

Dog Bites by Severity (2012-2023)

Austin Animal Center, Texas

Emphasizing the rise in "severe+" injury dog bites in the city of Austin between 2018 to 2023.*

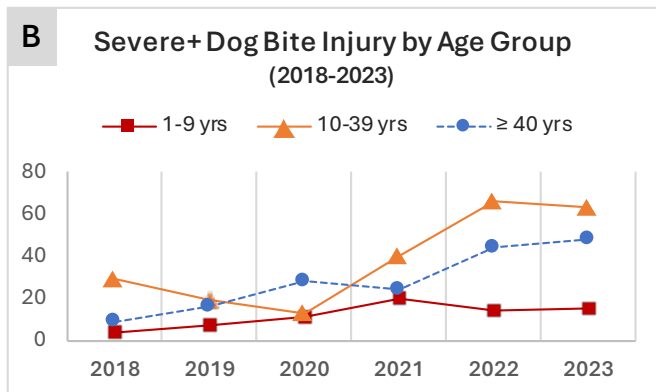
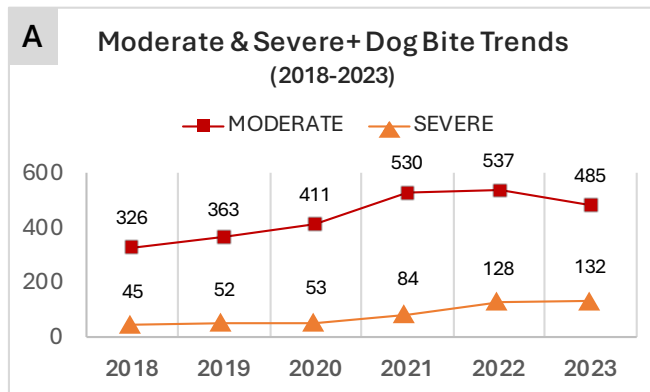
YEAR	DOGS	MINOR	MODERATE	SEVERE+	UNKNOWN	TOTAL	% Severe+
2012	1560	1010	363	46	141	1560	3%
2013	1499	1087	265	62	85	1499	4%
2014	1597	1234	260	51	52	1597	3%
2015	1702	1279	259	54	110	1702	3%
2016	1840	1414	280	65	81	1840	4%
2017	1926	1406	368	70	82	1926	4%
2018	1911	1463	326	45	77	1911	2%
2019	2081	1597	363	52	69	2081	2%
2020	2006	1468	411	53	74	2006	3%
2021	1999	1297	530	84	88	1999	4%
2022	2016	1233	537	128	118	2016	6%
2023	1774	1062	485	132	95	1774	7%
Total	21911	15550	4447	842	1072	21911	

Bite Severity Increase (2018 to 2023)

Minor Bite Increase	-27%
Moderate Bite Increase	49%
Severe+ Bite Increase	193%

Age Groups (2018 to 2023)

1-9 yrs old	275%
10-39 yrs old	117%
≥ 40- yrs old	433%



Severe+ Bites by Age Group (2012-2023)

YEAR	0 yrs†	1-9 yrs	10-39 yrs	≥ 40 yrs	BLANK CELL	TOTAL (> 0)	% ≥ 40 yrs
2012	22	6	9	9	0	24	38%
2013	9	20	18	15	0	53	28%
2014	10	11	15	15	0	41	37%
2015	8	6	25	15	0	46	33%
2016	13	14	16	22	0	52	42%
2017	3	14	28	25	0	67	37%
2018	3	4	29	9	0	42	21%
2019	1	7	19	16	9	42	38%
2020	0	11	13	28	1	52	54%
2021	0	20	40	24	0	84	29%
2022	0	14	66	44	4	124	35%
2023	0	15	63	48	6	126	38%
Total	69	142	341	270	20	753	

