

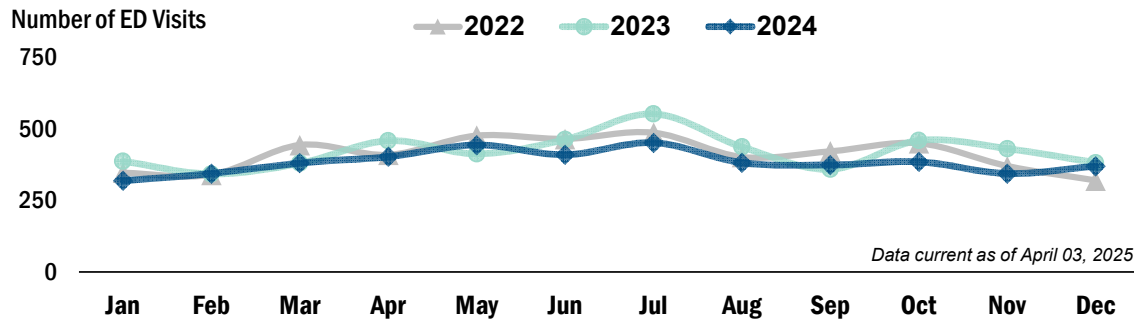
# Firearm-Related Emergency Department Visits in North Carolina

## Quarter 4: October - December 2024

There were **1,099** firearm-related ED visits from Oct-Dec 2024 compared to **1,273** from Oct-Dec 2023

Firearm-related injury ED visits decreased from October - December 2024.

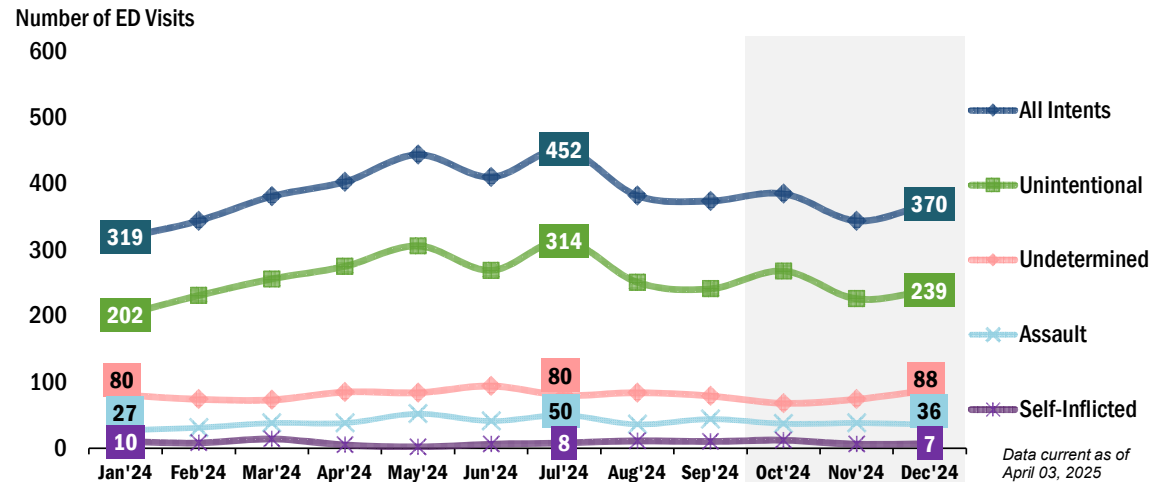
Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits by Month: 2022-2024



The number of firearm-related injury ED visits was lower in Quarter 4, 2024, compared to Quarter 4, 2023.

Most firearm-related injury ED visits (67%) from October - December 2024 were for unintentional injuries.

Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits by Intent: Jan 2024-Dec 2024



Unintentional firearm-related injury ED visits decreased during the current quarter (Oct-Dec 2024), while firearm-related injuries of other intents remained similar to previous quarters.

County-Level Groups with Significant Increases in Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits in Q4 2024 vs. Prior 3-Year Average

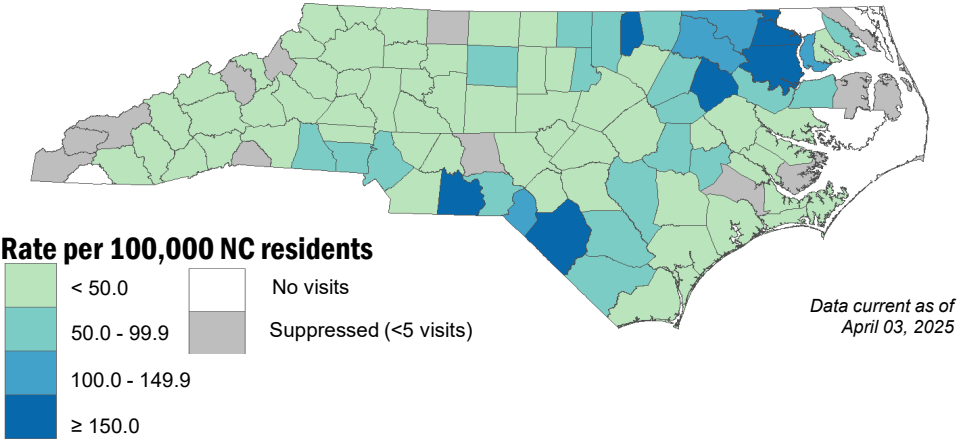
County	Group	# ED Visits Q4 2024	Percent Increase
Alexander	Male	7	250%
	Total Visits	7	250%
	Non-Hispanic	6	200%
Craven	Black	13	225%
Johnston	Female	6	500%
	Ages 45-64	7	367%
Mecklenburg	Other	40	471%
Pender	Non-Hispanic	7	367%
	Total Visits	7	250%
Union	White	11	450%
	Non-Hispanic	20	233%
Wilkes	Non-Hispanic	10	300%
	Male	10	300%
	Total Visits	10	300%
Yadkin	Ages 45-64	7	250%

