

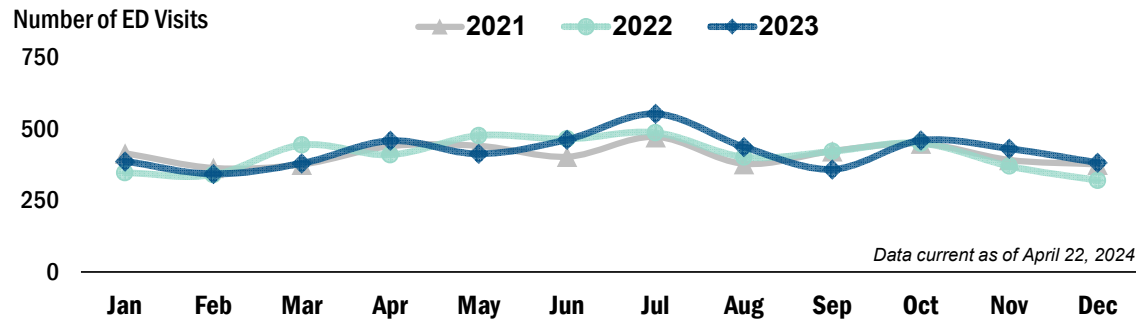
Firearm-Related Emergency Department Visits in North Carolina

Quarter 4: October - December 2023

There were **1,273** firearm-related ED visits from Oct-Dec 2023 compared to **1,140** from Oct-Dec 2022

Firearm-related injury ED visits decreased from October - December 2023.

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

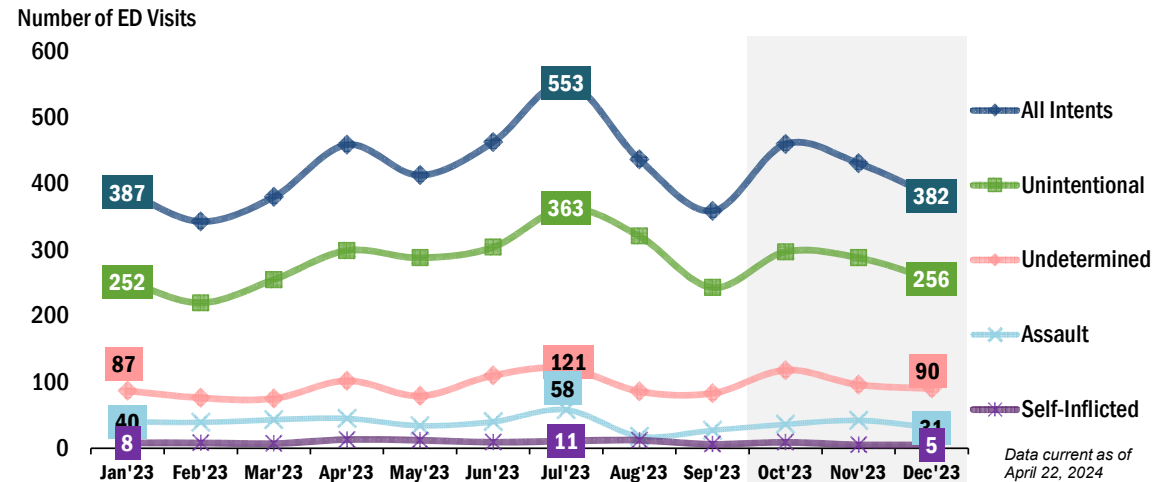


Data current as of April 22, 2024

The number of firearm-related injury ED visits was slightly higher in Quarter 4 2023 compared to Quarter 4 2022.

Most firearm-related injury ED visits (67%) from October - December 2023 were for unintentional injuries.

Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits by Intent: Jan 2023-Dec 2023



Data current as of April 22, 2024

Unintentional firearm-related injury ED visits decreased during the current quarter (Oct-Dec 2023), while firearm-related injuries of other intents remained similar to previous quarters.

Some counties and groups experienced a significant decrease in firearm-related injury ED visits during October - December 2023.

County-Level Groups with Significant Decreases in Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits in Q4 2023 vs. Prior 3-Year Average

