



# **2012 Hunting Incident Report**

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

# Table of Contents

◆ Executive Summary	3
◆ History of Hunting Incidents & Fatalities	4
◆ Incident Rate per 100,000 Hunters	5
◆ Month & Day of Incident	6
◆ Time of Incidents	7
◆ Where Incidents Occurred	8
◆ Animals Hunted by Shooter	9
◆ Firearms Involved in Incidents	10
◆ Contributing Factors to Incident	11
◆ Incident Conditions: Weather; Light Conditions; Topography; Ground Cover	12
◆ Injury Information	13
◆ Shooter/Victim Hunting Party, Victim Visibility	13
◆ Shooter Statistics; Hunter Education; Experience; Age & Gender	14
◆ Shooter Activity at Time of Incident	15
◆ Distance from Muzzle to Wound	16
◆ Victim Statistics: Hunter Education; Experience; Age; Gender	17
◆ Victim Statistics: Surroundings	18
◆ Victim Statistics: Color of Cap, Coat and Trousers	19
◆ State Map with Hunting Incidents by County	20
◆ State Map with Hunting Incidents by Deer Management Unit	21
◆ History of Deer Gun Incidents & Fatalities	22
◆ State Map with Gun Deer Season Incidents	23
◆ Deer Gun Incidents: Day of Week; Victim Clothing Color	24
◆ Deer Season Safety Violation: Archery & Firearms	25

# 2012 Hunting Incident Summary

**Hunting Incident -- is when a person is injured by the discharge of a hunting firearm or bow and arrow arising from the activity of hunting, including travel to and from the hunting field.**

There were 28 total hunting incidents during the 2012 hunting season. Four of the 28 incidents were fatal. Thanks to the efforts of our hunter education program hunting is a safe activity in Wisconsin and getting safer all the time. Hunting incidents are continuing a downward trend and for 2012 we were below the 10 year average of about 30 incidents per year.

Gun deer hunting, squirrel hunting and turkey hunting were the three hunting activities with the highest number of incidents with gun deer hunting having the most. Hunting on game farms continue to be a location where several pheasant hunting incidents occur annually. Other game hunting remained basically the same compared to 2011.

Rifles and shotguns remain the hunting implement involved most often in hunting incidents. Shotguns (43%) and rifles (50%). No handgun or muzzleloader incidents occurred in 2012. Two incidents involved archery (7%).

There were three major causes for incidents for 2012: Shooters failure to positively identify the target, victim out of sight of the shooter and victim covered by shooter swinging on game. It's not a good enough reason to take a shot when a hunter only thinks they are seeing a legal target; they must know and be certain the target is legal. Having a safe zone of fire and safe backstop is equally important to knowing your target. Planning your hunt and hunting your plan is important. Know where your hunting partners are at all times.

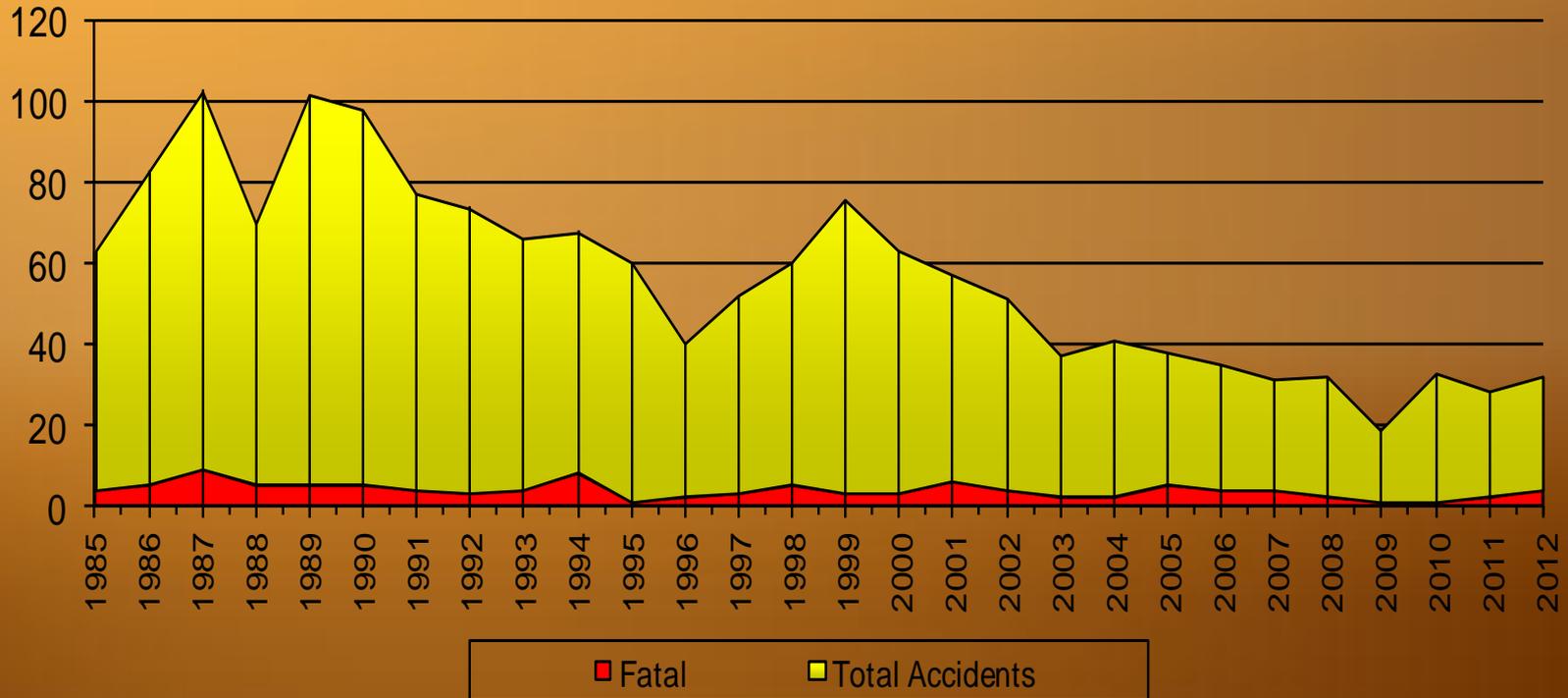
Self inflicted injuries accounted for 46% of the total number of incidents. This is a increase of 8% from 2011.

Juveniles (under age 18) make up 21% of the incidents in 2012 . That means that 79% of all hunting incidents were caused by adult hunters. Historically juveniles have contributed to nearly 30% of the total numbers of incidents. It is important to note that the numbers of incidents caused by juvenile shooters was a single digit (6) incidents out of 28 incidents for 2012.

To summarize this report, 2012 was a safe year with only one fatal during the 9 day gun deer season. Hunters, education instructors, sportsman organizations and Conservation Wardens should be congratulated for making 2012 a safe year to hunt. 1972 was the first year without a fatal incident for gun deer hunting. We were well below the 10 year average for hunting incidents and expect to continue that trend into the future. Incidents that were caused while hunters were either moving or shooting at moving game increase the propensity for something to go wrong. **We cannot rest on past success and must stress the importance of knowing and practicing the 4 basic rules of firearms safety every time we handle a firearm.** Remember the slogan "Safe Hunting is No Accident." 2013 can be the safest season ever. . . .**IF all hunters follow these 4 simple rules:**

