

Dog Bite Statistics:

This page is a collection of dog bite statistics that are located DogsBite.org. Notably, each year, an American has a one in 50 chance of being bitten by a dog.

- In the 9-year period from 2005 to 2013, two dog breeds accounted for 74% of the attacks that resulted in death: pit bulls and rottweilers.
- 71% of the pit bull fatalities have occurred in the past 10 years; 42% in the past four years; 24% in the past two years.
- Over 700 U.S. cities have adopted breed-specific laws since the mid 1980s, just after pit bulls (fighting dogs) began leaking into the general population.
- By 2017, pit bulls are projected to maul 305 Americans to death since 1998, the year the CDC stopped tracking fatal dog attacks by breed.
- In the 9-year period from 2005 to 2013, pit bulls killed 176 Americans, about one citizen every 18.6 days.
- In 2013, over one-third, 38%, of all dog bite fatality victims were either visiting or living temporarily with the dog's owner when the fatal attack occurred.

- In 2012, more than 27,000 people underwent reconstructive surgery as a result of being bitten by dogs.
- In the 3-year period of 2006 to 2008, 18% of all fatal dog attacks occurred off owner property. Pit bulls were responsible for 81% of these attacks.
- In the first eight months of 2011, nearly half of the persons killed by a pit bull was the dog's owner and primary caretaker.
- Over 30 countries across the world regulate dangerous dog breeds with breed-specific laws including: France, Norway, Spain, Portugal and Great Britain.
- In 2011, adult victims of fatal pit bull attacks more than doubled the number of child victims.
- A study published in 2010 showed there were 4 times as many dog bite-related ED visits and 3 times as many hospital stays in rural areas than in urban areas.
- Pit bull terriers were selectively bred for a violent activity that is now a felony in all 50 U.S. states: dogfighting.
- Over 260 U.S. military bases governed by the U.S. Air Force, Air Force Space Command, U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps and Navy regulate dangerous dog breeds.
- Dog attack victims suffer over \$1 billion in monetary losses annually. JAMA reports this estimate to be as high as \$2 billion.
- A 2010 study showed that the average cost of a dog bite-related hospital stay was \$18,200, about 50% higher than the average injury-related hospital stay.
- Dog bites occur every 75 seconds in the United States. Each day, over 1,000 citizens need emergency medical care to treat these injuries.

- 2013 U.S. Dog Bite Fatalities

In 2013, 32 dog attacks resulted in death: 18 child victims and 14 adult victims.

- 2012 U.S. Dog Bite Fatalities

In 2012, 36 dog attacks resulted in death: 19 child victims and 17 adult victims.

- 2011 U.S. Dog Bite Fatalities

In 2011, 31 dog attacks resulted in death: 13 child victims and 18 adult victims.

- 2010 U.S. Dog Bite Fatalities

In 2010, 33 dog attacks resulted in death: 20 child victims and 13 adult victims.

How many dog bites occur?

Almost 75 million dogs live in the United States, and since many victims of dog bites don't seek medical care or report the attack, it may be that the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#))'s estimate of 4.5 million dog bites each year in the U.S. may be too low. Approximately 880,000 dog bite victims seek emergency medical care at hospitals in the U.S. every year. Dogs have rounded teeth, and it is the pressure exerted by their jaws that can cause significant damage to the tissues under the skin, including bones, muscles, tendons, blood vessels, and nerves.

In fact, dog assaults cost the **insurance industry \$483.7 million last year 2013**, according to new data from the Insurance Information Institute and State Farm Insurance Co. The insurer put out the information in preparation for National Dog Bite Prevention Week—May 18-24—and shared the top 15 states for dog bite claims, according to its own history.

- In 2013, the nation's most active dogs resided in the following locations.
- 1. California -- 449 claims, \$14.7 million paid
- 2. Illinois -- 309 claims, \$8.9 million paid
- 3. **Ohio -- 221 claims, \$4.2 million paid**
- 4. Texas -- 207 claims, \$4 million paid
- 5. Pennsylvania -- 180 claims, \$5.8 million paid
- 6. Michigan -- 162 claims, \$3.9 million paid
- 7. New York -- 149 claims, \$6.4 million paid
- 8. Indiana -- 146 claims, \$3.5 million paid
- 9. Minnesota -- 120 claims, \$4 million paid
- 10. **Georgia -- 106 claims, \$2.1 million paid**
- 11. Arizona -- 105 claims, \$2.8 million paid
- 12. **Florida -- 93 claims, 5.5 million paid**
- 13. Oregon -- 91 claims, \$1.4 million paid
- 14. Missouri -- 88 claims, \$2 million paid
- 15. New Jersey -- 86 claims, \$4.3 million paid

At the same time, the US Postal Service proved that the dog's long-standing vendetta against the postman is no joke—5,581 postal service workers were bitten by dogs last year, according to another recently released report.

- “The average cost per claim nationally has risen more than 45 percent in the last decade (2003-2013), due to increased medical costs as well as the size of settlements, judgments and jury awards given to plaintiffs, which are still on the upswing And consider these statistics provided by the U.S. National Dog Bite Prevention Week® Coalition:
- The Insurance Information Institute estimates that in 2012, insurers across the United States paid nearly \$489 million in dog bite claims
- The American Academy of Pediatrics states that more than half of all dog bite victims are children; approximately 400,000 receive medical attention every year
- The American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery reports that there were 27,752 reconstructive procedures performed in 2012 to repair injuries caused by dog bites
- The United States Postal Service® reports that 5,879 postal carriers were bitten or attacked by dogs in 2012