE data, including emergency department (ED) chief complaint and discharge diagnosis as well as emergency medical services (EMS) patient care reports. Maryland uses ESSENCE data to track trends in nonfatal drug overdoses as a critical strategy for surveillance and tailoring prevention resources to populations most affected in the state.

### **Nonfatal Opioid-related Overdose**

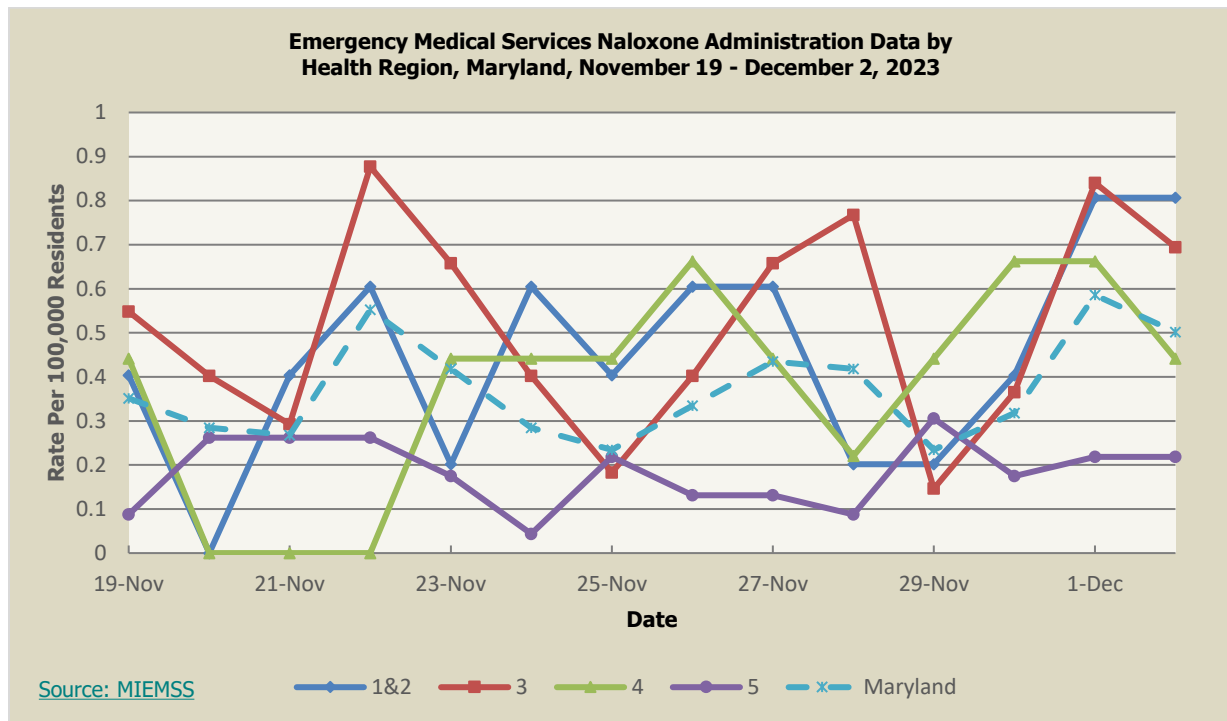


## Naloxone Administration Data by Week



**Disclaimer on eMEDS naloxone administration related data:** These data are based on EMS Pre-hospital care reports where the EMS provider has documented that they administered naloxone. The administration of naloxone is based on the patient's signs and symptoms and not on any diagnostic tests. These data are reported for trending purposes only.

## Naloxone Administration Data



**Disclaimer on eMEDS Naloxone administration related data:** These data are based on EMS Pre-hospital care reports where the EMS provider has documented that they administered naloxone. The administration of naloxone is based on the patient's signs and symptoms and not on any diagnostic tests. These data are reported for trending purposes only.

## **PANDEMIC INFLUENZA UPDATE / AVIAN INFLUENZA-RELATED REPORTS**

**WHO update:** The current WHO phase of pandemic alert for avian influenza is ALERT. Currently, the avian influenza H5N1 virus continues to circulate in poultry in some countries, especially in Asia and northeast Africa. This virus continues to cause sporadic human infections with some instances of limited human-to-human transmission among very close contacts. There has been no sustained human-to-human or community-level transmission identified thus far.

Influenza A (H7N9) is one of a subgroup of influenza viruses that normally circulate among birds. Until recently, this virus had not been seen in people. However, human infections have now been detected. Presently, there is limited information about the scope of the disease the virus causes and about the source of exposure. The disease is of concern because most patients have been severely ill. There is no indication thus far that it can be transmitted between people, but both animal-to-human and human-to-human routes of transmission are being actively investigated.

