

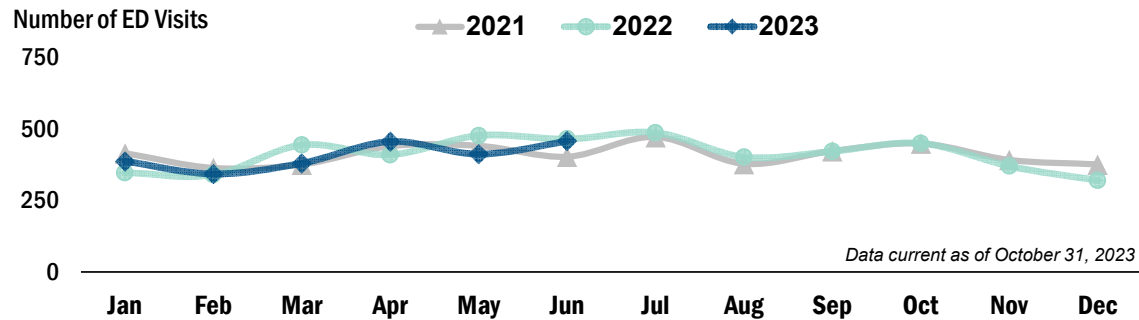
# Firearm-Related Emergency Department Visits in North Carolina

## Quarter 2: April - June 2023

There were **1,326** firearm-related ED visits from Apr-Jun 2023 compared to **1,352** from Apr-Jun 2022

Firearm-related injury ED visits increased slightly from April - June 2023.

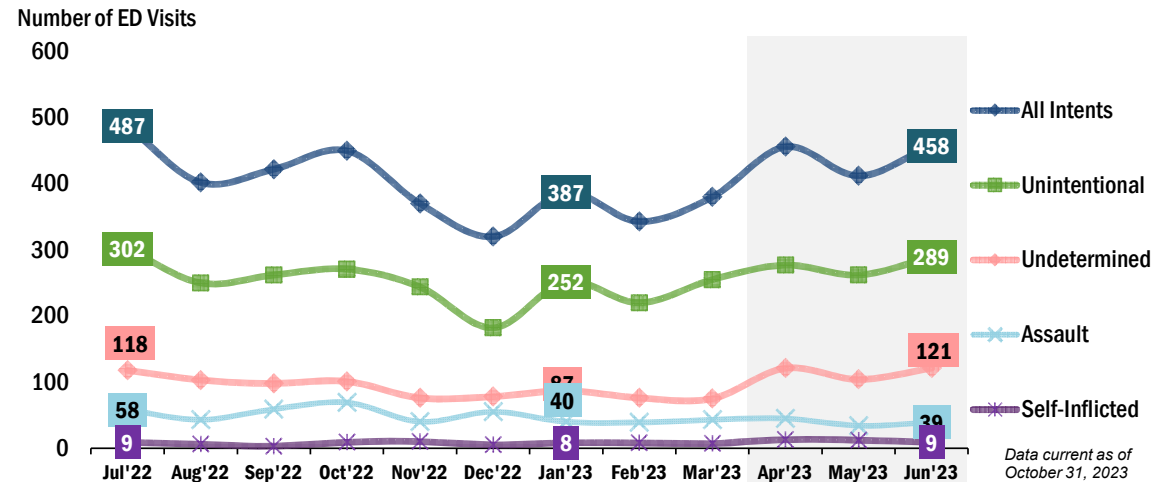
Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits by Month: 2021-2023



The number of firearm-related injury ED visits remained similar through June compared to 2022.

Most firearm-related injury ED visits (63%) from April - June 2023 were for unintentional injuries.

Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits by Intent: Jul 2022-Jun 2023



Self-Inflicted firearm-related injury ED visits decreased during the current quarter (Apr-Jun 2023), while firearm-related injuries of other intents remained similar to previous quarters.

Some counties and groups experienced a significant increase in firearm-related injury ED visits during April - June 2023.

County-Level Groups with Significant Increases in Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits in Q2 2023 vs. Prior 3-Year Average

