

Firearm-Related Emergency Department Visits in North Carolina

Quarter 3: July - September 2024

There were **1,206** firearm-related ED visits from Jul-Sep 2024 compared to **1,349** from Jul-Sep 2023

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

County-Level Groups with Significant Increases in Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits in Q3 2024 vs. Prior 3-Year Average

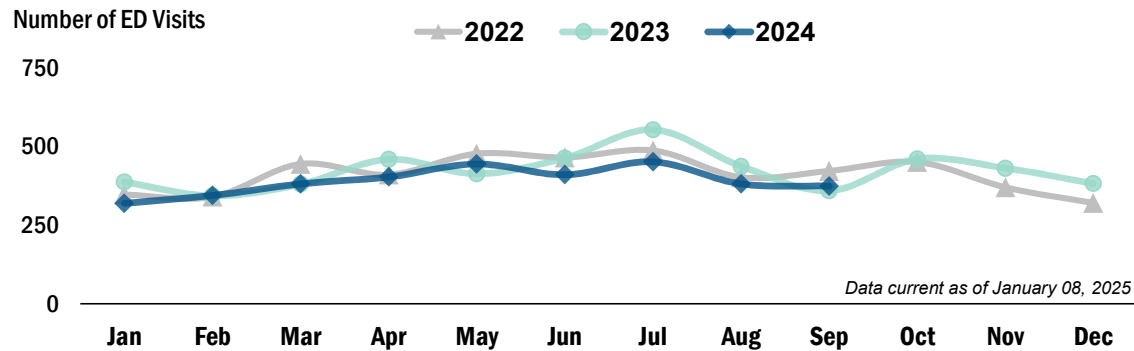
County	Group	Number of Visits	Percent Increase
Bertie	Ages 25-44	6	+500%
Bladen	Black	6	+200%
Buncombe	White	20	+100%
Burke	Non-Hispanic	8	+700%
	White	6	+300%
Davidson	Female	6	+300%
Forsyth	Hispanic	14	+155%
Granville	Non-Hispanic	12	+100%
Mecklenburg	Other	52	+940%
	Ages 45-64	30	+140%
Nash	Ages 25-44	11	+144%
Robeson	Hispanic	6	+200%
Scotland	Ages 10-17	6	+500%
Union	Non-Hispanic	15	+275%
	Black	7	+250%

Note: Significant is defined as an observation count for Q3, 2024 that is > 2 standard deviations from the mean of observations for Q3 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 30 county-level groups with significant increases in firearm-injury ED visits.

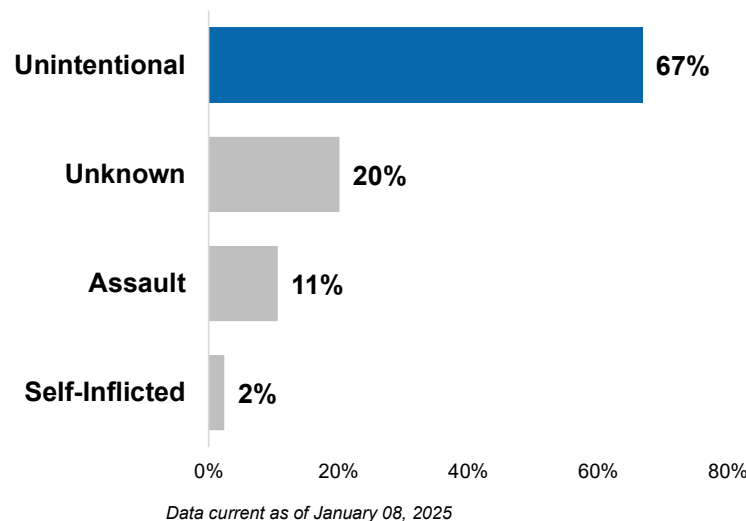
Firearm-related injury ED visits decreased from July - September 2024.

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



The number of firearm-related injury ED visits in July - September 2024 was similar to the number of visits in Quarter 3 of previous years.

Most firearm-related injury ED visits (67%) from July - September 2024 were coded as unintentional injuries.