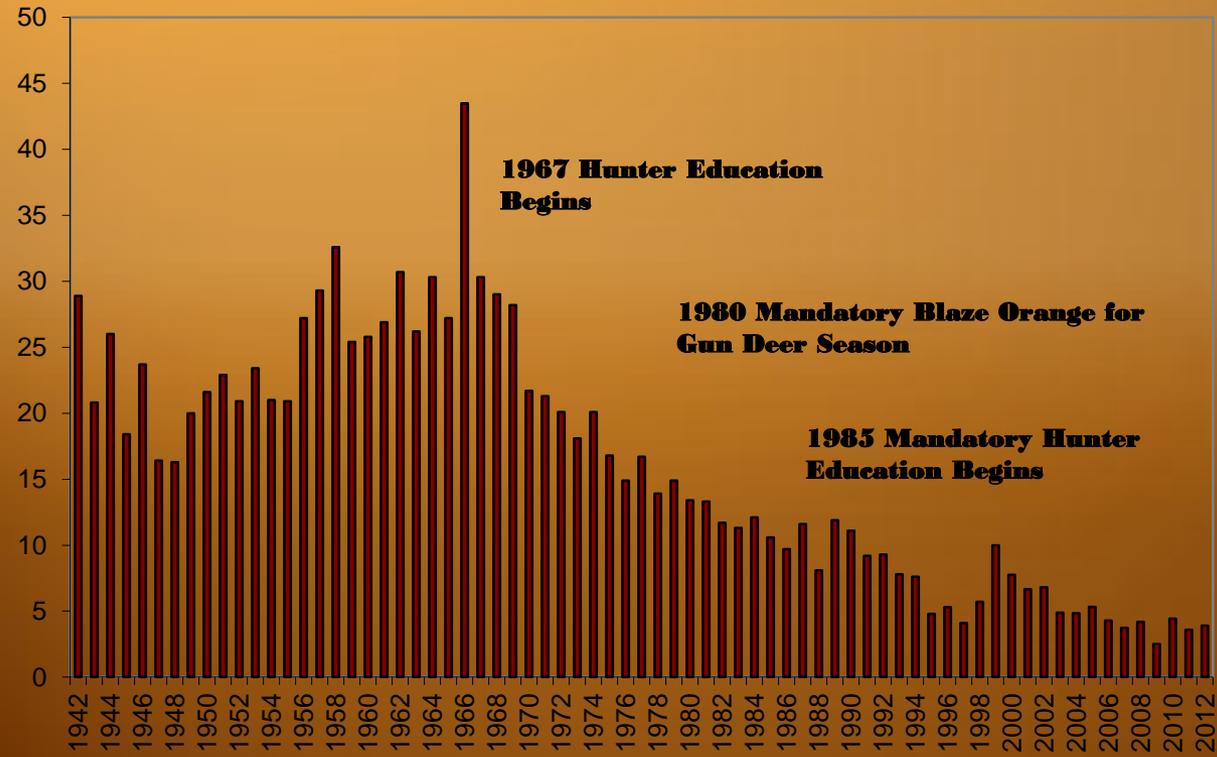
**Treat every firearm as if it is loaded.  
Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.  
Be certain of your target and what's beyond.  
Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot.**

# History of Hunting Incidents & Fatalities



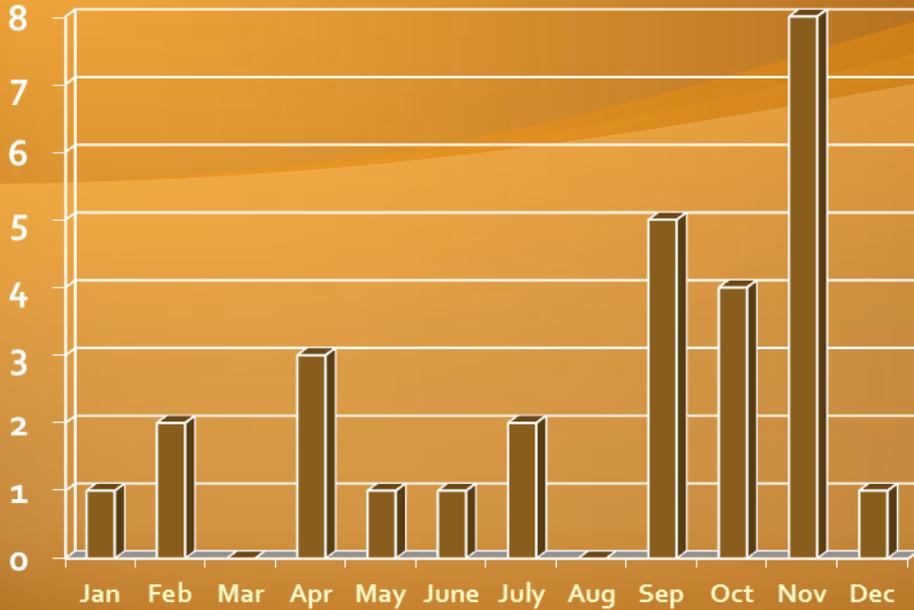
# Wisconsin Hunting Incident Rate Per 100,000 Hunters

Incidents per 100,000

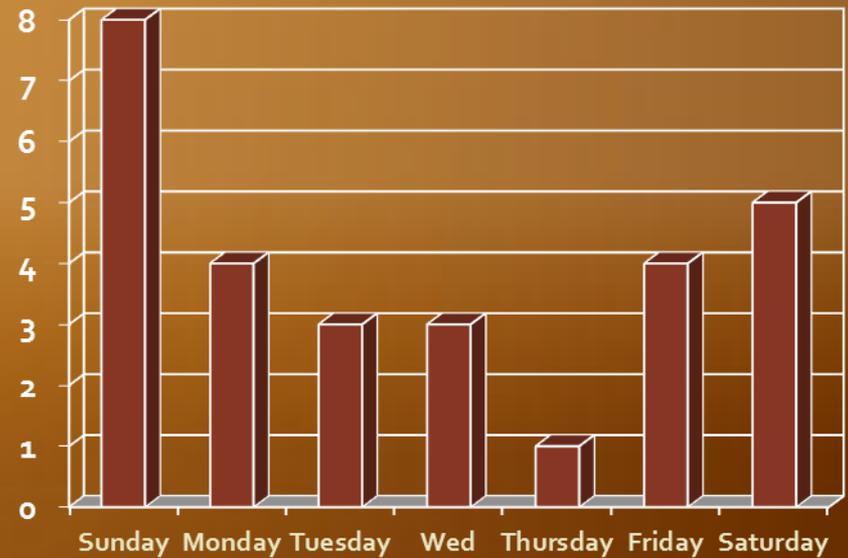


License Year	Total Number of Incidents	Incidents per 100,000
2012	28	3.91061
2011	26	3.61111
2010	32	4.435825
2009	18	2.506053
2008	30	4.186997
2007	27	3.742728
2006	31	4.294515
2005	38	5.325037
2004	35	4.84226
2003	35	4.886903

