

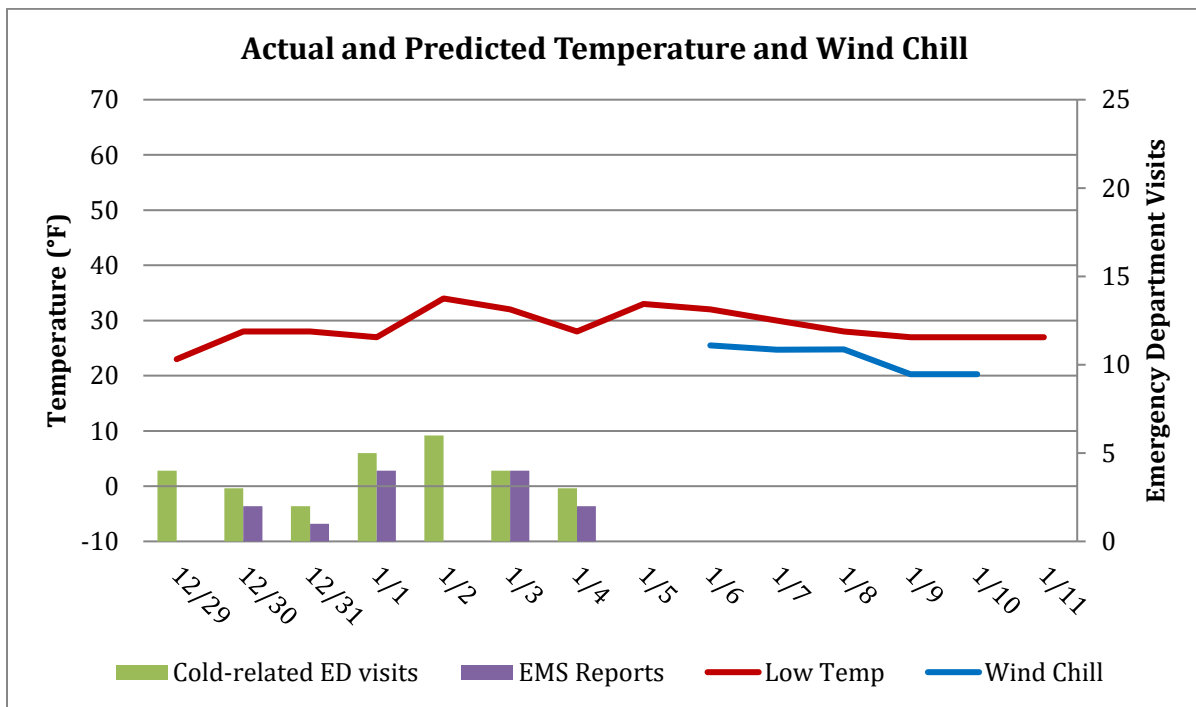


# Weekly Cold-related Illness Surveillance Report

January 6, 2021

Reporting for December 29, 2020 to January 4, 2021

**National Weather Service Forecast:** No current advisories.  
**Wind Chill Advisories Declared During the Previous Week:** 0  
**Total Wind Chill Advisories Declared This Winter:** 2

