

## 2023 Macro-Level Forces Report: CDC Wonder Dog Bite Fatality Data Compared to Nonprofit

U.S. dog bite fatalities leveled off during the fourth Covid year, 2023. Our nonprofit's capture rate modestly rose.

### 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 until 2023.

Time Period	Total CDC UCD	Total Nonprofit	Difference	% Nonprofit Captured	Possible Contributing Factors to Lowered Capture Rate
2005 to 2019	519	523	4	101%	
2020 Covid	62	47	-15	76%	Post-Covid conditions, extensive media layoffs—almost 2,700 jobs lost in news industry in 2023—reduced police press releases of attacks*
2021 Covid	81	53	-28	65%	
2022 Covid	98	56	-42	57%	
2023 Covid	96	63	-33	66%	
<b>Total Deaths†</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>-114</b>	<b>87%</b>	

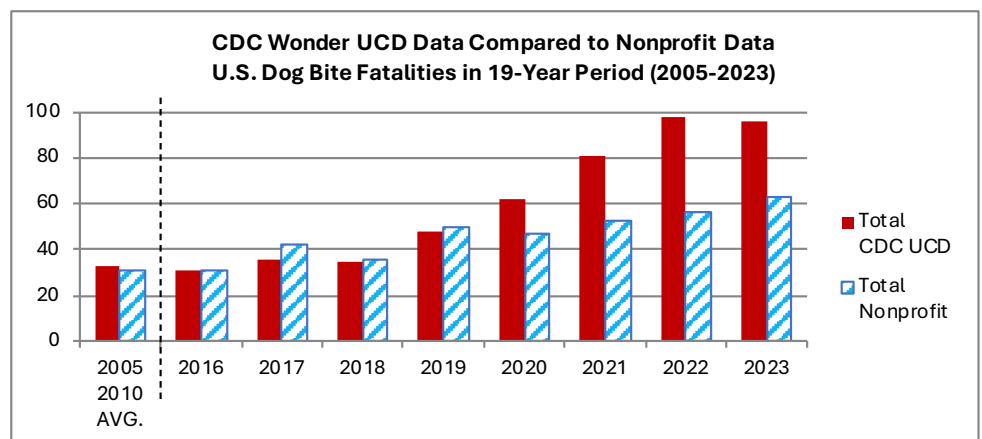
### 2023 Deaths by Age Group

An age group breakdown of dog bite fatality victims during the 2023 Covid year shows that the largest deficit of unreported deaths, which our nonprofit had no mechanism to capture, occurred in the 65+ age group (17), followed by 45-64 yrs (9).

Age Groups	Total CDC UCD	Total Nonprofit	Difference	% Nonprofit Captured	Possible Contributing Factors to Lowered Capture Rate
0-24 yrs	20	17	-3	85%	Pre-Covid (2005-2019), nonprofit captured 68% of CDC data for ≥ 50 age group. In 2023, nonprofit captured 60% of CDC data for ≥ 45 age group‡
25-44 yrs	11	7	-4	64%	
45-64 yrs	26	17	-9	65%	
65+	39	22	-17	56%	
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>-33</b>	<b>66%</b>	

#### 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 2023 Covid year of 96 deaths is a **100%** increase from 2019 and a **174%** increase from 2018 (35 deaths).



\*Brad Adgate, "Media Companies Have Slashed Over 20,000 Jobs In 2023," Forbes, December 19, 2023 (Accessed June 5, 2025: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/bradadgate/2023/12/19/media-companies-have-slashed-over-20000-jobs-in-2023>)

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

‡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>)