

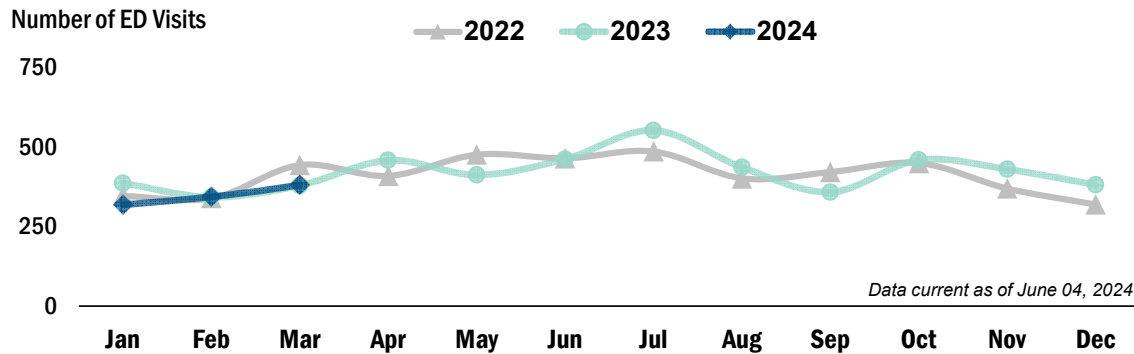
Firearm-Related Emergency Department Visits in North Carolina

Quarter 1: January - March 2024

There were **1,044** firearm-related ED visits from Jan-Mar 2024 compared to **1,110** from Jan-Mar 2023

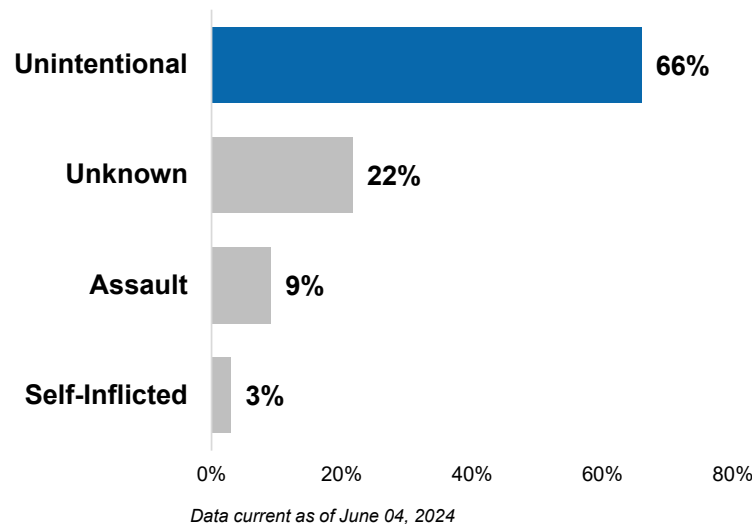
Firearm-related injury ED visits increased from January - March 2024.

Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits by Month: 2022-2024



The number of firearm-related injury ED visits in January - March 2024 was similar to the number of visits in Quarter 1 of previous years.

Most firearm-related injury ED visits (66%) from January - March 2024 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.

Some counties and groups experienced a significant increase in firearm-related injury ED visits for January - March 2024.

County-Level Groups with Significant Increases in Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits in Q1 2024 vs. Prior 3-Year Average

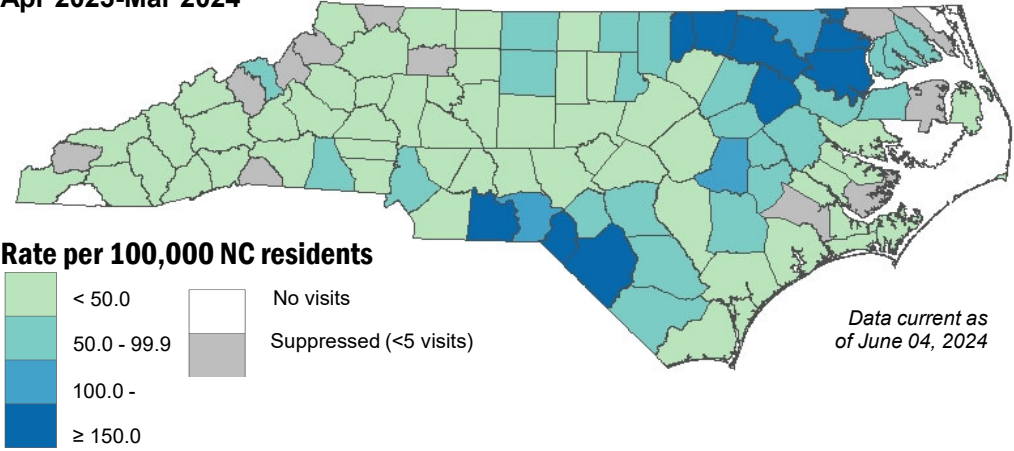
County	Group	Number of Visits	Percent Increase
Buncombe	Black	13	+1200%
	Ages 45-64	12	+300%
	Non-Hispanic	25	+233%
	Female	6	+200%
	Total Visits	36	+188%
Cleveland	Ages 45-64	8	+433%
Edgecombe	Non-Hispanic	17	+278%
Franklin	Non-Hispanic	8	+300%
Gaston	Ages 25-44	24	+200%
Granville	Non-Hispanic	10	+300%
Johnston	Female	10	+400%
Onslow	Non-Hispanic	6	+200%
Robeson	Other	6	+200%
Warren	Male	7	+250%
	Black	6	+200%

Note: Significant is defined as an observation count for Q1, 2024 that is > 2 standard deviations from the mean of observations for Q1 of 2021-2023.