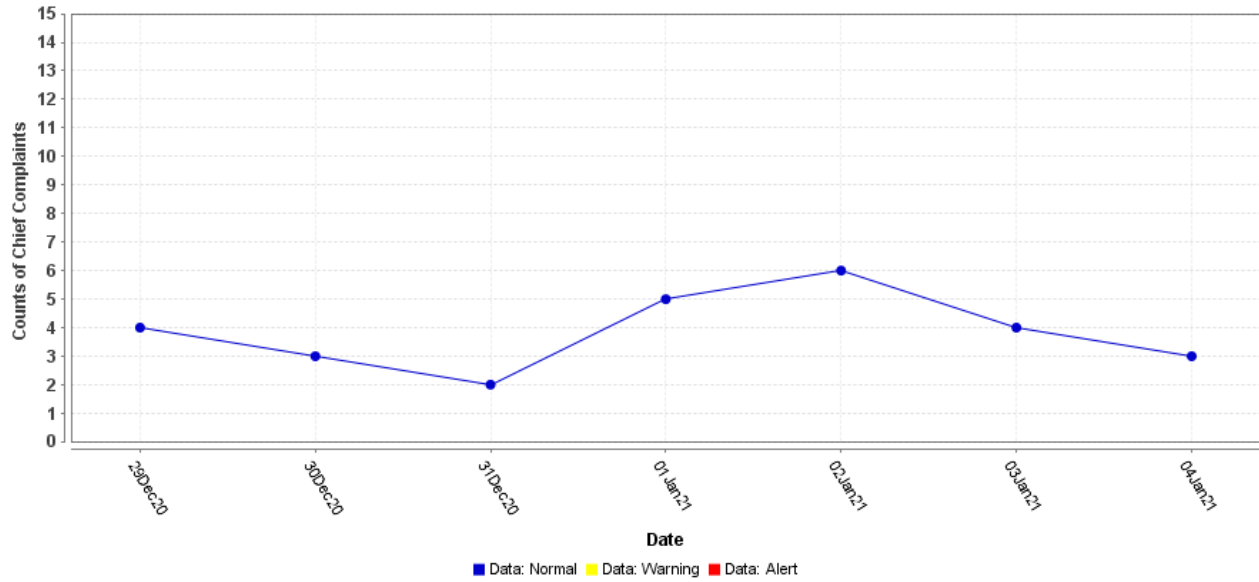


*Wind Chill is only calculated for temperatures at or below 50°F and wind speeds at or above 3 mph*

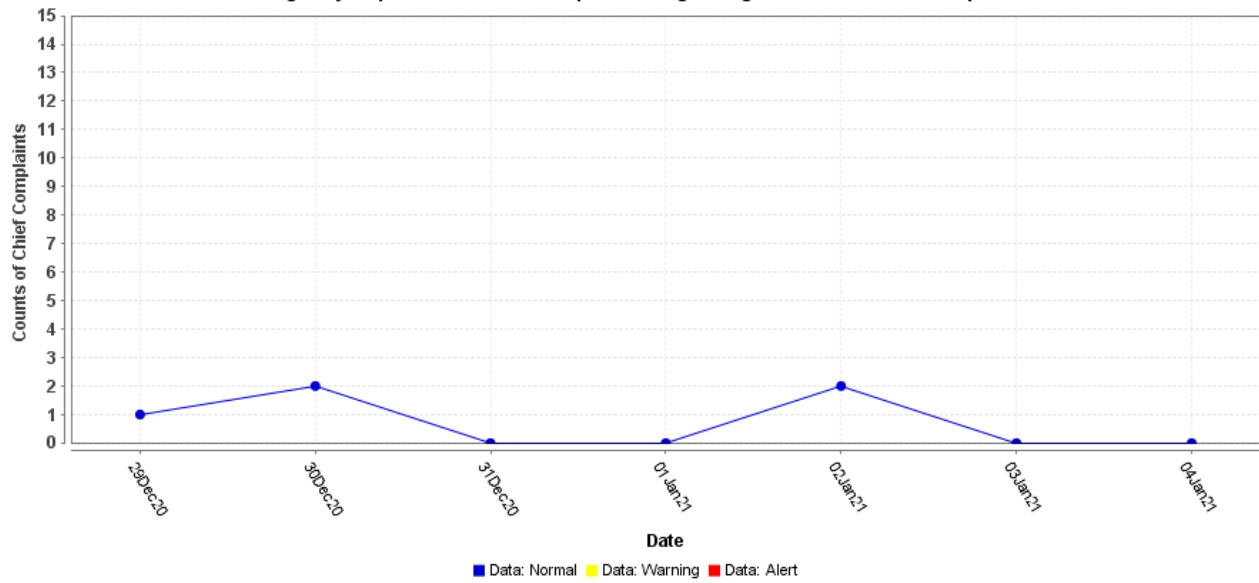
**Note on Emergency Department Data:** The results from the query used in ESSENCE, an electronic biosurveillance system, to track cold-related illnesses may be an overestimation of the actual burden of illness related to the cold weather. This overestimation is due to the nature of the query, which includes the term hypothermia and frostbite. As of November 2019, visit data from 23 urgent care centers are now included in ESSENCE emergency department visit data.

**Note on EMS Data:** These data are based on EMS pre-hospital care reports where the EMS provider has selected hypothermia 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 cold exposure, the actual numbers may be low. These data are reported for trending purposes only.