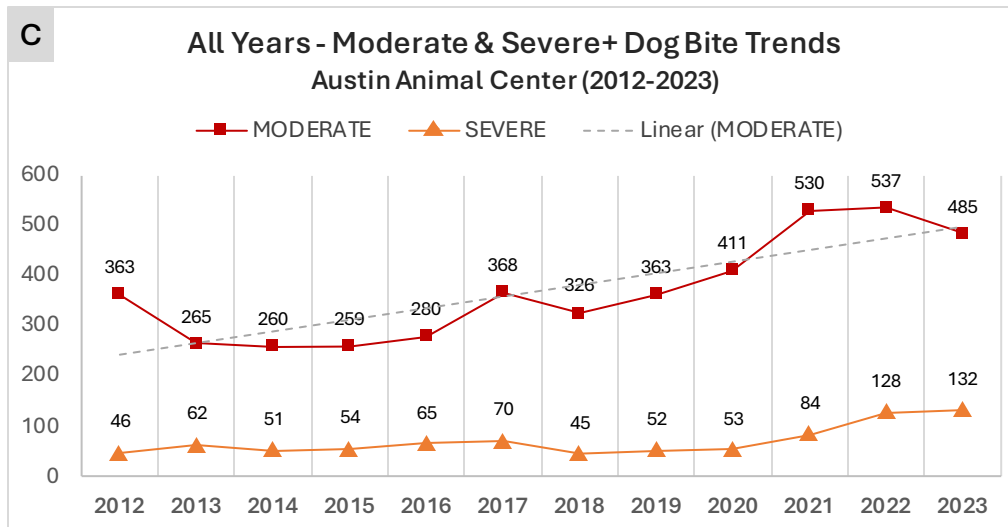
*The "Severe+" injury category combines two categories: "Severe" (825) and "Life-threatening/death" (17). Total = 842.

†The age "0," which should represent infants, had numerous miscodings. We could only measure > 0 years, excluding blank cells.

All Years Chart - Historical Comparison (2012-2023)

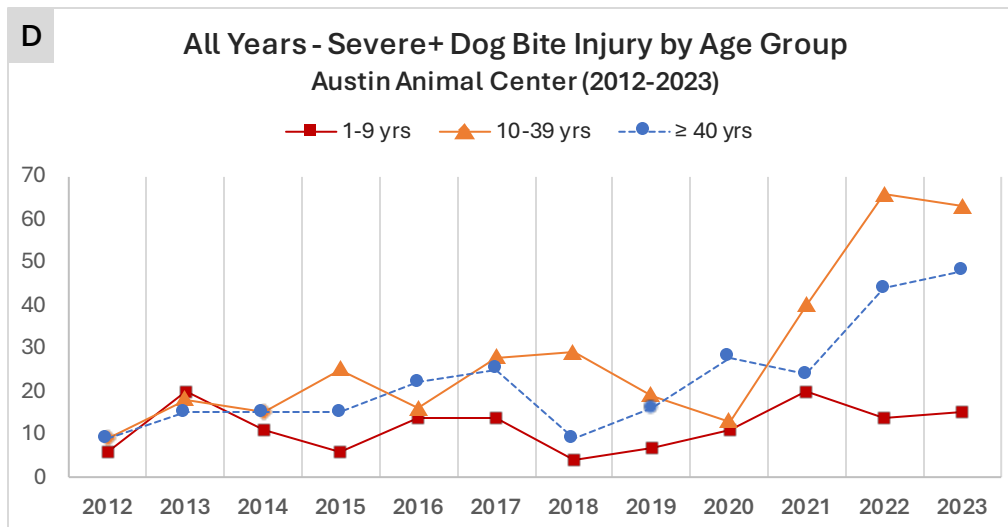
Austin Animal Center, Texas

All years for comparison purposes. The population in the city of Austin rose 15% between 2012 to 2023.*