# Month and Day of Week – All Incidents 2012

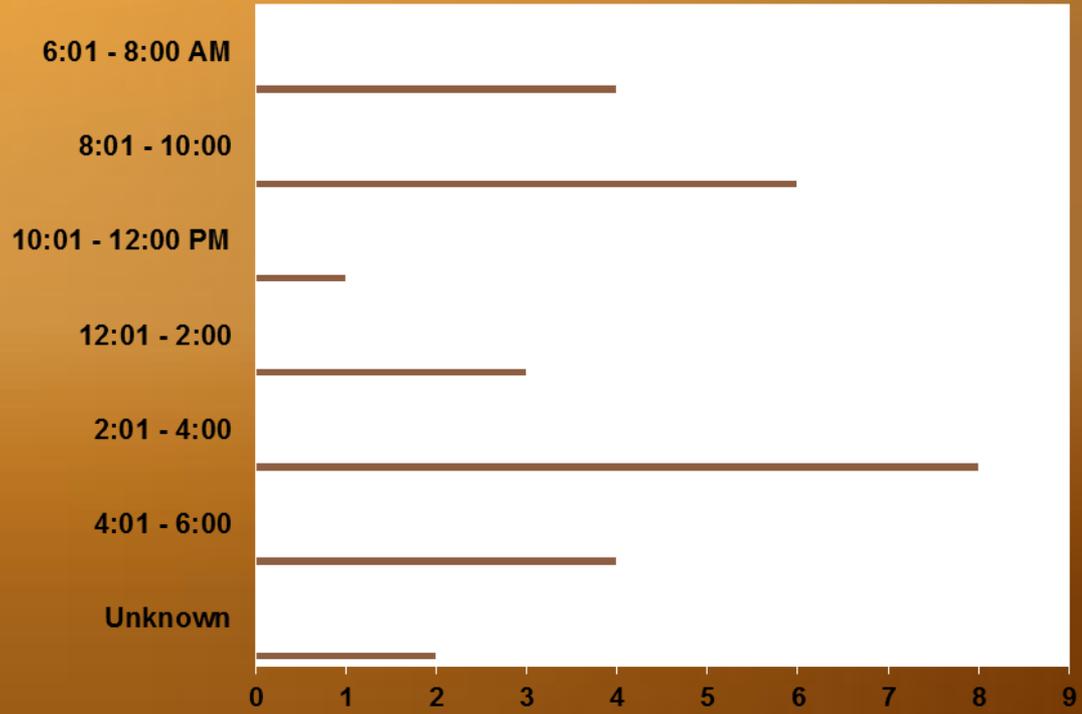


Month Incident Occurred – All Incidents 2012

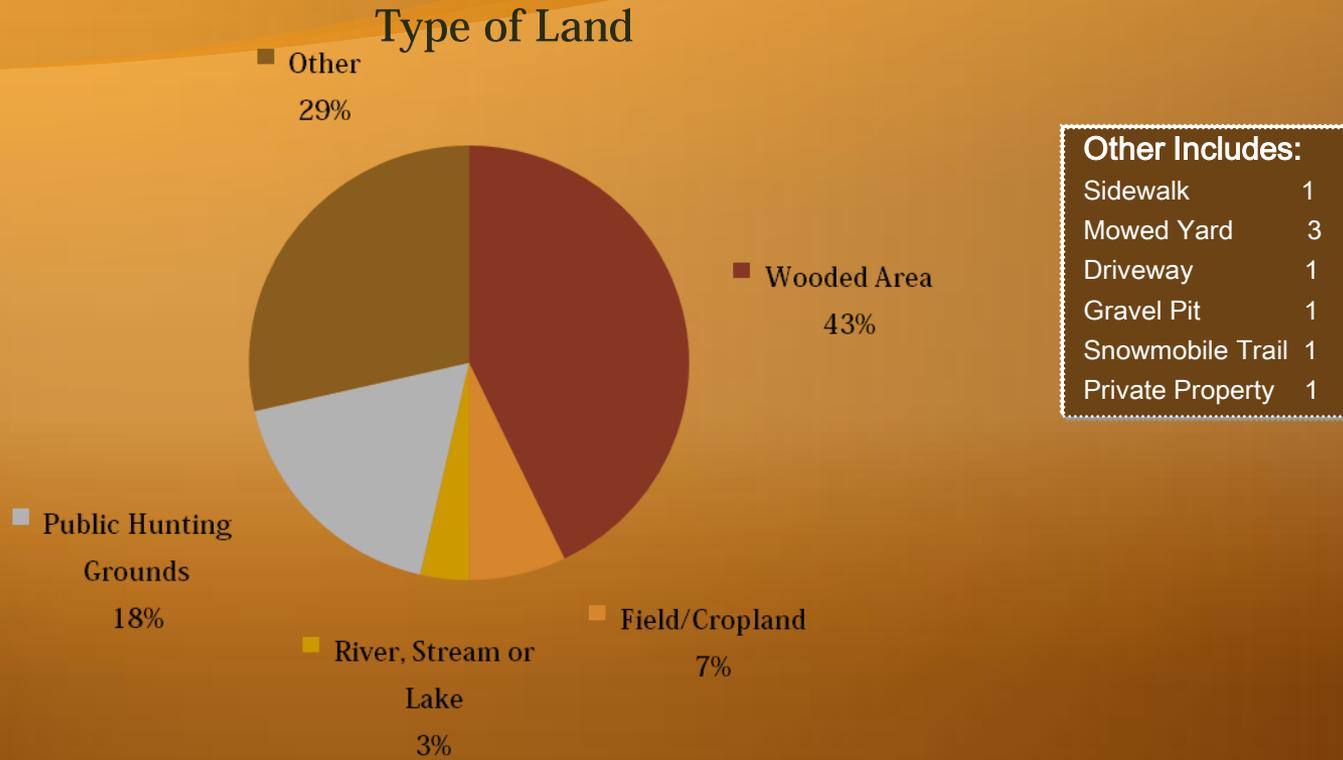


Day of Week – All Incidents 2012

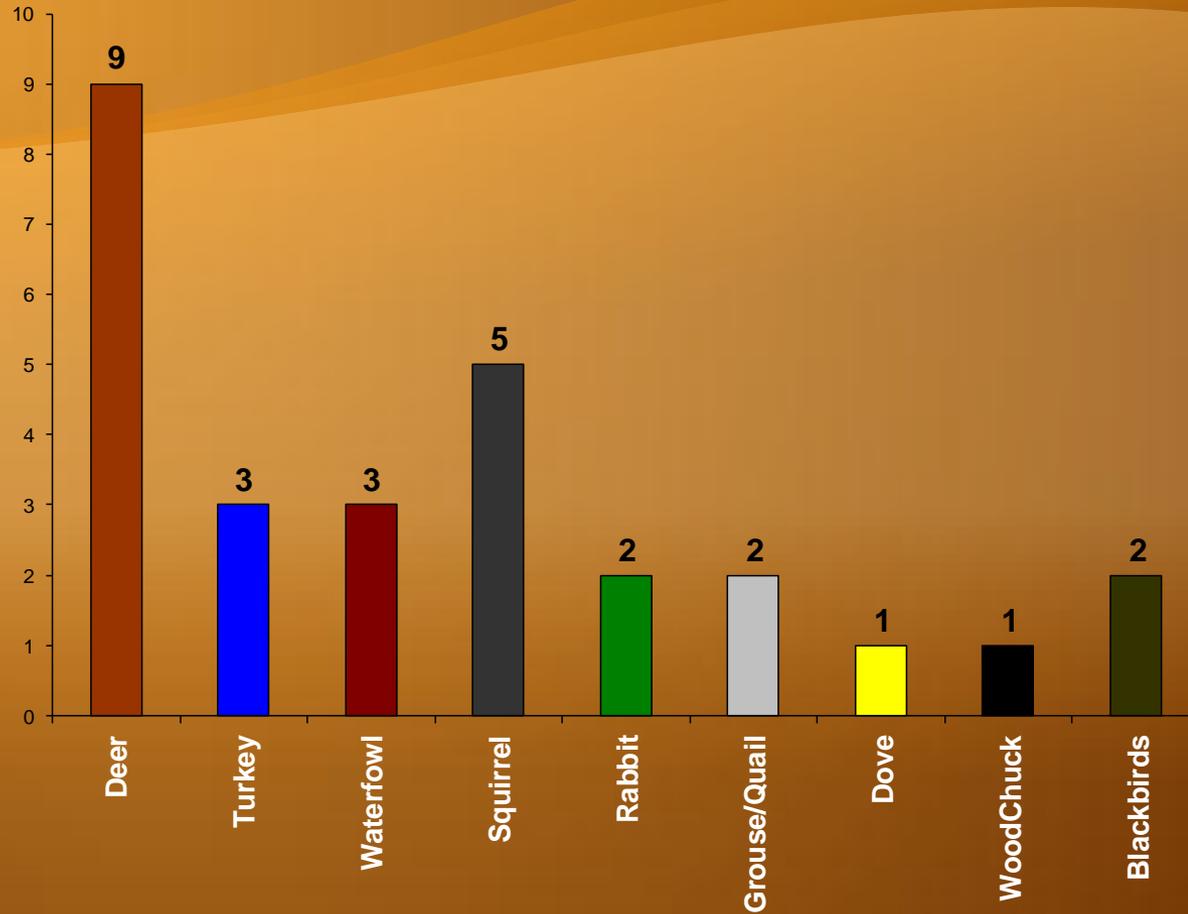
# Time of Day – All Incidents 2012



# Where Incident Occurred – All Incidents 2012

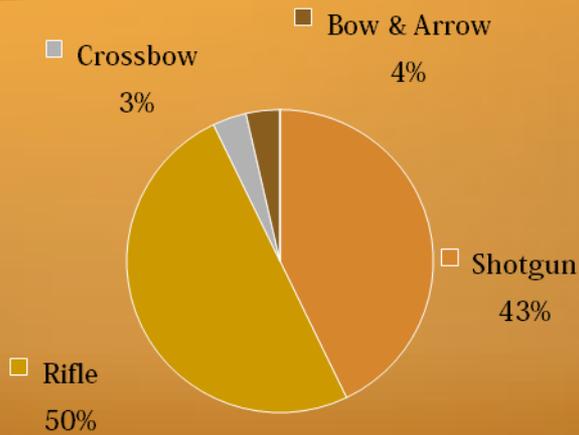


# Animals Hunted by Shooter – All Incidents 2012

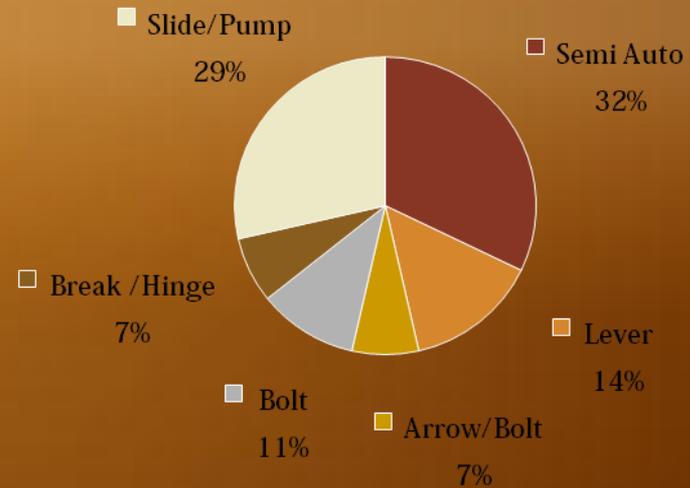


# Firearms Involved in Incidents – All Incidents 2012

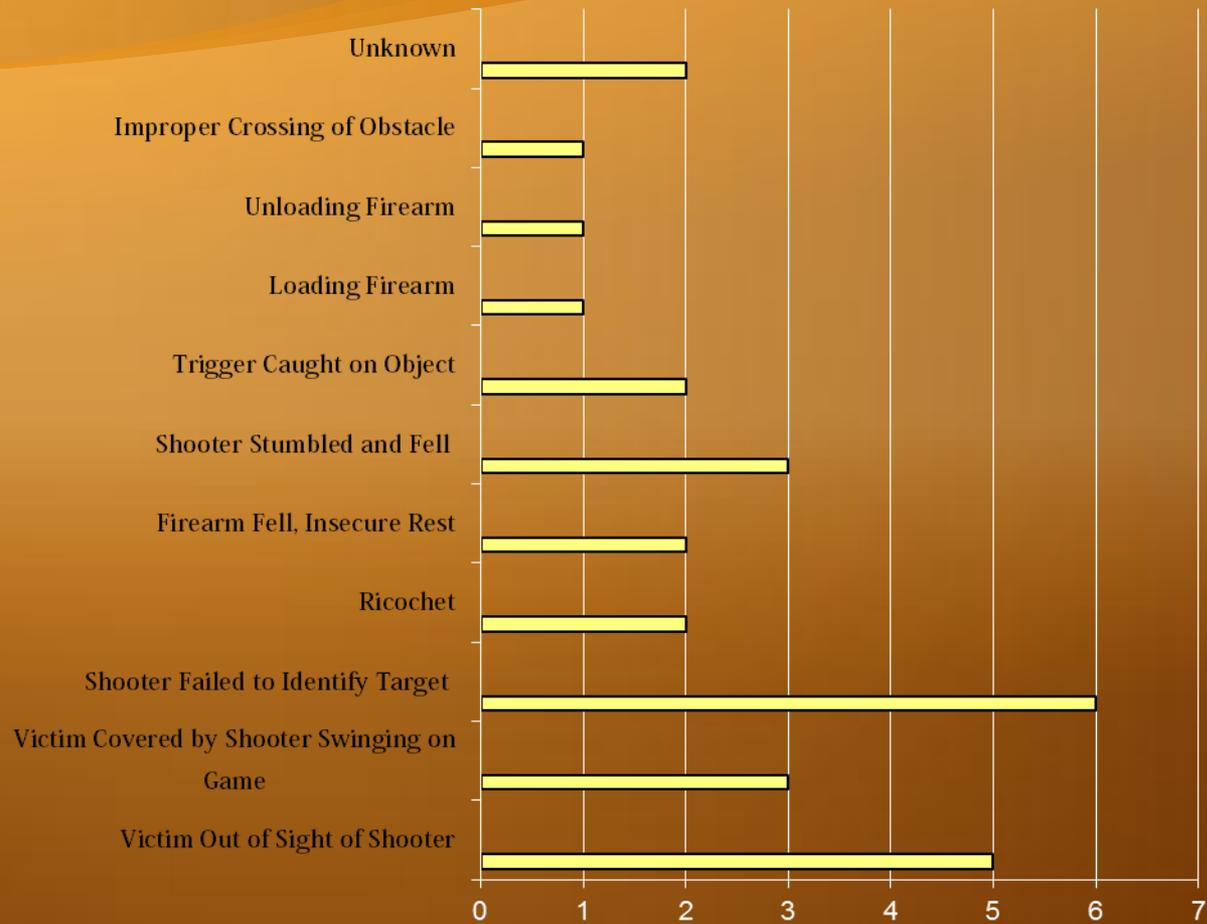
Type



Action



# Contributing Factors to Incidents – All Incidents 2012

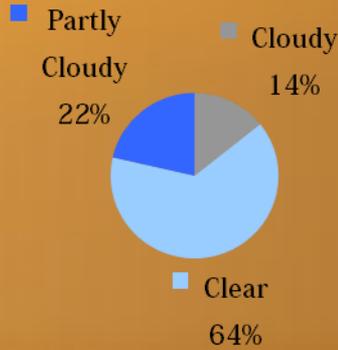


