



2011 HUNTING SAFETY STATISTICS[^] (Updated January 6, 2012)

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2011 5-yr. Avg

TOTAL INCIDENTS	26	31.2
Fatal	4	3.8
Non-fatal	22	27.4
Self-Inflicted	*2	9.2
Two-Party	***24	22.0

SPECIES HUNTED

Big Game:	Bear	0	0.0
	Deer	****14	14.6
Turkey:	Spring	4	4.8
	Fall	0	1.0
Upland/Furbearer:	Rabbits	1	1.8
	Squirrels	0	1.0
	Upland Birds	1	1.6
	Raccoon	1	0.2
	Fox & Coyote	2	1.4
Waterfowl		0	1.6
Other:	Woodchuck	1	0.8
	Other	2	1.6
Unknown (general upland game)		0	0.6

TYPE OF IMPLEMENT

Shotgun	*13	17.8
Rifle	**11	10.8
Handgun	0	1.0
Muzzleloader	*2	1.6
Crossbow	0	0.0
Bow	0	0.0
Air Gun	0	0.0

Each "*" represents one fatality in 2011

[^]2011 figures are compiled from preliminary reports and are NOT final.

Final investigation reports may take months in some cases.

Please note that in some of the incidents reported the shooter was participating in an illegal and/or unlawful act.

Hunting-Related Shooting Incidents, 2002 – 2011

Including both big game and small game hunting as of 1/6/12

YEAR	BIG GAME	OTHER	TOTAL
2002	37	24	61
2003	20	12	32
2004	18	16	34
2005	15	14	29
2006	20	15	35
2007	14	23	37
2008	12	15	27
2009	14	12	26
2010	19	21	40
2011	14	12	26

2011 Ties Safest Hunting Year in NY

Based on the number of hunting-related shooting incidents, the 2011 hunting seasons tied 2009 for the safest year of hunting, on record, in New York. There were 26 personal injury hunting-related shooting incidents, including four fatalities. All four of the fatalities occurred during the deer season, one of which was self-inflicted.

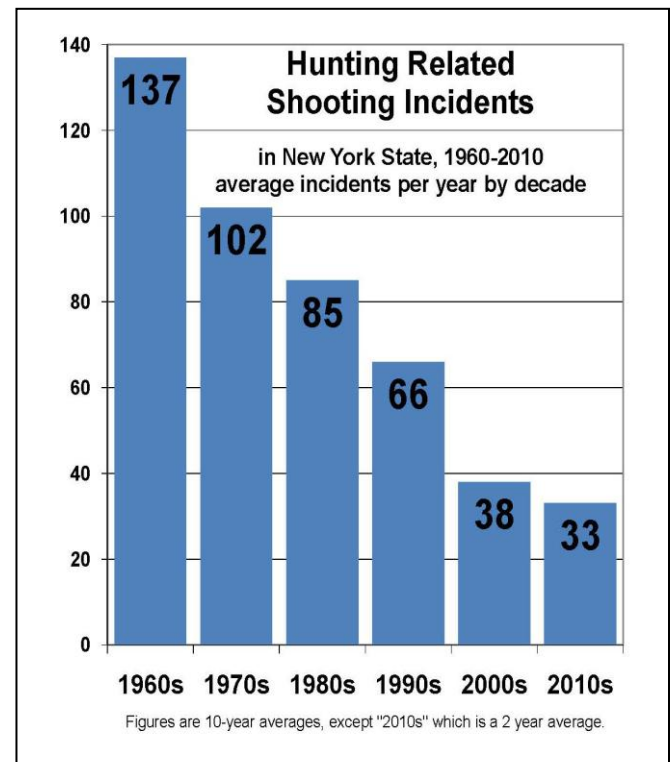
There were two self inflicted injuries, a record low number, indicating that today's hunters are demonstrating safe gun handling skills. The fact that 24 of the incidents involved two or more people stresses the importance of identifying your target and what lies beyond. Remember, once the trigger is pulled you cannot bring the bullet back.

The number of hunters is declining, but the hunting incident rate (incidents per 100,000 hunters) is falling much faster. Since the 1960s, the number of hunters has declined about 20%, while the incident rate has declined over 70%. The past 5-year-average is 5.3 incidents per 100,000 hunters, compared to 19 per 100,000 in the 1960s.

NY has an extremely safety-conscious generation of hunters, thanks largely to over 60 years of dedicated efforts of more than 3,000 volunteer Sportsman Education Instructors.

Hunting is safer than ever, but we cannot become complacent, as every hunting related shooting incident is preventable.

This report includes only incidents involving firearms. It does not include all incidents and fatalities related to hunting. On occasion there may be incidents involving tree stand use or other hunter health related mishaps.



The Stories behind the Statistics: Hunting Related Shooting Incidents 2011

Draft descriptions of incidents as of 1/6/12. Many of the incidents reported here are still under investigation by NYS DEC Division of Law Enforcement. **Please note that in some of the incidents reported; the shooter was participating in an illegal and/or unlawful act.** More details may appear in final reports after hearings are completed late in 2012.

