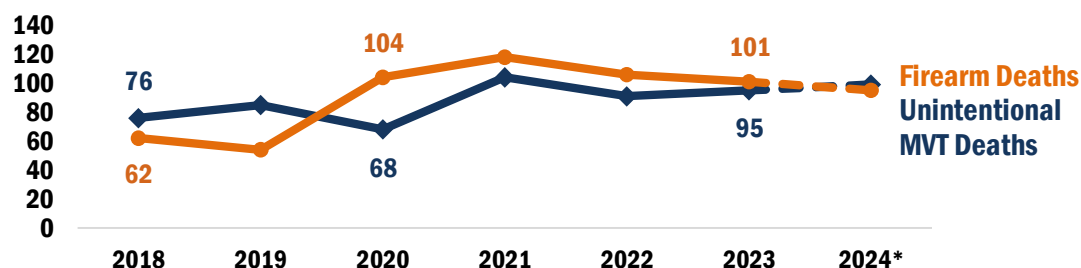


Note: some data are provisional and subject to change

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Child **firearm deaths** surpassed the number of child deaths from **motor vehicle traffic (MVT) crashes** for the first time in NC in 2020 and remain a leading cause of child injury death.

Number of Child Deaths



More than 100 children ages 0-17 died from a firearm injury in NC in 2023.
Child firearm injury deaths increased 63% from 2018 to 2023.

* 2024 Death Certificate (DC) data are provisional and subject to change, data as of 7/9/2025; Limited to NC residents ages 0-17
Source: NC-VDRS, 2016-2023; NC State Center for Health Statistics, DC Data, 2024*

Firearm deaths are preventable

Storing firearms safely, locked and unloaded, can greatly reduce the risk of firearm-related injury and death.



1/3 of youth suicides and unintentional deaths are prevented by securing firearms.

Monuteaux, Azrael, Miller, JAMA Pediatr. 2019



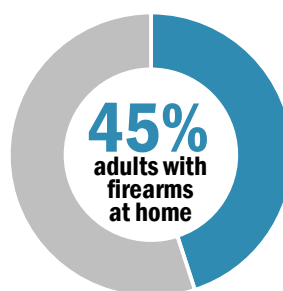
Storing ammunition in a locked location separate from firearms can reduce the risk of firearm injury, especially in households with children.

More than 1.5 Million (42%) of NC adults have a firearm in or around the home.

Nearly half of adults store their firearm(s) **loaded** and 1 in 4 adults store their firearm(s) **both loaded and unlocked**.

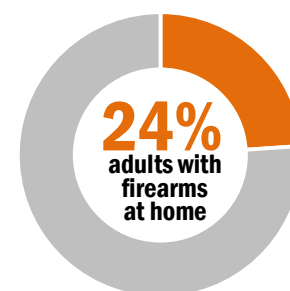
Firearms Stored

Loaded



Firearms Stored

Loaded & Unlocked



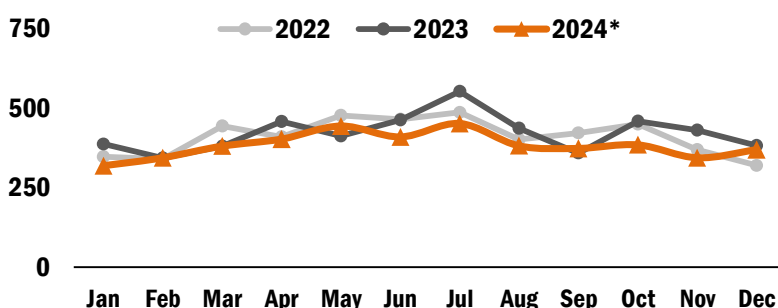
Firearm deaths are just the tip of the iceberg

For every 1 firearm death, there were 2 emergency department (ED) visits coded for firearm injury in NC.

NC-FASTER (Firearm Injury Surveillance Through Emergency Rooms) provides surveillance data in near real-time on ED visits for nonfatal firearm injuries based on diagnosis codes and free-text chief complaint information.

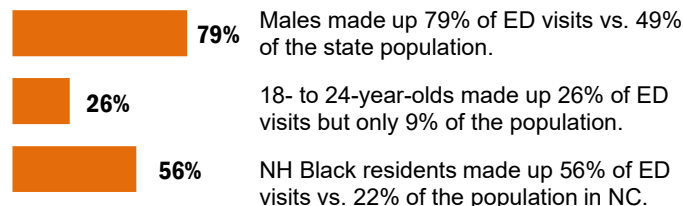
2024* Firearm injury ED visits slightly decreased from 2023, but remain overall similar to previous years.

Number of NC-FASTER Firearm ED Visits by Month, 2022-2024*



* 2024 NC FASTER ED visit data are provisional and subject to change, data as of 7/14/2025;
Source: NC DETECT ED visit data, 2022-2024*, Firearm Injury - All Intents CDC V2

In 2024, males, young adults (18-24), and NH Black residents experienced a higher than expected burden of firearm-related injury ED visits.



NC-FASTER quarterly fact sheets with provisional data on nonfatal firearm injury ED visits are available [here](#) on the NC DETECT website.

Injury and Violence Prevention Branch Resources

<https://injuryfreenc.dph.ncdhhs.gov/safestorage/index.htm>

<https://injuryfreenc.dph.ncdhhs.gov/preventionResources/Suicide.htm>

National Resources

The Suicide Prevention Resource Center: <https://sprc.org/>

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention: <https://afsp.org/>

State Resources & Partners

NC Office of Violence Prevention

<https://www.ncdps.gov/about-dps/current-initiatives/north-carolina-office-violence-prevention>

NC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

<https://www.ocme.dhhs.nc.gov/>

Division of Child and Family Wellbeing

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/child-and-family-well-being>



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Public Health
Injury and Violence Prevention Branch