

## Dog Bite Stats

- 4.7 million Americans are bitten each year (2% of the US population).
- 800,000-1 million (at least 1 in 6) dog bite injuries require medical attention
- About 334,000 victims are sent to an ER (914 per day!)
- About 51% of dog bite victims are children
- 3,000 victims are mail carriers
- An American has a 1 in 50 chance of being bitten each year
- Half of children in the US are bitten by a dog by their 12<sup>th</sup> birthday
- From 1979-1996, 304 people in the US died from a dog attack—average of 17 per year.
- The chances that a fatal dog attack will be a burglar are 1 in 177. The chances that it will be a child are 7 in 10.
- For every fatal dog attack in the US, there are 230,000 bites that are not treated by a doctor.
- 61% of dog bites or attacks happen at home or in a familiar place.
- 77% of the biting dogs belong to the victim's family or a friend.
- Dog attacks are responsible for an estimated \$1-2 billion in monetary losses every year.
- Insurance companies paid out an estimated \$310 million in dog bite liability claims in 1999 (20% of total homeowner's insurance liability payouts).
- Hospital expenses for dog bite-related ER visits are estimated at \$102 million.
- Medical costs related to dog bites are second only to the medical costs for STDs.
- One in three homeowners insurance claims pertain to a dog bite.
- 77% of injuries to children under 10 years old are facial.
- The face is the most frequent target (77% of all injuries).
- Dog bites are second only to baseball/softball injuries for childhood ER visits.
- 50% of dog attack victims have permanent scars of aesthetic and/or functional consequences.
- Intact males represent 70-76% of reported dog bite incidents.
- Unneutered dogs are 3 times more likely to bite.

Source: Humane Society of the United States