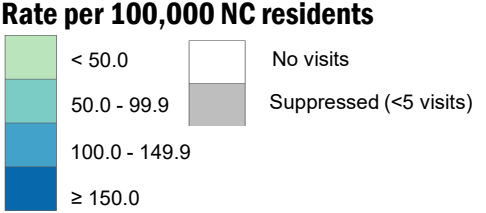
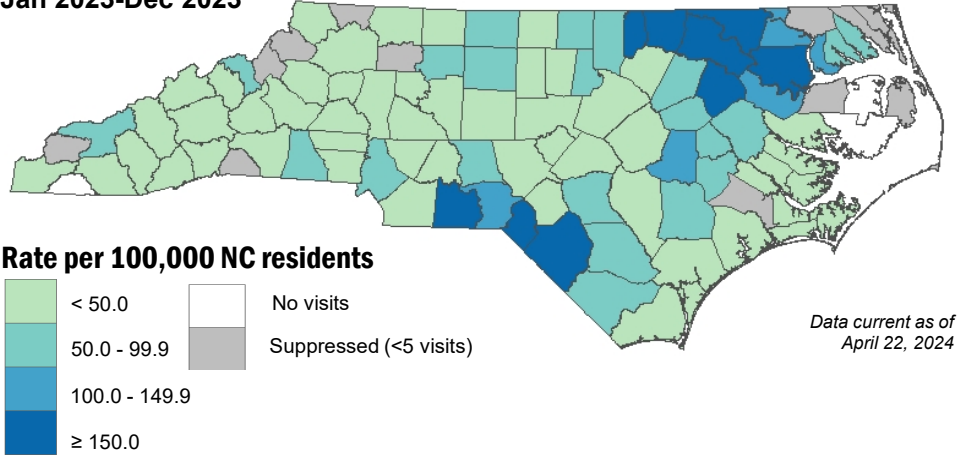
County	Group	# ED Visits Q4 2023	Percent Decrease
Alamance	Male	10	-34%
	Total Visits	12	-31%
	Total Visits	12	-27%
Cumberland	Ages 18-24	10	-41%
	Non-Hispanic	32	-27%
	Black	26	-27%
	Ages 25-44	22	-28%
Durham	Male	33	-27%
Gaston	Non-Hispanic	14	-34%
	Total Visits	16	-33%
	Male	15	-28%
Guilford	Female	10	-30%
	Ages 18-24	20	-27%
	Ages 25-44	10	-33%
	Total Visits	10	-30%

Note: Significant is defined as an observation count for Q4, 2023 that is > 2 standard deviations from the mean of observations for Q4 of 2020-2022.

The table is limited to top 15 county-level groups with the highest percent decrease from the mean. There were 87 county-level groups with significant decreases in firearm-injury ED visits.

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

Firearm-Related Injury ED Visit Rates by County of Residence: Jan 2023-Dec 2023



Data current as of April 22, 2024

Counties with the Highest Annual Firearm-Related Injury ED Visit Rates: Jan 2023-Dec 2023

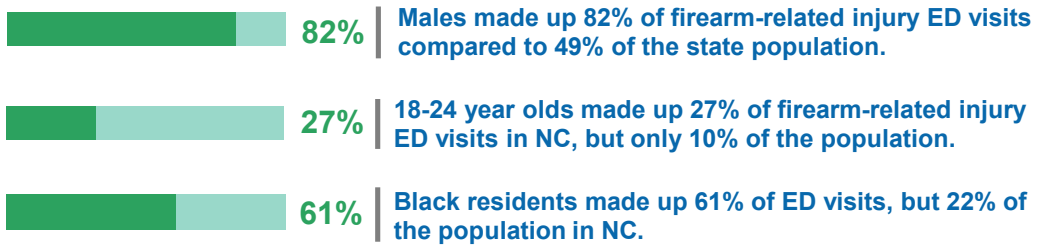
County	Count	Annual Rate [†]
Robeson	262	224.6
Vance	86	204.1
Anson	44	198.2
Edgecombe	94	194.6
Scotland	63	184.4
Warren	34	181.7
Bertie	30	174.0
Halifax	80	167.2
Northampton	26	155.0
Hertford	31	148.5
Statewide	5,067	47.4

More than half of non-suppressed counties (49/89) had annual rates lower than the state rate of 47.4 firearm-related ED visits per 100,000 residents. 14 counties had rates of 100 per 100,000 residents or higher.

† 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.

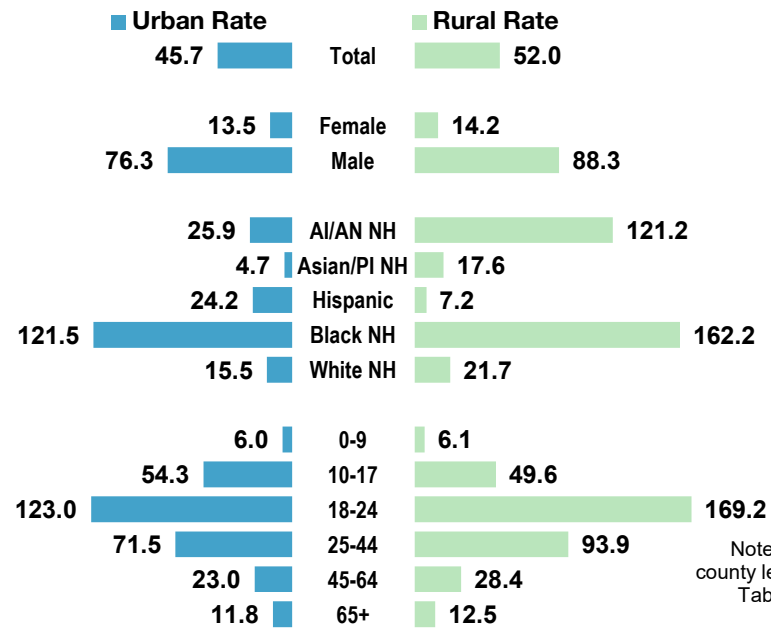
Percentage of Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits by Demographic Group: Jan 2023-Dec 2023



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



American Indian 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.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 BRFSS (2021); ² Baxley & Miller (2006)

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