



# Maryland Heat-Related Illness Surveillance Report

## Week of July 25 – July 31, 2023

Report Date – August 2, 2023

### Background

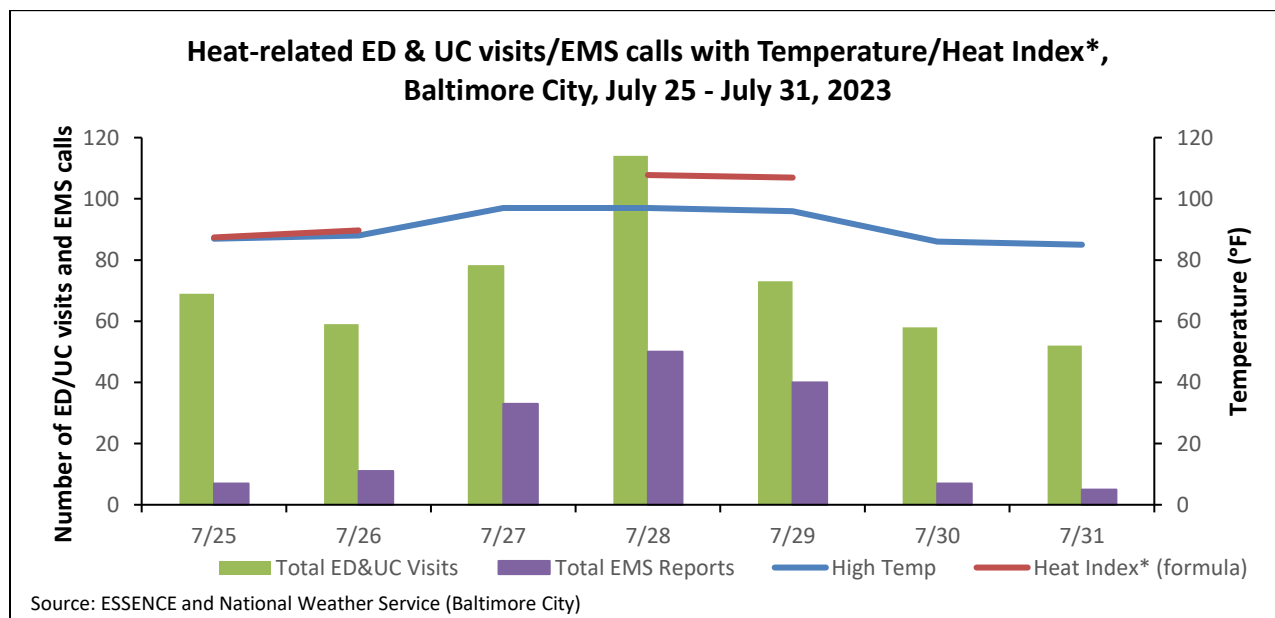
The weekly Heat-Related Illness Surveillance Report is provided from May through September. The report focuses on extreme conditions including temperature, heat index, heat-related illness and heat-related deaths in Maryland.

This report contains heat-related data from Emergency Departments (ED), Urgent Care (UC) centers, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and death data from the Maryland Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME).

### Weather

#### National Weather Service (NWS) Alerts

Heat Advisories Declared During the Previous Week: 1  
 Excessive Heat Warnings Declared During the Previous Week: 3  
 Total Heat Advisories Declared This Year: 4

