



STATE OF MARYLAND

**DHMH**

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

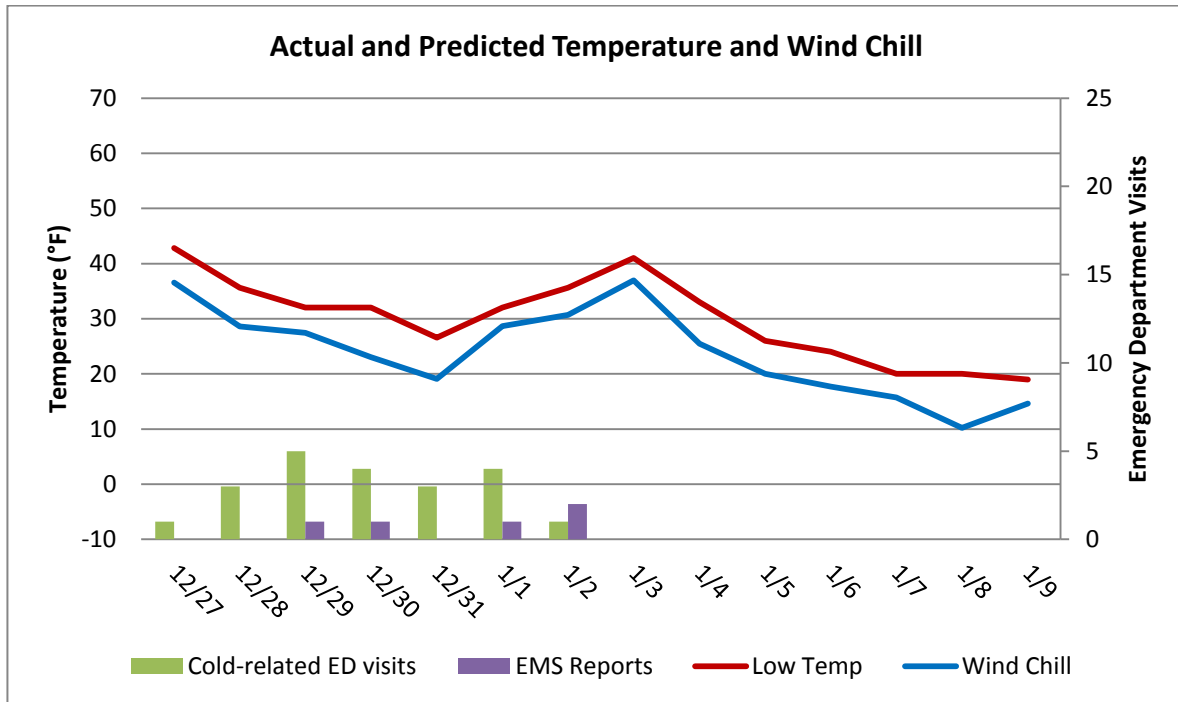
*Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor - Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary*