**Emergency Department Chief Complaints Regarding Cold-related Illness**



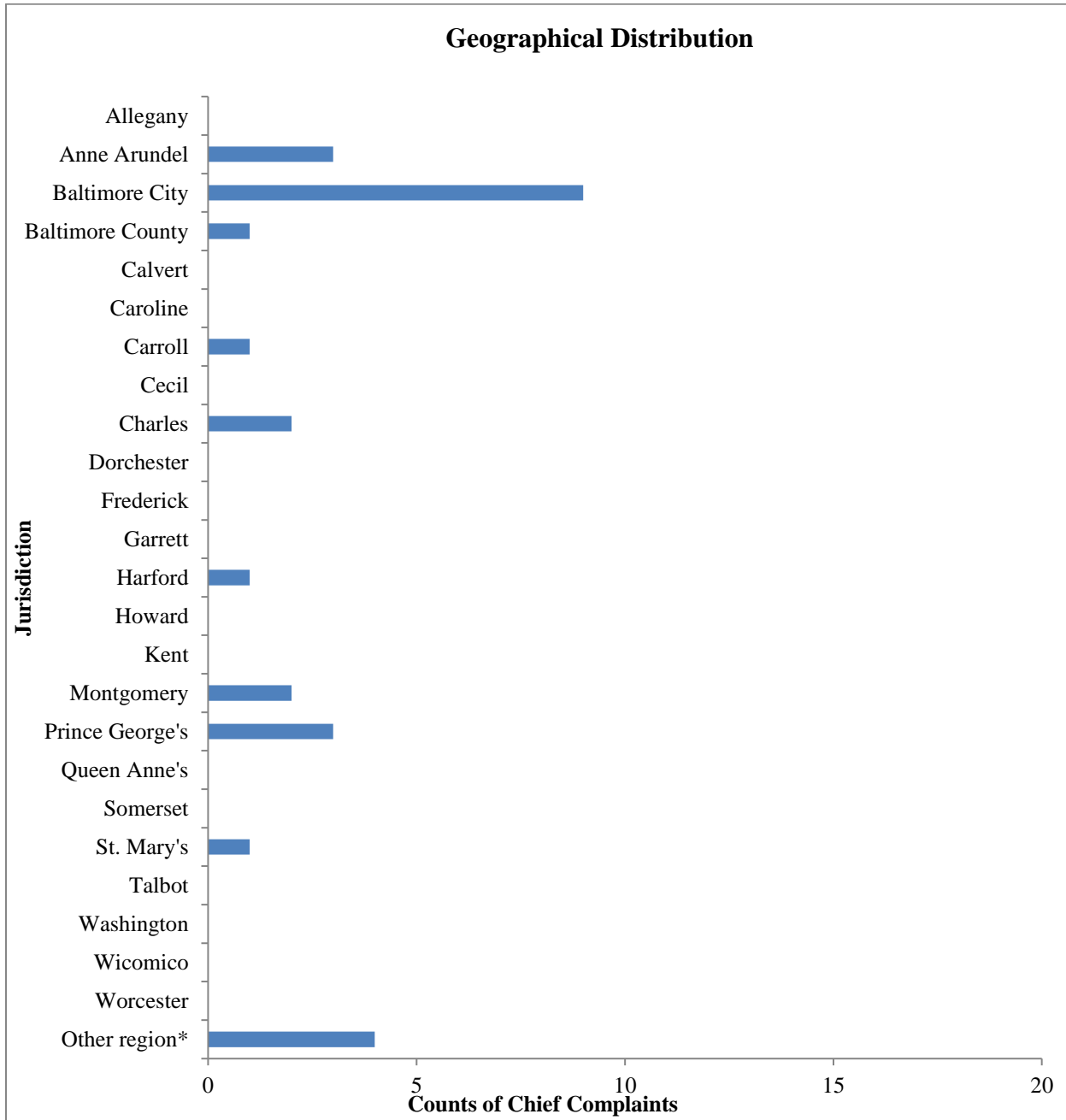
**Emergency Department Chief Complaints Regarding Carbon Monoxide Exposure**



