

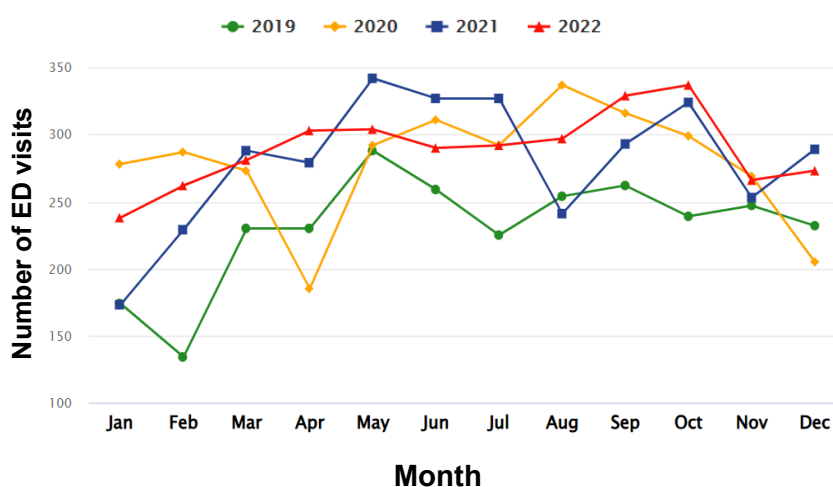
Mississippi-Advancing Violence Epidemiology in Real Time (MS-AVERT)



YOUTH VIOLENCE INJURY EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS IN MISSISSIPPI, 2019-2022

Through the CDC's Advancing Violence Epidemiology (AVERT) grant, near real-time injury data from the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE) at the BioSense electronic surveillance system are available. Youth violence ED visits include emergency department visits among youth ages 10–24 years identified by the CDC youth violence syndrome definition. This definition is intended to capture visits related to interpersonal violence involving youth and excludes some other types of violence. This document summarizes the statewide emergency department (ED) visits for a youth violence injury from 2019 through 2022 in Mississippi. The aim is to provide the information describes the impact of youth violence injury, including the trend of injury by year/month and home-facility distance, and the frequency of injury by day of week and time block, age, sex, race and ethnicity, and geographic locations. It is designed to support the dedicated efforts of those striving to prevent violence injuries and to assist individuals and communities in recovering from the profound effects of these preventable tragedies.

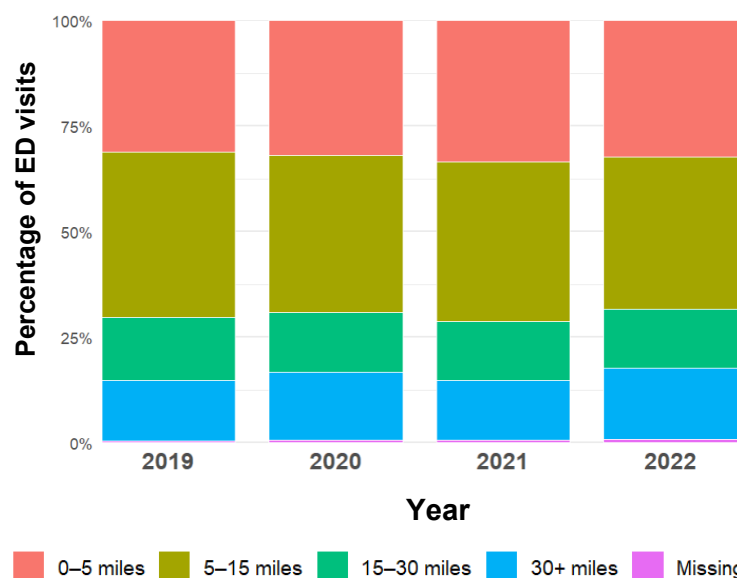
Youth Violence Injury ED visits by month, 2019-2022



- Youth violence ED visits generally increased from winter to late spring and remained high through summer and early fall, indicating higher burden from May through October.
- Visits dropped sharply in April 2020, then rebounded in May, possibly reflecting the early COVID-19 pandemic, including shutdowns and changes in emergency department utilization.
- Compared with 2019, monthly visit counts were generally higher in 2021 and 2022, with 2022 showing continued high levels from spring through fall and peaking in October.

