

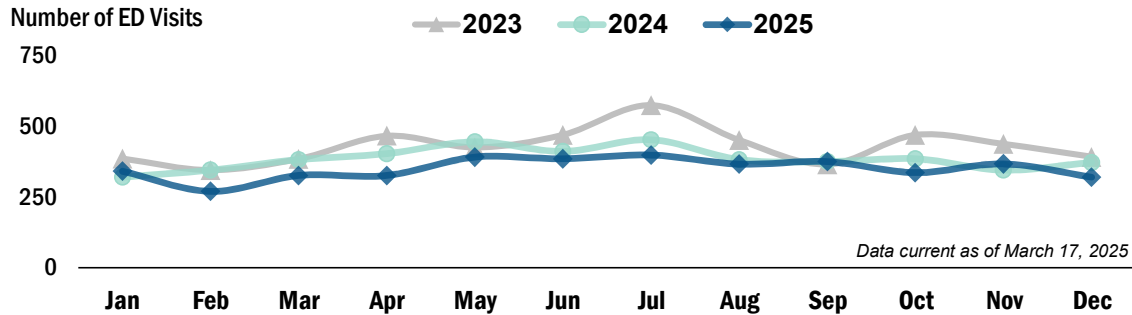
# Firearm-Related Emergency Department Visits in North Carolina

## Quarter 4: October - December 2025

There were **1,020** firearm-related ED visits from Oct-Dec 2025 compared to **1,099** from Oct-Dec 2024

Firearm-related injury ED visits decreased from October - December 2025.

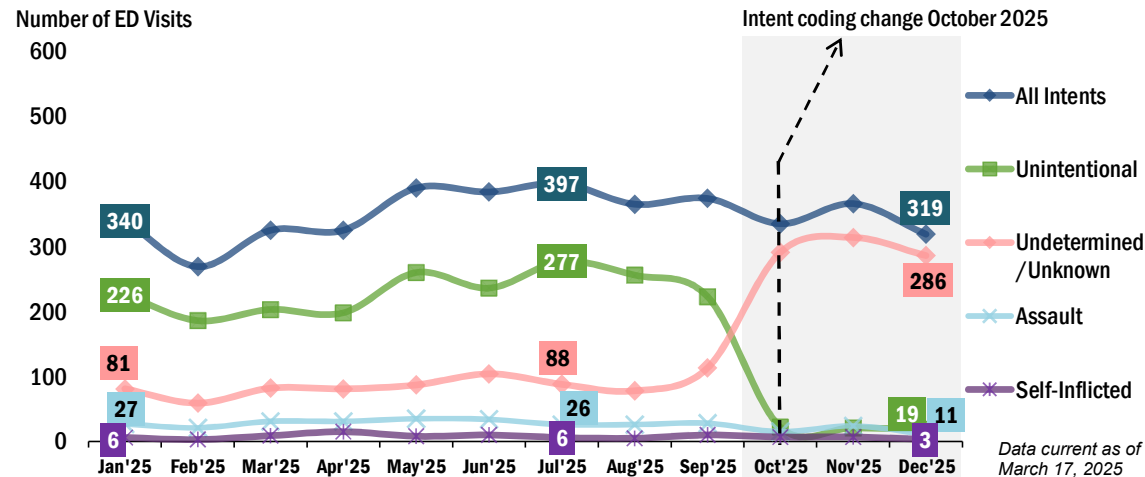
Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits by Month: 2023-2025



The number of firearm-related injury ED visits was lower in Quarter 4, 2025, compared to Quarter 4, 2024.

Coding guidelines for firearm injury intent changed on October 1, 2025 from a default of unintentional to undetermined.

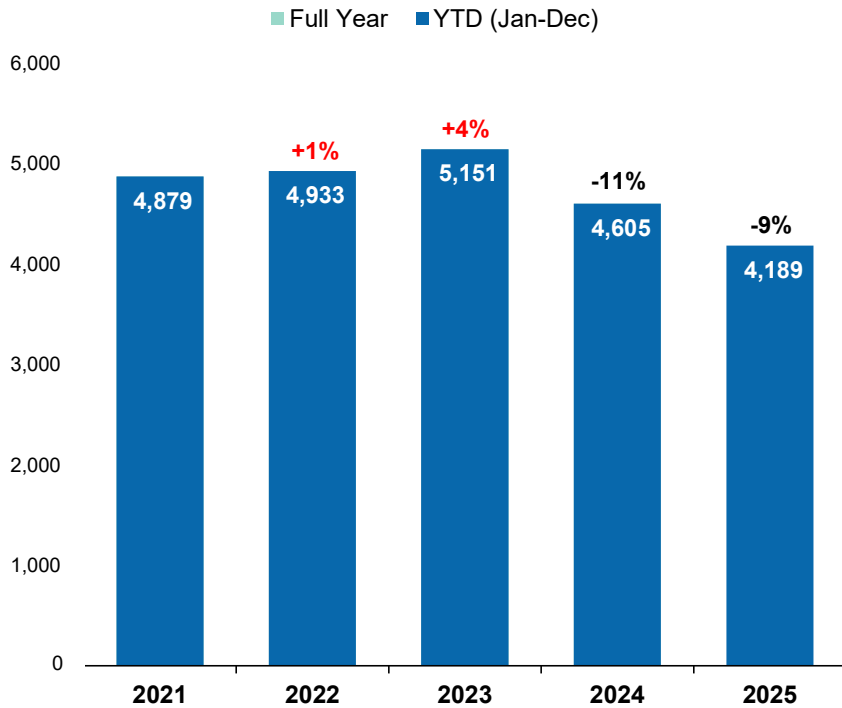
Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits by Intent: Jan 2025-Dec 2025



Due to coding changes, undetermined/unknown firearm-related injury ED visits were the most frequent during the current quarter (Oct-Dec 2025), while unintentional firearm-related injuries dropped because they are no longer the default intent.