The most common story: Remember that 99.994% of the people who hunt have safe and enjoyable experiences. Over half a million people hunted in New York this year, and for every incident listed, there are thousands of other hunting stories of people who safely and responsibly took game. Just as important, even more passed up shots for the sake of safety, conservation, and respect for wildlife.

Many, if not all of these incidents could have been prevented, if only the shooter and/or victim had followed the primary rules of Hunter Safety.

-Treat every firearm as if it were loaded
-Keep your muzzle pointed in a safe direction
-Identify your target and what lies beyond
-Keep finger off the trigger until ready to fire
-Wear hunter orange

Thanks to our Environmental Conservation Officers for professional investigations of each incident.

FORMAT FOR 2011 DESCRIPTIONS:

Date (mm/dd) - followed by County and a brief description based on initial report.

SMALL GAME & NONGAME

2/23 - Columbia. Two friends were rabbit hunting when the shooter slipped on ice, discharging one round. The victim was struck with 45 pellets in both legs.

2/23 - Herkimer. A group of seven friends were hunting coyotes when a junior hunter discharged one round at what was thought to be an injured coyote. The victim was struck with buckshot in the legs and buttocks.

5/13 - Oneida. The victim was in his yard when shooter discharged one round at some nuisance starlings. One pellet struck the victim in the left elbow.

8/18 - Steuben. While attempting to take nuisance deer, the shooter placed a loaded rifle in a motor vehicle. When exiting the vehicle, the shooter discharged one round into the left leg of the victim.

8/19 - Orange. A group of four friends were hunting woodchucks. The shooter was carrying a loaded rifle, with his finger on the trigger. When his cell phone rang, it startled him, causing him to discharge of one round, which ricocheted off a pond, striking the victim in chest.

12/6 - Chenango. Two friends were hunting grouse. A bird flushed between them and the shooter discharged one round. The victim was struck in the head by one pellet.

12/20 - Seneca. A father and two sons were raccoon hunting. The shooter was attempting to reload his rifle when it discharged. The round struck the victim, his son, in the neck.

12/23 - Wyoming. While hunting coyotes, the shooter discharged one round that struck his friend in the pelvis. The victim was in a tree approximately 6 feet off of the ground over the shooter.

SPRING TURKEY HUNTING

5/3 - Chenango. The victim was struck in the face with 6 pellets from an unknown shooter while turkey hunting.

5/14 - Fulton. Two separate parties were hunting turkey. The shooter discharged one round resulting in the victim being struck in the head and back by several pellets.

5/15 - Otsego. Two victims, father & son, were turkey calling and moved into the edge of a field. They heard and then saw the shooter. When they turned to leave, the shooter discharged one round at their shapes, striking the father in the face, chest and legs and his son in the arm.

5/15 - Oneida. Two friends were hunting turkey. They both set up under a roost of birds. When the birds flew down, the shooter discharged one round at a turkey directly in line with his hunting partner. The victim was struck in the face with 2 pellets.

DEER HUNTING

10/15 - Franklin. While hunting deer, the shooter discharged his muzzleloader, striking the victim, his brother in the left front shoulder.

10/23 - Lewis. A group of 4 friends were hunting after legal hours. The shooter discharged one round striking the victim in the pelvis. The victim died on scene. - FATAL

11/19 - Herkimer. The victim was sitting on a log deer hunting when he was struck in the right buttocks. Several hunters that were located stated they discharged several rounds at a running deer. Doctors were unable to remove the bullet. The shooter could not be determined.

11/19 - Tompkins. The shooter discharged one round at a running deer, striking the victim, his friend, in the upper left thigh.

11/19 - Orange. Self-inflicted - The victim was kicking his downed deer to see if it was dead and discharged one round into his left foot.

11/19 - Orleans. Self-inflicted - Victim was resting while dragging a deer with his hunting partner. One round was discharged from the victim's shotgun, hitting him in the head causing fatal injuries. - FATAL

11/20 - Fulton. The shooter discharged one round at what he thought was a deer. The round struck a small tree before hitting the victim in the lower back.

11/27 - Tioga. A group of nine hunters were hunting deer. The shooter discharged one round at a running deer. The round struck a small branch 19 feet from the victim. The victim was struck by bullet fragments in the abdomen.

12/3 - Wayne. The victim was struck in the face by wood splinters when a round from a hunting companion struck a tree next to his face.

12/3 - Chautauqua. The victim was struck in the chest by one round while field dressing a deer. - FATAL

12/11 - Niagara. Six hunters were conducting a deer drive. The shooter discharged one round at a deer. The round missed and struck a small branch, then struck the victim in the back.

12/11 - Madison. The shooter discharged one round at movement in the brush. The bullet struck his father in the upper right thigh.

12/11 - Onondaga. The shooter discharged one round at a deer. The round passed through the deer, striking the victim, his friend, in the upper right leg.

12/11 - St. Lawrence. The shooter discharged one round, which struck his uncle in the shoulder. - FATAL

Join New York's Instructor Team!

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(Find Sportsman Education in the subject index)