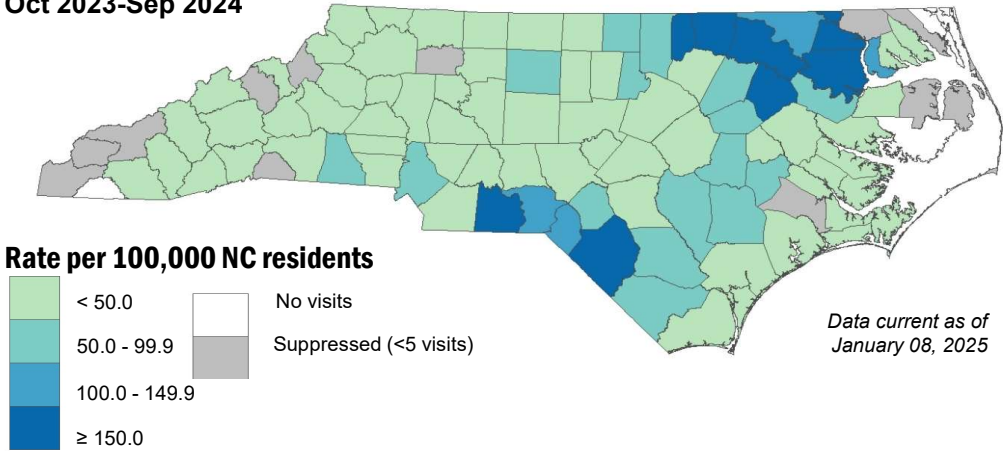
Intent coding in the ED visit data is inaccurate and in need of improvement for firearm injury tracking.

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.

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

Firearm-Related Injury ED Visit Rates by County of Residence: Oct 2023-Sep 2024



Counties with the Highest Annual Firearm-Related Injury ED Visit Rates: Oct 2023-Sep 2024

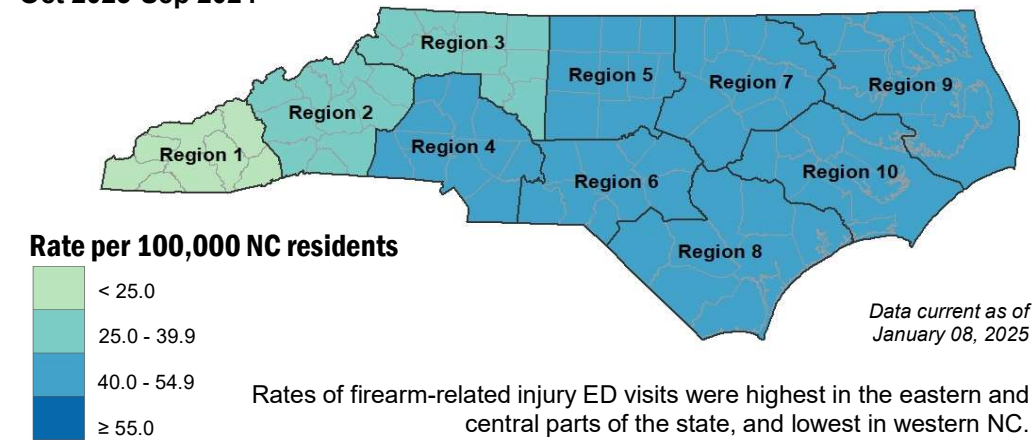
County	Count	Annual Rate [†]
Vance	90	212.8
Robeson	218	185.7
Anson	40	182.7
Bertie	29	171.4
Hertford	32	164.5
Edgecombe	78	159.7
Warren	30	159.3
Halifax	74	156.5
Scotland	46	133.8
Richmond	50	118.1
Statewide	4,780	44.1

Over half of non-suppressed counties (45/88) had annual rates lower than the state rate of 44.1 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 2023 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: Oct 2023-Sep 2024

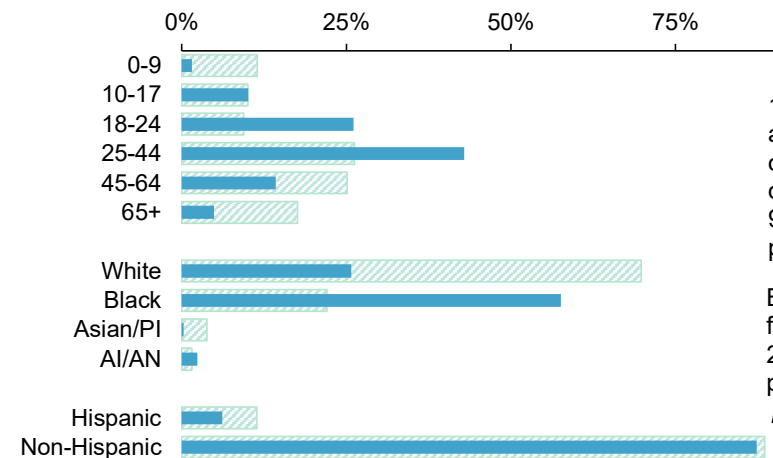


Rates of firearm-related injury ED visits were highest in the eastern and central parts of the state, and lowest in western NC.

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: July - September 2024

- NC US Census Population Estimates*
- NC Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits, Oct 2023-Sep 2024



18-24 and 25-44 year olds accounted for 26% and 43% of firearm-related ED visits despite representing only 9% and 26% of the population, respectively.

Black residents accounted for 58% of ED visits but only 22% of the state's population.

Data current as of January 08, 2025

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>

