



	2019	5 yr. Avg
TOTAL INCIDENTS	12	15.8
Fatal	1	1.8
Non-fatal	11	14
Self-Inflicted	5	6.6
Two-Party	7	9.2
SPECIES HUNTED		
Big Game: Bear	0	0
Deer	7	8.2
Turkey: Spring	1	1.4
Fall	0	0
Upland/Furbearer: Rabbits	0	0.2
Squirrels	0	1.2
Upland Birds	1	0.8
Raccoon	0	0.4
Fox & Coyote	1	0.6
Waterfowl:	2	1.8
Other: Woodchuck	0	0.2
Other	0	0.8
Unknown (general upland game)	0	0.2
TYPE OF IMPLEMENT		
Shotgun	8	7
Rifle	3	7.2
Handgun	1	0.8
Muzzleloader	0	0.4
Crossbow	0	0.2
Bow	0	0.2
Air Gun	0	0

There was one fatality in 2019

2019 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 act.

Past 10 Years of Hunting-Related Shooting Incidents

Including both big game and small game hunting

Year	Big Game	Small Game/Other	Total
2010	19	21	40
2011	14	12	26
2012	14	10	24
2013	10	9	19
2014	9	13	22
2015	13	10	23
2016	8	5	13
2017	6	13	19
2018	8	5	13
2019	7	5	12

Hunters Experience Safest Year on Record!

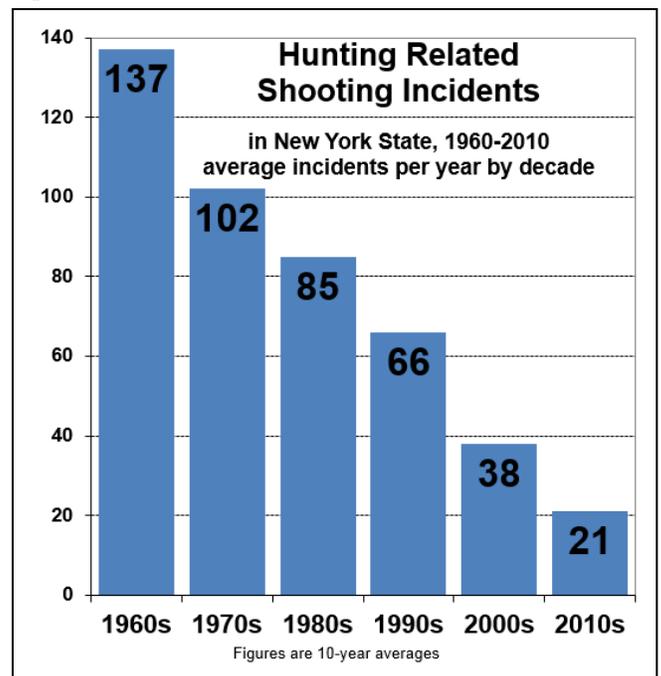
During 2019, hunters in New York had the fewest incidents and safest hunting season on record! There were 12 personal injury incidents during 2019. Of those 12, one was a fatal injury caused by a shooter failing to properly identify the target while participating on a deer drive.

This year, 5 incidents were self inflicted and 7 were two-party firearm incidents. Of the two-party firearm incidents, 2 of those victims were not participating in any type of hunting activity and were passerby's in vehicles. The remaining 4 victims were not wearing hunter orange while hunting with others. Wearing hunter orange while afield and ensuring it is visible decreases your risk of being injured while hunting. The one individual that had hunter orange in their possession (hat and gloves) was fatally injured during a deer drive. This reinforces why properly identifying your target and what is beyond is of critical importance.

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 1.8 incidents per 100,000 hunters, compared to 19 per 100,000 hunters in the 1960s.

Thanks largely to the dedicated efforts of thousands of volunteer Hunter Education Program over more than 60 years, New York hunting is now safer than ever. We cannot become complacent however, as every hunting-related shooting incident is preventable. The DEC highly recommends that hunters participating in any firearm season follow standard firearm safety rules and wear hunter orange while afield.

This report includes only shooting related incidents involving firearms, bows or crossbows. It does not include all incidents and fatalities related to hunting (such as heart attacks that occur while hunting). Incidents involving tree stands are included in a separate report.



The Stories behind the Statistics: Hunting-Related Shooting Incidents 2019

Preliminary descriptions of incidents as of 1/21/20. 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 act.** More details may appear in final reports after investigations are completed in 2020.

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 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

Thank you to our Environmental Conservation Officers for their thorough investigations of each incident.

FORMAT FOR 2019 DESCRIPTIONS:
Date (mm/dd) - followed by County and a brief description based on initial report. Summaries marked with an * were incidents that violations were noted. Age of violator is noted at the end of the summary.

SMALL GAME & NONGAME

01/26 - Wyoming. While coyote hunting with dogs, the shooter shot a coyote and struck his partner with one pellet in the left cheek. Age 77. *

11/3 - Tioga. Self-inflicted. Shooter was trying to secure his firearm while handling a harvested bird when his dog jumped to reach the bird and hit the trigger of the shotgun, discharging a game load into his lower arm and back. Age 32.

WATERFOWL HUNTING

09/15 - Wayne. Shooter discharged towards a roadway from 115 yards away and struck a passenger in a vehicle in the cheek with one pellet. Age 60. *

09/17 - Jefferson. Self-inflicted. Shooter grabbed his shotgun and discharged 14 pellets into his right foot and 2 into his left foot. Age 16.

TURKEY HUNTING

05/15 - Steuben. The victim was shot in his middle finger by his stepfather while turkey hunting. Age 54.

BIG GAME HUNTING

11/03 - Cayuga. Self-inflicted. Shooter was searching for a deer while carrying his tree stand on his back. The tree stand triggered a 9mm pistol in his pocket, sending a round into his thigh and down his knee. Age 53. *

11/17 - Herkimer. Fatal. Shooter discharged one round at close range into the victim's neck/shoulder area while both were participating in a deer drive. Victim was wearing hunter orange hat and gloves. Age 55. *

11/25 - Niagara. Shooter discharged a round from 380 yards away, striking the cab of a tractor, which shattered glass and cut the drivers face. Age 40. *

12/01 - Onondaga. Victim was driving when stuck in the neck by a round that entered through the passenger side window and exited through the driver side window. Age 48. *

12/01 - Wyoming. Self-inflicted. Shooter discharged one round into his right foot. Age 58.

12/07 - Herkimer. Shooter discharged two rounds from 59 yards away, the second round struck the victim's firearm and abdomen. Age 52. *

12/07 - Chautauqua. Self-inflicted. Shooter discharged one round into his own face. Age 59.

Join New York's Instructor Team!

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