

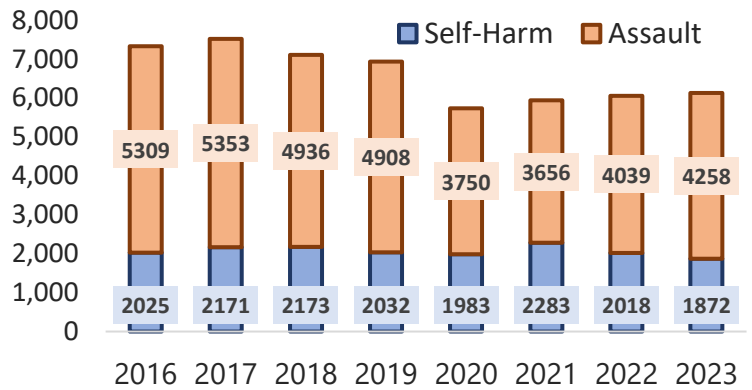
Injury Prevention: Intentional Injury-Related Emergency Department Visits among Kentuckians Aged 10–24

Adolescents and young adults aged 10–24 years of age are at risk for intentional injuries that may necessitate medical care. Intentional injuries are those purposely directed toward oneself (self-harm or self-inflicted) or to others (assault).

From 2016–2023, **52,766** emergency department (ED) visits¹ occurred among youth² for **intentional injuries**; this is an average of 6,596 per year. Among which, 69% were assault- and 31% were self-harm-related injuries.

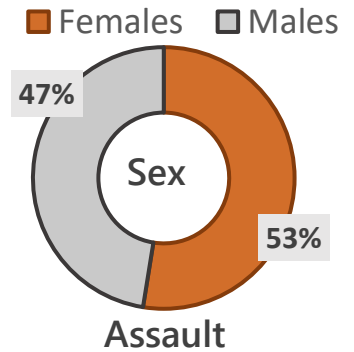
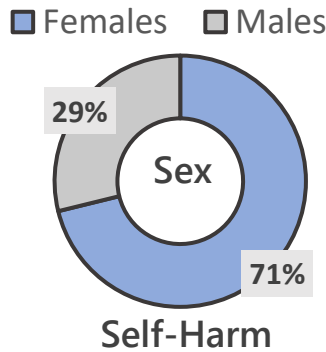
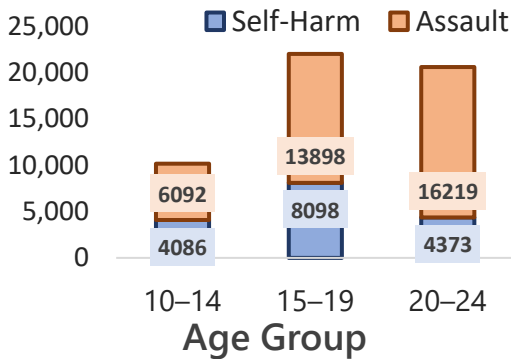
\$ The median cost of an ED visit was \$2,724 for self-harm injuries and \$1,751 for assault injuries.

Kentucky Youth Intentional Injury-Related ED Visits, 2016–2023*



*The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic that started in 2020 should be considered when interpreting data and trend analyses.

Kentucky Youth Intentional Injury-Related ED Visits by Age Group and Sex, 2016–2023



Location³

The majority of Kentucky youth sought ED care for intentional injuries in metro counties:

- **57%** of self-harm injuries occurred among those living in metro locations
- **63%** of assault injuries occurred among those living in metro locations

¹ED visits represent encounters of care and could be greater than the number of individual patients treated in Kentucky.

²In this brief, youth refers to Kentucky residents 10–24 years of age in this brief.

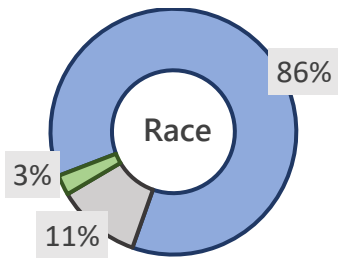
³Location is defined as metro (counties with a population of 50,000 or higher) and nonmetro (those with less than 50,000 in an urban cluster population) per the National Center for Health Statistics urban-rural classification.

Data source: Kentucky Outpatient Services Database, Office of Data and Analytics. November 2024.

Data are provisional and subject to change.

