

## Dog Bite Reports

The CDC has a page listing several dog bite publications that provided us with much of our statistical data. [www.cdc.gov/ncipc/duip/dogbites.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/duip/dogbites.htm) will take you there. The first listing is **A Community Approach to Dog Bite Prevention**, which is an outline for keeping your community safe from dog bites. Excellent source of information from the CDC, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and more. Some statistics from this study:

*Intact male dogs are involved in 70-76% of reported dog bite incidents.*

*There are more than 53 million pet dogs in the U.S. (By 2007 that number jumped to 72 million.)*

*An estimated 4.7 million people will be bitten this year by dogs in the U.S.*

*800,000 people seek medical attention every year for dog bites in the U.S.*

The second listing is **Nonfatal Dog Bite Related Injuries Treated in Hospital Emergency Depts. in the U.S - 2001**. Some conclusions: 65% of bites to children < or = to 4 yrs old were in the head/neck. *To reduce the number of dog bite-related injuries, adults and children should be educated about bite prevention, and persons with canine pets should practice responsible pet ownership.* Also addresses licensing, neutering, registration, legislation, etc. and placing responsibility for a dog's behavior on the owner.

Down a couple is **Which dogs bite? A case-control study of risk factors**.

This study lists the top dog bite dogs. *Children aged 12 and younger were the victims in 51% of cases.* It concludes that *pediatricians should advise patients of certain dangers and the potential preventability of this frequent public health problem.*

Down more you will see **Dog bites: how big a problem?** This study showed a *300% higher medically attended bite rate in children relative to adults.* It concludes, among other things, that *potential prevention strategies include educational programs, especially directed at children.* Also, *dog bites merit far more attention as a public health problem.*

One of the more recent studies is "**Emergency Department Visits and Inpatient Stay Involving Dog Bites, 2008**". <http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb101.pdf>

1. The overall trend through the 16 year time period between 1993 and 2008 shows an 86.3 % increase in dog bite-related hospital stays.
2. The rate of hospitalization increased by 55% over that time.
3. The average cost of a dog bite-related inpatient stay was 50% higher than the cost of the average injury related hospitalization.
4. The aggregate cost for dog bite-related inpatient stays in the U.S. was \$53 million.
5. 57.9% of dog bite-related hospitalizations involved a surgical procedure.

Another study of dog bite injuries called **Incidence of Dog Bite Injuries Treated in Emergency Departments - [www.injurycontrol.com/Hank/reprints/dogbitejbr71203.pdf](http://www.injurycontrol.com/Hank/reprints/dogbitejbr71203.pdf)**

This study shows that there are more emergency room visits from dog bites than from skateboard, inline skating, horseback riding, baby walker and all-terrain vehicles *combined.* Conclusions: *Dog Bite injuries are an important source of injury in the US population, especially among children. Improved surveillance and prevention of dog bite-related injuries, particularly among children, are needed.*

The statistics paint a clear picture of the seriousness of this problem. To view injury reports, google **WISQARS nonfatal injury reports: <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/nonfatal.html>**. These reports show dog bites as one of the top ten causes of injury to children ages 5-9 and 10-14 from 2001 - 2009.