

Firearm-Related Emergency Department Visits in North Carolina

Quarter 4: October - December 2022

There were **1,139** firearm-related ED visits from Oct-Dec 2022 compared to **1,213** from Oct-Dec 2021

Some counties and groups experienced a significant increase in firearm-related injury ED visits during October - December 2022.

County-Level Groups with Significant Increases in Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits in Q4 2022 vs. Prior 3-Year Average

County	Group	# ED Visits Q4 2022	Percent Increase
Bertie	Male	12	+350%
	Black NH	10	+329%
	Ages 25-44	6	+200%
	Total Visits	12	+200%
Davidson	Ages 10-17	6	+500%
	Ages 25-44	10	+200%
	Total Visits	8	+500%
Halifax	White NH	10	+400%
Mecklenburg	AI NH	6	+300%
	Ages 18-24	18	+350%
	Ages 18-24	7	+250%
Washington	Male	9	+350%
	Total Visits	9	+350%
	Ages 25-44	7	+320%
	Black NH	7	+320%

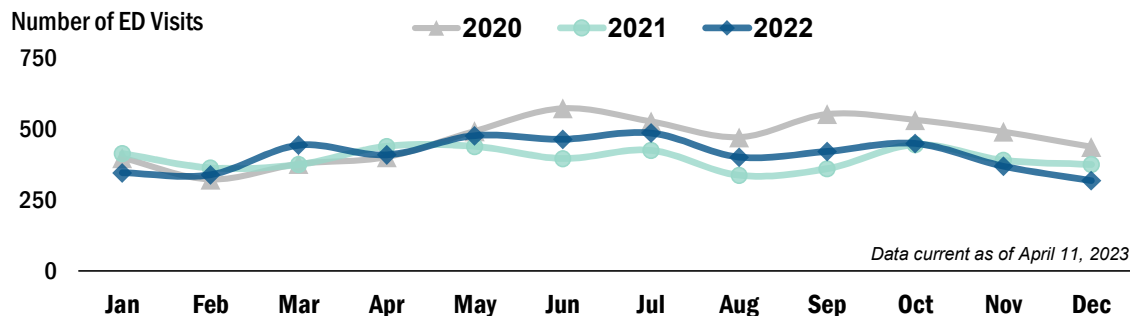
NH = Non-Hispanic

Note: Significant is defined as an observation count for Q4, 2022 that is > 2 standard deviations from the mean of observations for Q4 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 29 county-level groups with significant increases in firearm-injury ED visits.

Firearm-related injury ED visits decreased slightly from October - December 2022.

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

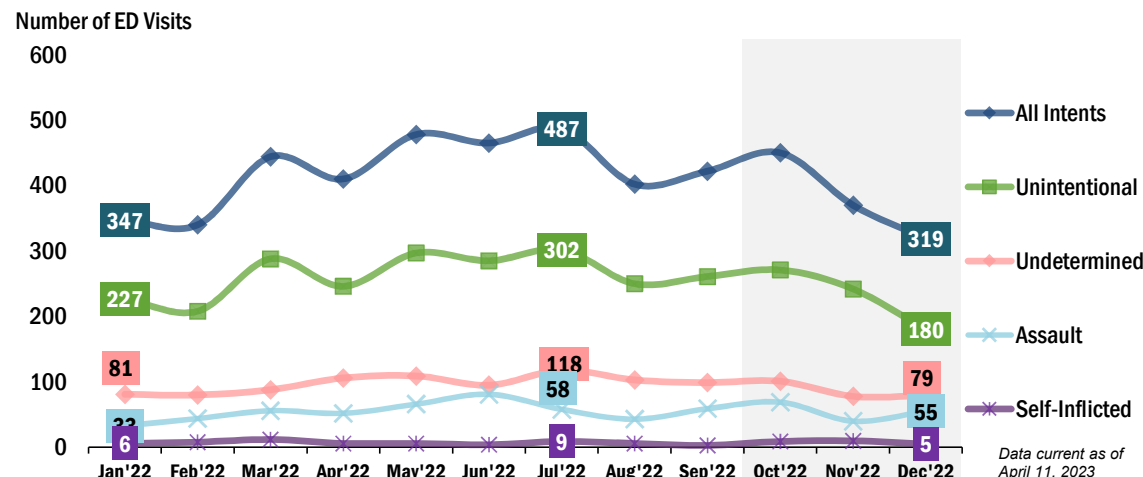


Data current as of April 11, 2023

Although the number of firearm-related injury ED visits was lower in Quarter 4 2022 versus 2021, the total visits for the year was 3% higher in 2022 (N=4,934) compared to 2021 (N=4,770).

Most firearm-related injury ED visits (62%) from October - December 2022 were for unintentional injuries.

Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits by Intent: Jan 2022-Dec 2022

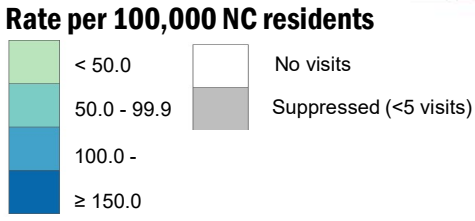
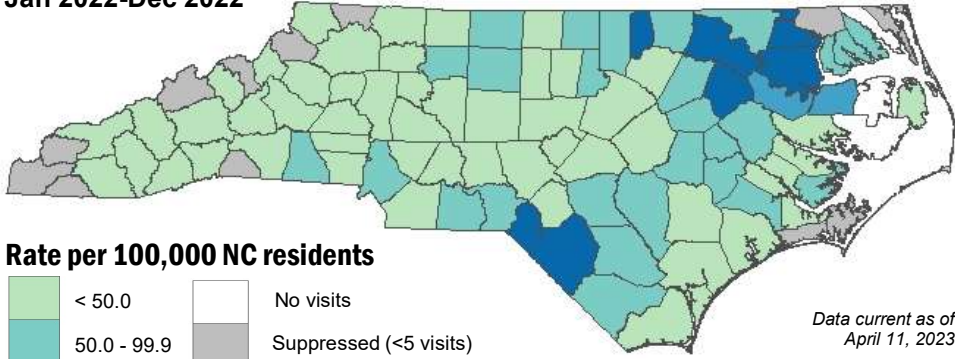


Data current as of April 11, 2023

Unintentional firearm-related injury ED visits decreased during the current quarter (Oct-Dec 2022), while firearm-related injuries of other intents remained similar to previous quarters.

