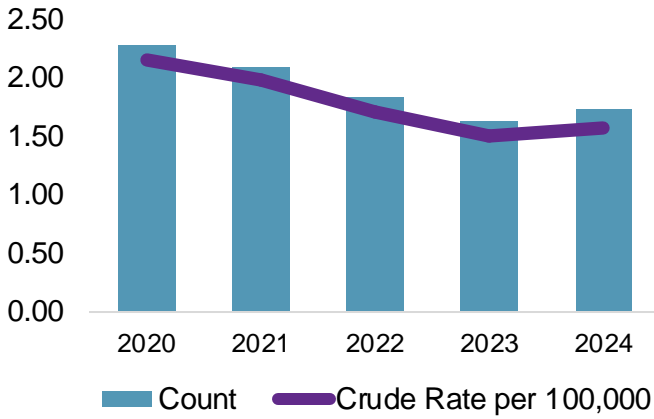


# Fireworks-Related Emergency Department Visits in NC 2020-2024



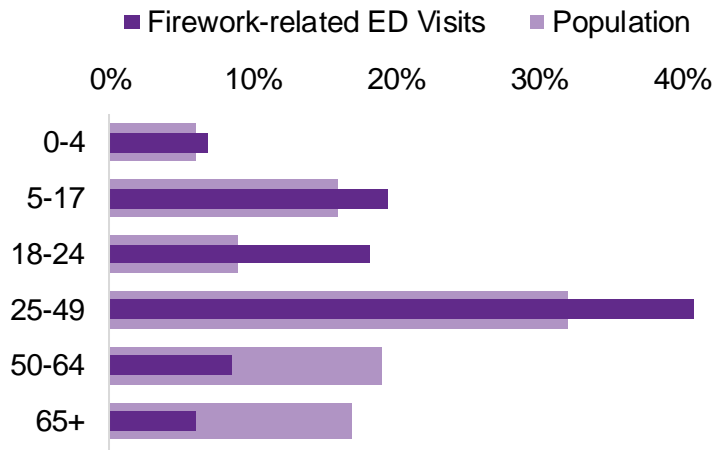
NC averaged 192 emergency department (ED) visits per year for fireworks-related injuries from 2020 to 2024, with the peak in 2020 at 229 ED visits.

**72%** occur in **July**  
**64%** are by **males**



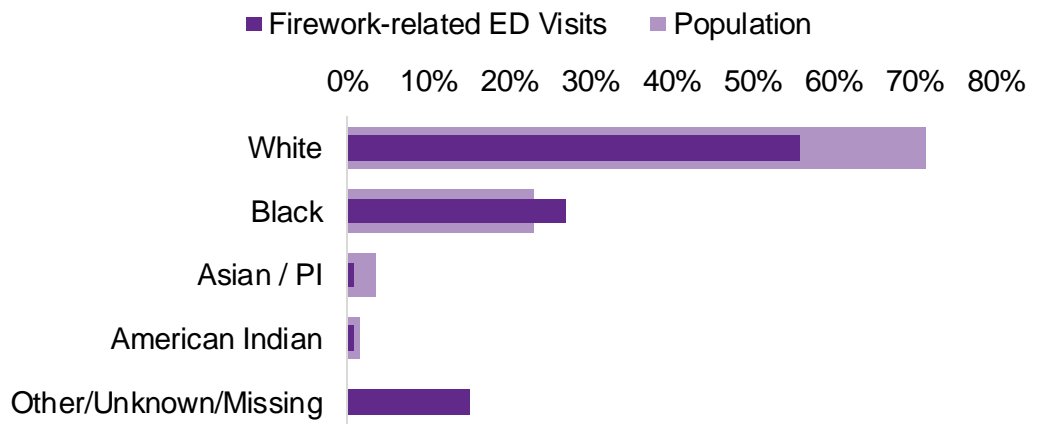
## ED Visits by Age Group

18-24 year-olds make up 9% of the NC population and 18% of fireworks-related ED visits. Those aged 25-49 make up 32% of the NC population and 41% of firework-related ED visits. 5-17 year-olds make up 16% of the population and 20% of fireworks-related ED visits.