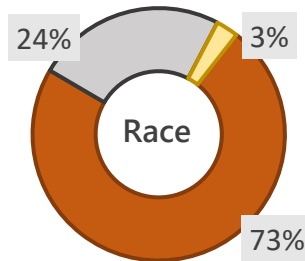
Kentucky Youth Intentional Injury-Related ED Visits by Race and Ethnicity, 2016–2023

Self-Harm



■ White ■ Black ■ Other

Assault

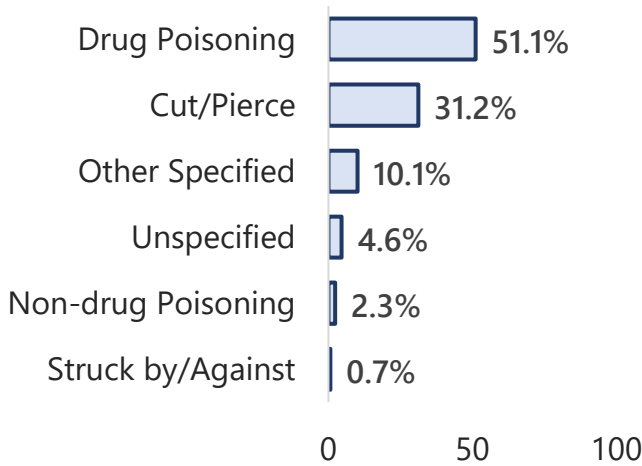


■ White ■ Black ■ Other

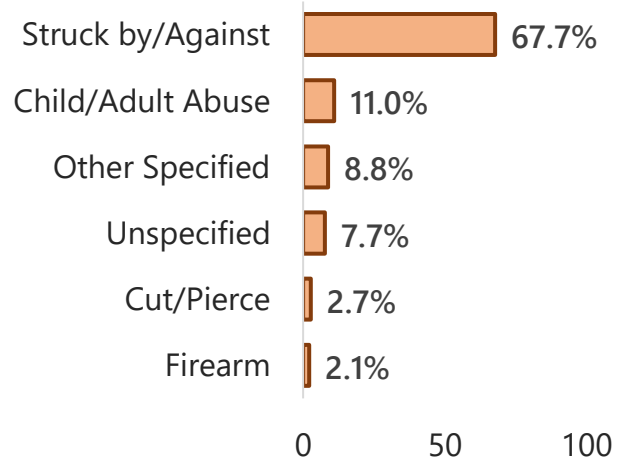
The majority of those aged 10–24 years old seeking care at a Kentucky ED due to intentional self-harm or assault were White (86% and 73%, respectively).

Kentucky Youth Intentional Injury-Related ED Visits by Nature of Injury, 2016–2023

Self-Harm

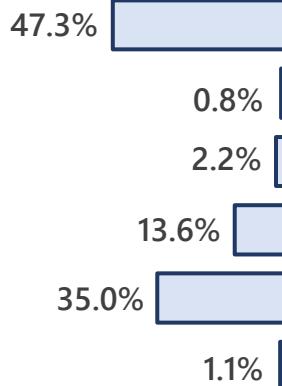


Assault



Kentucky Youth Intentional Injury-Related ED Visits by Discharge Status, 2016–2023

