

# Injury Facts

Hunters and DEC are very concerned about safety, and have excellent laws and programs to avoid injuries. As a result, hunting is one of the safest recreational activities. A person is four times more likely to die while swimming than to be fatally wounded in a hunting accident. People are much safer in the woods than on the roads. A person is much more likely to be seriously injured or killed while using a bicycle or small off-road vehicle than while hunting.

## Is Hunting Dangerous? You Be The Judge

Activity	Participants	Injuries	Deaths
Swimming	59,500,000	83,772	1,500
Bicycling	45,100,000	49,000	700
Hunting (shooting only)	15,400,000	880	92

National Safety Council figures, 1999.

**The most dangerous part of a hunt is the drive to the hunting area.** Even though New York is one of the safest states for driving, a person is much more likely to be injured in a one hour drive than in a whole day of hunting.

**Most injuries are not life-threatening.** Over two-thirds of the people injured in hunting incidents are treated and released in the same day.

### Hunting accidents typically involve only hunters.

#### Struck by Lightning: A Significant Hazard?

A person who is not hunting is 45 times more likely to be killed by a bolt of lightning than by a hunter's bullet. (average U.S. lightning deaths, 90 per year; average non-hunter deaths in hunting incidents, less than two per year.) - National Safety Council figures, 1999.

**Deer as Hazards:** Nationwide, more people are killed by deer (ca. 100-150 per year, in collisions with motor vehicles) than are killed in hunting-related shooting incidents (fewer than 100 fatal hunting-related shootings, including self-inflicted accidents). Each year in New York, over 1,000 people are injured in 60,000 - 70,000 deer-related highway accidents. Such collisions are most common where hunting is restricted.

EVERY INJURY IS ONE TOO MANY! Make sure everyone you hunt with follows these rules!

## Advice for Hunters

### Assume Control from Trigger to Target ...and beyond

1. Assume every gun is loaded.
2. Control the Muzzle. Point it in a safe direction.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
4. Be sure of your target and beyond.

### UP A TREE?

#### Stay Alive!

- > Strap in FIRST. Use a Harness and short tether to prevent falls
- > Never climb with gun or bow. Raise & lower it with a rope - UNloaded!
- > Climb with a safety belt. Falls happen when climbing and getting in/out of stands.
- > Permanent stands rot! Use a portable!



...AND Control where other hunters shoot by wearing Hunter Orange! Prevent somebody else's mistake!

**Wearing Hunter Orange Saves Lives!** From 1994 through 2003 four out of five deer hunters wore hunter orange. Not even one who wore hunter orange was mistaken for game and killed. But 15 hunters who did NOT wear orange were killed when mistaken for game.

- One third of hunting injuries are self-inflicted, and most others are caused by a friend or relative. (Insist your partners follow the rules!)
- Many hunting injuries are caused by accidental firing, when people are not shooting. (Be Careful! - See rules 1, 2 and 3, above) But...
- Most occur while shooting, and for over half of these, target visibility or people in the line of fire is involved. (Be Careful, AND Wear Hunter Orange!)
- Falls while climbing trees permanently disable many hunters each year.

### For more information...

- class schedules
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- answers to your questions

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 625 Broadway  
 Albany, NY 12233-4800

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[www.dec.state.ny.us](http://www.dec.state.ny.us) (Use the Subject Index button, click on "Hunter Education")



New York State Sportsman Education is a Federal Aid Project, funded in part by Federal Excise Taxes on your purchases of hunting equipment.



What are they doing about

# Hunting Injuries ?

DEC and hunters have done a lot to make hunting safer. We can all do even more, because most injuries are preventable.

## What has been done?

**Mandatory Hunter Education.** All first time hunters must pass a 10 hour or longer hunter education course. New York has over 3,000 trained volunteer Sportsman Education instructors who heavily emphasize safety and responsibility.