Severity

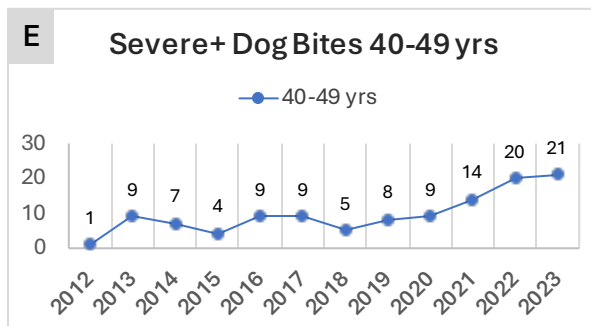
Severe+ dog bite injuries (the least frequent) rose 193% between 2018 and 2023. Moderate dog bite injuries (the next least frequent) rose 49% during the same period. The trendline shows that moderate bites have been rising since 2012 (34%) but not as fast as severe+ bite injuries (187%).



Age Groups

Severe+ dog bite injuries rose for all age groups between 2018 and 2023, 1-9 years (275%) and 10-39 years (117%) but rose the most for ≥ 40 years (433%). The rise within the ≥ 40 age group started before the Covid pandemic.

In 2022, there was an unreported fatal dog mauling in Austin of a 41-year old man experiencing homelessness involving 6 unrestrained pit bulls.



Fastest Rising Age Group

40-49 yrs

Among the ≥ 40 year old age group, 40-49 years rose the most over the 12-year period, nearly doubling in the number of incidents between the two 6-year periods (2012-2017 and 2018-2023) from 39 to 77, a 97% rise. Followed by ≥ 70 years, which also saw nearly a doubling between the two periods from 12 to 22, an 83% rise.

*City of Austin population: 854,656 in 2012 to 979,882 in 2023.
<https://www.neilsberg.com/insights/austin-tx-population-by-year/>

Top-Biting Dog Breeds by Year and Injury Severity (2012-2023)

Austin Animal Center, Texas

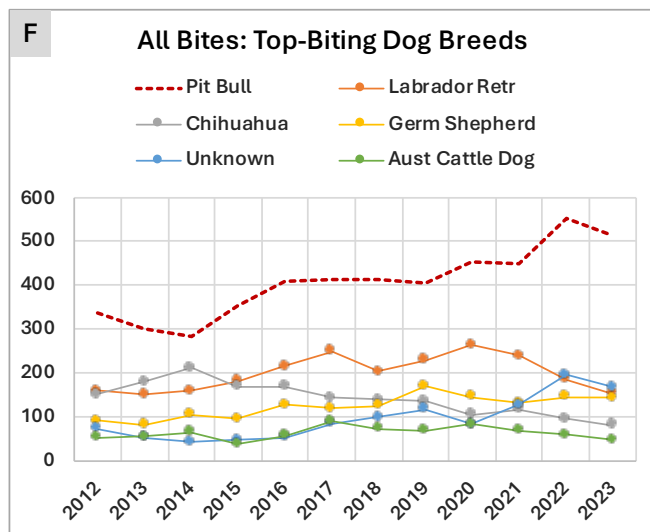
Emphasizing the rise in "severe+" dog bite injuries inflicted by the top-biting breeds from 2012 to 2023.*

Total Bites : Top-Biting Dog Breeds (all severity levels)

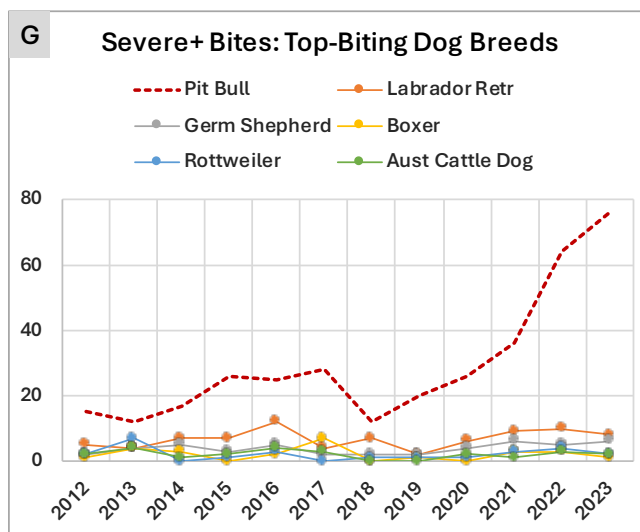
BREED GROUP†	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
Pit Bull	336	302	284	353	411	415	412	405	454	449	553	514	4888
Labrador Retr	161	152	161	183	217	251	204	231	265	241	187	154	2407
Chihuahua	153	180	213	171	170	144	141	137	105	118	96	81	1709
Germ Shepherd	92	82	105	95	127	120	126	171	147	132	146	144	1487
Unknown	74	53	44	48	53	85	100	117	84	127	197	168	1150
Aust Cattle Dog	53	55	66	39	58	91	74	70	84	69	59	47	765
All Other Breeds‡	691	675	724	813	804	820	854	950	867	863	778	666	9505
TOTAL	1560	1499	1597	1702	1840	1926	1911	2081	2006	1999	2016	1774	21911

