

2021 Macro-Level Forces Report: CDC Wonder Dog Bite Fatality Data Compared to Nonprofit

U.S. dog bite fatalities rose during the 2021 Covid year. Our nonprofit's capture rate fell due to macro-level forces.

15-Year Period vs. Each Covid Year

Between 2005 to 2019, CDC Wonder underlying cause of death (UCD) dog bite fatality data and our nonprofit's recorded deaths were closely aligned. During the 2020 and 2021 Covid years, our nonprofit had a deficit of 15 and 29 unreported deaths, respectively.

Time Period	Total CDC UCD	Total Nonprofit	Difference	% Nonprofit Captured	Possible Contributing Factors to Lowered Capture Rate
2005 to 2019	519	522	3	101%	
2020 Covid	62	47	-15	76%	Covid conditions/extensive media layoffs
2021 Covid	81	52	-29	64%	Covid conditions/continued media layoffs†
Total Deaths	662	621	-41	94%	

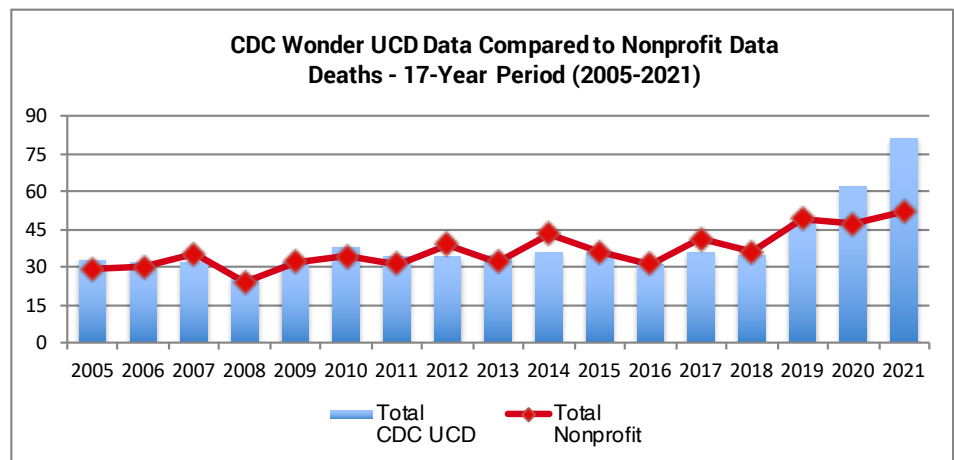
2021 Deaths by Age Group

An age group breakdown of dog bite fatality victims during the 2021 Covid year shows that the largest deficit of unreported deaths, which our nonprofit had no mechanism to capture, occurred in the 65+ age group (14), followed by the 45-64 age group (7).

Age Groups	Total CDC UCD	Total Nonprofit	Difference	% Nonprofit Captured	Possible Contributing Factors to Lowered Capture Rate
0-24 yrs	24	21	-3	88%	Pre-Covid (2005-2019), nonprofit captured 68% of CDC data for ≥ 50 age group. Between 2020 and 2021, nonprofit captured 49% of CDC data for ≥ 45 age group.‡
25-44 yrs	16	11	-5	69%	
45-64 yrs	17	10	-7	59%	
65+	24	10	-14	42%	
Total Deaths	81	52	-29	64%	

Deaths by Year

Prior to 2020, the highest number of dog bite fatalities occurred in 2019 (48 deaths), according to CDC Wonder UCD data. The 2021 Covid year of 81 deaths is a **69%** increase from 2019 and a **131%** increase from 2018 (35 deaths).



†Hana Joy, "More than 6,150 news workers were laid off amid the COVID-19 pandemic," Columbia Journalism Review, December 10, 2021 (Accessed March 11, 2023: https://www.cjr.org/tow_center_reports/more-than-6150-news-workers-laid-off.php)

‡Comparing Nonprofit and CDC Dog Bite Fatality Data Over 15-Year Period (2005-2019) - Gender and Age Groups (Accessed: March 15, 2023: <https://www.dogsbite.org/pdf/2005-2019-dogsbite-data-compared-to-cdc-data.pdf>)