Youth Violence Injury ED visits by Home-Facility Distance Categories, 2019-2022

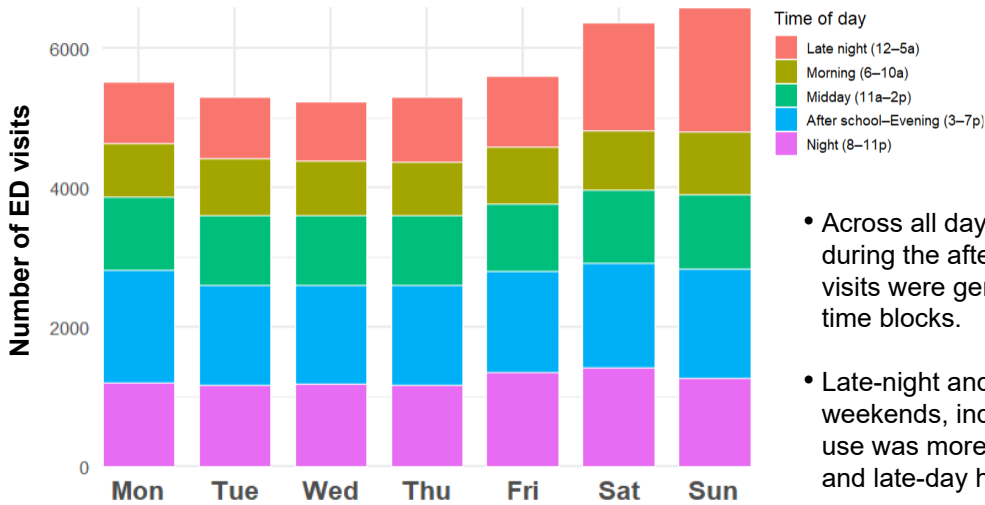
- Across 2019–2022, the largest share of youth violence ED visits occurred among patients living 5–15 miles from the treating facility, followed by those living 0–5 miles away.
- Visits involving longer travel distances were less common, with 15–30 mile and 30+ mile categories together accounting for a smaller proportion of visits each year.
- The distribution of home-facility distance remained fairly stable over time, although 2022 showed a slight increase in the proportion of visits among patients traveling 30 or more miles.



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Youth Violence Injury ED visits by Day of Week and Time Block, 2019-2022



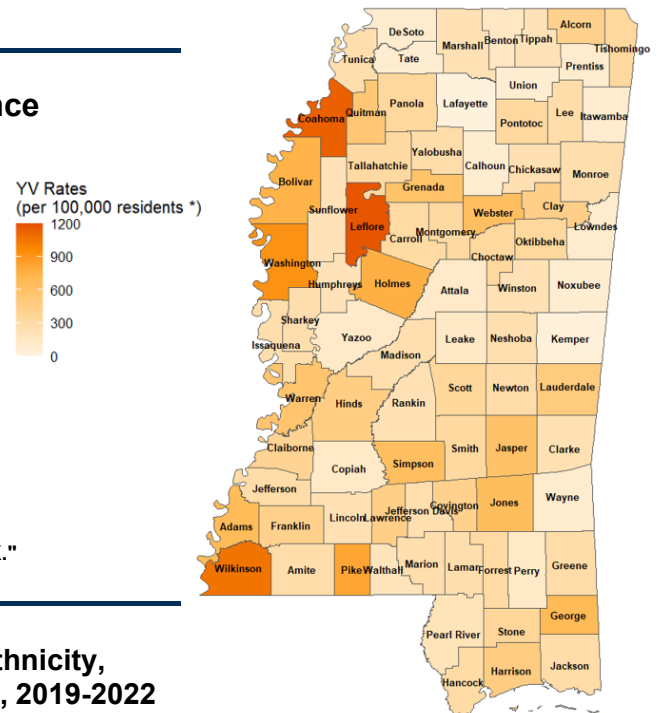
- Youth violence ED visits were highest on weekends, and lowest during the middle of the week, especially Wednesday, indicating a clear increase in visit volume at week's end.

- Across all days, the largest numbers of visits occurred during the after school–evening period, while morning visits were generally the lowest compared with other time blocks.
- Late-night and evening visits increased notably on weekends, indicating that youth violence-related ED use was more concentrated during weekend nighttime and late-day hours than weekdays.

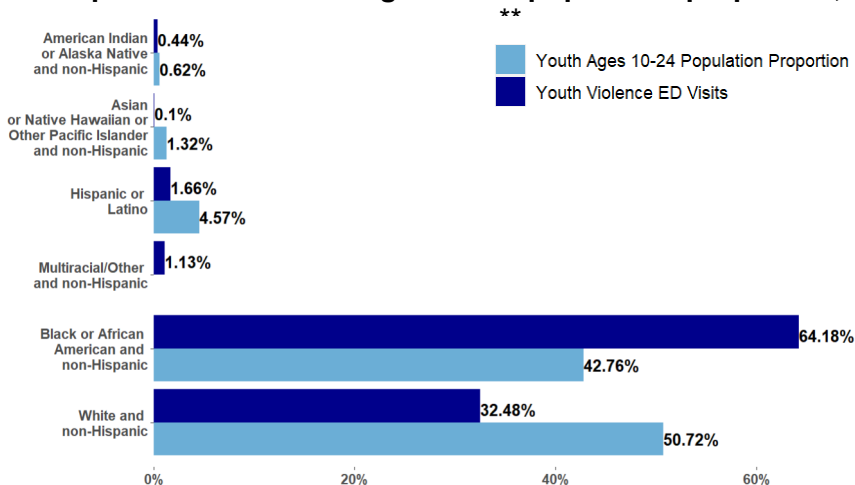
Population-based rates (per 100,000) of Youth Violence Injury ED visits by county, 2019-2022 *

