

NEBRASKA
2019
HUNTING INCIDENT REPORT



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2019 NEBRASKA HUNTING INCIDENTS

During 2019, there were three (3) reported hunting incidents in Nebraska resulting in personal injury. Two of those incidents involved firearms. Two incidents resulted in moderate or severe injuries and one was fatal. This compares to four (4) incidents in 2018. There were two (2) fatalities in 2018, compared to one (1) in 2019.

Hunting in Nebraska continues to be one of the safest recreational activities in which families may participate. Hunting incident numbers have decreased significantly in the past 30 years, with an incident rate of approximately one accident for every 25,700 hunters in the field. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the nearly 800 volunteer instructors strive to reduce the number of hunting incidents.

The tables and charts within this report illustrate the historical data collected for hunting incidents in Nebraska.

Contributing Factors to 2019 Incidents: (Individual incidents may have more than one contributing factor, contributing factors can be counted multiple times.)

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS	Factors Reported by Law Enforcement
Victim out of sight of shooter	
Victim covered by shooter swinging on game	
Failure to identify target	
Victim in line of fire	
Ricochet	
Defective ammunition	
Firearm fell, insecure rest	
Shooter stumbled and fell	
Trigger caught on object	1
Failure to check beyond target	
Loading firearm	
Unloading firearm	
Discharge firearm in/on a vehicle	2
Improper crossing of obstacle	
Clubbing game with firearm	
Careless or reckless handling of firearm	2
Place/remove loaded firearm from vehicle	1
Drop firearm	
Horse-play while hunting	
Shooting across roadway	
Run with loaded firearm	
Obstruction of barrel	
Careless handling of archery equipment	
Other*	1*