# Incident Conditions – All Incidents 2012

## Precipitation



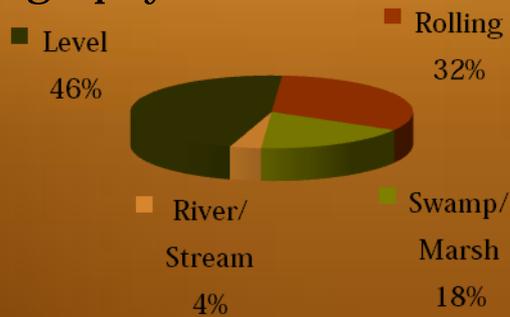
## Weather



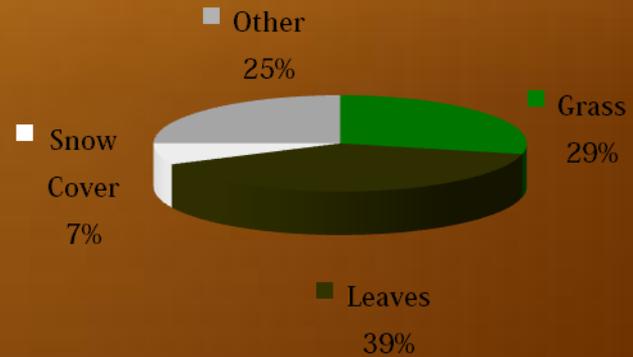
## Light Conditions



## Topography

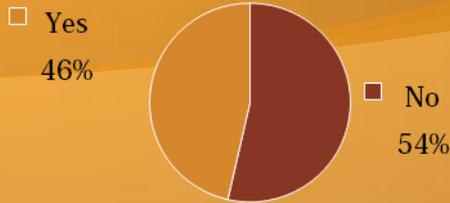


## Ground Cover



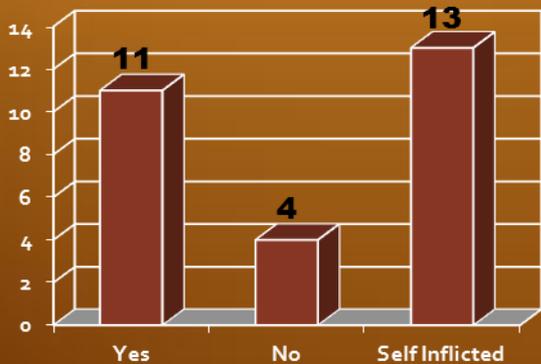
# Incident Statistics – All Incidents 2012

## Self Inflicted

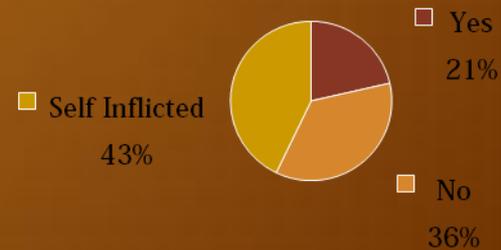


## Shooter/Victim Information Two-Party Incidents 2012

### Members of the Same Hunting Party (includes self-inflicted injuries)

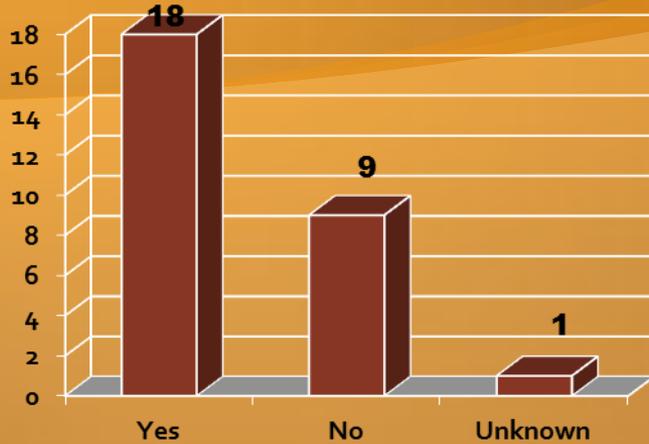


### Could Shooter See Victim? (includes self-inflicted injuries)

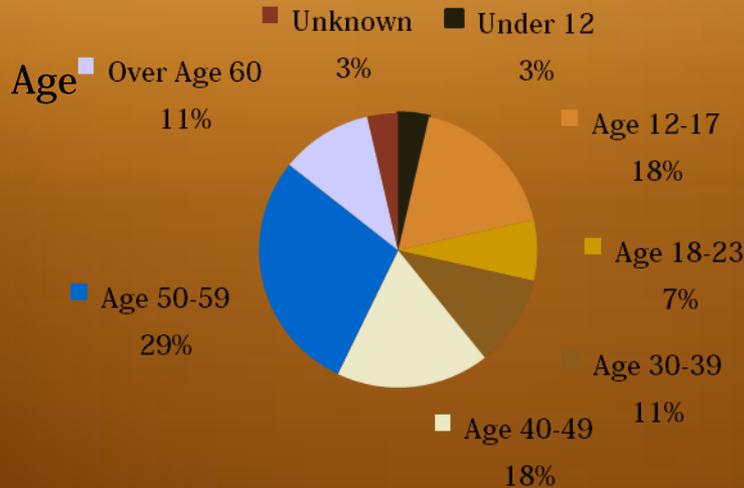
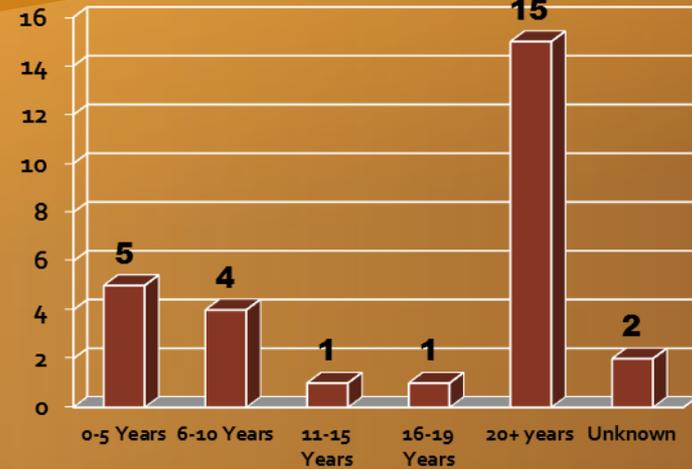


