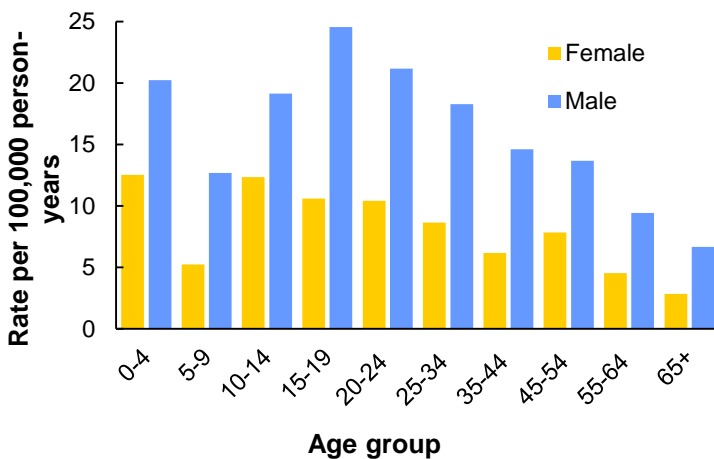


## NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS FOR RECREATIONAL WATER-RELATED INJURIES

The North Carolina Disease Event Tracking and Epidemiologic Collection tool (NC DETECT) provides public health officials and hospital users with the capacity for statewide early event detection and timely public health surveillance. Through NC DETECT, users can access near real-time data from North Carolina acute care emergency departments (EDs), the Carolinas Poison Center (CPC), and the Pre-Hospital Medical Information System (PreMIS). NC DETECT data from ED visits have become increasingly important for the surveillance of injury morbidity in North Carolina. NC DETECT is funded by the NC Division of Public Health (NC DPH). This document summarizes 2010-2012 ED visits by in-state and out-of-state residents with an external cause of injury code (E-code) for near-drownings, watercraft incidents (e.g. collisions, explosions, falls on watercraft, etc.), and other recreational water-related injuries (e.g. injuries while using diving equipment, injuries while diving/jumping into bodies of water, etc.).\*

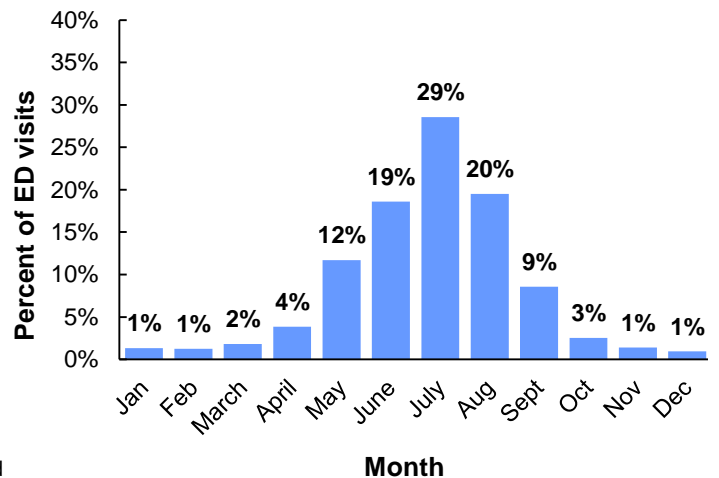
### Rates of NC ED visits for recreational water-related injuries, 2010-2012



- Over the period 2010-2012, there were 3,228 ED visits due to recreational water-related injuries with an average rate of 11.1 visits per 100,000 person-years. There were 1,172 visits in 2010, 1,040 visits in 2011, and 1,016 visits in 2012.
- Men had a higher rate of water-related injury (15.2 visits per 100,000 person-years) than women (7.3 visits per 100,000 person-years).
- Among women, the highest rate of injury was observed for children 0-4 years of age (12.5 visits per 100,000 person-years). Among men, the highest rate of injury was observed for teens 15-19 years of age (24.5 visits per 100,000 person-years).

### NC ED visits by month due to recreational water-related injuries, 2010-2012

- Water-related injuries were most common during the summer months, with the greatest percentage of visits occurring during the month of July (29%).
- Over 50% of ED visits occurred over the following three days of the week: Sunday (21%), Saturday (19%), and Monday (16%).
- Most of the injuries occurred during the daylight hours of 6:00 AM through 5:00 PM (58%).