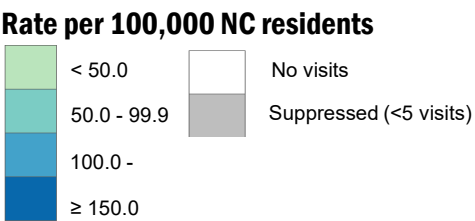
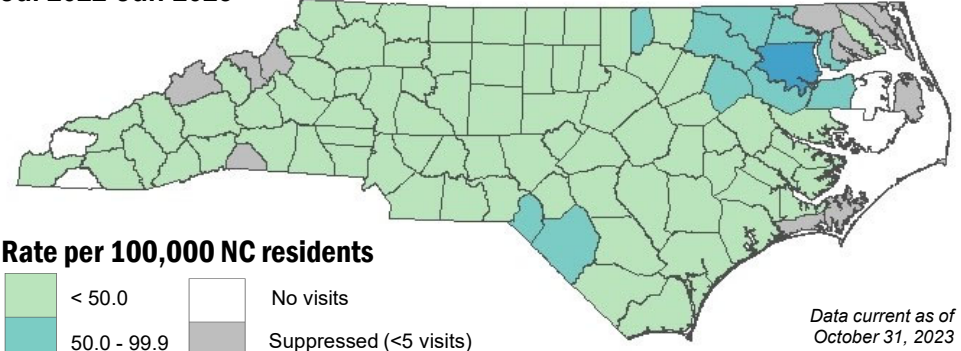
County	Group	# ED Visits Q2 2023	Percent Increase
Cherokee	Male	6	+200%
	White	6	+200%
	Total Visits	6	+200%
	Male	6	+200%
Mecklenburg	White	40	+158%
	Ages 10-17	6	+500%
	Male	20	+233%
Orange	Total Visits	23	+229%
Scotland	Ages 10-17	7	+600%
	Ages 25-44	6	+200%
	Ages 65+	6	+500%
Surry	Male	10	+233%
	Total Visits	12	+200%
	Ages 10-17	8	+300%
	Female	10	+122%

Note: Significant is defined as an observation count for Q2, 2023 that is > 2 standard deviations from the mean of observations for Q2 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 41 county-level groups with significant increases in firearm-injury ED visits.

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

Firearm-Related Injury ED Visit Rates by County of Residence: Jul 2022-Jun 2023



Data current as of October 31, 2023

Counties with the Highest Annual Firearm-Related Injury ED Visit Rates: Jul 2022-Jun 2023

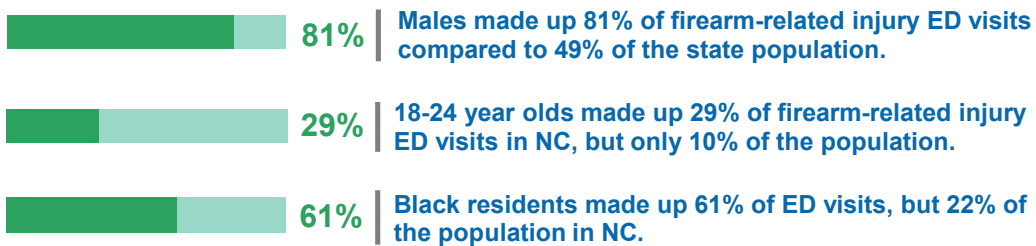
County	Count	Annual Rate <sup>†</sup>
Bertie	35	101.5
Robeson	232	99.4
Scotland	62	90.7
Halifax	85	88.8
Edgecombe	80	82.8
Vance	65	77.1
Washington	16	73.9
Northampton	21	62.6
Martin	25	58.1
Hertford	23	55.1
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>4,887</b>	<b>13.3</b>

Less than half of non-suppressed counties (27/91) had annual rates lower than the state rate of 13.3 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 2023 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 Black residents experienced a higher than expected burden of firearm-related injury ED visits.

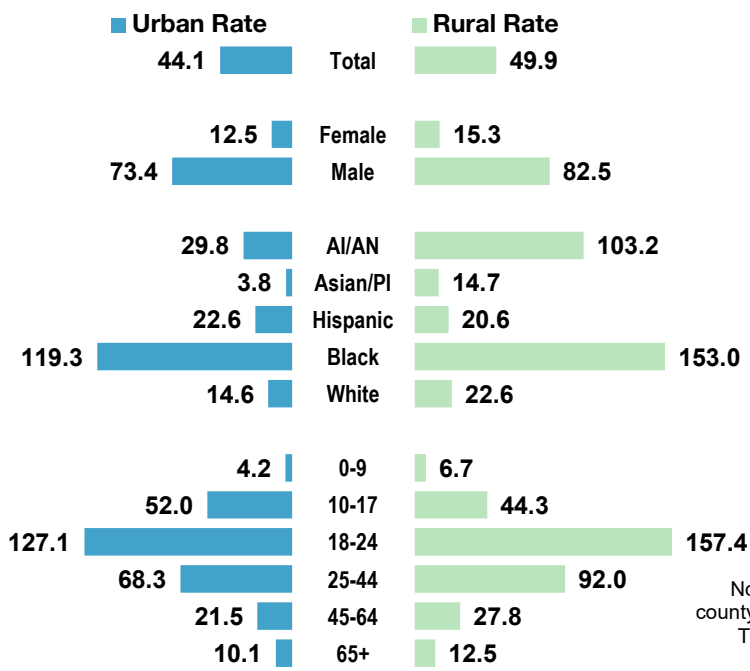
Percentage of Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits by Demographic Group: Jul 2022-Jun 2023



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: Jul 2022-Jun 2023



Asian/Pacific Islander 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.

Residents ages 10-17 and 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.<sup>1</sup> 3 out of 4 children who live in a household with a firearm know where the firearm is stored, including children under 10.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> NC BRFSS (2021); <sup>2</sup> Baxley & Miller (2006)

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