The table is limited to top 15 county-level groups with the highest percent increase from the mean. There were a total of 45 county-level groups with significant increases in firearm-injury ED visits.

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

Firearm-Related Injury ED Visit Rates by County of Residence: Apr 2023-Mar 2024



Counties with the Highest Annual Firearm-Related Injury ED Visit Rates: Apr 2023-Mar 2024

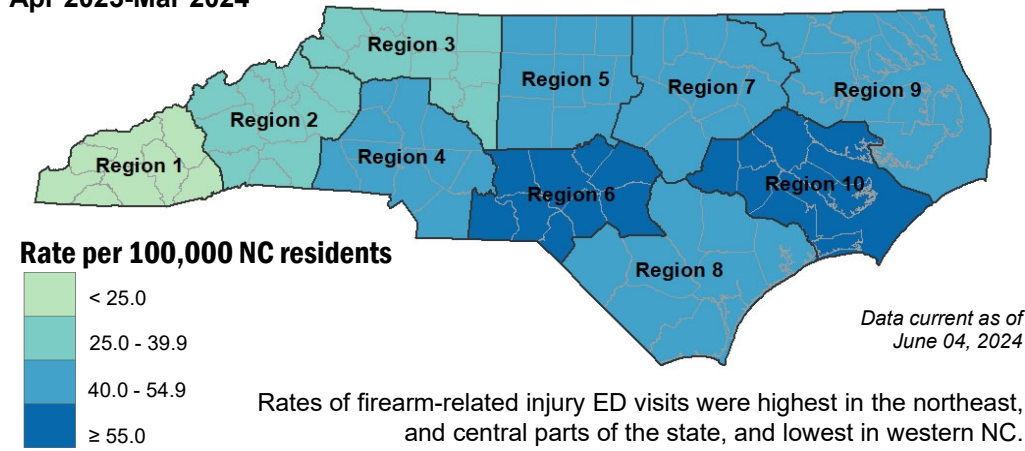
County	Count	Annual Rate [†]
Warren	41	219.1
Anson	47	211.7
Robeson	237	203.1
Vance	84	199.3
Hertford	38	182.0
Edgecombe	86	178.1
Scotland	58	169.8
Halifax	77	160.9
Bertie	27	156.6
Richmond	59	137.9
Statewide	5,001	46.7

Over half of non-suppressed counties (48/88) had annual rates lower than the state rate of 46.7 firearm-related ED visits per 100,000 residents. Twelve counties had rates of 100 per 100,000 residents or higher.

[†] 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.

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

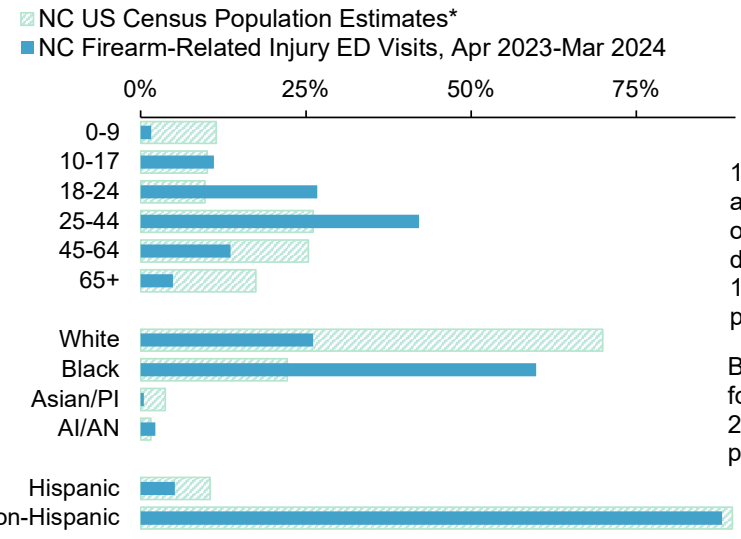
Firearm-Related Injury ED Visit Rates by NC Public Health Region: Apr 2023-Mar 2024



Rates of firearm-related injury ED visits were highest in the northeast, and central parts of the state, and lowest in western NC.

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 2024



18-24 and 25-44 year olds accounted for 27% and 42% of firearm-related ED visits despite representing only 10% and 26% of the population, respectively.

Black residents accounted for 60% of ED visits but only 22% of the state's population.

Data current as of June 04, 2024

Note: 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.

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

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