Total Firearm-related ED visits in 2025 decreased by 9% compared to 2024.

Firearm-Related Emergency Department Visits: 2021-2025\*

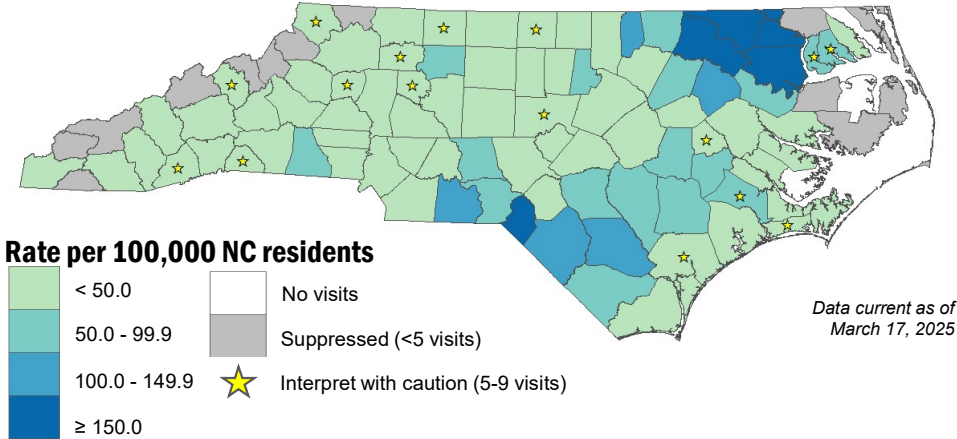


YTD: Year to Date  
Percent change: YTD total compared to YTD total of previous year

\*Provisional Data: 2025

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

Firearm-Related Injury ED Visit Rates by County of Residence:  
Jan 2025-Dec 2025



### Counties with the Highest Annual Firearm-Related Injury ED Visit Rates: Jan 2025-Dec 2025

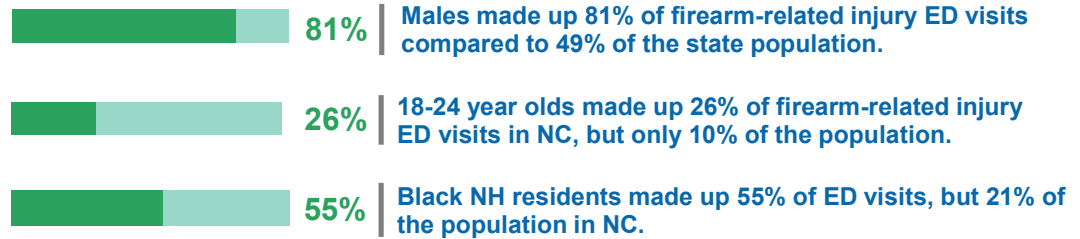
County	Count	Annual Rate <sup>†</sup>
Hertford	43	224.3
Northampton	36	217.1
Halifax	82	174.5
Bertie	28	165.3
Scotland	56	165.2
Vance	63	148.8
Robeson	172	145.0
Edgecombe	61	124.2
Anson	27	120.4
Bladen	31	104.1
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>4,189</b>	<b>37.9</b>

More than half of non-suppressed counties (44/87) had annual rates lower than the state rate of 37.9 firearm-related ED visits per 100,000 residents. Ten 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 2024 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, young adults (18-24), and Black NH residents experienced a higher than expected burden of firearm-related injury ED visits.

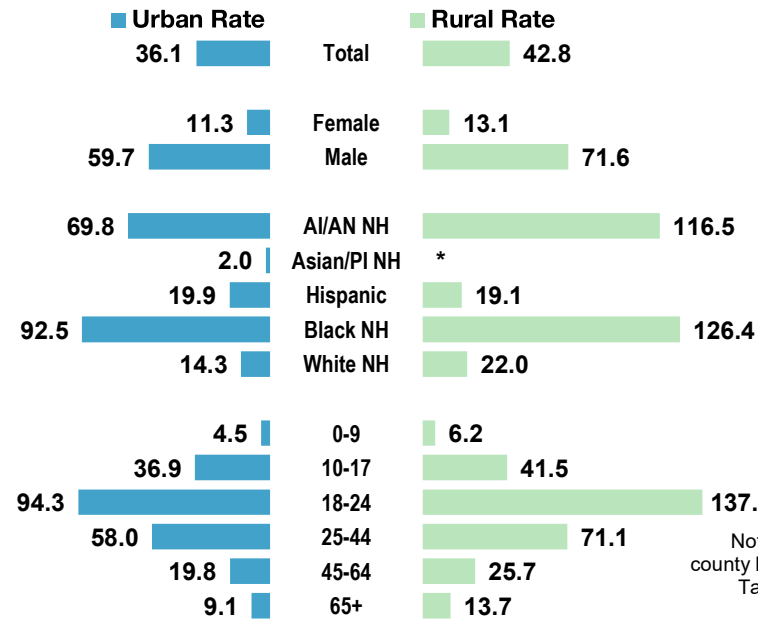
Percentage of Firearm-Related Injury ED Visits by Demographic Group:  
Jan 2025-Dec 2025



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: Jan 2025-Dec 2025



American Indian non-Hispanic residents experienced the greatest difference in rates of firearm injury ED visits by rurality, with rural residents experiencing a rate 1.7 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

45% of firearm owners who reported having loaded firearms around the home stored them unlocked. Three out of 4 children who live in a household with a firearm know where the firearm is stored, including children under 10.

NC BRFSS (2024); Baxley & Miller (2006)

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