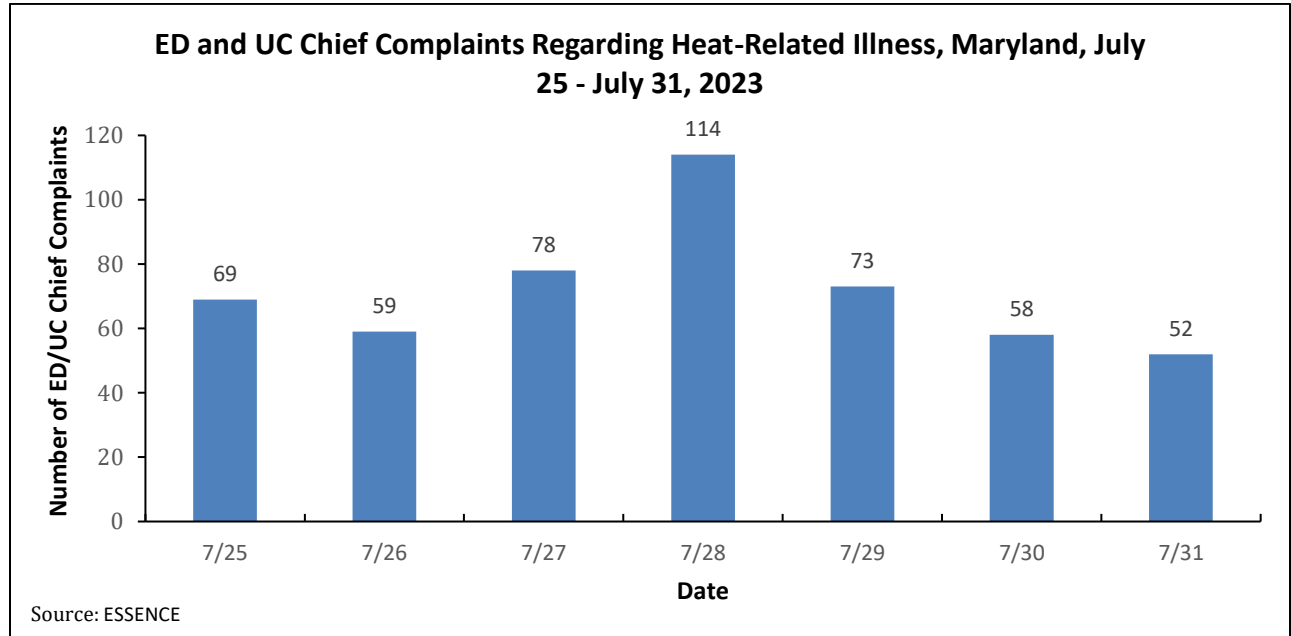


*\*Heat Indexes are only calculated for temperatures above 80°F with humidity of 43% or greater*

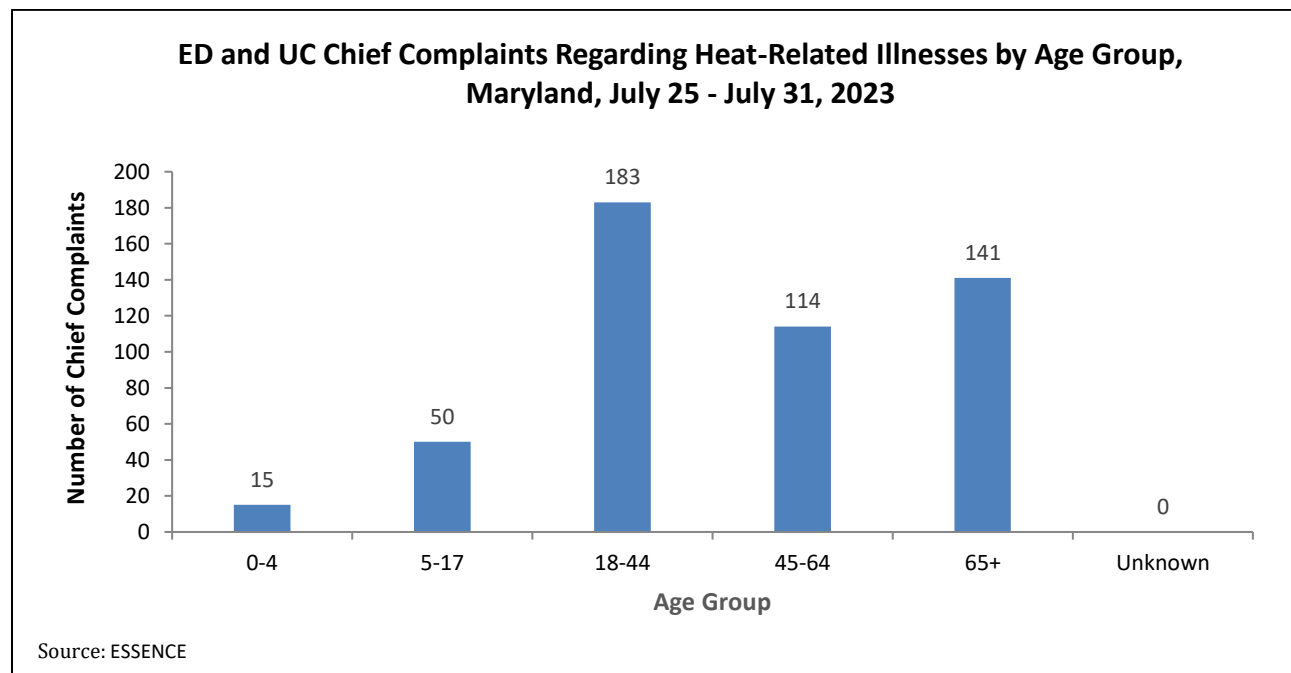
**Note on Emergency Department Data:** The results from the query used in ESSENCE, an electronic biosurveillance system, to track heat-related illnesses may be an overestimation of the actual burden of illness related to the hot weather. This overestimation is due to the nature of the query, which includes the term dehydration, a condition that may be caused by factors other than heat.