**Alert phase:** This is the phase when influenza caused by a new subtype has been identified in humans. Increased vigilance and careful risk assessment, at local, national, and global levels are characteristic of this phase. If the risk assessments indicate that the new virus is not developing into a pandemic strain, a de-escalation of activities towards those in the interpandemic phase may occur. Globally, from January 2003 to December 2023, there have been 879 cases of human infection with avian influenza A(H5N1) virus reported from 23 countries. Of these 878 cases, 458 were fatal. Thus, the case fatality rate for human H5N1 is approximately 52%.

### **AVIAN INFLUENZA**

**AVIAN INFLUENZA (183): EUROPE:** 4 December 2023, An outbreak of a new highly pathogenic strain of H5N1 avian influenza has occurred at a poultry farm in Belgium. This is reported by Reuters with reference to data from the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH). Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8713514>

**AVIAN INFLUENZA (182): ASIA:** 3 December 2023, The prefectural government of Kagoshima, southwestern Japan, said Sunday [3 Dec 2023] that it has confirmed an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza at a local chicken farm. This marked the 4th bird flu outbreak confirmed at a poultry farm in the nation this season. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8713490>

**AVIAN INFLUENZA (181): AMERICAS (USA):** 1 December 2023, The Georgia Department of Agriculture and USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service confirmed a duck breeding facility in South Georgia tested positive for avian influenza. According to officials, the facility in Sumter County has the first positive case of bird flu in a waterfowl flock in the state. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8713450>

## **HUMAN AVIAN INFLUENZA**

*There were no relevant human avian influenza reports this week.*

## **NATIONAL DISEASE REPORTS**

**TUBERCULOSIS, NEONATAL - USA:** 7 December 2023, The infant's mother underwent in vitro fertilization for infertility in her home country of India, which accounted for 27% of global TB incidence in 2022; she returned to the USA one month before delivery. Read More:

<https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8713574>

**RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (06): USA:** 3 December 2023, RSV infections cause about 2 million doctor visits, 80 000 hospitalizations and up to 300 deaths in children under 5 every year, the CDC says. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8713475>

**RESPIRATORY ILLNESS - USA: (OHIO, MASSACHUSETTS):** 1 December 2023, A mystery outbreak of pneumonia has hit several parts of China, and now Ohio is the first American location to report an outbreak of the illness, with an "extremely high" number of children being hospitalized. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8713325>

## **INTERNATIONAL DISEASE REPORTS**

**RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS (03): VIET NAM:** 6 December 2023 The Health Ministry has called for vigilance against a rise of respiratory diseases, including COVID-19, flu, and a new illness emerging among children in China. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8713557>

**SHIGELLOSIS - PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY: (GAZA):** 6 December 2023, In recent weeks, the IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] has been dealing with an unusual increase in intestinal diseases and food poisoning among soldiers, including fighters in the Gaza Strip. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8713548>

**RALSTONIA PICKETTII – AUSTRALIA (02):** 6 December 2023, NSW Health is working with other Australian states and territory health departments and the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) to investigate a country-wide nosocomial outbreak of *Ralstonia pickettii*. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8713546>

**MYCOPLASMA PNEUMONIAE - IRELAND:** 3 December 2023, Children and teenagers are among several patients in Ireland diagnosed with an infection which is causing concern in China as it is hit with a wave of illness. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8713446>

## **OTHER RESOURCES AND ARTICLES OF INTEREST**

More information concerning Public Health and Emergency Preparedness can be found at the Office of Preparedness and Response website: <http://preparedness.health.maryland.gov/> or follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/MarylandOPR](http://www.facebook.com/MarylandOPR).

More data and information on influenza can be found on the MDH website:  
<http://phpa.health.maryland.gov/influenza/fluwatch/Pages/Home.aspx>

More data and information on cumulative counts of confirmed human cases for avian influenza A(H5N1) reported to WHO, 2003-2023, 6 April 2023 can be found on the WHO website:  
influenza can be found on the MDH website:  
[https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/cumulative-number-of-confirmed-human-cases-for-avian-influenza-a\(h5n1\)-reported-to-who-2003-2022-26-jan-2023](https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/cumulative-number-of-confirmed-human-cases-for-avian-influenza-a(h5n1)-reported-to-who-2003-2022-26-jan-2023)

Please participate in the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System (MRITS):  
<http://flusurvey.health.maryland.gov>

\*\*\*\*\*

**NOTE:** This weekly review is a compilation of data from various surveillance systems, interpreted with a focus on a potential BT event. It is not meant to be inclusive of all epidemiology data available, nor is it meant to imply that every activity reported is a definitive BT event. International reports of outbreaks due to organisms on the CDC Critical Biological Agent list will also be reported. While not "secure", please handle this information in a professional manner. Please feel free to distribute within your organization, as you feel appropriate, to other professional staff involved in emergency preparedness and infection control.

