



# HUNTING

## One of the Safest Forms of Recreation in America

The National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) estimates that there are 20.6 million active hunters in the United States. An active hunter is defined as having hunted more than once in the past year (age 7 and older).

### Hunting-related Incidents

The most complete annual data (2002) from the International Hunter Education Association indicates 93 fatal and 805 non-fatal hunting injuries were recorded in the U.S. The charts below highlight several findings from the Hunter Incident Clearinghouse.

<b>TOTAL INCIDENTS:</b>	<b>898<sup>†</sup></b>
<b>NON-FATAL:</b>	<b>805</b>
<b>FATAL:</b>	<b>93</b>

<b>TWO-PARTY INCIDENTS:</b>	<b>544</b>
<b>SELF INFLICTED INCIDENTS:</b>	<b>351</b>
<b>UNKNOWN:</b>	<b>3</b>

Activity (A-Z)	Participants	Injuries
Archery	5,300,000	4,609
Baseball	15,900,000	162,527
Basketball	27,800,000	561,444
Bicycle Riding	40,300,000	524,455
Billiards, pool	34,200,000	5,672
Bowling	43,800,000	17,916
Boxing	700,000	12,053
Cheerleading	4,100,000	28,414
Fishing	41,200,000	64,077
Football	17,800,000	395,088
Golf	24,500,000	37,131

### HUNTING STATISTICS

Ice Hockey	2,400,000	20,251
Martial Arts	4,700,000	25,680
Mountain Climbing	3,300,000	4,051
Racquetball	2,500,000	7,122
Roller Skating	26,900,000	74,007
Skateboarding	10,300,000	113,329
Snowmobiling	3,100,000	13,055
Soccer	13,300,000	173,509
Softball	12,500,000	113,113
Swimming	53,400,000	174,898
Tennis	9,600,000	21,779
Volleyball	10,800,000	56,029
Weight Lifting	26,200,000	70,381
Wrestling	1,500,000	32,767

Equipment Involved		
Type	#	%
Shotgun	491	55.0
Rifle	265	29.0
Bow	38	4.0
Handgun	34	4.0
Other	15	2.0
N/A	10	1.0
Crossbow	5	0.6
Air/Gas Gun	2	0.2
Unknown	38	4.1

Game Involved		
Type	#	%
Deer	427	47.0
Turkey	93	10.0
Pheasant	63	7.0
Squirrel	47	5.0
Cottontail	47	5.0
Dove/Pigeon	38	4.0
Duck/Geese	36	4.0
Quail	27	3.0
Unknown	25	3.0
Coyote	15	2.0
Grouse	10	1.0
Elk	7	0.7
Bear	1	0.1
Other	62	7.0

FACTOR	#	%
Failure to identify target	139	15.0
Shooter swinging on game	115	13.0
Careless handling of firearm	103	11.0
Victim out of sight of shooter	73	8.0
Fall while climbing into/out of position	69	8.0
Victim moved into line of fire	51	6.0
Shooter stumbled and fell	49	5.0
Failure to check beyond target	33	4.0
Unknown factor	25	3.0
Trigger caught on object	23	3.0
Ricochet	22	2.0
Unloading firearm	16	1.8
Failure to use a safety belt	16	1.8
Firearm fell from insecure rest	15	1.6
Loading a firearm	14	1.6
Remove/place firearm in vehicle	13	1.4
Run/walk with loaded firearm	10	1.2
Faulty equipment	8	1.2
Improper crossing of obstacle	9	1.1
Discharge firearm in/on vehicle	8	0.9
Obstruction in barrel	4	0.5
Dropped firearm	4	0.4
Failure to use haul line	2	0.2
Mixed ammo/incorrect substitution	2	0.2
Improper powder substitution	1	0.1
Shooting across roadway	1	0.1
Other	72	7.5
<b>Total:</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>100</b>

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

For illustrative purposes only, the chart above shows estimations of injuries in various forms of recreation sorted alphabetically. The statistics to the right illustrate hunting-related injuries.

Source: Participants - National Sporting Goods Association, 2004.  
 Injuries - Consumer Product Safety Commission. Injuries treated in hospital emergency departments.  
 Note: The National Safety Council warns against using participation figures to calculate injury comparisons as frequency and number of participants will vary in each activity.  
 Hunting Injuries: International Hunter Education Association, Hunting Incident Summary, 2004.  
 For more information visit [www.thea.com](http://www.thea.com).