# Incident "Shooter" Statistics – All Incidents 2012

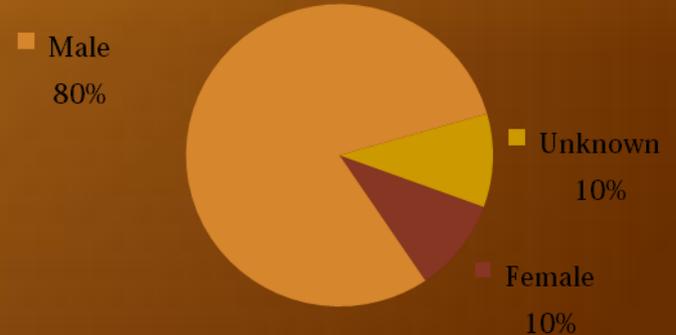
### Hunter Education Graduate?



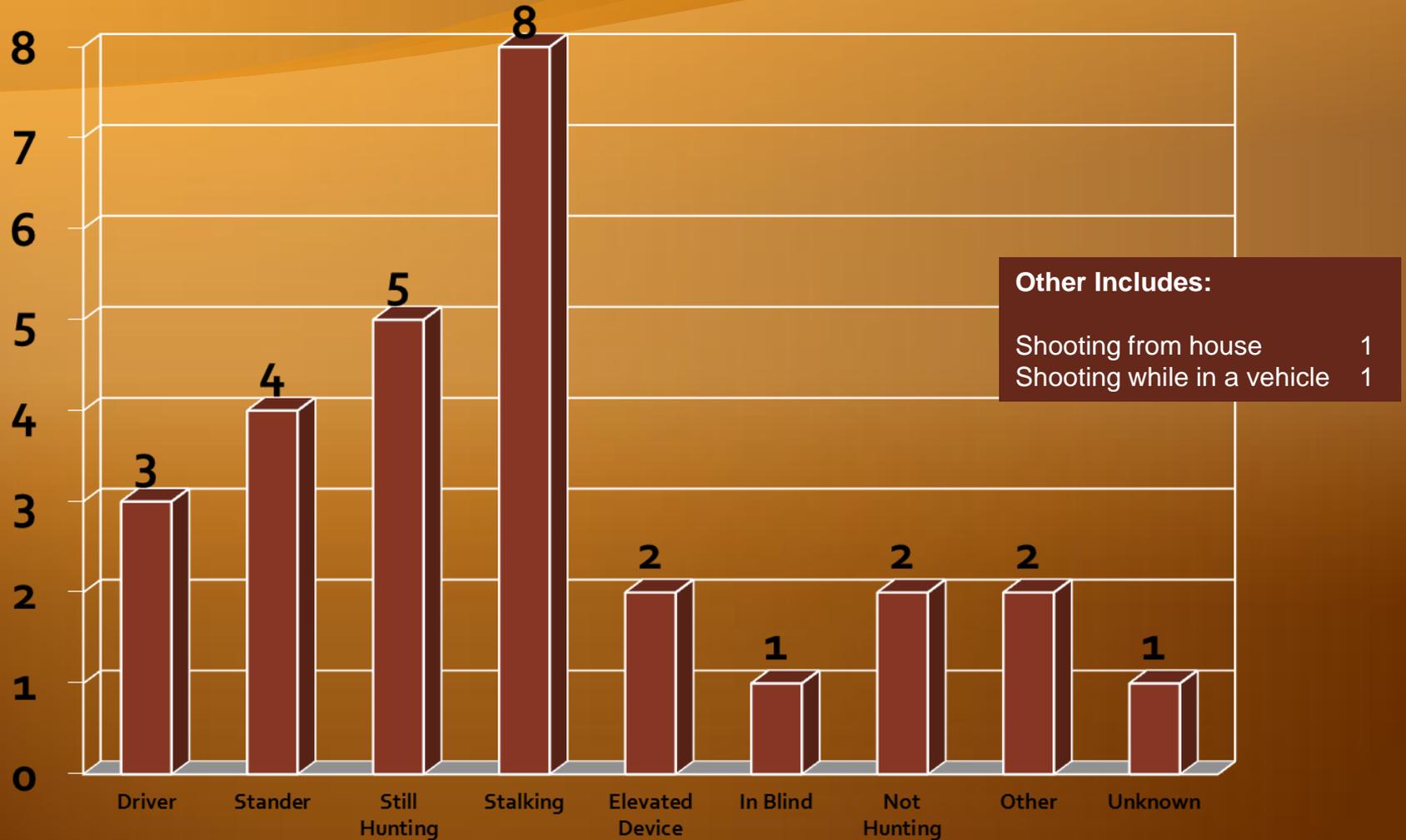
### Years Hunting Experience



### Gender

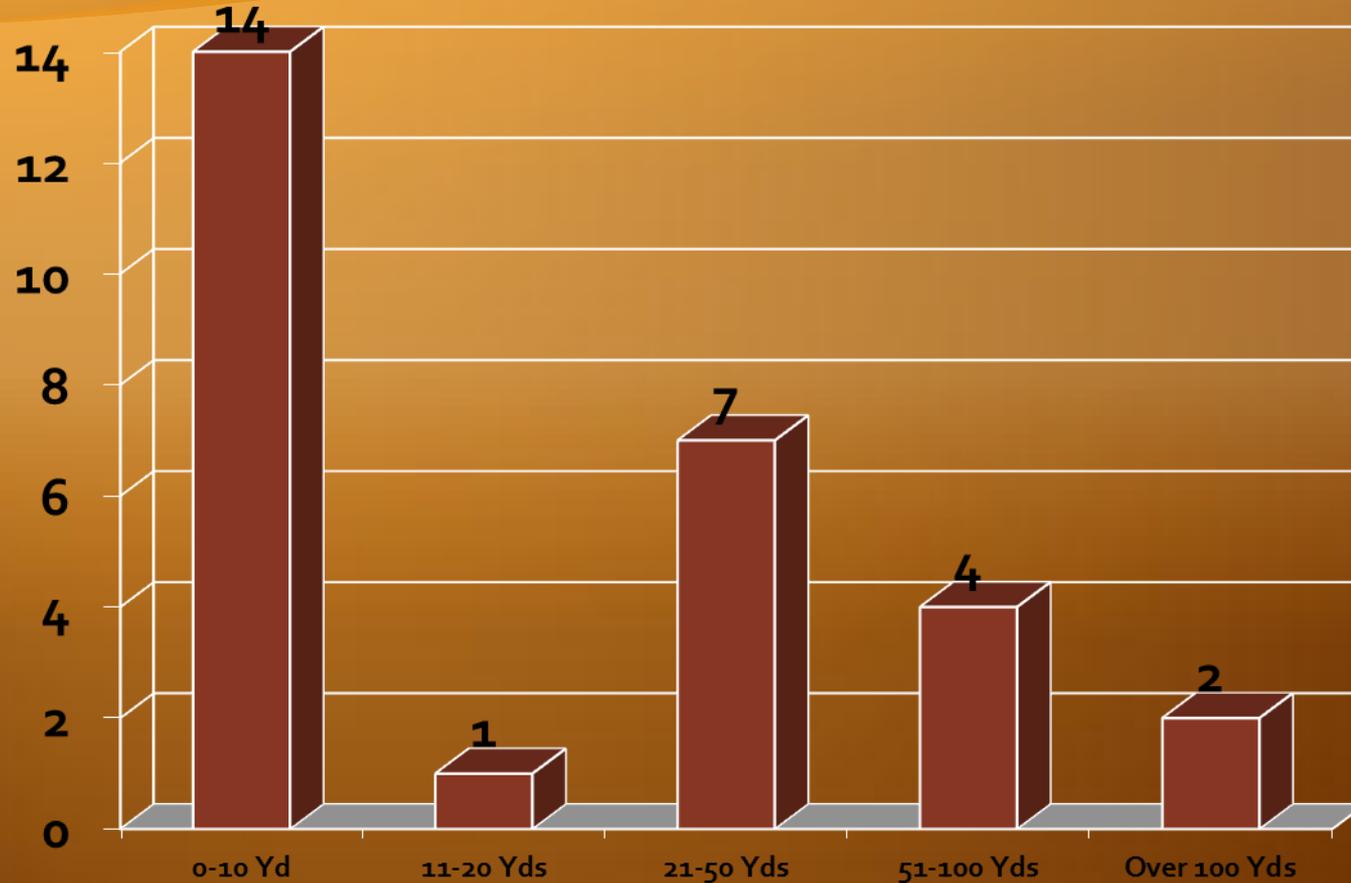


# Activity “Shooter” Was Involved In – All Incidents 2012



# Distance From Muzzle to Wound – All Incidents 2012

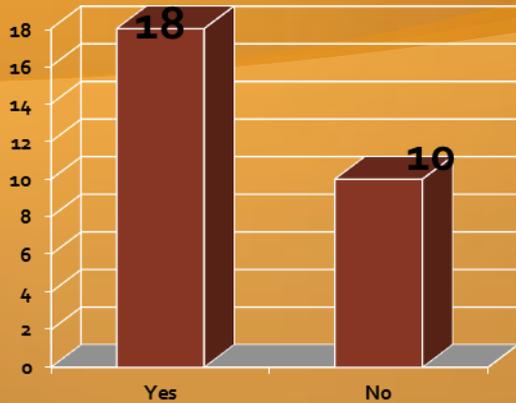
**(Includes Self Inflicted)**



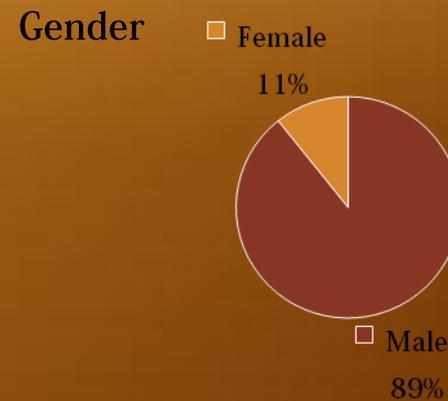
