

# Firearm-Related Emergency Department Visits in North Carolina

## Quarter 1: January - March 2022

There were **825** firearm-related ED visits from Jan-Mar 2022 compared to **1,155** from Jan-Mar 2021

Some counties and groups experienced a significant increase in firearm-related injury ED visits for January - March 2022.

### County-Level Groups with Significant Increases in Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits in Q1 2022 vs. Prior 3-Year Average

County	Group	Number of Visits	Percent Increase
Alamance	Ages 25-44	8	+380%
	Black NH	15	+181%
	Male	18	+170%
Hertford	Ages 18-24	9	+350%
	White NH	6	+300%
	Total Visits	15	+275%
	Male	14	+250%
Iredell	Ages 25-44	7	+250%
	Black NH	7	+200%
	Male	12	+100%
Orange	Ages 18-24	7	+320%
	Male	18	+125%
Person	White NH	6	+350%
Wilkes	White NH	6	+260%
	Total Visits	6	+260%

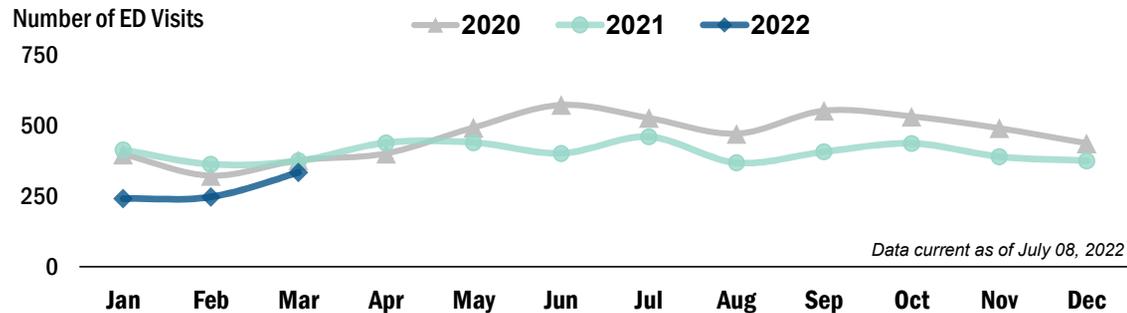
NH = Non-Hispanic

Note: Significant is defined as an observation count for Q1, 2022 that is > 2 standard deviations from the mean of observations for Q1 of 2019-2021.

The table is limited to top 15 county-level groups with the highest percent increase from the mean. There were a total of 22 county-level groups with significant increases in firearm-injury ED visits.

Firearm-related injury ED visits increased from January - March 2022, but were lower than in previous years.

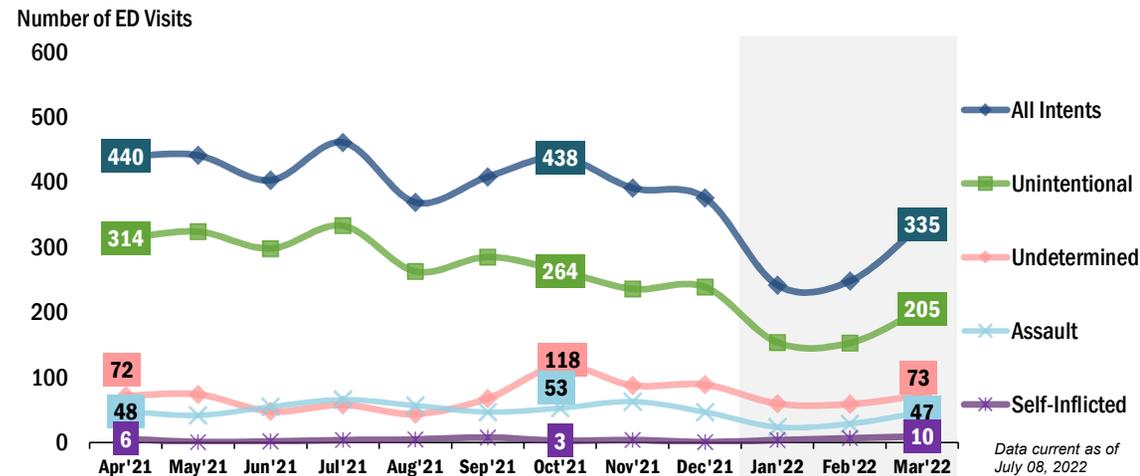
### Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits by Month: 2020-2022



The number of firearm-related injury ED visits in March 2022 was similar to March 2020 and 2021.

Most firearm-related injury ED visits (67%) from January - March 2022 were for unintentional injuries.

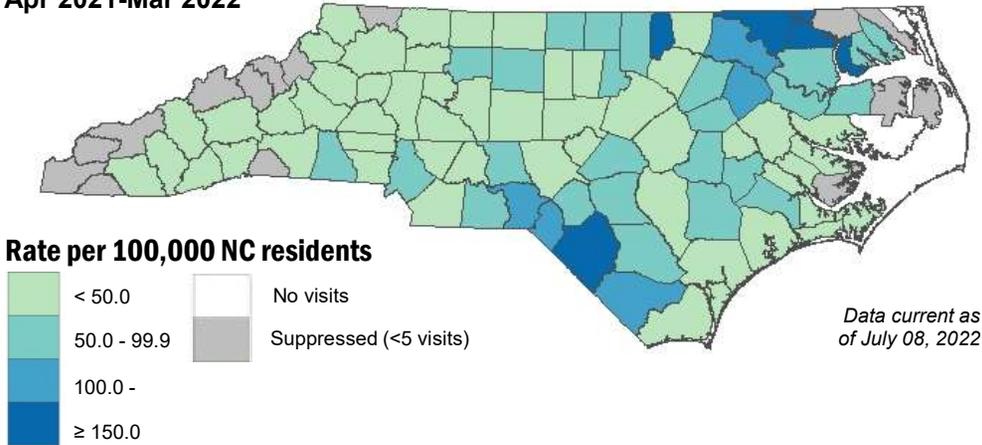
### Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits by Intent: Apr 2021-Mar 2022



Firearm injury ED visits increased during the current quarter (Jan-Mar 2022) across all intent categories. However, the number of firearm injury assaults and visits of undetermined intent remained similar to the number of visits seen during the previous 12 months.