Severe+ Bites: Top-Biting Dog Breeds

BREED GROUP	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
Pit Bull	15	12	17	26	25	28	12	20	26	36	64	76	357
Labrador Retr	5	4	7	7	12	4	7	2	6	9	10	8	81
Germ Shepherd	2	4	5	3	5	2	2	2	4	6	5	6	46
Boxer	1	4	3	0	2	7	0	1	0	3	3	1	25
Rottweiler	2	7	0	1	3	0	1	1	1	3	4	2	25
Aust Cattle Dog	2	4	1	2	4	3	0	0	2	1	3	2	24
All Other Breeds§	19	27	18	15	14	26	23	26	14	26	39	37	284
TOTAL	46	62	51	54	65	70	45	52	53	84	128	132	842



From 2014 to 2023, total bites by pit bulls increased 81%.



From 2018 to 2023, severe+ bites by pit bulls increased 533%.

*The "Severe+" injury category combines two categories: "Severe" and "Life-threatening/death."

†Breed Group" was determined using these rules (1) Breeds listed under two or more names ("Alaskan husky" and "Siberian husky") were combined into one breed, (2) Breeds with multiple size distinctions ("giant" and "miniature") were combined into one breed, and (3) Breeds with coat distinctions ("Chihuahua long coat" and "Chihuahua short coat") were combined into one breed. Other examples include:

(1) The "Australian cattle dog" breed group combines: Australian cattle dog and Queensland heeler.

(2) The "Pit Bull" breed group combines: American pit bull terrier, American Staffordshire terrier, Staffordshire, and pit bull.

‡The "All Other Breeds" category for "Total Bites" contains 176 different dog breeds.

§The "All Other Breeds" category for "Severe+ Bites" contains 75 different dog breeds.

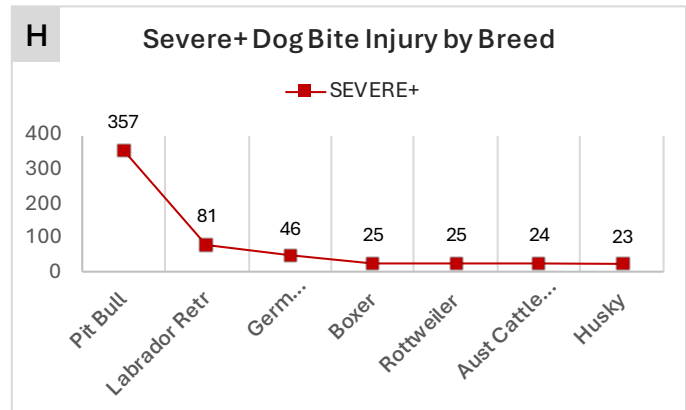
Top-Biting Dog Breeds by Injury Severity (2012-2023)

Austin Animal Center, Texas

SEVERE+ Dog Bite Injury

Pit bulls inflicted 42% of all severe and life-threatening injuries ("severe+"), over 4 times more than the next closest breed.