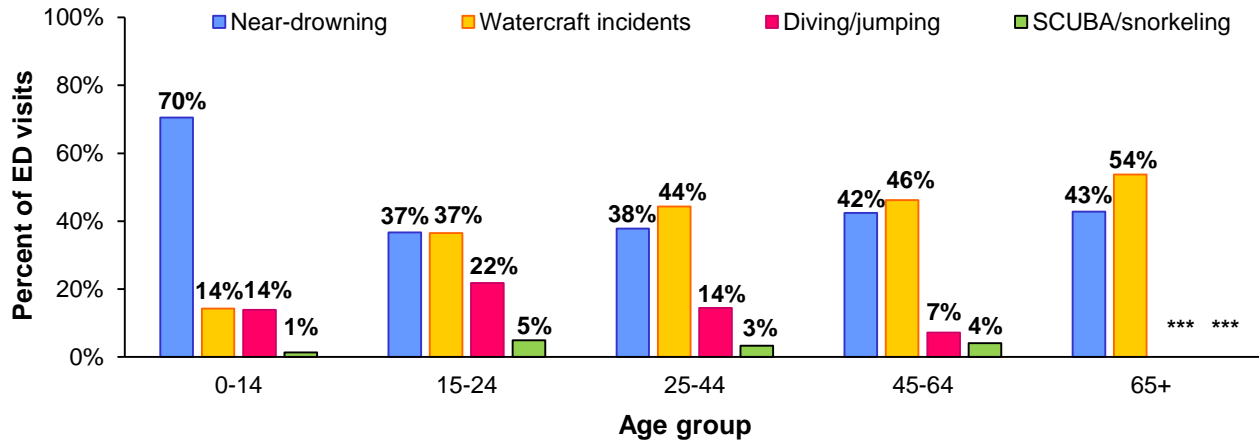
\*For questions about the methods used to identify recreational water-related injuries, please email [ncdetect@listserv.med.unc.edu](mailto:ncdetect@listserv.med.unc.edu).



Source: Carolina Center for Health Informatics / <https://cchi.web.unc.edu> / Department of Emergency Medicine, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2014.  
 NC Division of Public Health / [www.publichealth.nc.gov](http://www.publichealth.nc.gov) / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit/ 919-707-5425  
 NC Disease Event Tracking and Epidemiologic Collection Tool (NC DETECT) / [www.ncdetect.org](http://www.ncdetect.org) / 919-843-2361  
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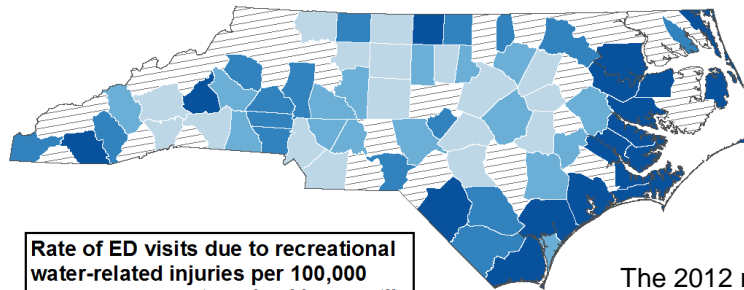
### NC ED visits due to recreational water-related injuries by injury mechanism, 2010-2012<sup>†</sup>

- For children and young adults, the most common mechanism of recreational water-related injury was near-drowning. For older adults, the most common mechanism of injury was watercraft incidents.
- Many of these water-related injuries were quite severe; 70 patients died in the ED (2.2%) over the course of 2010-2012. In comparison, for all injury-related ED visits during this period, only 0.1% died in the ED.



<sup>†</sup>For ED visits with more than one E-code for a water-related injury, the visit was categorized by the code listed first.  
\*\*\*<10 ED visits for these categories; data are not displayed

### Population-based rates of ED visits due to recreational water-related injuries by NC county, 2010-2012



Rate of ED visits due to recreational water-related injuries per 100,000 person-years, categorized by quartile

- 2.8 - 6.4
- 6.5 - 8.7
- 8.8 - 12.3
- 12.4 - 73.9
- <10 ED visits; data are not displayed

The 2012 rate for NC was 11.1 ED visits per 100,000 person-years.

- In 2012, 69% of ED visits due to water-related injuries were by NC residents (2,224 visits). In comparison, for all injury-related ED visits during this period, 95% of ED visits were made by NC residents.
- The NC counties with the highest rates of water-related injuries (visits per 100,000 person-years in parentheses) were Dare (73.9), Pamlico (53.2), Carteret (42.6), Washington (28.3), and Craven counties (24.3).

For more information on preventing injuries due to recreational water-related injuries, please visit the NC Injury and Violence Prevention Branch website at [www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov) or visit [www.injuryfreenc.org](http://www.injuryfreenc.org).



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