

Firearm-Related Emergency Department Visits in North Carolina

Quarter 2: April - June 2025

There were **1,098** firearm-related ED visits from Apr-Jun 2025 compared to **1,257** from Apr-Jun 2024

Some counties and groups experienced a significant increase in firearm-related injury ED visits during April - June 2025.

County-Level Groups with Significant Increases in Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits in Q2 2025 vs. Prior 3-Year Average

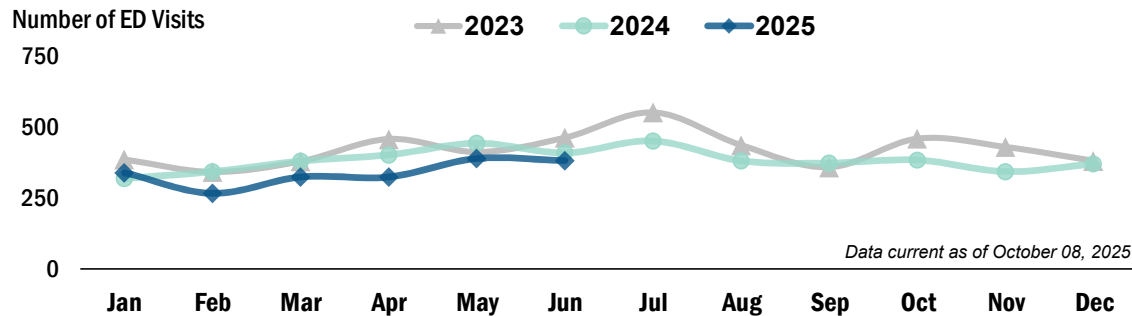
County	Group	# ED Visits Q2 2025	Percent Increase
Anson	Black	10	233%
	Non-Hispanic	10	150%
Burke	Male	10	300%
	Non-Hispanic	10	186%
	Total Visits	11	175%
Cabarrus	White	13	225%
Catawba	Female	7	250%
Lee	Total Visits	13	225%
Lenoir	Ages 25-44	9	350%
McDowell	Non-Hispanic	11	340%
	Total Visits	11	340%
Northampton	Male	8	300%
	Black	13	333%
	Non-Hispanic	14	180%
	Total Visits	14	155%

Note: Significant is defined as an observation count for Q2, 2025 that is > 2 standard deviations from the mean of observations for Q2 of 2022-2024.

The table is limited to top 15 county-level groups with the highest percent increase from the mean. There were a total of 41 county-level groups with significant increases in firearm-injury ED visits.

Firearm-related injury ED visits increased from April - June 2025.

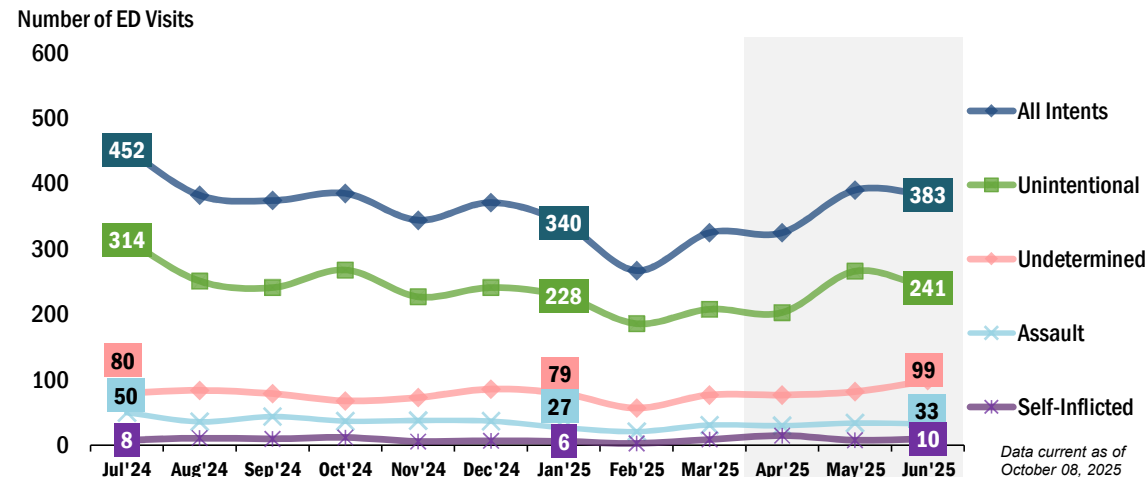
Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits by Month: 2023-2025



The number of firearm-related injury ED visits was lower in Quarter 2, 2025, compared to Quarter 2 of 2023 and 2024.

Most firearm-related injury ED visits (65%) from April - June 2025 were for unintentional injuries.