## ED Visits by Race Category

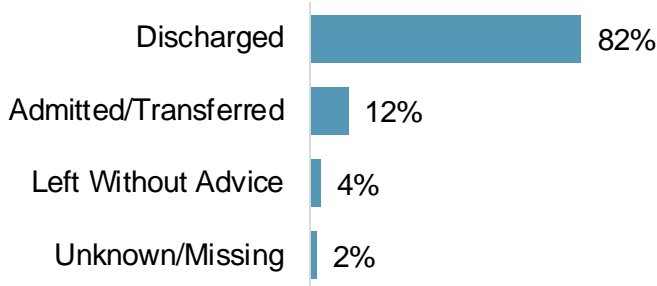
27% of fireworks-related ED visits are among Black patients compared to a population proportion of 23%. Note that 15% of ED visits cannot be compared accurately to the NC population by race category.



# North Carolina Injury & Violence Prevention Branch

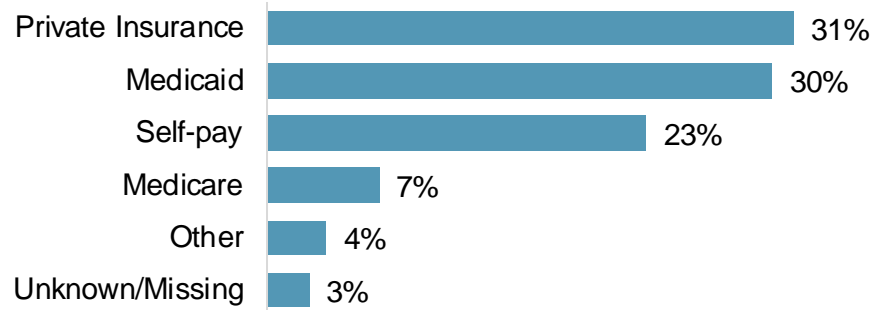
## Disposition

More than 1 in 10 firework injuries required hospitalization during this time.



## Insurance Coverage

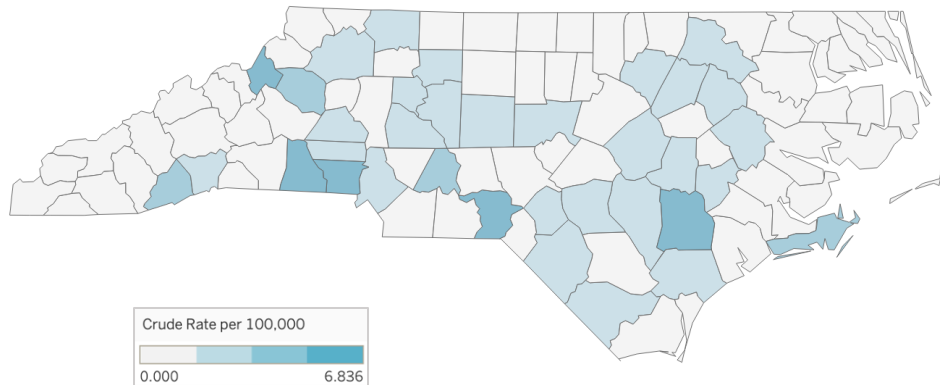
31% of fireworks-related ED visits were covered by private insurance followed by Medicaid (30%) and self-pay/uninsured (23%).



## County-level Crude Rates

9 counties have 0 fireworks-related ED visits from 2020-2024 and 64 counties have between 1 and 9. The table displays the counties with the highest crude ED visit rates, with a count of at least 5.

County	Count	Crude Rate
Gaston	81	6.8
Cleveland	31	6.2
Duplin	15	6.1
Avery	5	5.7
Richmond	12	5.7
Carteret	15	4.3
Caldwell	15	3.7
Transylvania	6	3.6
Stanly	11	3.5
Wilkes	11	3.3



## Injury Prevention Tips

- Never use fireworks while impaired
- Do not attempt to re-light fireworks
- Keep water handy
- Visit [cpsc.gov/fireworks](https://cpsc.gov/fireworks) for more tips

Source: Carolina Center for Health Informatics / [cchi.web.unc.edu](http://cchi.web.unc.edu) / Department of Emergency Medicine, UNC Chapel Hill  
 NC Division of Public Health / [publichealth.nc.gov](http://publichealth.nc.gov) / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit  
 NC DETECT / <https://ncdetect.org>

State of North Carolina / Department of Health and Human Services / [ncdhhs.gov](http://ncdhhs.gov)  
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