

2022 Macro-Level Forces Report: CDC Wonder Dog Bite Fatality Data Compared to Nonprofit

U.S. dog bite fatalities rose during the third Covid year, 2022. 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. Starting during the first Covid year of 2020, our nonprofit's deficit grew each subsequent year.

Time Period	Total CDC UCD	Total Nonprofit	Difference	% Nonprofit Captured	Possible Contributing Factors to Lowered Capture Rate
2005 to 2019	519	524	5	101%	
2020 Covid	62	47	-15	76%	Covid conditions, extensive media layoffs, which have extended into 2024, reduced police press releases of attacks*
2021 Covid	81	53	-28	65%	
2022 Covid	98	56	-42	57%	
Total Deaths†	760	680	-80	89%	

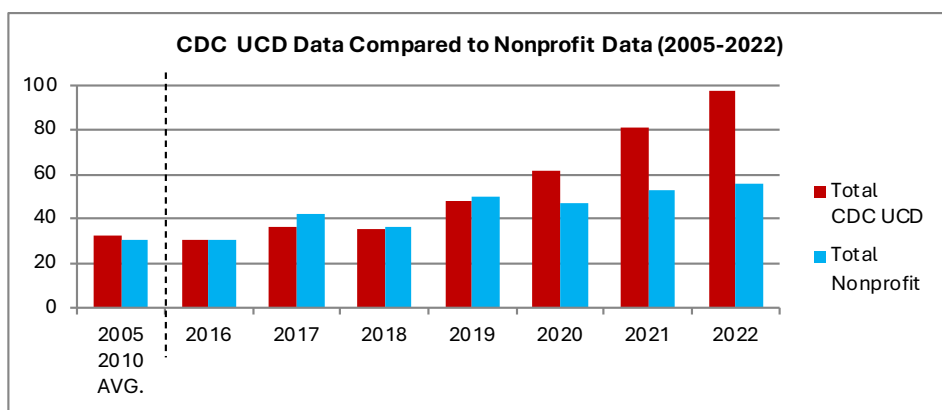
2022 Deaths by Age Group

An age group breakdown of dog bite fatality victims during the 2022 Covid year shows that the largest deficit of unreported deaths, which our nonprofit had no mechanism to capture, occurred in the 65+ age group (23), followed by 45-64 yrs (13).

Age Groups	Total CDC UCD	Total Nonprofit	Difference	% Nonprofit Captured	Possible Contributing Factors to Lowered Capture Rate
0-24 yrs	15	12	-3	80%	Pre-Covid (2005-2019), nonprofit captured 68% of CDC data for ≥ 50 age group. In 2022, nonprofit captured 47% of CDC data for ≥ 45 age groups‡
25-44 yrs	15	10	-5	67%	
45-64 yrs	30	17	-13	57%	
65+	38	15	-23	39%	
Unknown age‡	0	2	2		
Total Deaths	98	56	-42	57%	

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 2022 Covid year of 98 deaths is a **104%** increase from 2019 and a **180%** increase from 2018 (35 deaths).



*Clare Malone, "Is the Media Prepared for an Extinction-Level Event?," New Yorker, February 10, 2024 (Accessed February 10, 2024: <https://www.newyorker.com/news/the-weekend-essay/is-the-media-prepared-for-an-extinction-level-event>)

†CDC combines "struck by dog" deaths in data ("Bitten or struck by dog"). Nonprofit excludes "struck by dog" deaths in data.

‡One Hopi Indian Reservation victim, child or adult unknown (AZ); one adult female victim, adult age not released by police (TN)

§Comparing Nonprofit and CDC Dog Bite Fatality Data Over 15-Year Period (2005-2019) - Gender and Age Groups (Accessed: May 4, 2024: <https://www.dogsbite.org/pdf/2005-2019-dogsbite-data-compared-to-cdc-data.pdf>)