**Laws.** Many hunting laws help to ensure safety.

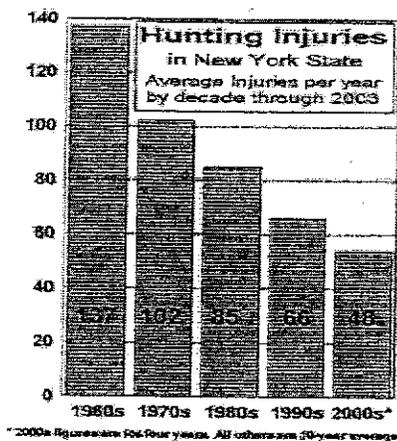
- Legal **hunting hours** for big game and most small game is sunrise to sunset. Good light helps hunters positively identify their targets.
- Types of **firearms and ammunition** for hunting are regulated by law.
- **Where hunters can shoot** is regulated. It is illegal to shoot on or across a road, or within 500 feet of any school or playground, or other building in occupation or use, without permission.
- It is **illegal** to have loaded rifles or shotguns in or on a **motor vehicle**.
- **Special Rules for Junior Hunters:** Hunters under 16 can only get a license with parental permission, and they can hunt only when supervised by an adult hunter designated in writing by parents or guardians.



**Safe Hunters.** New York's hunters are very safety-conscious. For instance, hunter orange clothing can prevent some hunting accidents. Even though it is not required by law, hunter orange is worn by more than 80% of New York's big game hunters. Hunter Orange is extremely visible to humans even though it does not alarm deer. In fact, hunting success has increased since hunters have been using hunter orange.

## The Results:

Hunting is safe and getting safer.



The hunting injury rate (injuries per 100,000 hunters) has been cut more than 67% over the past 35 years, even while the number of hunters grew and hunting land decreased. The safest year ever was 2003, with only 32 injuries.

People who hunt are careful. There are nearly 700,000 hunters in New York. Only one in 14,000 causes an accident, so 99.99 percent of hunters don't cause firearms injuries.



## SAGE-GROUSE SAMPLES

Students at the University of Alberta are presently studying the genetic structure of Canadian and northern Montana Sage-Grouse. Part of the project involves comparing the genetic diversity of present and historic samples. The purpose of this is to determine potential causes for the decline seen in Canadian Sage-Grouse and to determine whether Canadian and northern Montana birds form a single population.

They are looking for people with birds killed prior to 1996 in Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, or northern Montana (Blaine, Phillips, and Valley counties). For birds to be used in this study, they need to know the approximate time period that the bird was killed (e.g. decade) and approximate location. Samples can be taken from mounted birds, skins, collected feathers.

If you are interested in contributing to this research and have birds that meet these criteria, please contact Krissy Bush by email or mail for a sample collection kit and instructions.

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## HUNTING STATISTICS



For Immediate Release: 12/10/2005

**Wellington, Colorado** - While all hunting accidents are tragic, especially when non-hunting bystanders are involved, the recent ABC News report about a young woman in Pennsylvania being struck by a bullet is an extremely rare type of accident. In 2002, the most recent year for which hunting accident statistics are compiled, there were approximately 20 million hunters afield. They logged 850 total accidents, 15 involving non-hunting bystanders. "A hunting injury is one too many. Our hearts go out to Ms. Burns and we wish her a speedy recovery. Our 70,000 volunteer hunter education instructors are working hard to train hunters to be safe and responsible citizens. Incidents like this strengthen our resolve," said Eric Nuse, Executive Vice President of the International Hunter Education Association.

More facts about 2002 hunting incidents with injury:

- . 20,000,000 total hunters
- . 850 total accidents (all types)
- . 761 non-fatal accidents
- . 89 fatal accidents
- . 514 two-party accidents
- . 333 self-inflicted accidents (3 unknown)

Hunting accidents have declined by more than 30 percent over a 10-year period.

**For more information contact:**

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International Hunter Education Association  
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**IHEA Mission:**

*To continue the heritage of hunting worldwide by developing safe, responsible and knowledgeable hunter*

**For Immediate Release: 12/10/2005**

A report regarding youth incidents and adult statistics for 2002 has just been posted on the IHEA website at [http://www.ihea.com/docs/Incident\\_Reports1](http://www.ihea.com/docs/Incident_Reports1). It is listed as 2002 Incident Data and is in PDF format for easy access to all; we hope that you will find this report helpful.

