NC residents averaged 197 emergency department (ED) visits per year for firework-related injuries from 2017 to 2021, with the peak in 2020 at 229 ED visits.

70% occur in July

68% are by males

**ED Visits by Age Group**

80% of firework-related ED visits occur in those aged 5-49.

- 5-17 year-olds make up 16% of the NC population & 21% of firework-related ED visits.
- 18-24 year-olds make up 9% of the NC population and 17% of firework-related ED visits.
- 25-49 year-olds make up 32% of the NC population and 42% of firework-related ED visits.

**ED Visits by Race Category**

Black NC residents are disproportionately represented in firework-related ED visits.

- 27% of fireworks-related ED visits are among Black patients compared to a population proportion of 23%.
- Note that 14% of ED visits cannot be compared to the NC population by race category.
81% of fireworks-related ED visits were discharged home.

28% of fireworks-related ED visits were covered by Medicaid followed by private insurance (27%) and self-pay/uninsured (24%).

Gaston, Cleveland, & Richmond counties have the highest rates for firework-related injury for 2017-2021 among counties with at least 10 ED visits.

- 10 counties have 0 fireworks-related ED visits.
- 57 have fewer than 10.
- The table displays the counties with the highest crude ED visit rates.

### County-level Crude Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Crude Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gaston</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avery</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duplin</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carteret</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4.3</td>
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<td>3.7</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>3.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transylvania</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Consumer Firework Injury Prevention Tips

- Never use fireworks while impaired by alcohol or drugs
- Do not attempt to re-light fireworks
- Keep water handy
- Visit [cpsc.gov/fireworks](http://cpsc.gov/fireworks) for more info

Source: Carolina Center for Health Informatics / cchi.web.unc.edu / Department of Emergency Medicine, UNC Chapel Hill
NC Division of Public Health / publichealth.nc.gov / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit
NC DETECT / https://ncdetect.org
State of North Carolina / Department of Health and Human Services / ncdhhs.gov
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