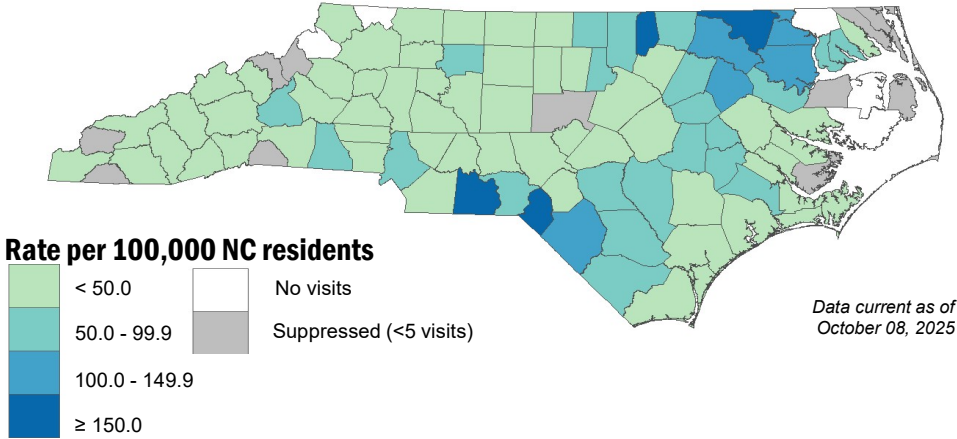
Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits by Intent: Jul 2024-Jun 2025



Unintentional firearm-related injury ED visits increased during the current quarter (Apr-Jun 2025), while firearm-related injuries of other intents remained similar to previous quarters.

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

Firearm-Related Injury ED Visit Rates by County of Residence:
Jul 2024-Jun 2025



Counties with the Highest Annual Firearm-Related Injury ED Visit Rates: Jul 2024-Jun 2025

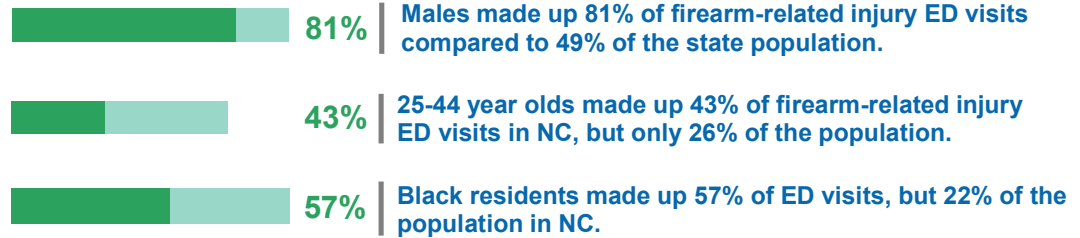
County	Count	Annual Rate [†]
Northampton	37	223.2
Vance	87	205.5
Anson	41	182.8
Scotland	61	180.0
Bertie	25	147.6
Robeson	175	147.5
Hertford	27	140.9
Halifax	66	140.4
Edgecombe	53	107.9
Bladen	29	97.4
Statewide	4,338	39.3

More than half of non-suppressed counties (48/90) had annual rates lower than the state rate of 39.3 firearm-related ED visits per 100,000 residents. 9 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, adults ages 25-44, and Black residents experienced a higher than expected burden of firearm-related injury ED visits.

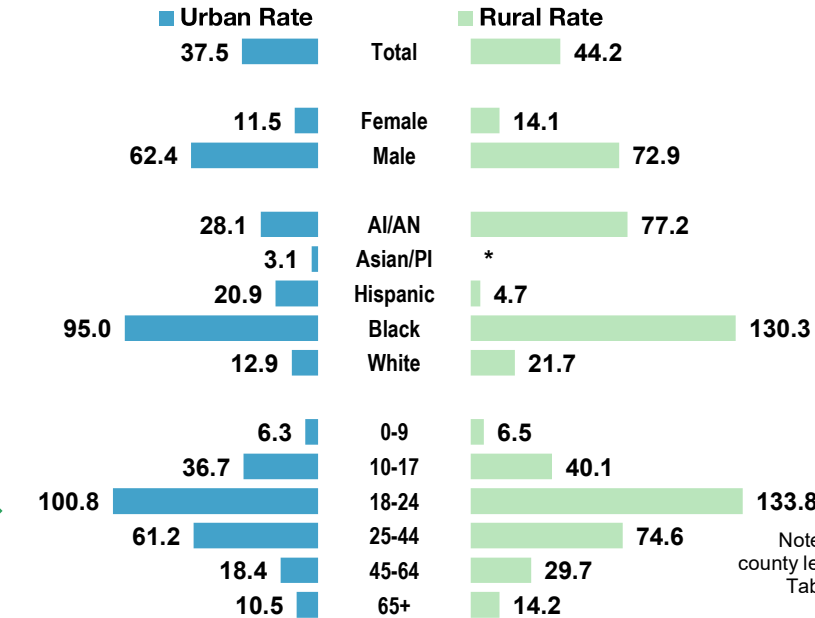
Percentage of Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits by Demographic Group:
Jul 2024-Jun 2025



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: Jul 2024-Jun 2025



American Indian residents experienced the greatest difference in rates of firearm injury ED visits by rurality, with rural residents experiencing a rate 2.7 times higher than urban residents.

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.¹ Three 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 BRFS (2021); ² Baxley & Miller (2006)

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