## THIS LIVING WORLD RAISES MORE THAN \$100,000

**This Living World Nature Trust**  
has a new look and sound at [www.thislivingworld.com](http://www.thislivingworld.com)

To date, the site has received over 1,000,000 "visits" with continued interest in our initiative. As a result of the support that we've received from our broadcast partners, patrons and viewers, This Living World Nature Trust has raised more than \$100,000 and purchased or placed under protection 1,500 acres of endangered habitat land since its inception in 1990.

Funds are raised through video sales of "This Living World" television programs, nature documentaries produced by King Motion Picture Corporation, and through private donations. One hundred percent (100%) of these funds are donated to - and managed by our partners. In addition, K

## McDunn, John

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From: Eric Nuse [eric@ihea.com]  
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2005 3:51 PM  
To: McDunn, John  
Subject: FW: Hunting Safety Statistics

Eric Nuse  
Executive Vice President  
International Hunter Education Association  
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IHEA Mission: To continue the heritage of hunting worldwide by developing safe, responsible and knowledgeable hunters.

-----Original Message-----

From: Jim Wentz [mailto:jim@silvertip.net]  
Sent: Tuesday, December 14, 2004 1:40 PM  
To: Andrew Cruz  
Cc: eric@ihea.com  
Subject: Re: Hunting Safety Statistics

Andrew,

713 incidents for 2002 - 45 states reporting, 645 non-fatal, 68 fatal  
207 incidents self-inflicted  
Injuries to others is almost always someone in their own hunting party  
Approximately 85 injuries to other hunters hunting in the same area  
15 incidents involved non-hunters, most were minor or no visible injuries,  
NO  
FATALITIES involving non-hunters, 4 or 5 as I recall were moderate to severe  
injuries.  
Treestand falls and other similar types of injuries are not included in  
these stats.  
Reporting is inconsistent, but treestand falls are a risk for people who  
don't use  
safety belts and other precautions taught in hunter education.  
Some of the 713 incidents involved attempts to shoot animals, but not in  
hunting  
situations. i.e. nuisance animal control, poaching, etc.

Census Bureau estimates more than 250 million days spent legally hunting  
annually in  
U.S. - based on 14.7 million hunters in the field. Estimates on the number  
of  
hunters range as high as 20 million - variation due to the timing of  
surveys, period  
of time covered by the questions, etc.

I hope this helps. As you can see, a lot of people hunt, and most hunters  
take  
safety very seriously. IHEA has calculated that incidents have dropped 30%  
over the  
last 10 years as more people take the required hunter safety education  
classes.

Let me know if you have any questions.

2002 Hunting Incidents. Victim not hunting. Some states still have not reported any of their incidents for 2002.  
Dec. 9, 2004

Showing 16 of 16 incidents found matching your query Query time: 0.0688819885254 seconds

Date	State	Animal Hunted	Class	Casualty Type	Self Inflicted	Equipment	Shooter Age(s)	Victim Age(s)	Shooter Violation	Victim Violation	Major Factor
<input type="checkbox"/> 2002-12-31	Georgia	Duck/Geese	A-2	Nonfatal	N	Shotgun	57	53	N	N	Victim out of sight of shooter

**Summary:** Shooter was hunting ducks on wildlife refuge. He shot a duck that landed in the water and began to swim away. The duck was between the shooter and the victim. The victim was performing his law enforcement duties on the Georgia side of the refuge. He was watching some hunters looking for possible over limit violations. When he realized the shooter was going to shoot the duck again he tried to get out of the way. When the shooter fired a pellet struck the victim in the nose.

<input type="checkbox"/> 2002-11-24	Georgia	Deer	A-3	Nonfatal	N	Rifle	21	16	Y	N	Failure to identify target
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**Summary:** Shooter was hunting deer with a friend walking on an access road. The shooter heard a noise and saw a flash of white south west of the road and believing it to be a deer, he tried to shoot but the gun misfired. He ejected the cartridge and tried to fire but the gun misfired again. He took his friend's gun and fired one shot in the direction of the noise and movement. They hear a scream and realize someone had been shot. They went to offer assistance.

<input type="checkbox"/> 2002-12-08	Illinois	Deer	A-2	Nonfatal	N	Shotgun	16	32	N	N	Victim out of sight of shooter
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**Summary:** Shooter was with hunting party driving deer. Four deer ran out between shooter and the road and he shot at them and hit a car. The victim stated that she saw deer about to cross the road. They slowed down then heard 5 shots. The victim felt pain in face and got out. Then her right shoulder started hurting.