## Rates of firearm-related injury ED visits were highest in Northampton, Robeson, and Vance counties.

Firearm-Related Injury ED Visit Rates by County of Residence:  
Apr 2021-Mar 2022



### Counties with the Highest Annual Firearm-Related Injury ED Visit Rates: Apr 2021-Mar 2022

County	Count	Annual Rate <sup>†</sup>
Northampton	36	188.6
Robeson	244	187.7
Vance	82	183.4
Chowan	24	173.7
Hertford	36	155.8
Scotland	46	132.8
Halifax	62	125.3
Richmond	53	119.6
Edgecombe	58	114.1
Columbus	62	113.2
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>4,552</b>	<b>42.9</b>

Over half of non-suppressed counties (46/85) had annual rates lower than the state rate of 42.9 firearm-related ED visits per 100,000 residents. Ten counties had rates of 100 per 100,000 residents or higher.

<sup>†</sup> Rates are calculated using the most recent 12 months of data and 2020 population estimates. Counties listed in the 'Highest Rates of Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits' table will likely change each quarter. Therefore, the counties listed this quarter cannot be generalized as the top burden counties for the year.

### Preventing Firearm-Related Injuries: What Works

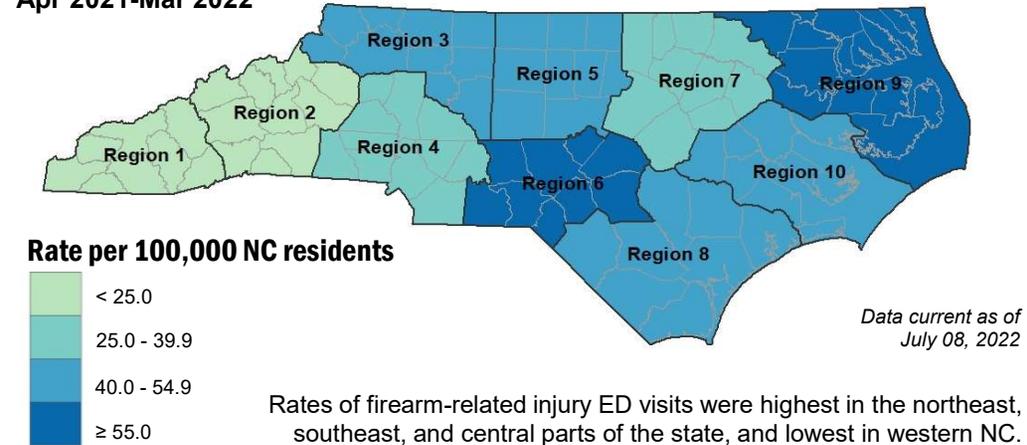


#### Storing Ammunition Separately

Storing ammunition in a locked location separate from firearms can reduce the risk of firearm injury, especially in households with children.

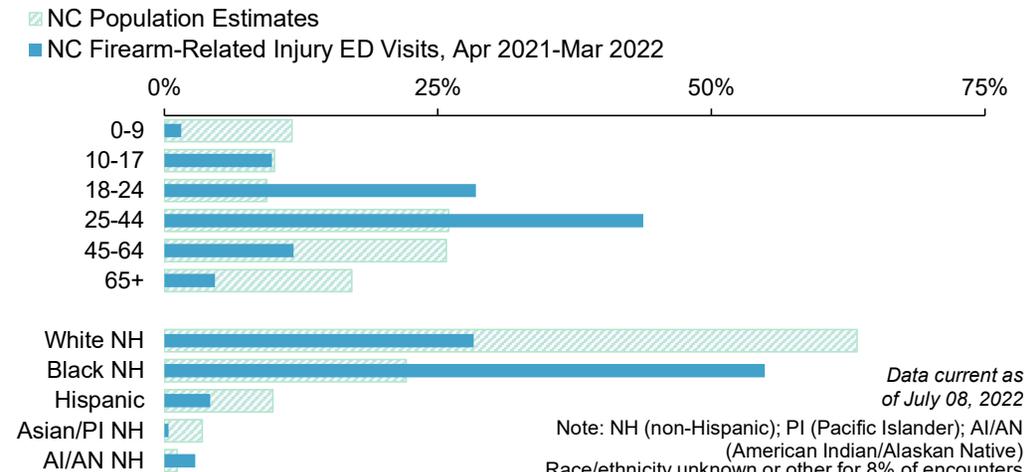
## Public Health Regions 6 and 9 experienced the highest firearm-related injury ED visit rates in the last 12 months.

Firearm-Related Injury ED Visit Rates by NC Public Health Region:  
Apr 2021-Mar 2022



## NH Black residents and young adults experience a disproportionate burden of firearm-related injury ED visits.

Demographics of Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits Compared to Overall NC Population Estimates: January - March 2022



18-24 and 25-44 year olds accounted for 28% and 44% of firearm-related ED visits despite representing only 9% and 26% of the population, respectively. Additionally, Non-Hispanic Black residents accounted for 55% of ED visits but only 22% of the population in the state.

For more information, visit [www.ncdetect.org](http://www.ncdetect.org)