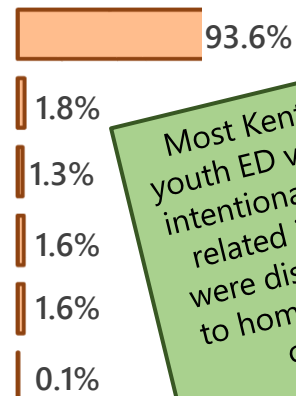
Self-Harm



Discharge Status

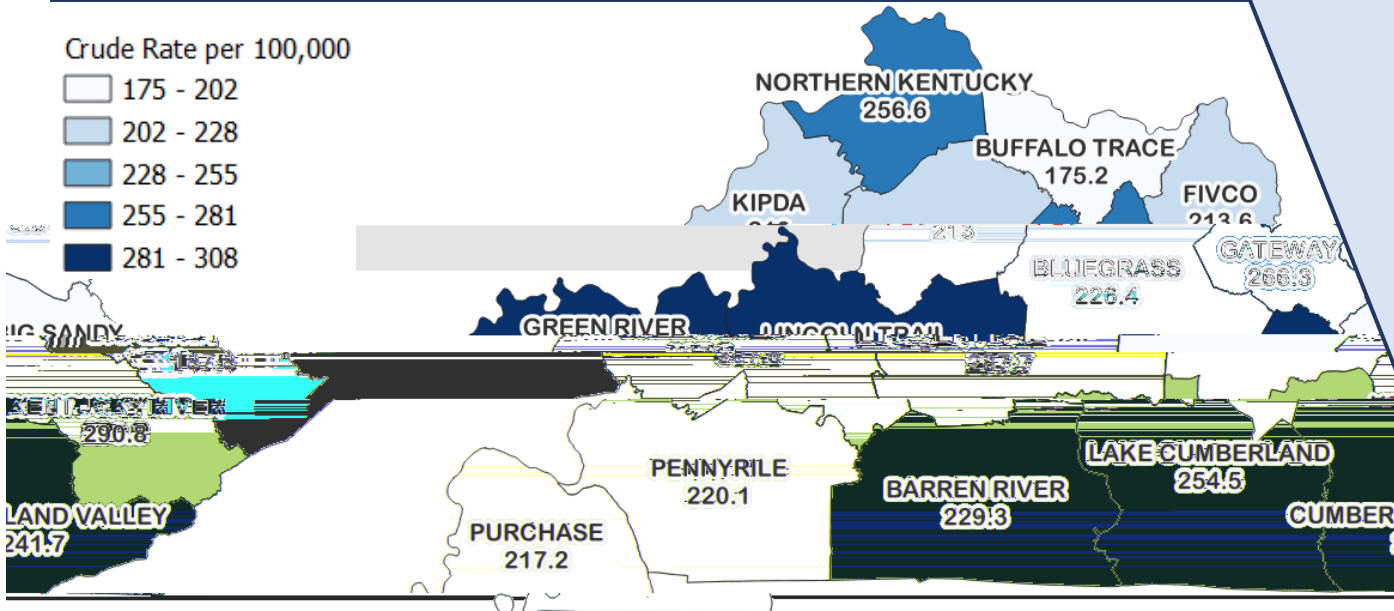
Home/self-care
Left/Discontinued care
Law enforcement
Inpatient
Healthcare facility
Other

Assault



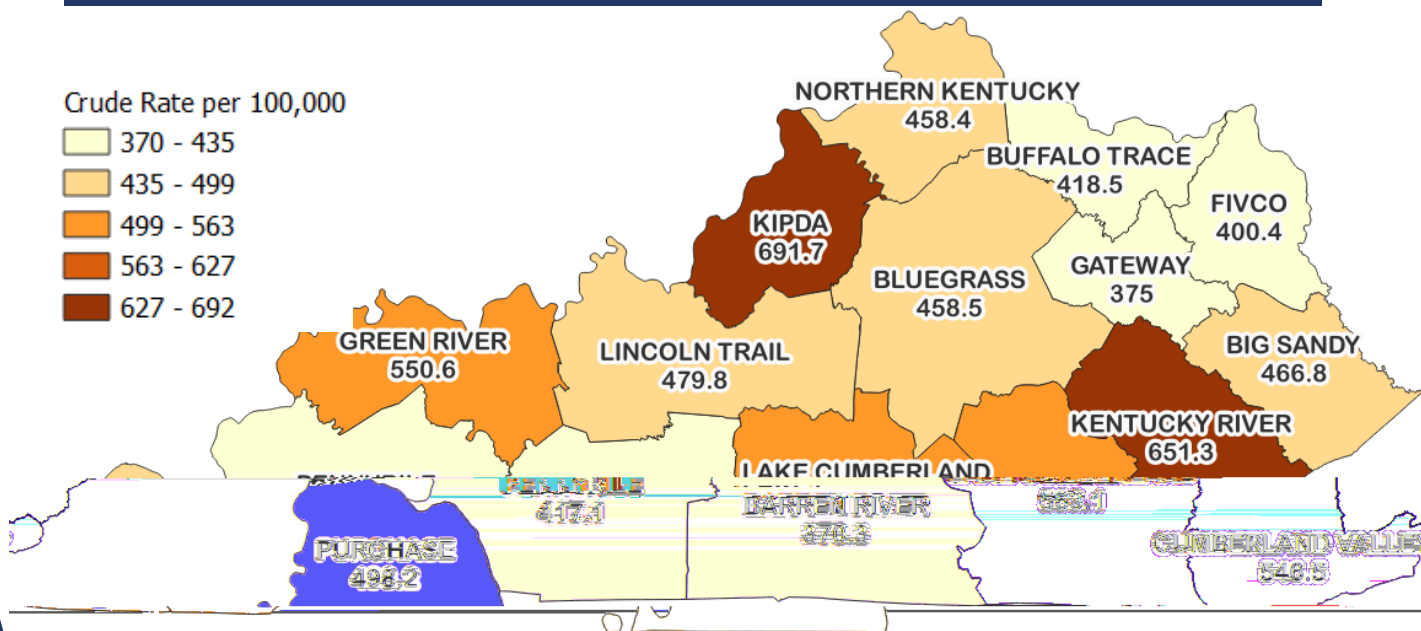
Most Kentucky youth ED visits for intentional harm-related injuries were discharged to home or self-care.