## Weekly Cold-related Illness Surveillance Report

January 4, 2017

Reporting for December 27, 2016 to January 2, 2017

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

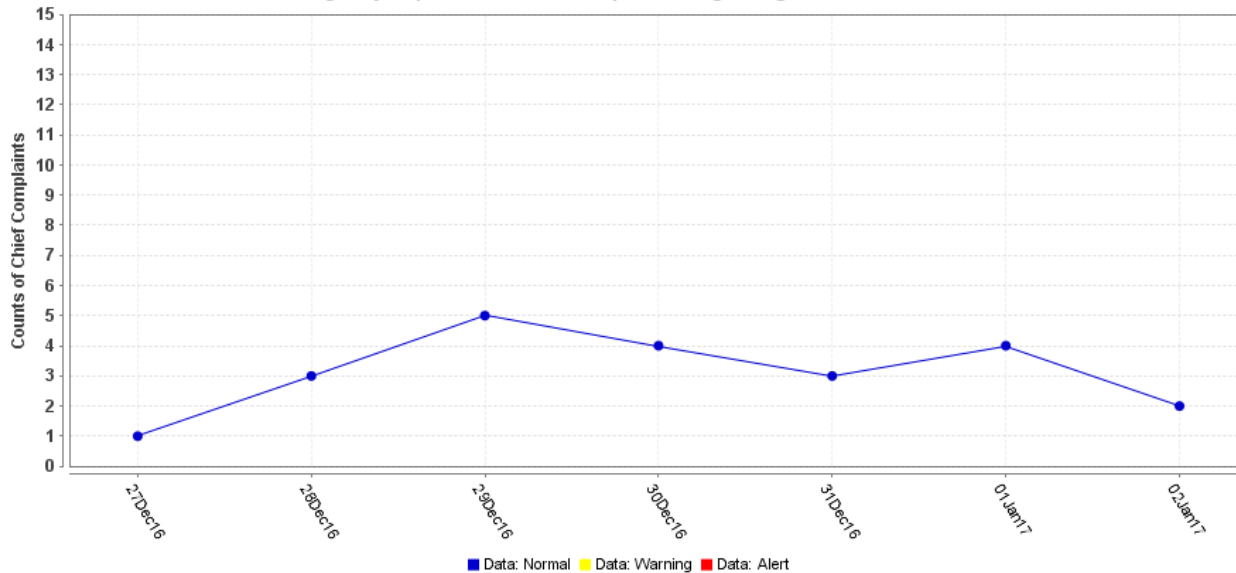


Wind Chill is only calculated for temperatures below 50°F and wind speeds above 3 mph

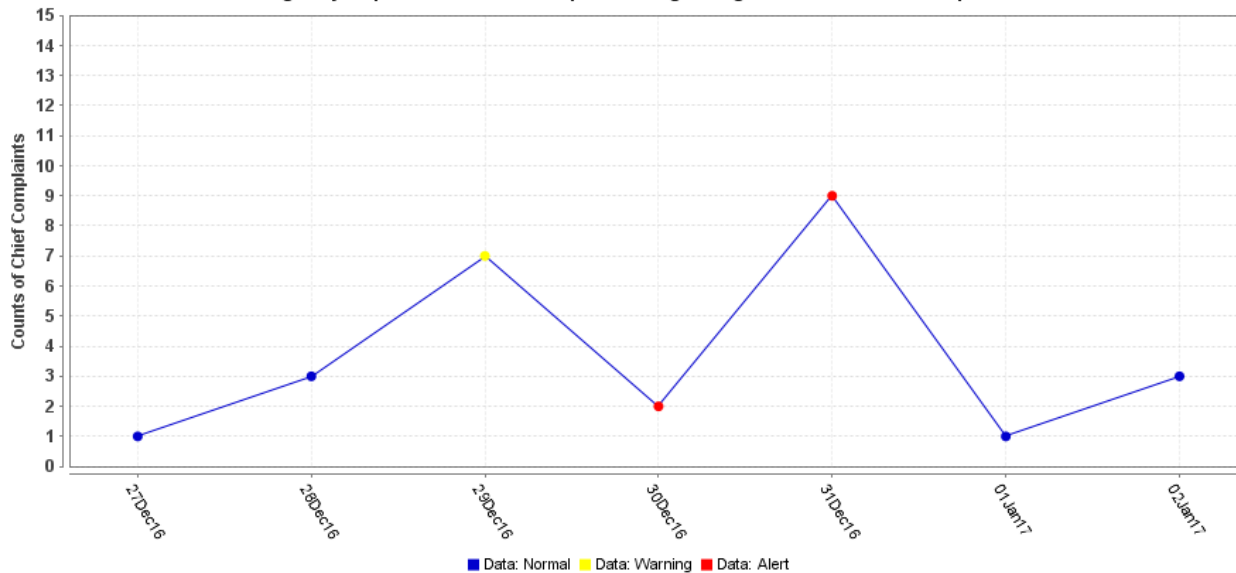
**Note on Emergency Department Data:** The results from the query used in ESSENCE, an electronic biosurveillance system, to track cold-related illnesses may be an overestimation of the actual burden of illness related to the cold weather. This overestimation is due to the nature of the query, which includes the term hypothermia and frostbite.