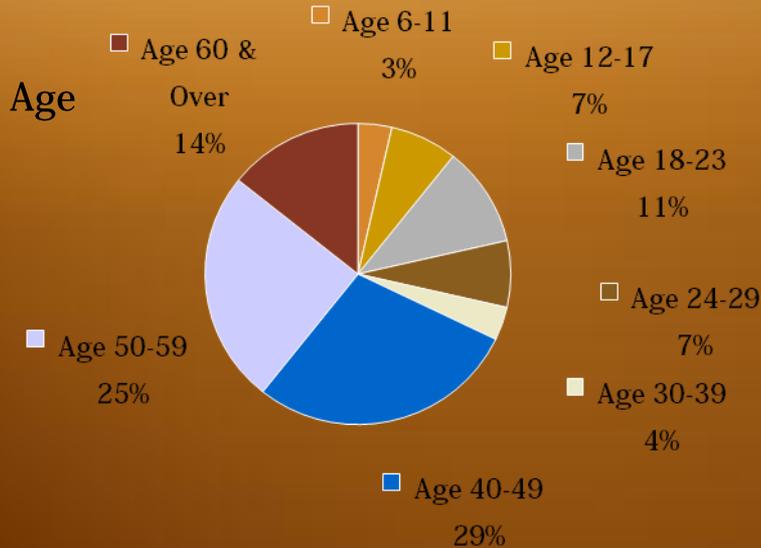
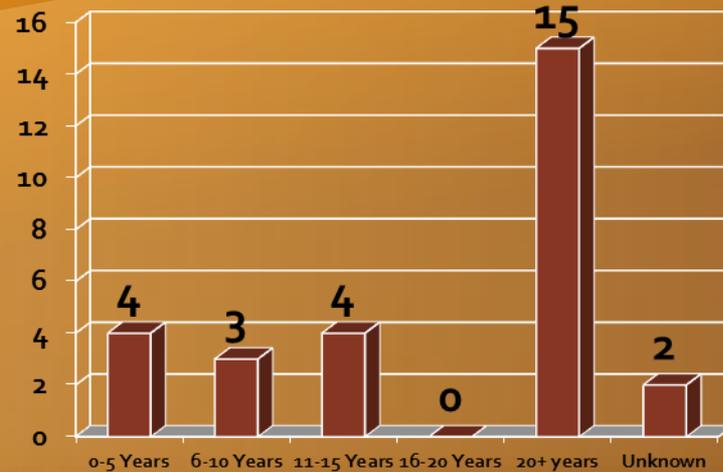
# Incident "Victim" Statistics – All Incidents 2012

(Includes Self Inflicted)

### Hunter Education Graduate?

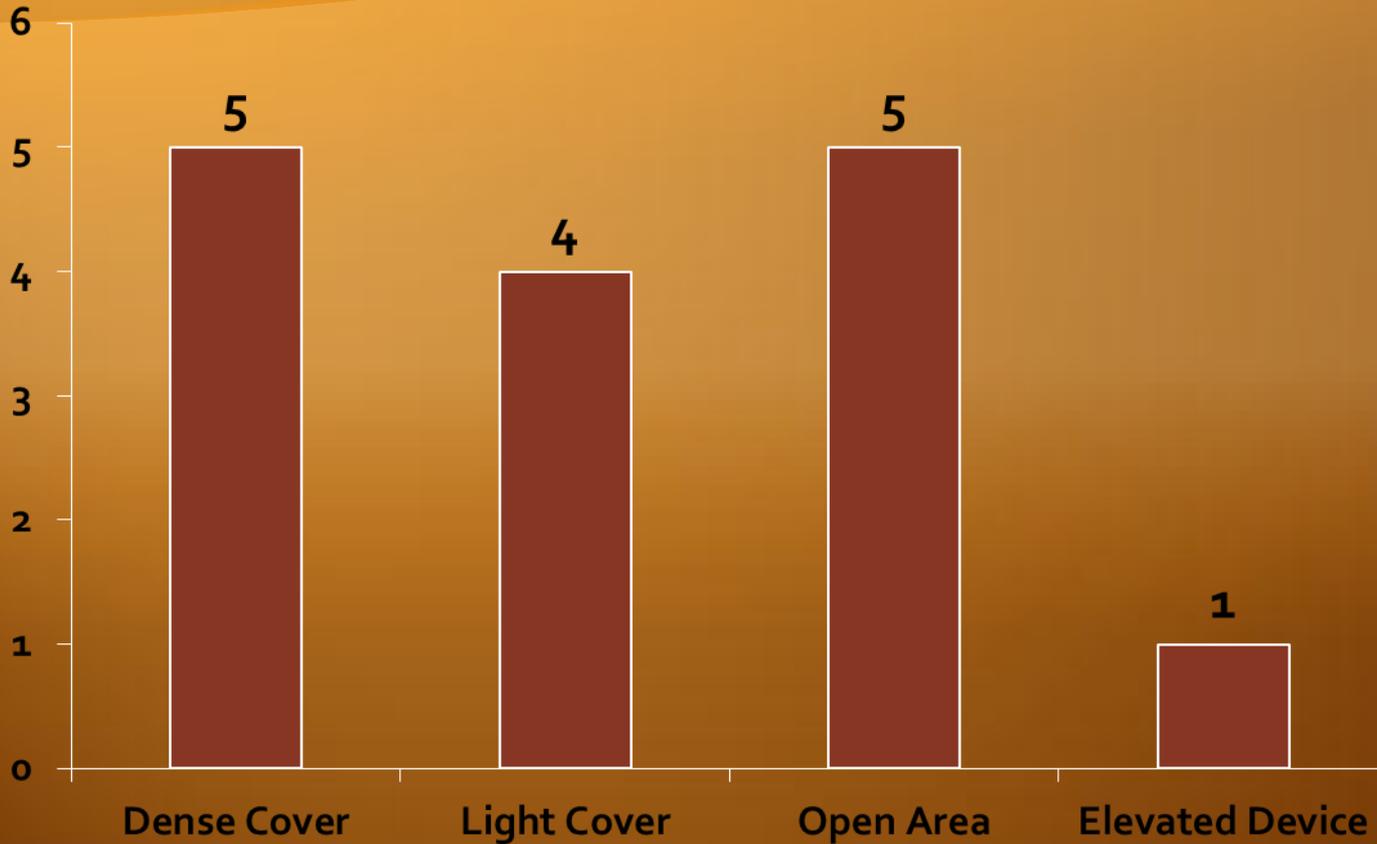


### Years Hunting Experience



# Incident “Victim” Surroundings

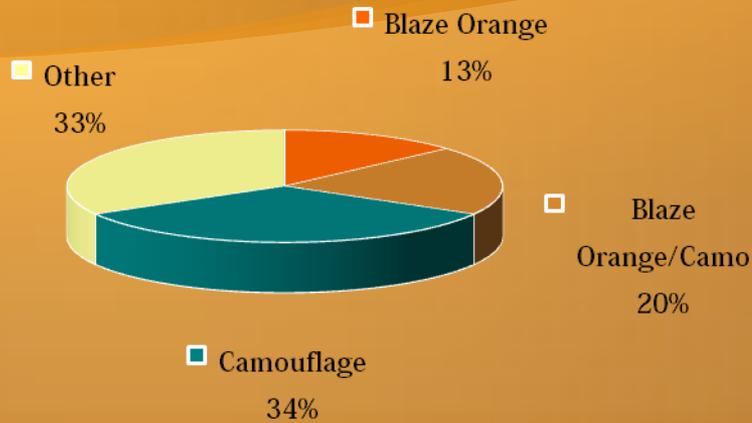
**Two-Party Incidents 2012 (Does not include Self Inflicted Incidents)**



