

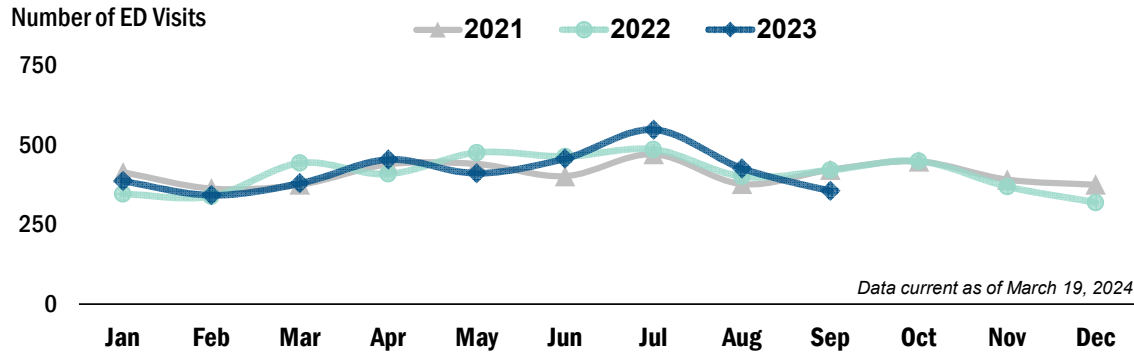
# Firearm-Related Emergency Department Visits in North Carolina

## Quarter 3: July - September 2023

There were **1,332** firearm-related ED visits from Jul-Sep 2023 compared to **1,311** from Jul-Sep 2022

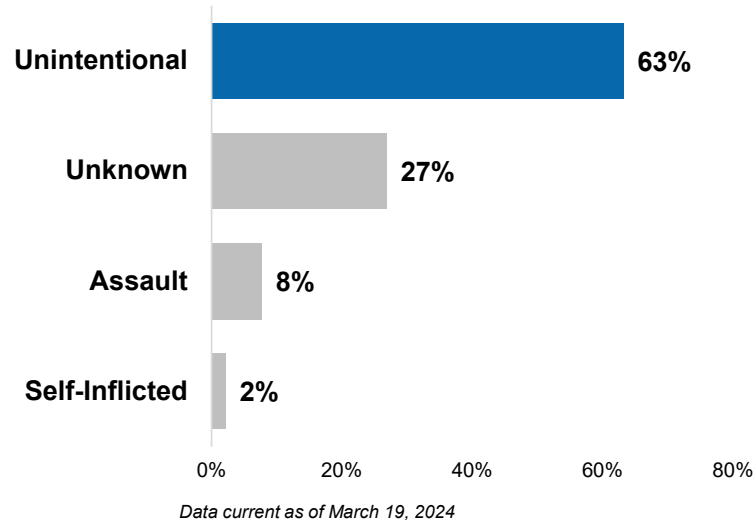
Firearm-related injury ED visits remained stable from July - September 2023.

Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits by Month: 2021-2023



The number of firearm-related injury ED visits in July-September, 2023 was similar to the number of visits in Quarter 3 of previous years.

**Most firearm-related injury ED visits (63%) from July - September 2023 were coded as unintentional injuries.**



Intent coding in the ED visit data is inaccurate and in need of improvement for firearm injury tracking.

There is an **overcount of unintentional firearm injuries** and an undercount of undetermined and intentional injuries, such as assault and self-harm.

ICD-10-CM coding guidance currently defaults to unintentional injury if intent is not directly documented in the medical record, and should be revised.

County-Level Groups with Significant Increases in Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits in Q3 2023 vs. Prior 3-Year Average

County	Group	Number of Visits	Percent Increase
Anson	Ages 25-44	14	+367%
	Black	24	+350%
	Male	20	+275%
	Total Visits	26	+271%
Beaufort	Ages 18-24	6	+260%
Brunswick	Black	7	+425%
	Male	11	+230%
	Total Visits	13	+225%
Cabarrus	White	11	+136%
Franklin	Black	12	+227%
	Male	12	+177%
	Total Visits	13	+144%
Pasquotank	Male	7	+250%
Warren	Black	10	+233%
	Total Visits	12	+177%

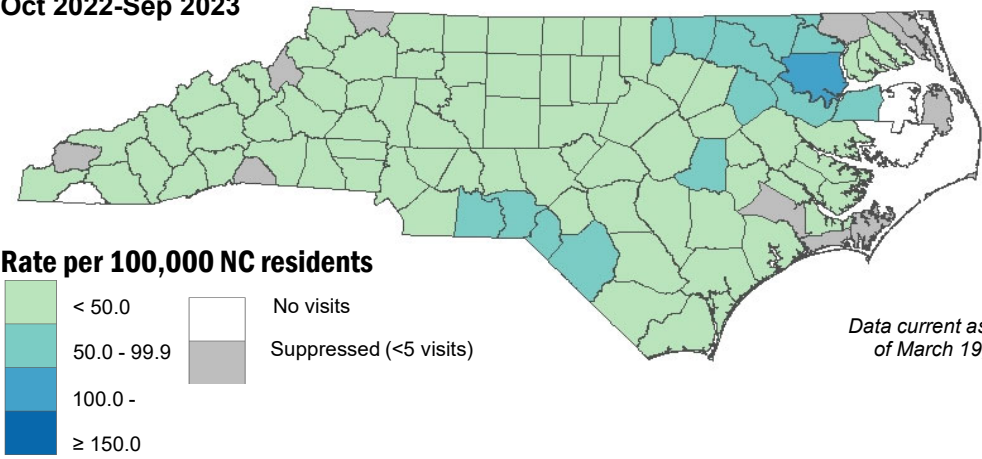
NH = Non-Hispanic

Note: Significant is defined as an observation count for Q3, 2023 that is > 2 standard deviations from the mean of observations for Q3 of 2020-2022.