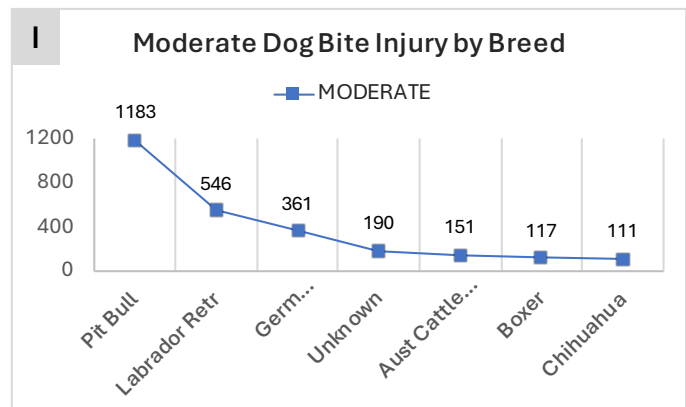
BREED	SEVERE+	ALL	% Severe+
Pit Bull	357	4888	42%
Labrador Retr	81	2407	10%
Germ Shepherd	46	1487	5%
Boxer	25	508	3%
Rottweiler	25	303	3%
Aust Cattle Dog	24	765	3%
Husky	23	471	3%
Unknown	19	1150	2%
Amer Bulldog	18	233	2%
Eng Bulldog	12	117	1%
All Others (71)	212	9582	25%
Total	842	21911	100%



MODERATE Dog Bite Injury

Pit bulls inflicted 27% of all moderate injuries, over 2 times more than the next closest breed.

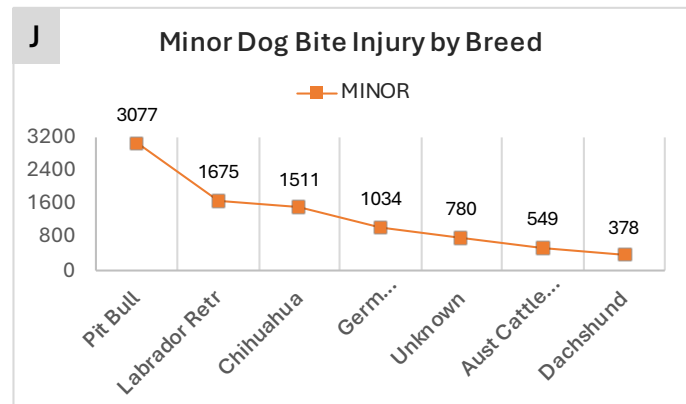
BREED	MODERATE	ALL	% Moderate
Pit Bull	1183	4888	27%
Labrador Retr	546	2407	12%
Germ Shepherd	361	1487	8%
Unknown	190	1150	4%
Aust Cattle Dog	151	765	3%
Boxer	117	508	3%
Chihuahua	111	1709	2%
Husky	109	471	2%
Rottweiler	87	303	2%
Border Collie	86	450	2%
All Others (134)	1506	7773	34%
Total	4447	21911	100%



MINOR Dog Bite Injury

Pit bulls inflicted 20% of all minor injuries, over 1.75 times more often than the next closest breed.

BREED	MINOR	ALL	% Minor
Pit Bull	3077	4888	20%
Labrador Retr	1675	2407	11%
Chihuahua	1511	1709	10%
Germ Shepherd	1034	1487	7%
Unknown	780	1150	5%
Aust Cattle Dog	549	765	4%
Dachshund	378	447	2%
Boxer	350	508	2%
Aust Shepherd	334	436	2%
Husky	315	471	2%
All Others (168)	5547	7643	36%
Total	15550	21911	100%



Multi-Dog Bites & Severe+ Injury Bites (2012-2023)

Austin Animal Center, Texas

Emphasizing the influence of multi-dog bites involving "severe+" injury bites from 2018 to 2023.*

Total Bites : Multi-Dog Bites (all severity levels)

BITE TYPE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
Multi-Dog Bites	226	247	229	263	350	360	326	360	318	375	391	277	3722
All Bites	1560	1499	1597	1702	1840	1926	1911	2081	2006	1999	2016	1774	21911
% TOTAL YEAR	14%	16%	14%	15%	19%	19%	17%	17%	16%	19%	19%	16%	17%