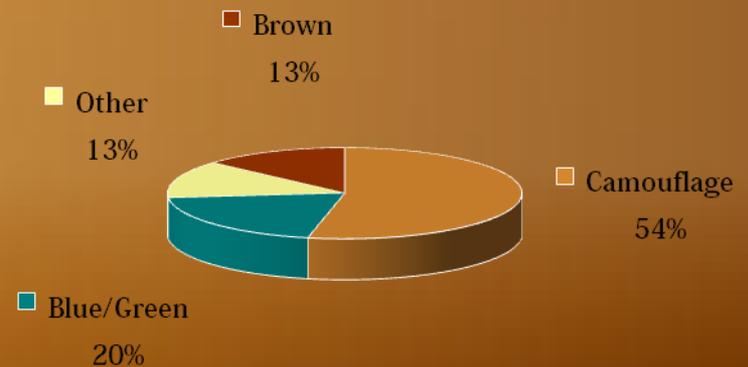
# Incident "Victim" Clothing Color

Two-Party Incidents Only 2012 (Does not include Self Inflicted Incidents)

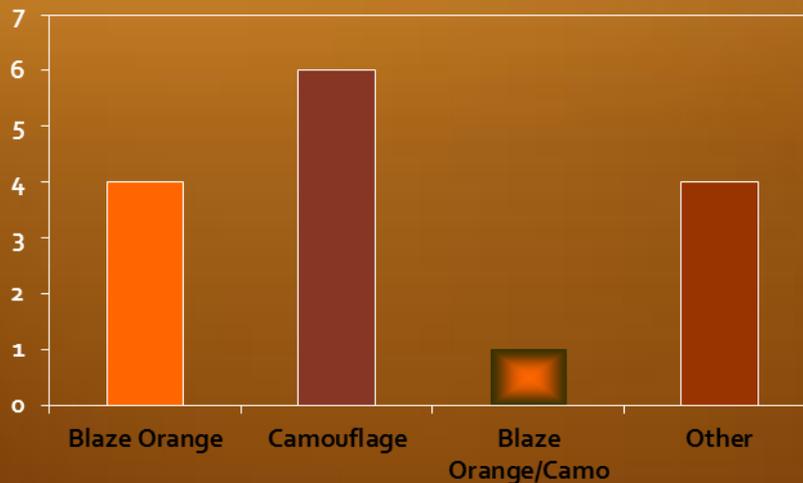
## Cap



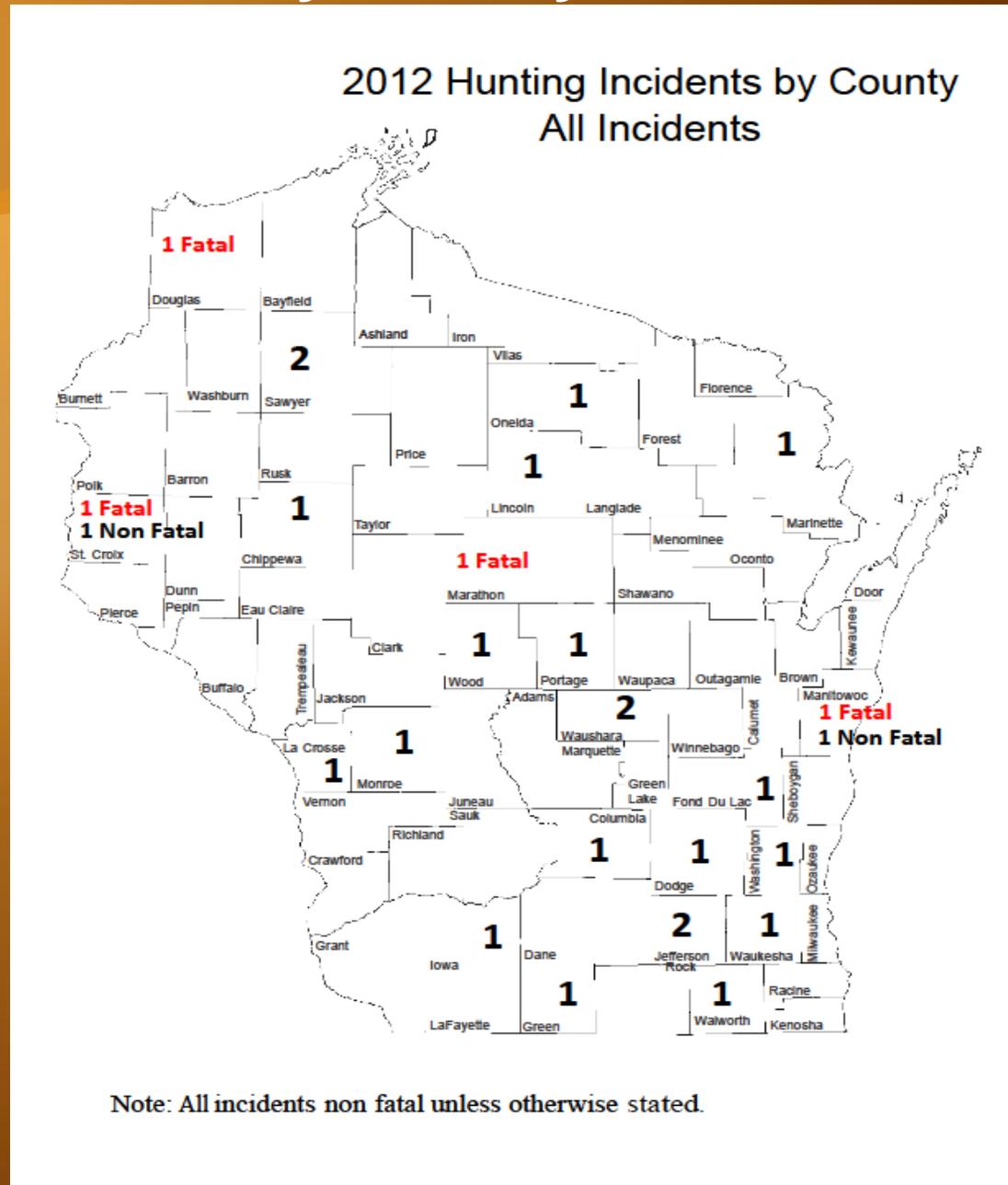
## Trouser or Pants



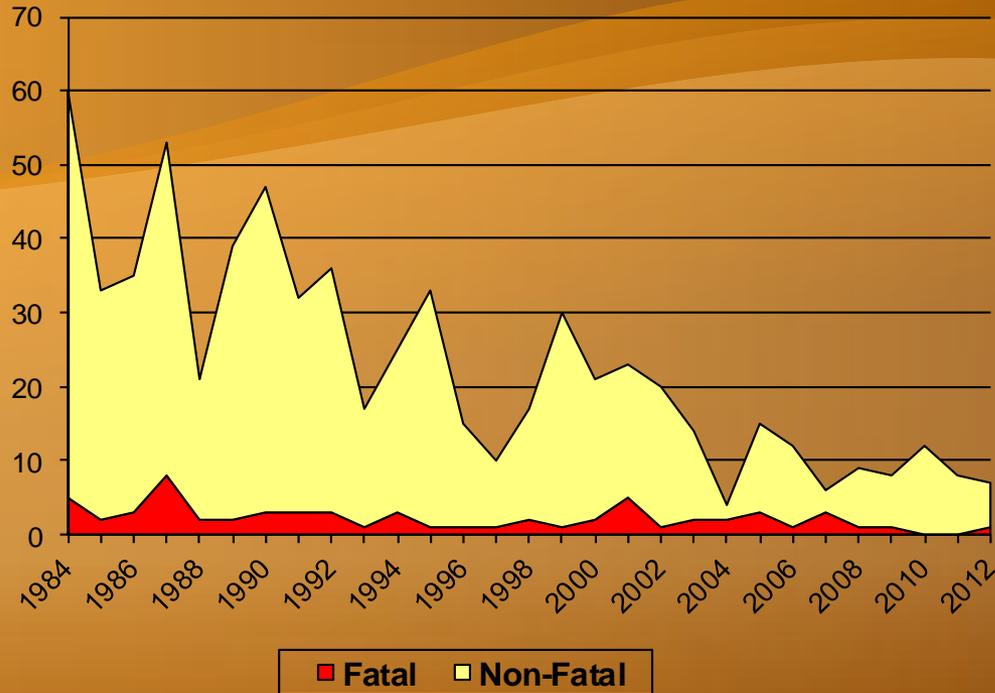
## Coat or Vest



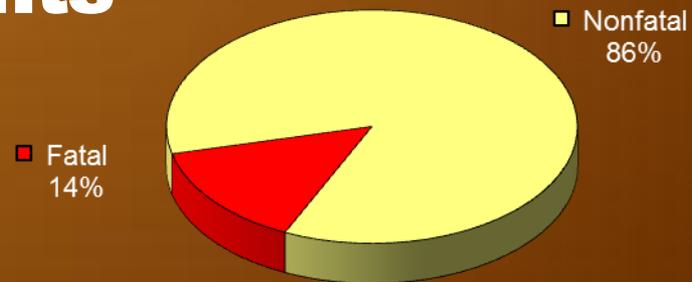
# 2012 Hunting Incidents by County – All Incidents