- The 4-year rates (visits per 100,000 residents) for each county take into account each county's youth violence injury ED visits and the population of residents ages 10-24 years old living in that county.
- Higher crude rates were concentrated in several western Delta counties, including Leflore (1186), Coahoma (1145), Wilkinson (1064), and Washington (927), compared with counties in other regions.

Source: * Age group population data are from U.S. Census Bureau. "AGE AND SEX." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables.



Proportion of Youth Violence ED visits by Race and Ethnicity, compared to MS Youth Ages 10–24 population proportion, 2019-2022



- During the years 2019-2022, Black, non-Hispanic youth accounted for 64.18% of youth violence ED visits, substantially higher than their 42.76% share of Mississippi's youth population ages 10–24.

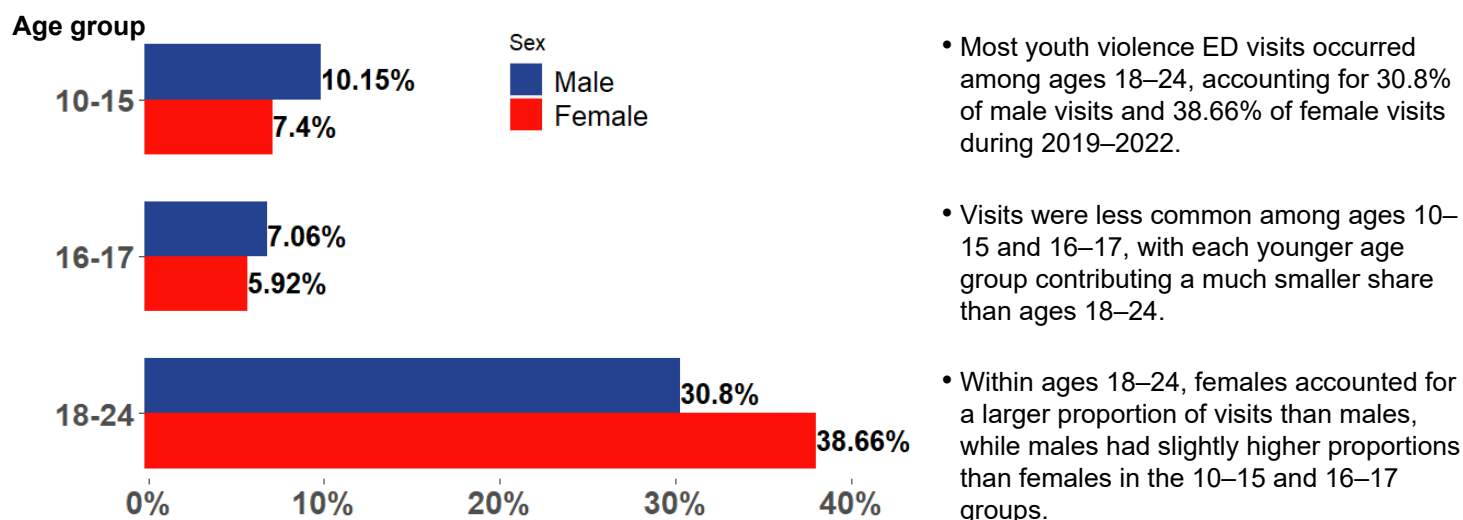
- White, non-Hispanic youth accounted for 32.48% of youth violence ED visits, lower than their 50.72% share of the Mississippi youth population ages 10–24.

Source: ** MS Ages 10-24 population proportions are from Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2023. Online. Available: <https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/>

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Youth Violence Injury ED visits by Age Group and Sex, 2019-2022



Notes and CDC Syndrome Definition of Youth Violence

- Definition: CDC Youth violence ED visits were identified from ESSENCE using the MS-AVERT youth violence syndrome definition for ages 10–24 years.
<https://knowledgerepository.syndromicsurveillance.org/cdc-youth-violence-v1>
- Exclusions: Visits related to sexual violence, intimate partner violence, emotional abuse, family violence, or child abuse/neglect by a parent or family member not meeting the youth violence definition were excluded.
- Note: ED syndrome data are preliminary and may change over time; counts reflect visits rather than unique persons.
- This fact sheet developed by staff in the Office of Violence and Injury Prevention at the Mississippi State Department of Health with funds from the Division of Violence Prevention in the CDC Injury Center.
- For detailed breakdowns of MS-AVERT emergency department visits: msdh.ms.gov/avert