Kentucky Youth Self-Harm Injury ED Visit Rates by Area Development District (ADD), 2016–2023



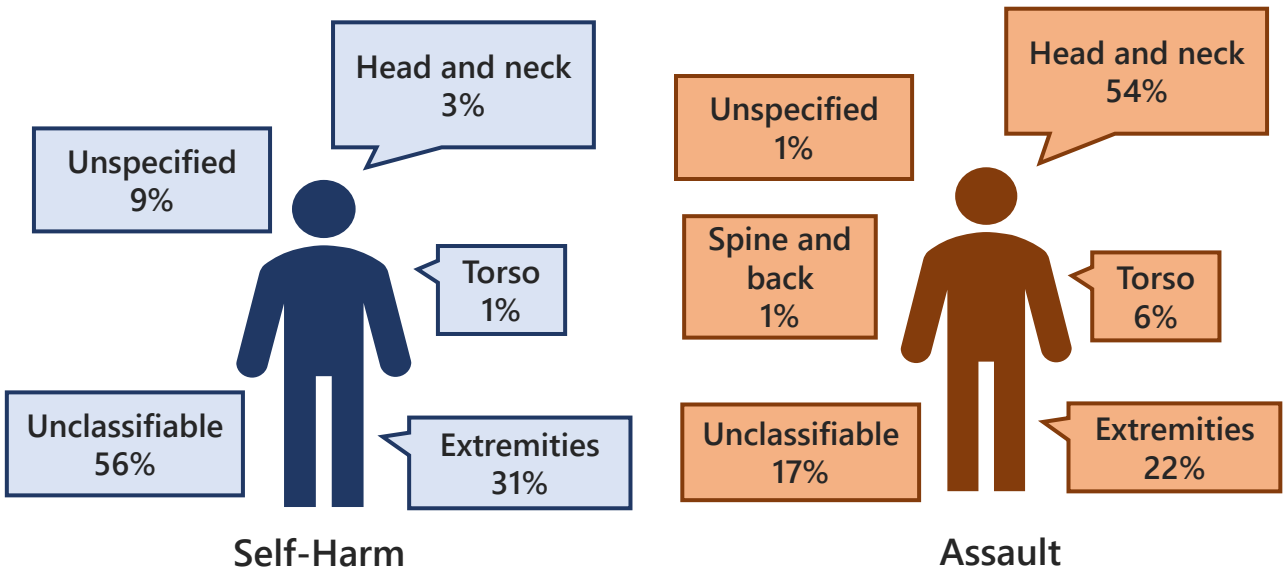
The ED visit rate for youth self-harm injuries varied by region in Kentucky from **175.2** per 100,000 in the Buffalo Trace ADD to **307.8** in the Green River ADD.

Kentucky Youth Assault Injury ED Visit Rates by Area Development District (ADD), 2016–2023



The ED visit rate for youth assault injuries ranged from **370.3** per 100,000 in the Barren River ADD to **691.7** in the KIPDA ADD.

Kentucky Youth Residents Intentional Injury-Related ED Visits by Body Region Injured, 2016–2023



Among self-harm-related injuries, the most common types were poisonings (**52%**), open wounds (**22%**), superficial injuries and contusions (**11%**), and unspecified injuries (**9%**).

Among assault-related injuries, the most common were superficial injuries and contusions (**29%**), open wounds (**17%**), fractures (**12%**), and other effects of external causes (**16%**).

Additional Resources

Kentucky

- **988 Suicide and Crisis Line:** Call 988, available 24/7 for free, confidential support.
- **Veterans Crisis Line:** Text 838255 or call 1-800-273-8255 and press 1.
- **Crisis Text Line:** Text "KY" to 741741 to talk with a live, trained crisis counselor.
- **Warmline** (Peer-run) at Participation Station–Bluegrass: 1-877-840-5167
- **1-800-CHILDREN: Resource and support helpline** by Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky
- **ZeroV**, Kentucky United Against Violence <https://www.zerov.org/>
- **CONNECT** to build Family Resiliency <https://faceitabuse.org/connect/>
- Kentucky **Community Mental Health Centers** <https://dbhdid.ky.gov/cmhc>
- Kentucky **Regional Prevention Centers** <https://dbhdid.ky.gov/sud/sa-rpc>
- Kentucky **Provider Directory** <https://dbhdid.ky.gov/providerDirectory>

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