Severe+ Bites: Multi-Dog Bites

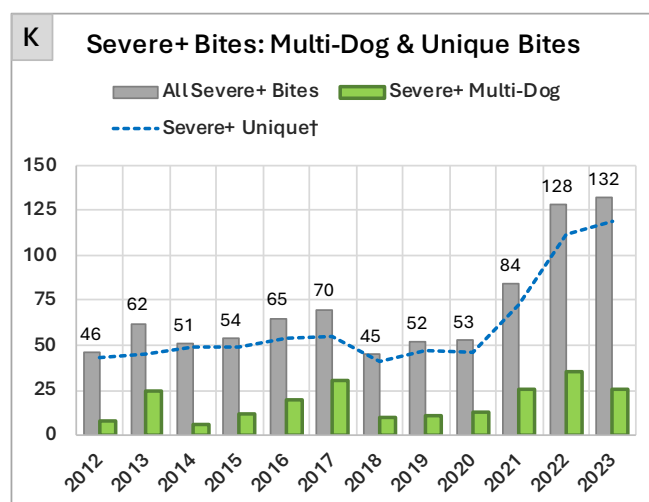
BITE TYPE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
Severe+ Multi-Dog	8	25	6	12	20	30	10	11	13	26	35	26	222
All Severe+ Bites	46	62	51	54	65	70	45	52	53	84	128	132	842
% TOTAL YEAR	17%	40%	12%	22%	31%	43%	22%	21%	25%	31%	27%	20%	26%

Severe+ Bites: Unique Bites

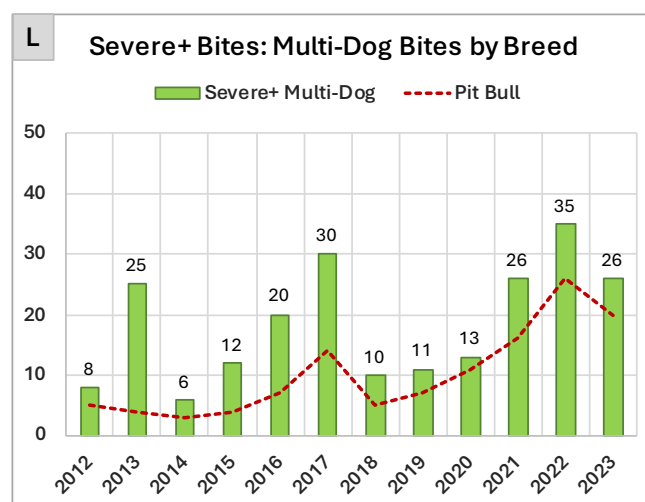
BITE TYPE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
Severe+ Unique†	43	45	49	49	54	55	41	47	46	73	112	119	733
All Severe+ Bites	46	62	51	54	65	70	45	52	53	84	128	132	842
DIFFERENCE	-3	-17	-2	-5	-11	-15	-4	-5	-7	-11	-16	-13	-109

Severe+ Bites: Multi-Dog Bites by Breed

BREED GROUP‡	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
Pit Bull	5	4	3	4	7	14	5	7	11	16	26	20	122
All Other Breeds§	3	21	3	8	13	16	5	4	2	10	9	6	100
TOTAL	8	25	6	12	20	30	10	11	13	26	35	26	222



From 2012 to 2017, multi-dog bites comprised 29% of severe+ bites (101/348). From 2018 to 2023, that fell to 24% (121/494).



From 2012 to 2017, pit bulls were involved in 37% of multi-dog bites (37/101). From 2018 to 2023, that rose to 70% (85/121).

*The "Severe+" injury category combines two categories: "Severe" and "Life-threatening/death."

†Extracted duplicate victim IDs.

‡The "Pit Bull" breed group combines: American pit bull terrier, American Staffordshire terrier, Staffordshire, and pit bull.

§The "All Other Breeds" category contains 30 different dog breeds.