Note: Significant is defined as an observation count for Q4, 2024 that is > 2 standard deviations from the mean of observations for Q4 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 42 county-level groups with significant increases in firearm-injury ED visits.

# Rates of firearm-related injury ED visits were highest in Bertie, Vance, and Hertford counties.

Firearm-Related Injury ED Visit Rates by County of Residence: Jan 2024-Dec 2024



Counties with the Highest Annual Firearm-Related Injury ED Visit Rates: Jan 2024-Dec 2024

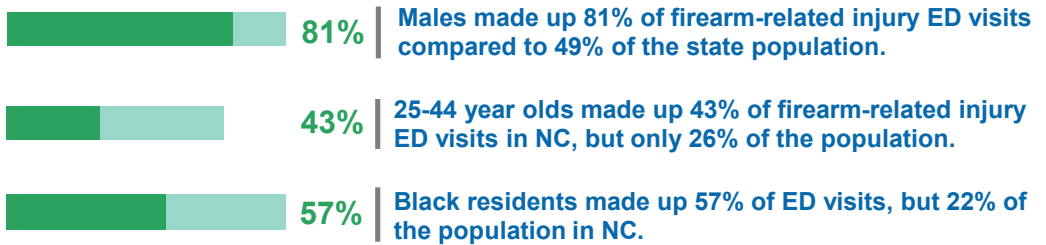
County	Count	Annual Rate <sup>†</sup>
Bertie	34	200.9
Vance	77	182.0
Hertford	32	164.5
Anson	35	159.8
Robeson	187	159.3
Edgecombe	76	155.6
Scotland	51	148.4
Halifax	66	139.5
Northampton	23	137.6
Chowan	14	100.8
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>4,608</b>	<b>42.5</b>

More than half of non-suppressed counties (48/88) had annual rates lower than the state rate of 42.5 firearm-related ED visits per 100,000 residents. 10 counties 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, adults ages 25-44, and Black residents experienced a higher than expected burden of firearm-related injury ED visits.

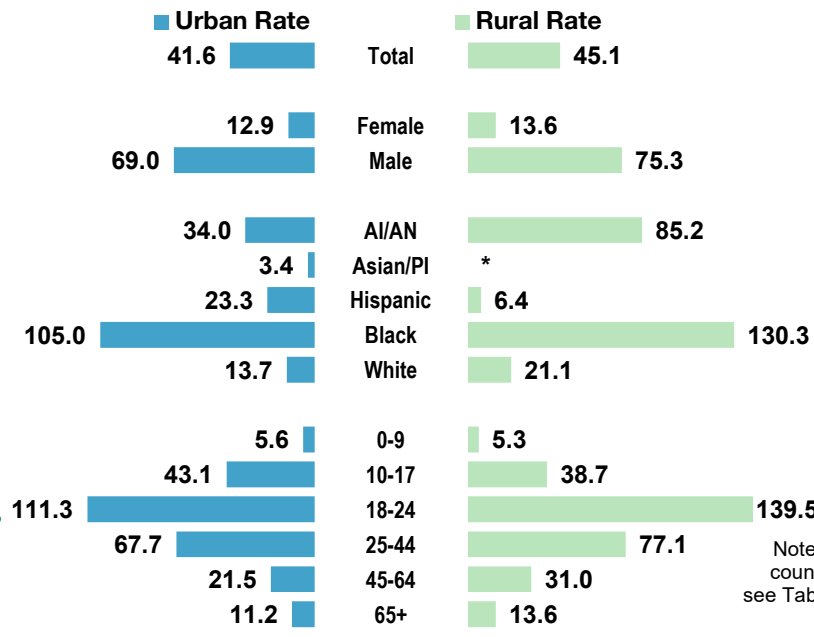
Percentage of Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits by Demographic Group: Jan 2024-Dec 2024



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: Jan 2024-Dec 2024



American Indian residents experienced the greatest difference in rates of firearm injury ED visits by rurality, with rural residents experiencing a rate 250% higher than urban residents.

Residents ages 10-17, ages 0-9 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 the home also stored them unlocked.<sup>1</sup> Three 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>