*X – Boating accident on the way to hunt

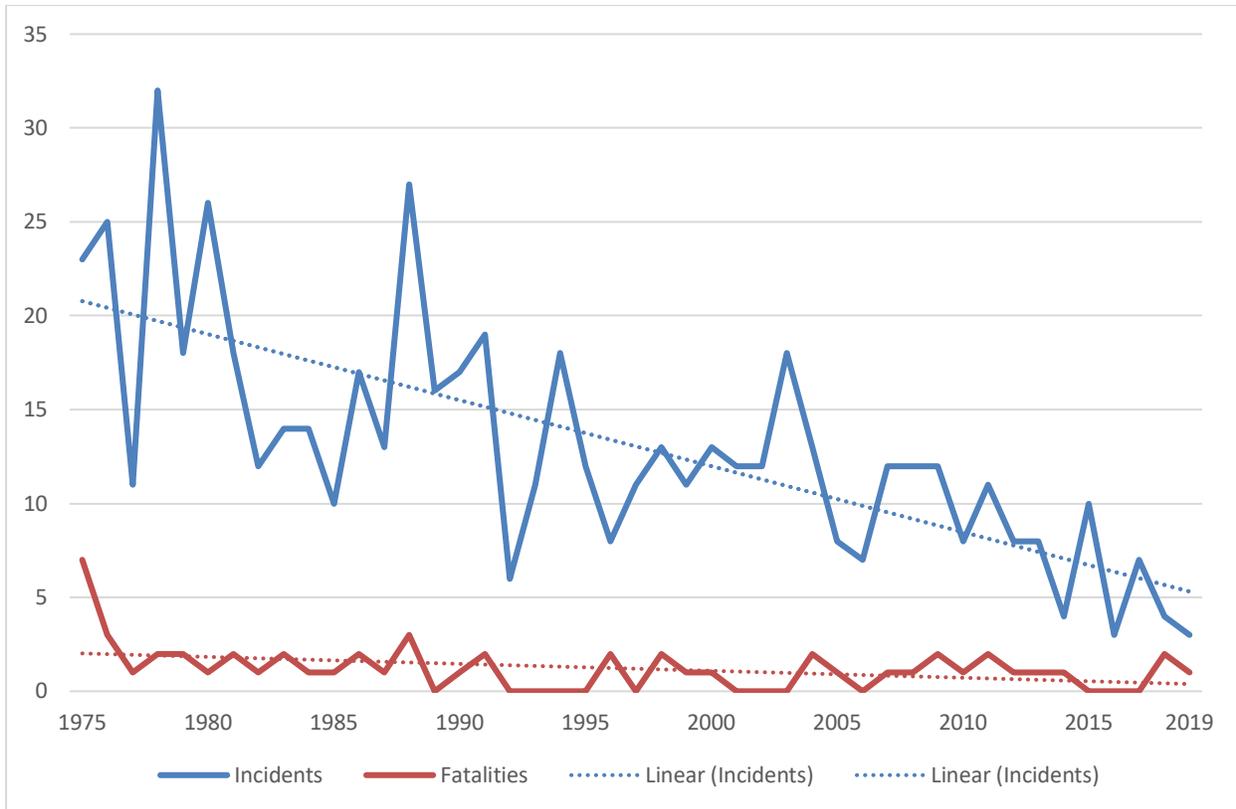
2019 Individual Incident Summary

November 8 – Sherman County – Duck Hunting: A 21-year-old male drowned, possibly due to hypothermia, after the boat he was in capsized in the dark due to choppy water as he and his hunting partner attempted to get to their waterfowl hunting spot. Life jackets and approved floatation devices were not on board the boat. **Always wear a USCG-approved life jacket and have floatation devices accessible when operating or riding in a boat. Be careful to avoid getting wet in cold conditions.**

November 26 – Rock County – Raccoon Hunting: A 25-year-old male suffered an accidental, self-inflicted gunshot wound to the tip of his index finger while inside his vehicle while hunting raccoons. The trigger caught on an object as the individual tried to remove it from his holster with both hands while in his vehicle. **Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. Always unload firearms while travelling in a vehicle.**

December 12 – Brown County – Coyote Hunting: A 53-year-old male suffered an accidental, self-inflicted gunshot wound to his left foot. The victim and his friend were driving to their field to hunt when a coyote ran in front of them. He loaded his rifle inside the vehicle and as he attempted to get out of the vehicle the gun fired into his foot. **Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.**

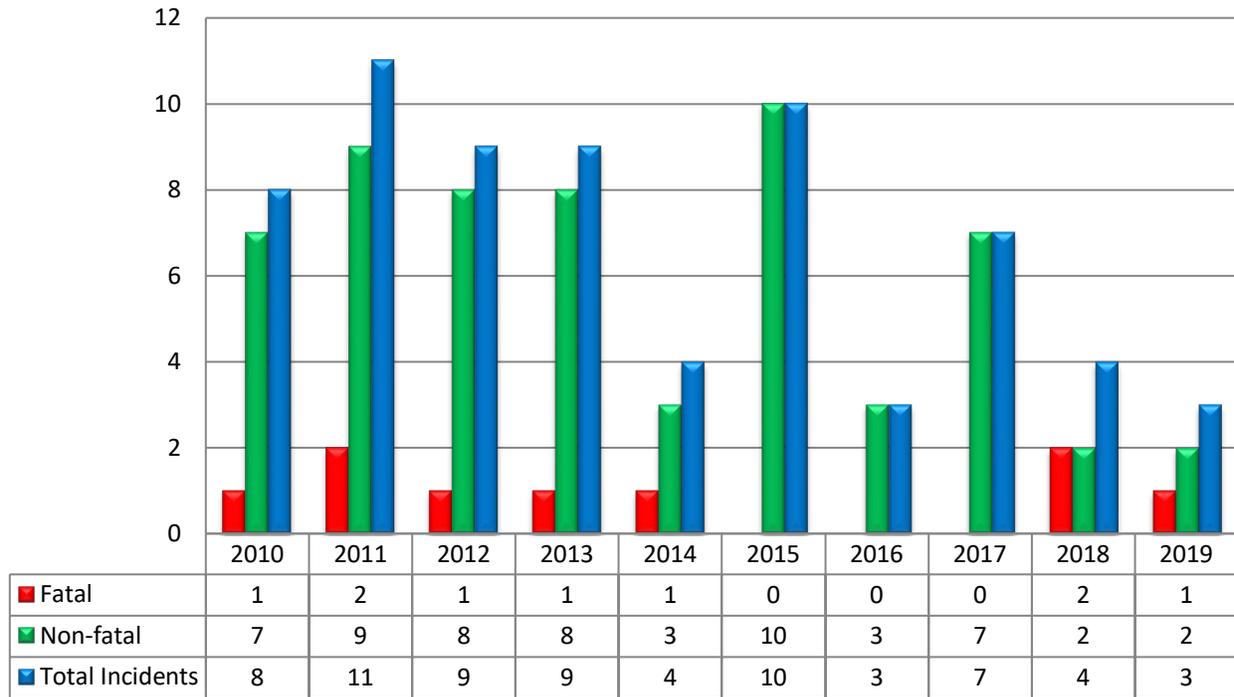
Nebraska Hunter Numbers vs. Hunting Incidents 1975-2019



