



2015 5 yr. Avg

TOTAL INCIDENTS		23	22.8
Fatal		0	1.8
Non-fatal		23	21
Self-Inflicted		10	9.4
Two-Party		13	13.4
SPECIES HUNTED			
Big Game:	Bear	0	0.4
	Deer	13	11.6
Turkey:	Spring	1	1.4
	Fall	0	0.4
Upland/Furbearer:	Rabbits	0	0.6
	Squirrels	3	2.0
	Upland Birds	1	0.6
	Raccoon	2	0.8
	Fox & Coyote	0	1.2
Waterfowl		1	1.6
Other:	Woodchuck	0	0.6
	Other	2	1.4
Unknown (general upland game)		0	0.2
TYPE OF IMPLEMENT			
Shotgun		9	9.6
Rifle		10	9.8
Handgun		1	1.2
Muzzleloader		2	1.2
Crossbow		1	0.2
Bow		0	0.4
Air Gun		0	0.4

There were zero fatalities in 2015

2015 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.

Past 10 Years of Hunting-Related Shooting Incidents

Including both big game and small game hunting

YEAR	BIG GAME	OTHER	TOTAL
2006	20	15	35
2007	14	23	37
2008	12	15	27
2009	14	12	26
2010	19	21	40
2011	14	12	26
2012	14	10	24
2013	10	9	19
2014	9	13	22
2015	13	10	23

Hunters Experience Another Safe Year

Reports on the number of hunting-related shooting incidents indicate that 2015 had the third lowest number on record in New York with 23 incidents. Starting with 2013, the last three years were the top three safest in New York with this being the first year on record with zero fatalities.

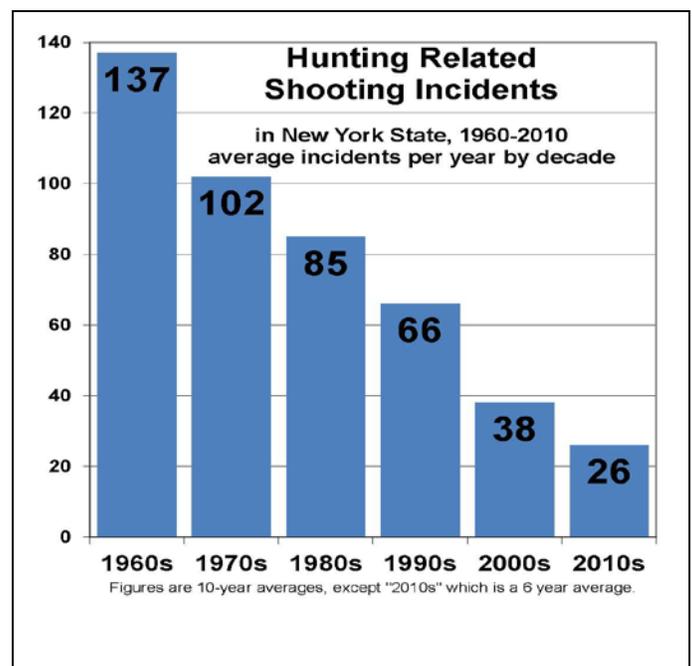
A further evaluation of the incidents showed that 10 (43%) were self-inflicted and 13 (57%) were two-party incidents. Looking closer at all of the two-party firearm incidents, 8 out of 11 (73%) of the victims were not wearing hunter orange. This indicates that not wearing hunter orange increases your risk of being involved in a two-party firearm incident.

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 almost 80%. The current 5-year average is 4 incidents per 100,000 hunters, compared to 19 per 100,000 hunters in the 1960s.

New York has an extremely safety-conscious generation of hunters, thanks largely to the dedicated efforts of thousands of volunteer Sportsman Education Instructors over the last 60 years.

Hunting is safer than ever, but we cannot become complacent as every hunting-related shooting incident is preventable. The DEC highly recommends that hunters going afield during any firearm season wear hunter orange to be visible to other hunters.

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



The Stories behind the Statistics: Hunting-Related Shooting Incidents 2015

Preliminary descriptions of incidents as of 1/26/16. 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 investigations are completed in 2016.

