

## Dog Bite Statistics

- Dog bites accounted for more than one-third of all homeowners insurance liability claim dollars paid out in 2012, costing nearly \$490 million, according to the [Insurance Information Institute](#) (I.I.I.) and State Farm®, the largest writer of homeowners insurance in the United States.
- The [United States Postal Service](#) reports that 5,879 postal carriers were bitten or attacked by dogs in 2012. That is an increase of 274 dog bites compared to 2011.
- The [American Veterinary Medical Association](#) estimates the U.S. dog population was approximately 70 million at the end of 2011, down from approximately 72 million in 2006, yet the number of dog bite incidents continues to increase.
- As reported by the [National Center for Injury Prevention and Control CDC](#), from 2001 – 2011, dog bites were the ninth leading cause of unintentional injury to children ages 5 – 9 (512,638) and the tenth leading cause of injury to children ages 10 – 14 (412,895).
- According to the [American Society of Plastic Surgeons](#), there were 27,752 reconstructive procedures to repair dog bites in 2012.
- The [American Humane Association](#) states that unsupervised newborns are 370 times more likely to be killed by a dog than an adult. Children should never be left alone with a dog, even if it is the family dog or one they know well.
- According to the study "Emergency Department Visits and Inpatient Stay Involving Dog Bites, 2008". <http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb101.pdf>
  1. The overall trend through the 16 year time period between 1993 and 2008 shows an 86.3 % increase in dog bite-related hospital stays.
  2. The rate of hospitalization increased by 55% over that time.
- 4.7 million people are bitten by dogs every year in the U.S.

That's 12,877/day - 536/hour

- There are more emergency room visits from dog bites than from skateboard, inline skate, baby walker, all-terrain vehicle and horseback riding accidents *combined*.
- About 800,000 dog bites require medical attention every year in the U.S.
- The odds of a dog bite victim being a child are 3.2-1.
- Every 40 seconds someone in the US seeks medical attention for a dog bite. Nearly 70% of them are children.

- Over half of all dog bites occur to children 12 and under.
- 65% of dog bites to children  $\leq$  4 yrs old are in the head/neck
- Most dog bites to children are from familiar dogs and are considered to be preventable, yet currently very little is being done to reduce this widespread source of serious injury to children.
- There is a 300% higher medically attended bite rate to children than adults.
- Children are 900 times more likely to be bitten by dogs than mail carriers.