5-Year Interval	Average # of Hunters Per Year	Average # of Hunting Incidents Per Year	Average # of Fatalities Per Year
1975-79	176,880	22	3
1980-84	178,864	17	1.5
1985-89	158,412	17	1.5
1990-94	169,683	14	0.6
1995-99	186,567	11	1
2000-04	177,002	14	0.6
2005-09	173,859	10	1
2010-14	177,056	8.2	1.2
2015-19	175,530	5.4	.6

Although the collected data indicates some fluctuation in annual hunter numbers, the average annual number of hunters has remained relatively stable for the past 18 years, while incident numbers have steadily declined during the same period, and dramatically declined since the inception of hunter education in the mid-1970s.

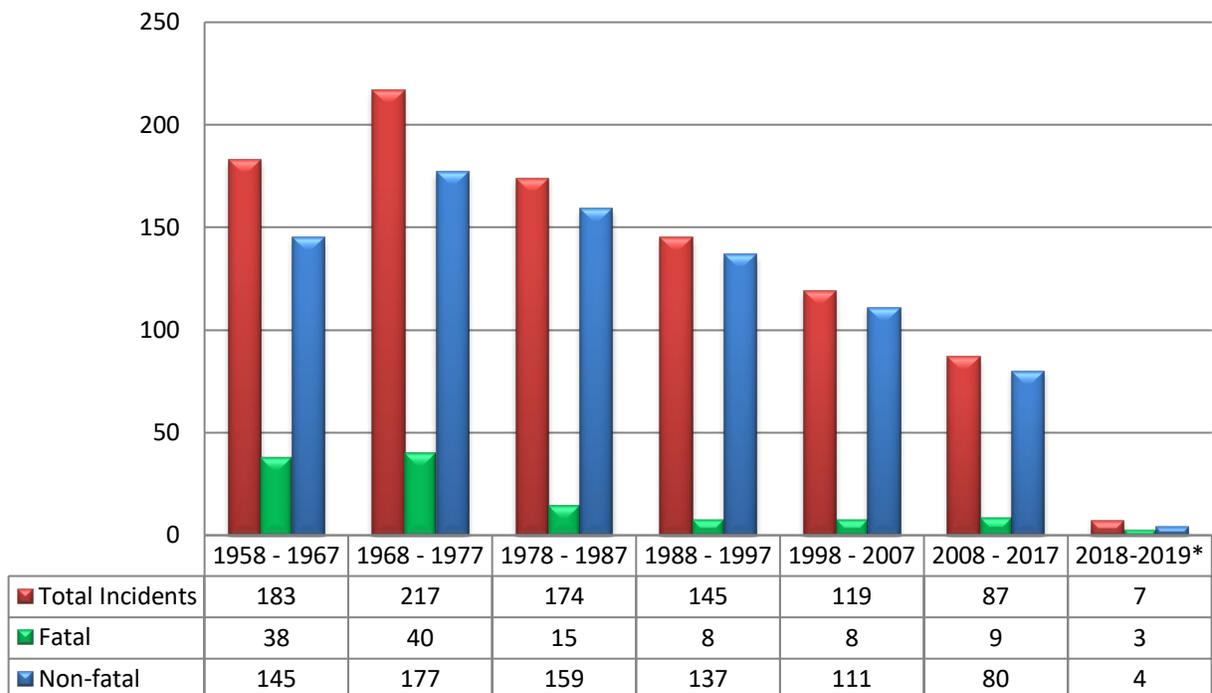
10-Year History of Nebraska Hunting Incidents



