

# 30-Year Summary

## Dog attack deaths and maimings, U.S. & Canada

September 1982 to December 26, 2011

### Summary

2011 brought the most total pit bull attacks, second most pit bull attacks on children, most pit bull attacks on adults, third most pit bull fatalities, and most pit bull disfigurements in the 30 years that I have kept track of the data.

This is the data from the past 20 years, **with the 1992 data representing the first 10 years of data collection:**

SUMMARY OF PIT BULL INCIDENTS

YEAR	ATTACKS		CHILDREN		ADULTS		KILLED		MAIMED	
	Total	Year	Total	Year	Total	Year	Total	Year	Total	Year
1992	103		43		60		18		35	
2002	729	86	345	45	247	22	62	6	392	54
2003	857	128	395	50	303	56	75	13	463	71
2004	936	79	433	38	329	26	83	8	501	38
2005	1080	144	494	61	369	40	97	14	582	81
2006	1194	114	523	29	416	47	111	14	645	63
2007	1268	74	553	30	438	22	123	12	682	37
2008	1392	124	593	40	473	35	137	14	734	52
2009	1553	161	665	72	524	51	161	24	825	91
2010	1797	244	774	109	604	80	190	29	966	141
2011	2092	295	876	102	715	111	213	23	1164	198

### Discussion

I don't like to make much of the year-to-year fluctuations, since the differences between any given year and the years before and after are well within the possibilities of chance.

The cumulative trends, though, are another matter.

Note, first of all, that the first 10 years of data collection included fewer pit bull attacks than in seven of the past 10 years, and barely a third as many as in 2011 alone. All of the numbers from the first 10 years of data collection look like a single year's worth of data from recent years.

65% of the pit bull attacks resulting in someone being killed or maimed during the past 30 years have occurred during the past 10 years.

39% of the pit bull attacks resulting in someone being killed or maimed during the past 30 years have occurred during the past four years alone. This corresponds with the time frame within which the Best Friends Animal Society and the American Humane Association ramped up their pit bull advocacy, in the wake of the Michael Vick case.

14% of the total attacks occurred in the last year alone, and 26% in the past two years.

61% of the pit bull attacks on children have occurred in the past 10 years; 37% in the past four years; 24% in the past two years.

65% of the pit bull attacks on adults have occurred in the past 10 years; 39% in the past four years; 27% in the past two years.

71% of the pit bull fatalities have occurred in the past 10 years; 42% in the past four years; 24% in the past two years.

66% of the pit bull disfigurements have occurred in the past 10 years; 41% in the past four years; 29% in the past two years.

These cumulative trends are not within the possibilities of chance. They show a situation which has slipped out of any semblance of control, even compared to the situation of 10 years ago.

**See full report:**

<http://www.dogsbite.org/dog-bite-statistics-study-dog-attacks-and-maimings-merritt-clifton.php>

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