Rates of firearm-related injury ED visits were highest in Vance, Hertford, Halifax, and Bertie counties.

Firearm-Related Injury ED Visit Rates by County of Residence: Jan 2022-Dec 2022



Data current as of April 11, 2023

Counties with the Highest Annual Firearm-Related Injury ED Visit Rates: Jan 2022-Dec 2022

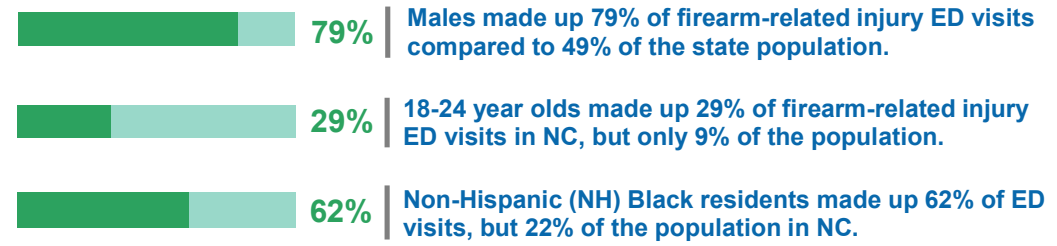
County	Count	Annual Rate [†]
Vance	84	187.8
Hertford	40	173.1
Halifax	82	165.7
Bertie	31	165.7
Edgecombe	82	161.3
Robeson	207	159.2
Scotland	52	150.1
Martin	24	108.2
Washington	12	104.5
Nash	94	99.1
Statewide	4,934	46.5

Over half of non-suppressed counties (51/88) had annual rates lower than the state rate of 46.5 firearm-related ED visits per 100,000 residents. Nine counties had rates of 100 per 100,000 residents or higher.

[†] 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 calendar year.

Males, young adults (18-24), and Non-Hispanic Black residents experienced a higher than expected burden of firearm-related injury ED visits.

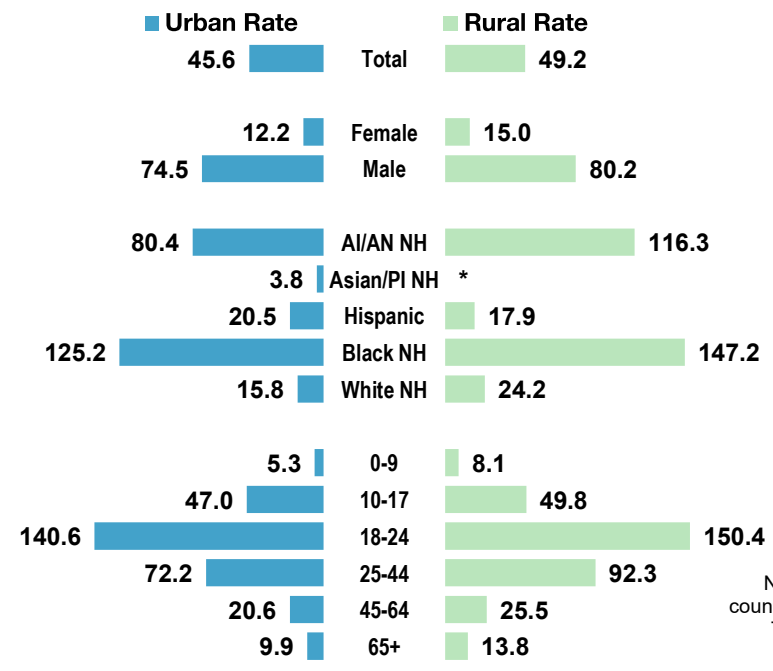
Percentage of Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits by Demographic Group: Jan 2022-Dec 2022



Generations of social, economic, and environmental inequities contribute to disparities in injuries, including firearm injury. When interpreting the data, it is crucial to recognize and acknowledge these systemic, avoidable, and/or unjust factors.

Residents of rural counties experienced higher rates of firearm-related injury ED visits across demographic groups.

Rates of Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits by Urban/Rural Residence and Demographic Group: Jan 2022-Dec 2022



NH White residents experienced the greatest difference in rates of firearm injury ED visits by rurality, with rural residents experiencing a rate over 50% higher than urban residents.

Hispanic residents experienced higher firearm injury ED visit rates in urban counties.

NH - Non-Hispanic
AI/AN - American Indian
PI - Pacific Islander
* Rate suppressed, <5 visits
Note: Rurality was classified at the county level. For more information see Table 5a in the IVPB Surveillance [Technical Notes Document](#).

Preventing Firearm-Related Injuries: What Works

Safely Storing Firearms - Locked Up and Unloaded

53% of firearm owners who reported having loaded firearms around them home also stored them unlocked.¹ 3 out of 4 children who live in a household with a firearm know where the firearm is stored, including children under 10.²

¹ NC BRFS (2021); ² Baxley & Miller (2006)

For more information, visit <https://ncdetect.org>