**Note on 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.

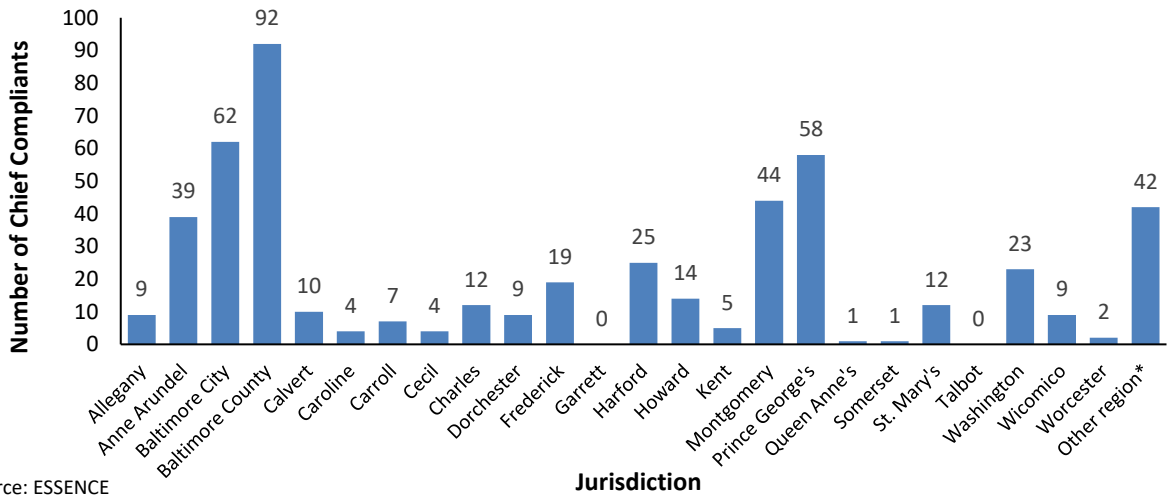
## Heat Related Illness



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



### ED and UC Chief Complaints Regarding Heat-Related Illnesses by Jurisdiction, Maryland, July 25 - July 31, 2023



Source: ESSENCE

*\*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.*

*Report continued on next page...*

## Heat-Related Deaths

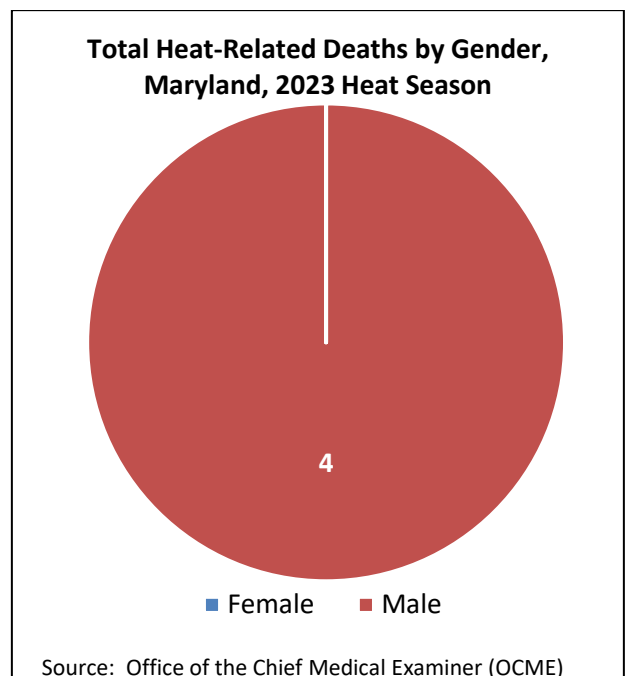
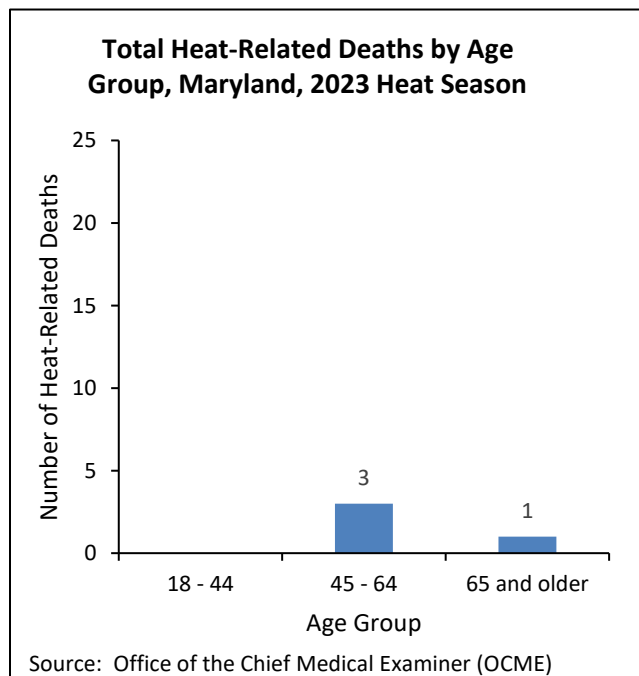
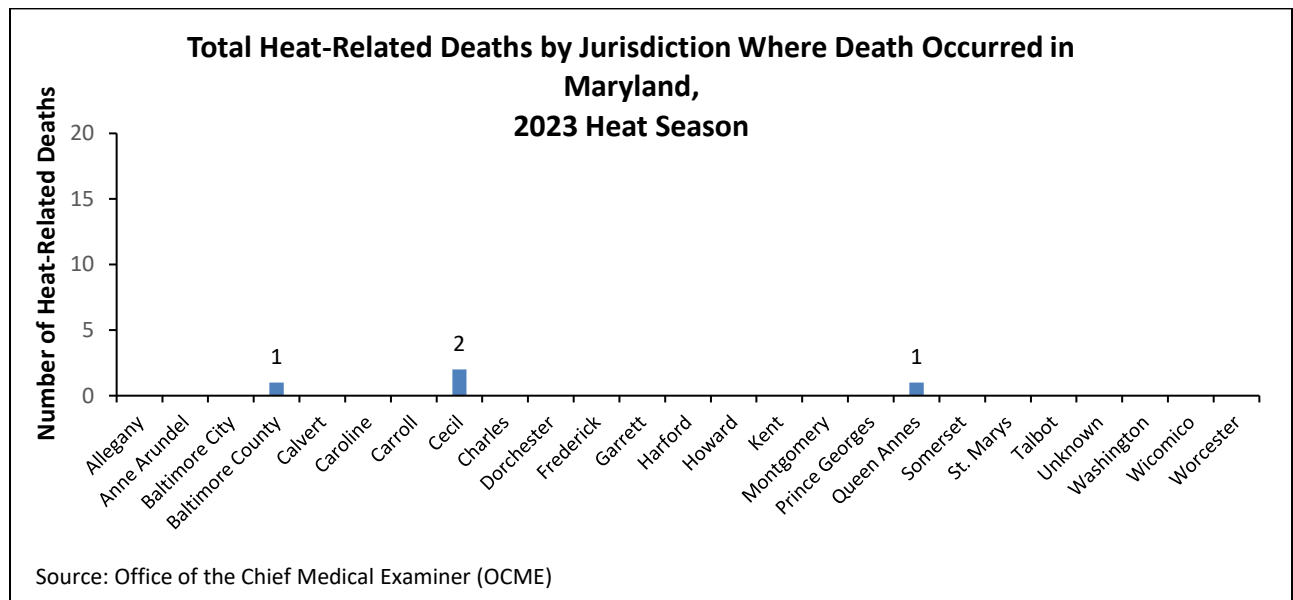
Reported Heat-Related Deaths This Week: **3**

Total Reported Heat-Related Deaths This Season (Through July 17, 2023): **4**

Total Suspected /Presumed Homeless Heat-Related Deaths This Season (Through July 17, 2023): **0**

### Historical Total Reported Heat-Related Deaths

2018 Deaths	2019 Deaths	2020 Deaths	2021 Deaths	2022 Deaths
28	21	20	16	5



## **Additional Report Information:**

### **Heat Advisory criteria**

**Heat Advisory:** The National Weather Service will issue a Heat Advisory when the heat index value is expected to reach 105 to 109 degrees 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.

**Excessive Heat Warning:** NWS will issue an Excessive Heat Warning when the heat index value is expected to reach or exceed 110 degrees 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.

### **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.

### **Data Sources**

Data for the report is taken from ESSENCE, Maryland's syndromic surveillance system. ESSENCE receives data from all Maryland hospital EDs and a limited number of UC centers. EMS data is received from the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS). Heat related death data is received from the OCME.

ESSENCE analyzes chief complaints and discharge diagnoses of ED and UC visits to identify and monitor issues of public health concern across Maryland. The chief complaint field in the ED record captures the patient's primary reason for seeking medical care as interpreted by the ED registration staff. The discharge diagnosis is a coded field that uses standardized values outlined by the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) 10th Revision and Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine Clinical Terms (SNOMED CT) code sets.

For more information about extreme heat and emergency preparedness, please see our [Extreme Heat Resources](#) page. Also 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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