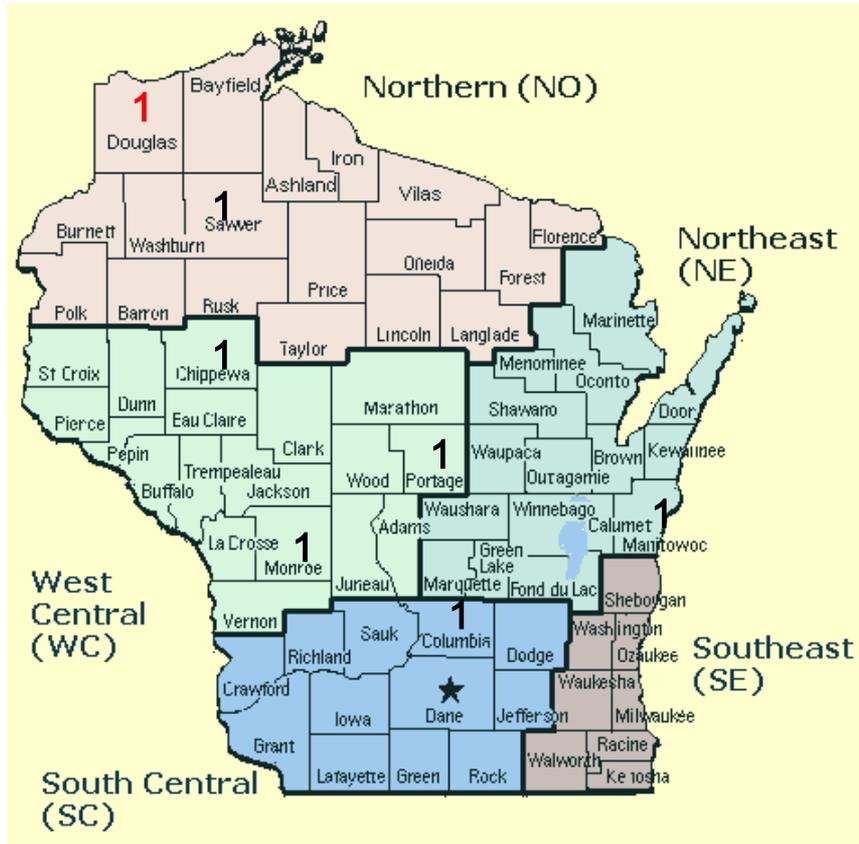
# History of Gun Deer Incidents



## 2012 Gun Deer Incidents



# Gun Deer Season Incidents 2012



Non Fatal = 6

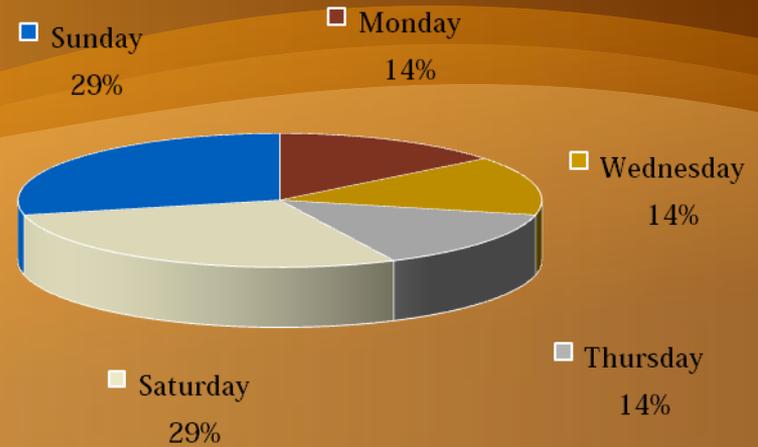
Fatal = 1

Total = 7

1.1 incidents per  
100,000 participants

# Incidents by Day of Week

## Gun Deer Season - 2012



# Incident Victim Clothing Color

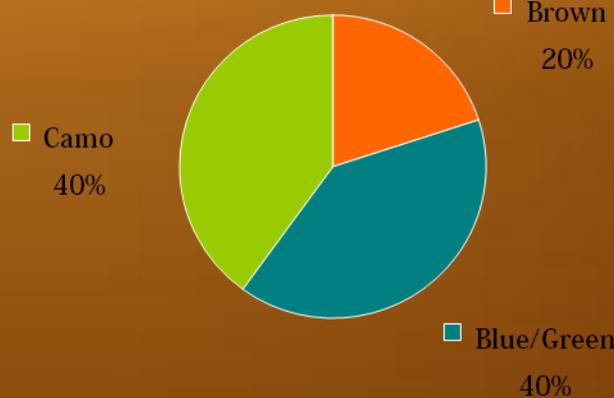
## Gun Deer Season – 2012 Two Party Incidents Only

**(Does not include Self Inflicted Incidents)**

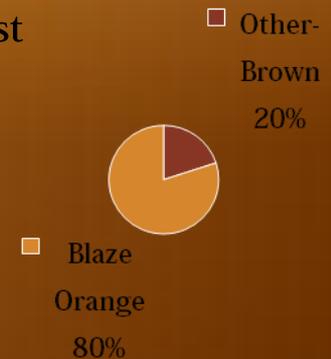
### Cap



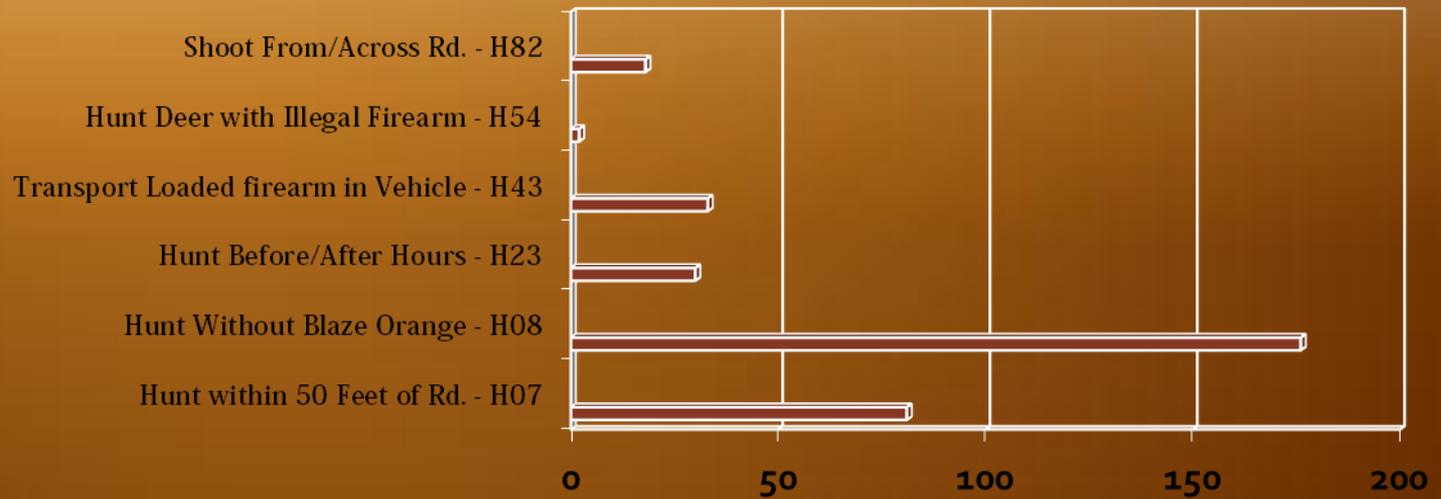
### Trousers or Pant



### Coat or Vest



# 2012 Deer Season Safety Violations





# HUNT SAFE IN WISCONSIN