Numbers reflect incidents that meet the reporting guidelines of the International Hunter Education Association for the year reported as follows:

- Class A - when a hunter discharged a hunting implement while legally involved in hunting
- Class B - when a hunter discharged a hunting implement while illegally involved in hunting
- Class C - when a hunter fell from an elevated stand
- Non-classified – when a hunter sustains an injury by a means other than Class A, B or C

Hunting Incidents in Nebraska Historical Summary 1958 through 2019

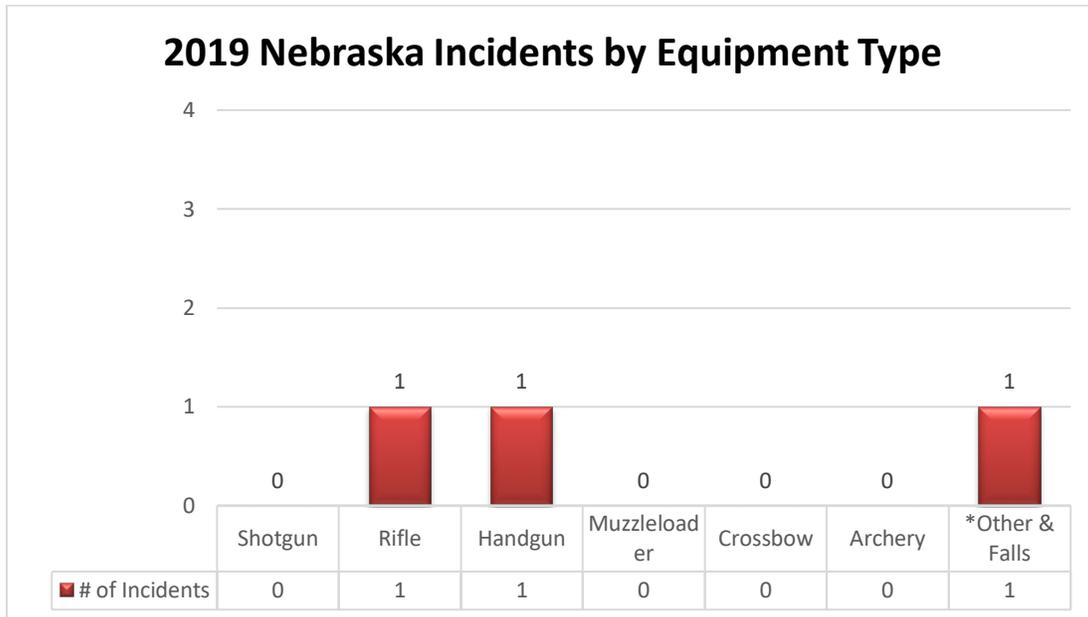


*only 2 years of data for this column