**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

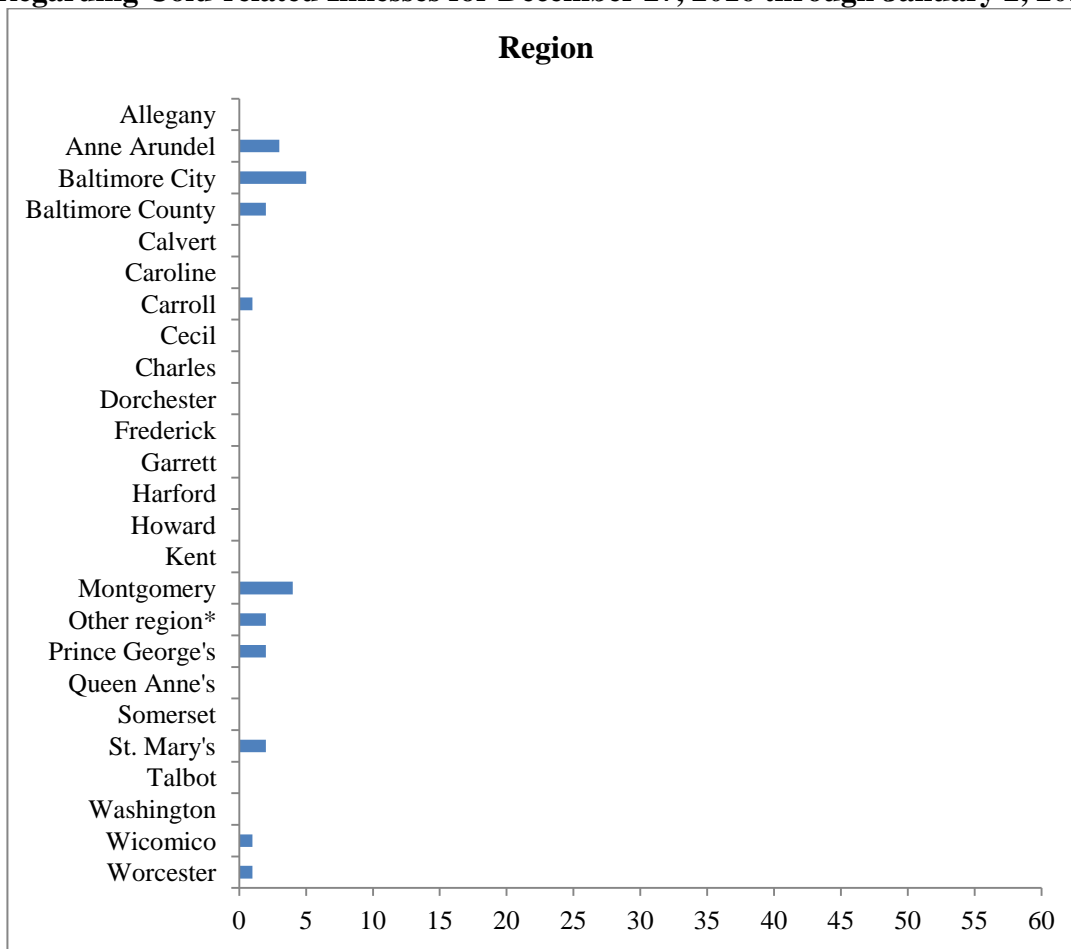


Date	Number of Chief Complaints Regarding Cold-related Illness	Number of Chief Complaints Regarding Carbon Monoxide Exposure
December 27	1	1
December 28	3	3
December 29	5	7
December 30	4	2
December 31	3	9
January 1	4	1
January 2	1	3