<input type="checkbox"/> 2002-05-05	Kentucky	Turkey SPRING	A-2	Nonfatal	N	Shotgun	45	59	N	N	Failure to identify target
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**Summary:** The shooter was ground hunting with three decoys. He saw a flash of red moving toward his decoys. The red object paused for 10-15 seconds and started to walk away. The shooter thought it was a tom turkey so he fired one round. He then heard screaming, ran over toward it and realized it was the victim. When first interviewed the shooter said there was no noise made by the victim prior to shooting. Upon speaking with the shooter at a later date he advised that he heard a "hissin" sound similar to that of a turkey "spitting" prior to shooting. The victim stated that she and her two dogs were walking along a trail. She paused to look at the creek and the next thing she heard

was the percussion from a gunshot.

<input type="checkbox"/>	2002 11-30	Louisiana	Deer	A?	Nonfatal	N	Rifle	43	29	N	N	Failure to identify target
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**Summary:** Victim and witness were taking an exercise hike through the park. Shooter took two shots, thinking that he was shooting at a deer. Shooter struck victim in the lower left leg. Victim and witness were on park land, while the shooter was on private property adjacent to the park. Violations against the shooter are still pending at the time of this report.

<input type="checkbox"/>	2002 02-09	Missouri	Cottontail	A?	Nonfatal	N	Rifle	15	36	N	N	Victim out of sight of shooter
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**Summary:** Shooter and his companions were rabbit hunting, they were walking into the edge of town. A rabbit was flushed and shooter took a shot at it. The bullet struck victim who was loading a box into a car at a private residence. Shooter and victim were 81 yards away.

<input type="checkbox"/>	2002 04-27	Missouri	Turkey SPRING	A?	Nonfatal	N	Shotgun	74	38	N	N	Failure to identify target
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**Summary:** Victim was walking down his easement road toward his vehicle when he was shot. The shooter stated that he had set up to call from a small depression near the easement road. The shooter saw movement and what he perceived was a gobbler's head coming down the easement road. The object he saw and shot at was the brown leather straps on the victim's backpack.

<input type="checkbox"/>	2002 10-27	New York	Turkey FALL	A?	Nonfatal	N	Shotgun	58	51	N	N	Failure to identify target
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**Summary:** Shooter and his grandson went out to turkey hunt. Shooter planned on hunting property he had permission to hunt, but ended up on land owned by the victim - shooter has permission as long as he gives prior notices, but he did not give notice on this particular day. As he was crossing the victim's property, he saw two dark objects on a rise above him. He fired two shots believing they were turkeys, injuring the victim and her dog.

<input type="checkbox"/>	2002 12-01	New York	Deer	A?	Nonfatal	N	Shotgun	43	22	Y	N	Failure to check beyond target
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**Summary:** Shooter shot two shots. The shot passed through the wall of a house trailer and struck the victim in the upper chest/arm area. Victim was sitting on a couch watching television at the time of the incident.

<input type="checkbox"/>	2002 06-25	Ohio	Other Small Game	A?	Nonfatal	N	Rifle	20	25	N	N	Shooter swinging on game
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**Summary:** The shooter was hunting groundhogs near an industrial park. The victim was on break outside the the plant where he was working, when he was shot.

<input type="checkbox"/>	2002 09-28	Oregon	Turkey FALL	A?	Nonfatal	N	Shotgun	33	32	Y	N	Failure to
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## Hunting FAQs

### Is hunting a safe outdoor activity for hunters and nonhunters?

In Georgia, there has been average 73 hunting accidents and an average of eight fatalities each year since 1979. Tree-stand accidents and accidents resulting in self-inflicted injuries account for 72 percent of the total accidents and shooter/victim for 38 percent. None of these accidents have involved a person not participating in the hunting activity. According to U.S. National Safety Council statistics, people are 20 times more likely to die in a car accident than while hunting. Compared to other outdoor recreational activities, hunting ranks incredibly low; lower than playing golf. Hunting is a very safe activity, probably because hunting, like driving a car, demands safety and hunters do not take that issue lightly.

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