

# Firearm-Related Emergency Department Visits in North Carolina

## Quarter 1: January - March 2025

There were **931** firearm-related ED visits from Jan-Mar 2025 compared to **1,044** from Jan-Mar 2024

Some counties and groups experienced a significant increase in firearm-related injury ED visits for January - March 2025.

### County-Level Groups with Significant Increases in Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits in Q1 2025 vs. Prior 3-Year Average

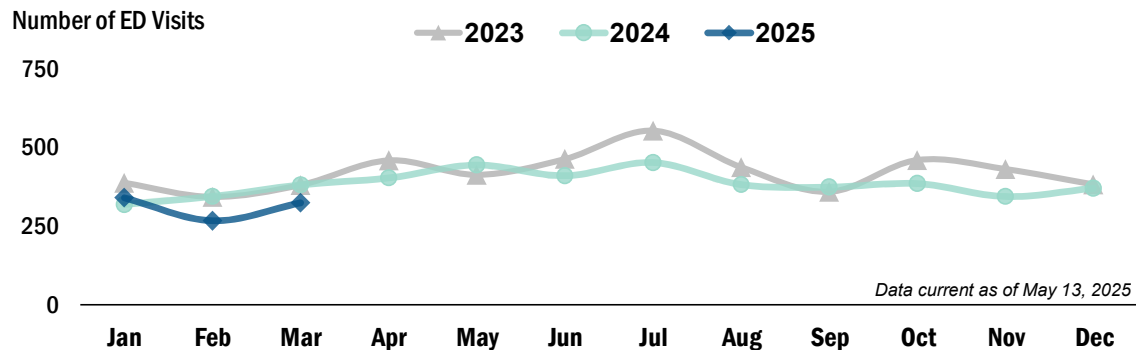
County	Group	Number of Visits	Percent Increase
Anson	Ages 25-44	6	+300%
Beaufort	Male	8	+433%
	Other	6	+500%
Cabarrus	Ages 25-44	10	+150%
	Non-Hispanic	17	+143%
Cabarrus	Male	18	+112%
Forsyth	Ages 65+	6	+200%
McDowell	White	6	+200%
	Total Visits	6	+200%
Mecklenburg	Other	37	+311%
Northampton	Non-Hispanic	7	+367%
	Black	6	+200%
Robeson	Ages 45-64	19	+245%
Rowan	Ages 18-24	13	+333%
Union	Ages 18-24	6	+500%

Note: Significant is defined as an observation count for Q1, 2025 that is > 2 standard deviations from the mean of observations for Q1 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 30 county-level groups with significant increases in firearm-injury ED visits.

Firearm-related injury ED visits decreased from January - March 2025.

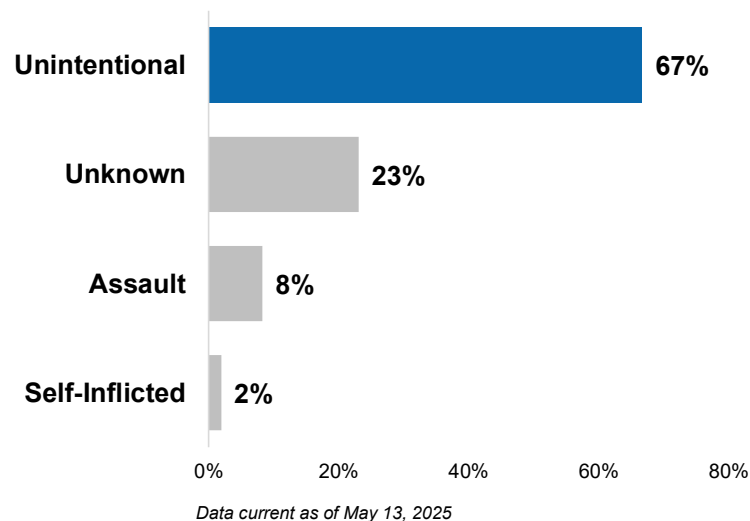
Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits by Month: 2023-2025



Data current as of May 13, 2025

The number of firearm-related injury ED visits in January - March 2025 was similar to the number of visits in Quarter 1 of previous years.

Most firearm-related injury ED visits (67%) from January - March 2025 were coded as unintentional injuries.