Date	Number of Chief Complaints Regarding Cold-related Illness	Number of Chief Complaints Regarding Carbon Monoxide Exposure
December 29	4	1
December 30	3	2
December 31	2	0
January 1	5	0
January 2	6	2
January 3	4	0
January 4	3	0

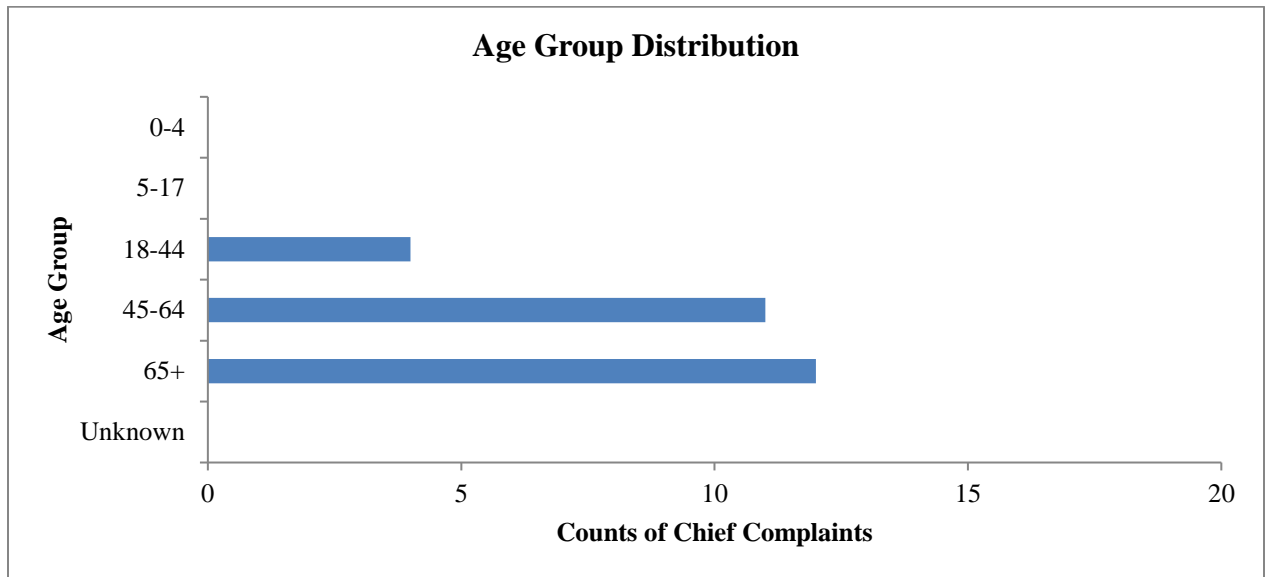
*\*Note: ESSENCE chief complaint query for cold-related illness contains the following terms: frostbite, frostnip, hypothermia, chilblain, and trench foot*

## Geographical Distribution of Emergency Department Chief Complaints Regarding Cold-related Illnesses for December 29, 2020 to January 4, 2021



*\*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.*

### Age Group Distribution of Emergency Department Chief Complaints Regarding Cold-related Illnesses for December 29, 2020 to January 4, 2021



*Report continued on next page...*

<b>Total Number of Cold-related Deaths</b>	<b>Jurisdiction*</b>	<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Gender</b>
10	Baltimore City	18 – 44 Years Old	Male
	Howard	18 – 44 Years Old	Male
	Baltimore City	45 – 64 Years Old	Male
	Baltimore City	45 – 64 Years Old	Female
	Frederick**	45 – 64 Years Old	Male
	Baltimore City**	65+ Years Old	Male
	Baltimore City	65+ Years Old	Female
	Baltimore County	65+ Years Old	Female
	Cecil**	65+ Years Old	Female
	Washington**	65+ Years Old	Male

*\*Refers to the jurisdiction where the death occurred. \*\*Refers to a newly listed death ^Refers to updated information from OCME*

There were four cold-related deaths reported this week. One individual was suspected or presumed homeless.

There have been ten cold-related deaths during this reporting period. Five of these individuals were suspected or presumed homeless.

**Wind Chill Advisory/Warning Criteria:** The National Weather Service issues a Wind Chill Advisory for projected wind chill factors of -5°F to -25°F, and a Wind Chill Warning when the projected wind chill is for -25° or less.

**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

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