2019 Nebraska Hunting Incidents Categorized by Equipment Type

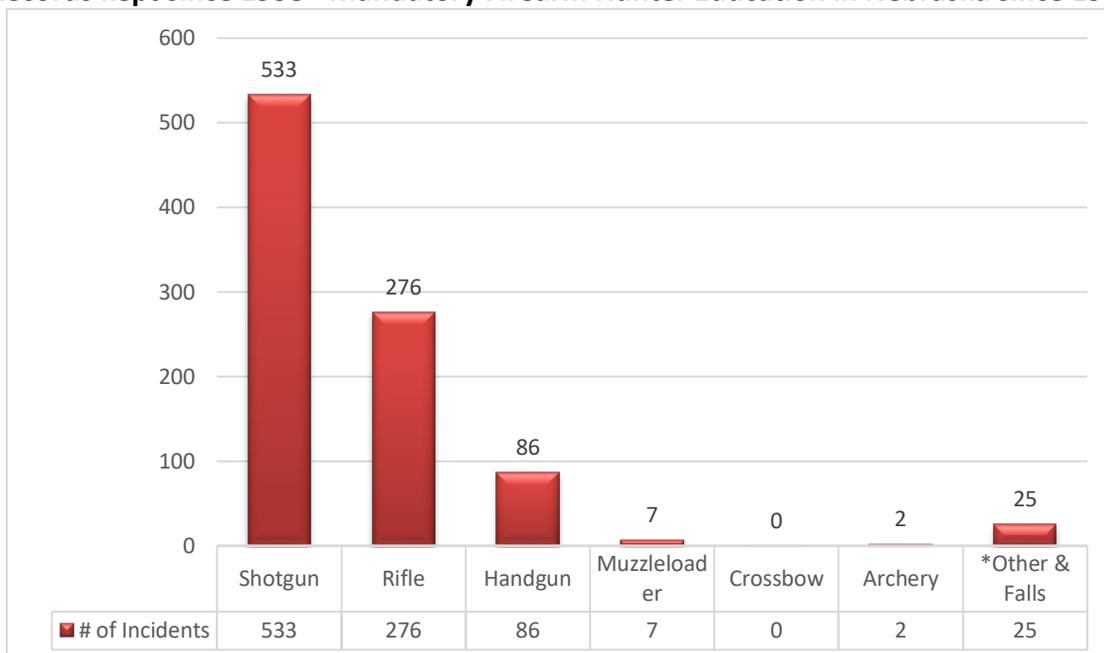
CATEGORY	# OF INCIDENTS
Discharge of a shotgun	0
Discharge of a rifle	1*
Discharge of a handgun	1*
Bow and arrow	0
Crossbow	0
Fall from elevated platform	0
Other	1

*Injuries were self-inflicted in two (2) incidents



Type of Equipment Involved in Nebraska Hunting Incidents 1958 through 2019

(Records kept since 1958 - Mandatory Firearm Hunter Education in Nebraska since 1976)



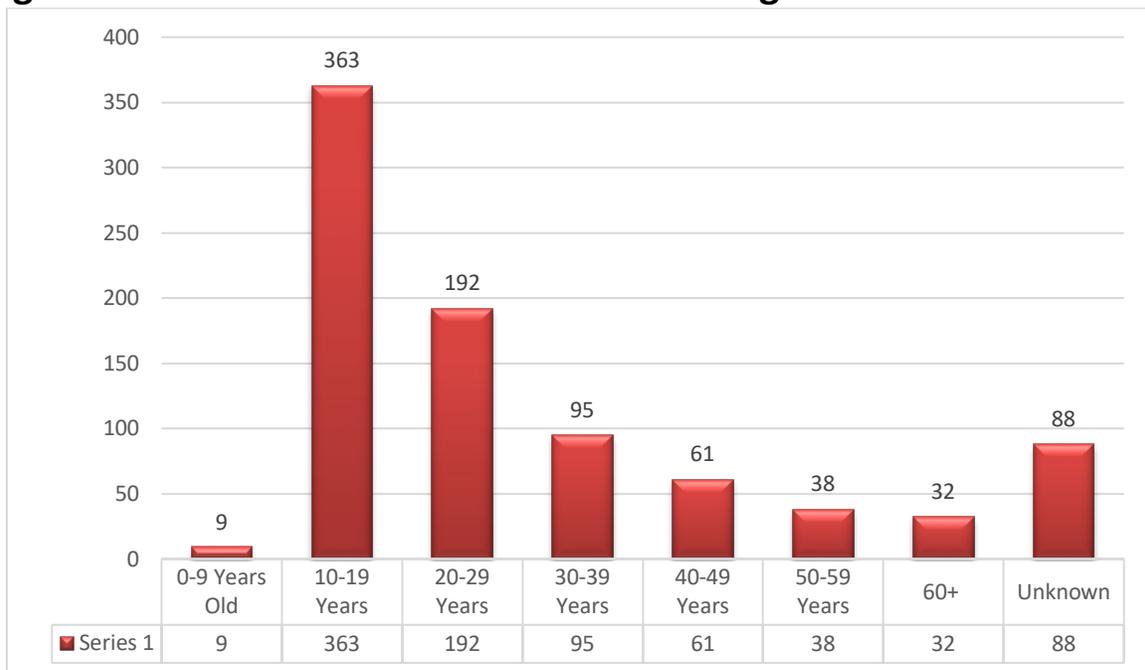
Age and Gender of Individuals Involved in 2019 Nebraska Hunting Incidents