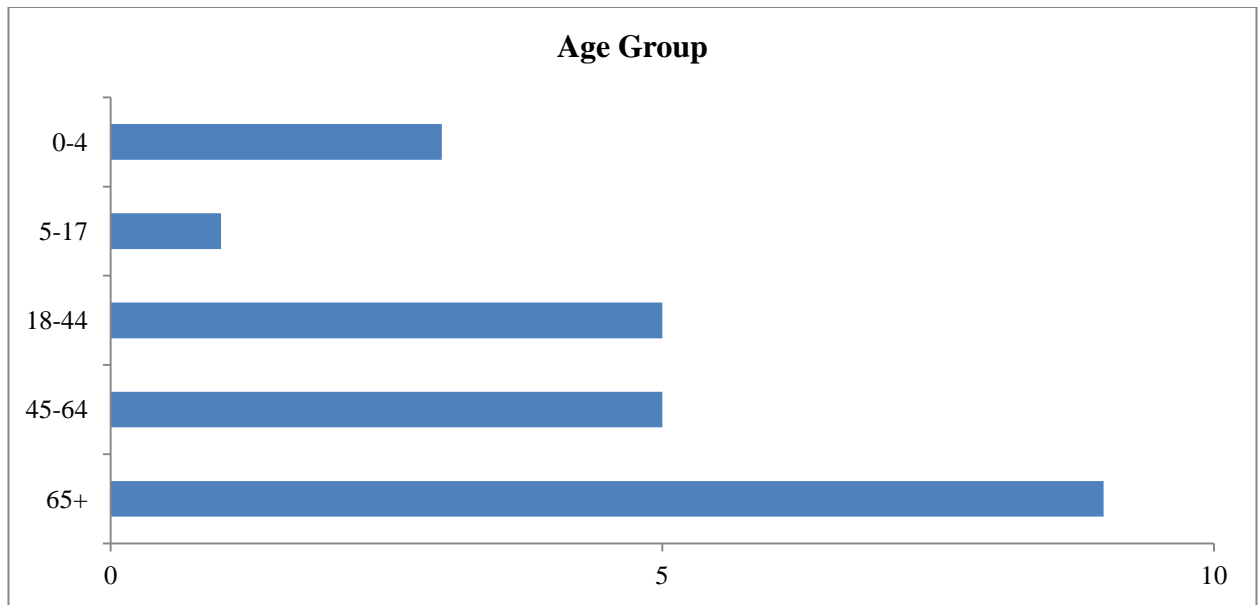
**\*Note: ESSENCE chief complaint query for cold-related illness contains the following terms: frostbite, frostnip, hypothermia, chilblain, and trench foot**

There were two carbon monoxide chief complaint clusters identified this week. These clusters are currently under investigation by the respective jurisdictions.

**Geographical and Age Group Distribution of Emergency Department Chief Complaints Regarding Cold-related Illnesses for December 27, 2016 through January 2, 2017**



**\*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.**



Total Number of Cold-related Deaths	Jurisdiction*	Age Group	Gender
6	Montgomery	45-64 Years Old	Male
	Garrett	45-64 Years Old	Female
	Prince George's	45-64 Years Old	Male
	Prince George's**	45-64 Years Old	Male
	Baltimore City	65+ Years Old	Female
	St. Mary's**	65+ Years Old	Male

\*Refers to the jurisdiction where the death occurred. \*\*Refers to a newly listed death

There were two cold-related deaths reported this week, one of which occurred earlier in the reporting period.

There have been six cold-related deaths during the reporting period this winter. Two deaths were suspected or presumed homeless individuals.

For media inquiries, please contact the Office of Communications: [410-767-6490](tel:410-767-6490)

**Wind Chill Advisory/Warning Criteria:** The National Weather Service issues a Wind Chill Advisory for projected wind chill factors of -5°F to -20°F, and a Wind Chill Warning when the projected wind chill is for -20° or less.

For more information about extreme cold and emergency preparedness, follow the Office of Preparedness and Response on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

**Prepared by:**

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