The most common story: Remember that 99.9% 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 parties involved had followed the primary rules of Hunter Safety:

Assume every gun to be loaded
Control the muzzle in a safe direction
Keep finger off the trigger until firing
Be sure of your target and beyond
Wear hunter orange

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

FORMAT FOR 2015 DESCRIPTIONS:
Date (mm/dd) - followed by County and a brief description based on initial report.

SMALL GAME & NONGAME

9/14 - Ontario. Self-inflicted - The victim attempted to shoot a raccoon that was allegedly attacking him and discharged a round from his handgun into his foot.

9/26 - Broome. - The victim was standing by his parked vehicle when another hunter shot at a gray squirrel in the roadway with his shotgun. Several pellets struck the victim in the eye, chest and wrist.

10/3 - Jefferson. Self-inflicted - The victim was attempting to load his shotgun while exiting his vehicle. Upon closing the action one round was discharged into his right foot causing severe injuries.

10/6 - Erie. Self-inflicted - The victim was hunting raccoons when he slipped. While falling, he discharged one round from his shotgun into his foot.

10/10 - Jefferson. - While pheasant hunting the victim was struck in the face with two pellets from a shotgun. The victim spoke with other hunters in the area but did not get any identification and the incident wasn't reported until that evening.

10/11 - Lewis. Self-inflicted - While squirrel hunting the victim attempted to climb a tree and reportedly discharged several rounds from his .22 rifle into his leg.

11/7 - Delaware. - Two brothers were small game hunting together. The victim was shot in the arm with a .22 rifle when his brother attempted to take a chipmunk.

12/25 - Sullivan. Self-inflicted - The victim was squirrel hunting when he discharged his .22 rifle into his foot.

WATERFOWL HUNTING

11/6 - Herkimer. A group of five hunters were surrounding a pond when a duck flew up between them. The shooter discharged two rounds at the duck and three pellets struck the victim in the head and hand.

TURKEY HUNTING

5/4 - Saratoga. While turkey hunting, the victim was struck with 4 pellets from a shotgun.

BIG GAME HUNTING

11/8 - Putnam. Self-inflicted - The victim was hunting deer with his father. While attempting to de-cock his crossbow, he discharged the bolt into his upper thigh.

11/13 - Franklin. Self-inflicted - While attempting to remove a loaded shotgun from his vehicle, the victim discharged one round into his abdomen.

11/21 - Jefferson. The victim was inside his residence when a shooter discharged two rounds from his rifle at a deer. The bullet struck the occupied residence window, passed through the TV and struck the victim in the shoulder.

11/21 - Chautauqua. The victim was sitting in a deer stand when the shooter discharged one shotgun round at a deer. The slug hit the victim in the thigh.

11/21 - Cattaraugus. Self-inflicted - The victim was climbing up into his treestand when his rifle discharged and hit his thigh.

11/26 - Wyoming. Self-inflicted - The victim was sitting in his deer stand. He attempted to move his rifle when it discharged and struck him in the hand.

11/27 - Chautauqua. The shooter discharged his shotgun at what he thought was a deer. The slug struck his brother in the shoulder.

11/27 - Tioga. The shooter was in a party of eight deer hunters conducting a deer drive. The shooter discharged one rifle round and struck the victim in the leg.

12/5 - Niagara. Self-inflicted - The victim was hunting from a tree stand. As he stood up, he discharged his muzzleloader into his hand.

12/5 - Genesee. While attempting to unload her rifle, one round was discharged. The round struck the vehicle her husband was sitting in and fragments hit his leg.

12/5 - Cortland. During a deer drive, the victim was shot in the stomach with a rifle from another hunter in the same party.

12/13 - Chenango. Seven members of a hunting party were conducting a deer drive. As the victim entered a brushy area, a member in a treestand discharged one round from his rifle and struck the victim in the leg.

12/20 - Oneida. Two members of a hunting party shot at a deer and split up while looking for it. The shooter saw movement and discharged one round from his muzzleloader and struck the victim in the arm.

Join New York's Instructor Team!

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