Data current as of May 13, 2025

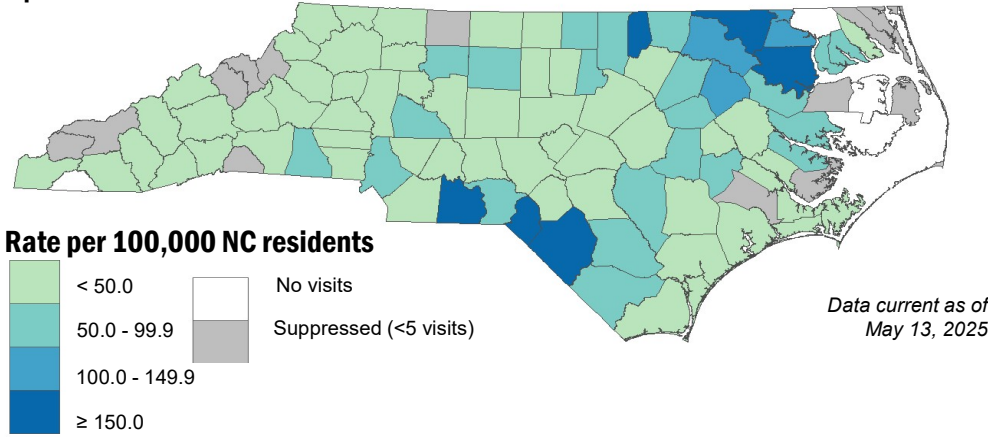
Intent coding in the ED visit data is inaccurate and in need of improvement for firearm injury tracking.

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, Bertie, and Anson counties.

Firearm-Related Injury ED Visit Rates by County of Residence:  
Apr 2024-Mar 2025



### Counties with the Highest Annual Firearm-Related Injury ED Visit Rates: Apr 2024-Mar 2025

County	Count	Annual Rate <sup>†</sup>
Vance	85	200.9
Bertie	30	177.3
Anson	37	169.0
Northampton	28	167.5
Robeson	182	155.1
Scotland	52	151.3
Hertford	29	149.1
Halifax	70	148.0
Edgecombe	63	129.0
Richmond	40	94.5
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>4,495</b>	<b>41.5</b>

Over half of non-suppressed counties (51/87) had annual rates lower than the state rate of 41.5 firearm-related ED visits per 100,000 residents. Twelve 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 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.

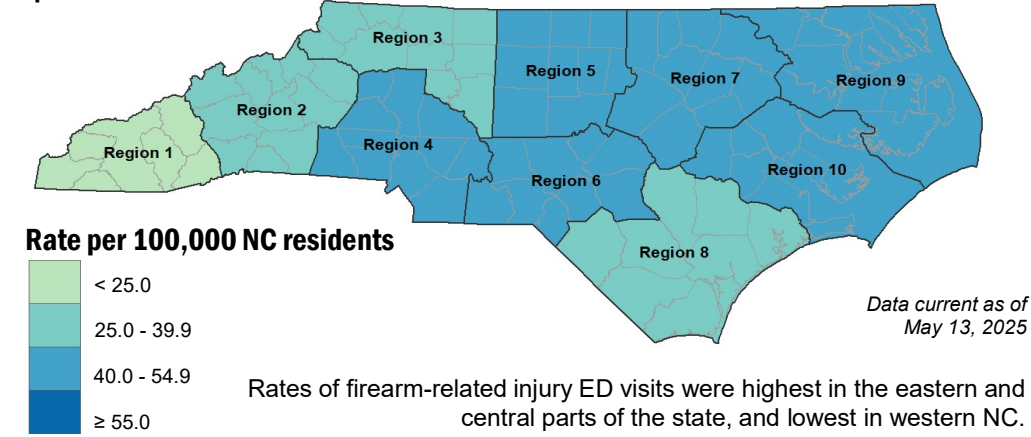
## Follow best practices for safe gun storage

In homes with guns, one in three 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](https://ncsafe.org/safestorage)



## Public Health Region 6 experienced the highest firearm-related injury ED visit rates over the last 12 months.

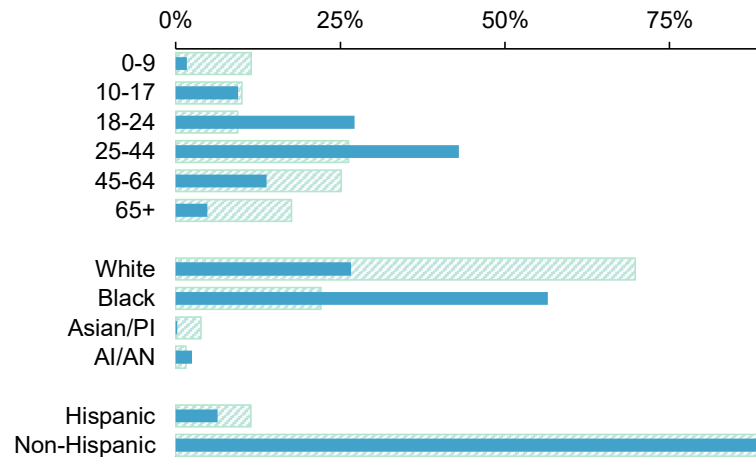
Firearm-Related Injury ED Visit Rates by NC Public Health Region:  
Apr 2024-Mar 2025



## 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 2025

- NC U.S. Census Population Estimates\*
- NC Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits, Apr 2024-Mar 2025



18-24 and 25-44 year olds accounted for 27% and 43% of firearm-related ED visits despite representing only 9% and 26% of the population, respectively.

Black residents accounted for 57% of ED visits but only 22% of the state's population.

Data current as of May 13, 2025

Note: PI (Pacific Islander); AI/AN (American Indian/Alaskan Native)

Racial categories changed in the 2021 U.S. 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.

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