The table is limited to top 15 county-level groups with the highest percent increase from the mean. There were a total of 31 county-level groups with significant increases in firearm-injury ED visits.

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

Firearm-Related Injury ED Visit Rates by County of Residence: Oct 2022-Sep 2023



## Counties with the Highest Annual Firearm-Related Injury ED Visit Rates: Oct 2022-Sep 2023

County	Count	Annual Rate <sup>†</sup>
Bertie	35	101.5
Vance	84	99.7
Robeson	228	97.7
Halifax	85	88.8
Scotland	58	84.9
Edgecombe	79	81.8
Anson	36	81.1
Northampton	24	71.5
Hertford	28	67.1
Warren	24	64.1
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>4,907</b>	<b>22.9</b>

Over half of non-suppressed counties (50/89) had annual rates lower than the state rate of 22.9 firearm-related ED visits per 100,000 residents. One county had rates of 100 per 100,000 residents or higher.

<sup>†</sup> Rates are calculated using the most recent 12 months of data and 2022 Census 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.

## Follow best practices for safe gun storage

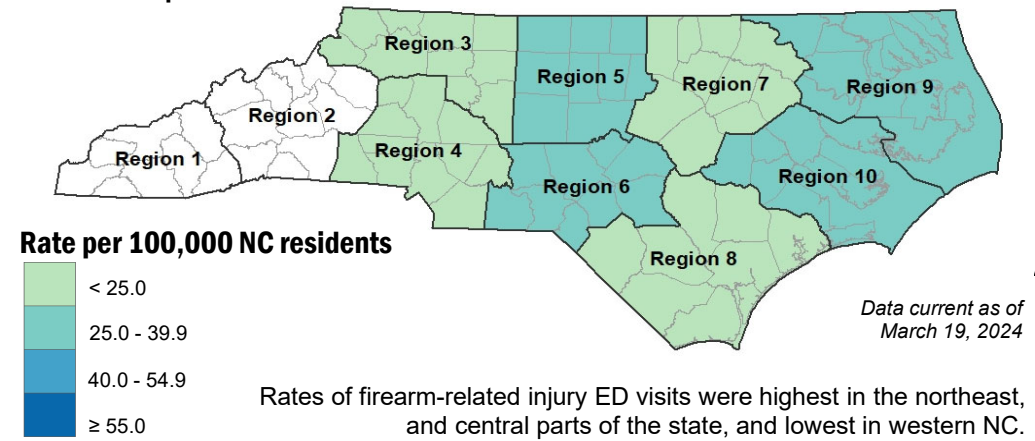
In homes with guns, 1 in 3 youth ages 13-17 report that they could access a gun in less than 5 minutes. *Salhi, Azrael & Miller (2021)*



NC S.A.F.E has tips and resources for safe storage, including an in-home storage checklist and a statewide map of out-of-home safe storage locations. [ncsafe.org/safestorage](https://ncsafe.org/safestorage)

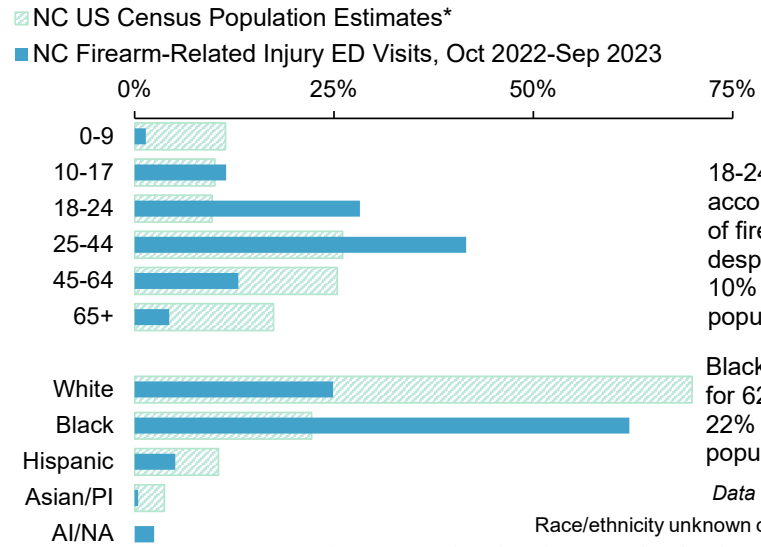
# Public Health Region 10 experienced the highest firearm-related injury ED visit rates over the last 12 months.

Firearm-Related Injury ED Visit Rates by NC Public Health Region: Oct 2022-Sep 2023



## 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: July - September 2023



18-24 and 25-44 year olds accounted for 28% and 42% of firearm-related ED visits despite representing only 10% and 26% of the population, respectively.

Black residents accounted for 62% of ED visits but only 22% of the state's population.

Data current as of March 19, 2024

Race/ethnicity unknown or other for 5% of encounters

Note: NH (non-Hispanic); PI (Pacific Islander); AI/AN (American Indian/Alaskan Native)

Racial categories changed in the 2021 US Census. Population estimates are grouped as single race with individuals of multiple racial groups captured in a separate category, and do not directly align with ED visit data race categories.

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