(♂ = male; ♀ = female)

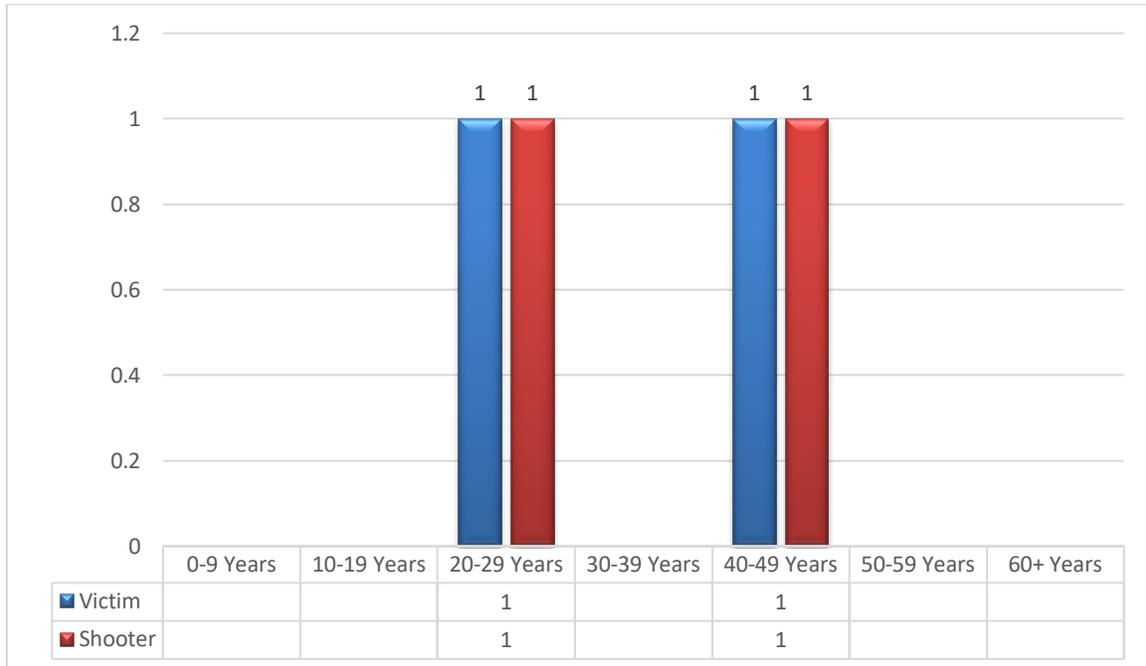
AGE	SHOOTER	VICTIM	SELF-INFLICTED	FALL/OTHER
0-9				
10-19				
20-29	1♂	1♂	1♂	1♂
30-39				
40-49				
50-59	1♂	1♂		
60 and older				
Unknown				