For questions about the content of this review or if you have received this and do not wish to receive these weekly notices, please e-mail us. If you have information that is pertinent to this notification process, please send it to us to be included in the routine report.

**Prepared By:**  
Office of Preparedness and Response, Maryland Department of Health  
7462 Candlewood Rd, Hanover, MD 21076

Peter Fotang, MD, MPH  
Epidemiologist, Biosurveillance Program  
Office: 443-628-6555  
Email: [Peter.Fotang@maryland.gov](mailto:Peter.Fotang@maryland.gov)

## Appendix 1: ESSENCE Syndrome Definitions and Associated Category A Conditions

Syndrome	ESSENCE Definition	Category A Conditions
Botulism-like	(Botulism or (DifficultyFocusing and DifficultySpeaking) or (DifficultySpeaking and DifficultySwallowing) or (DifficultySwallowing and DifficultyFocusing) or DoubleVision or FacialParalysis or GuillainBarre or Ptosis) and not GeneralExclusions	Botulism
Fever	(Chills or (FeverPlus and (Drowsiness or Seizure)) or FeverOnly or SepsisGroup or ViralSyndrome) and not GeneralExclusions	N/A
Gastrointestinal	(AbdominalCramps or AbdominalPainGroup or Diarrhea or FoodPoisoning or Gastroenteritis or GIBleeding or Peritonitis or Vomiting) and not (GeneralExclusions or Gynecological or Obstetric or Reproductive or UrinaryTract)	Anthrax (gastrointestinal)
Hemorrhagic Illness	(FeverOrChills and (AcuteBloodAbnormalitiesGroup or BleedingFromMouth or BleedingGums or GIBleeding or Hematemesis or Hemoptysis or Nosebleed or Petechiae or Purpura)) and not GeneralExclusions	Viral Hemorrhagic Fever
Localized Lesion	(Boils or Bump or Carbuncle or DepressedUlcer or Eschar or Furuncle or InsectBite or SkinAbscess or (SkinSores and not AllOverBody) or SkinUlcer or SpiderBite) and not (GeneralExclusions or Decubitus or Diabetes or StasisUlcer)	Anthrax (cutaneous) Tularemia
Lymphadenitis	(BloodPoisoning or Bubo or CatScratchDisease or SwollenGlands) and not GeneralExclusions	Plague (bubonic)
Neurological	(([Age<75] and AlteredMentalStatus) or (FeverPlus and (Confusion or Drowsiness or Petechiae or StiffNeck)) or Delirium or Encephalitis or Meningitis or UnconsciousGroup) and not GeneralExclusions	N/A
Rash	(ChickenPox or Measles or RashGeneral or Roseola or (Rubella and not Pregnancy) or Shingles or (SkinSores and AllOverBody) or Smallpox) and not GeneralExclusions	Smallpox
Respiratory	(Anthrax or Bronchitis or (ChestPain and [Age<50]) or Cough or Croup or DifficultyBreathing or Hemothorax or Hypoxia or Influenza or Legionnaires or LowerRespiratoryInfection or Pleurisy or Pneumonia or RespiratoryDistress or RespiratoryFailure or RespiratorySyncytialVirus or RibPain or ShortnessOfBreath or Wheezing) and not (GeneralExclusions or Cardiac or (ChestPain and Musculoskeletal) or Hyperventilation or Pneumothorax)	Anthrax (inhalational) Tularemia Plague (pneumonic)
Severe Illness or Death	CardiacArrest or CodeGroup or DeathGroup or (Hypotension and FeverPlus) or RespiratoryArrest or SepsisGroup or Shock	N/A

## Appendix 2: Maryland Health and Medical Region Definitions

Health and Medical Region	Counties Reporting to ESSENCE
Regions 1 & 2	Allegany County Frederick County Garrett County Washington County
Region 3	Anne Arundel County Baltimore City Baltimore County Carroll County Harford County Howard County
Region 4	Caroline County Cecil County Dorchester County Kent County Queen Anne's County Somerset County Talbot County Wicomico County Worcester County
Region 5	Calvert County Charles County Montgomery County Prince George's County St. Mary's County