NOTE: One self-inflicted gunshot, one Fall/Other

Age of Shooter Involved in Nebraska Hunting Incidents 1958 – 2018

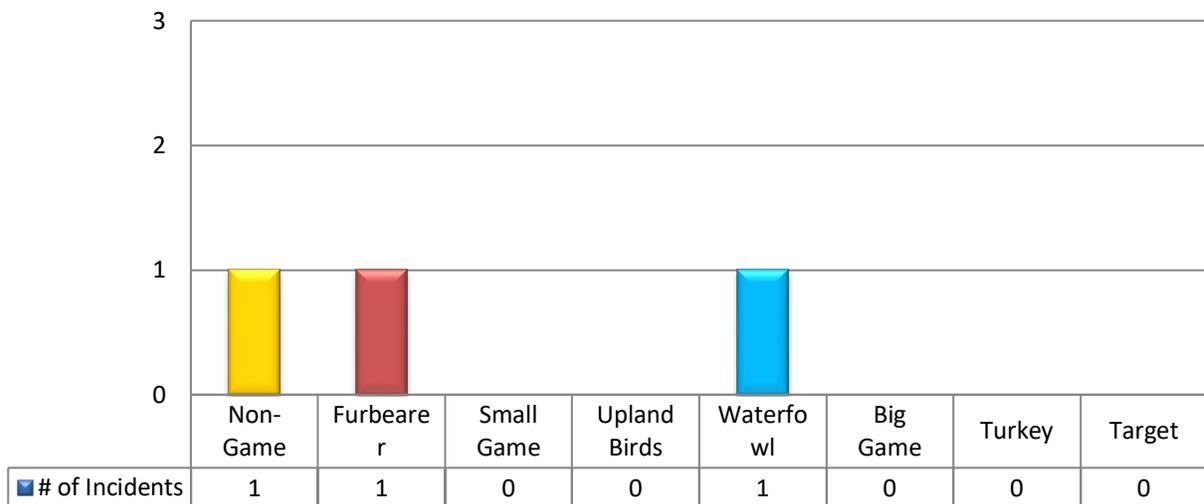


Age of Shooters and Victims Involved in 2019 Nebraska Hunting Incidents

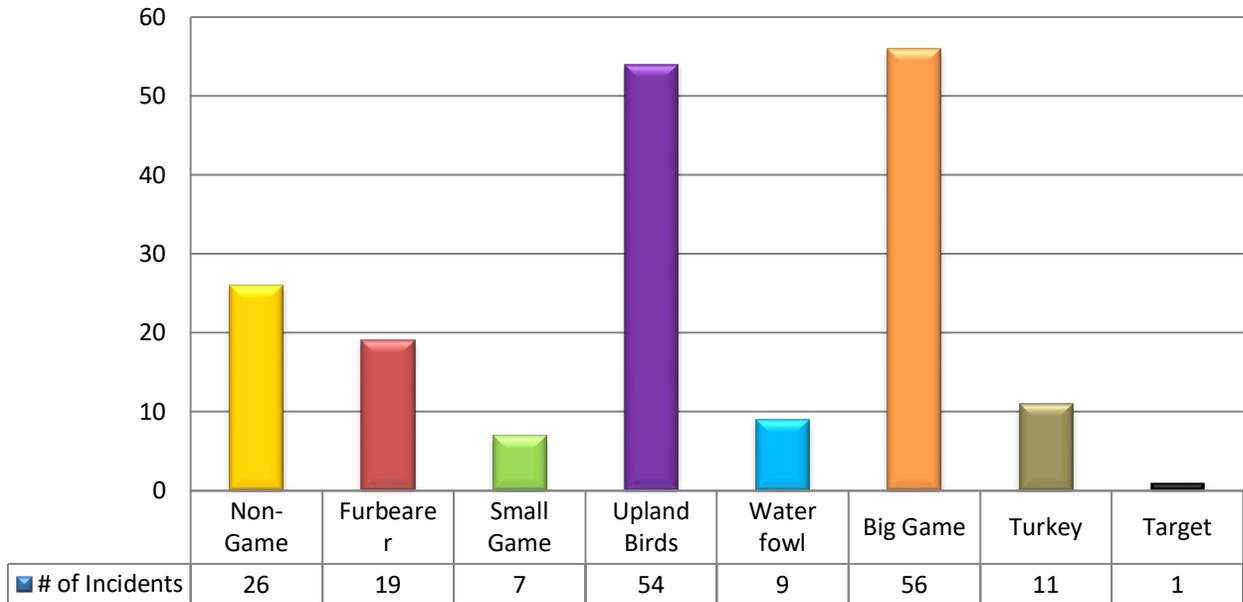


NOTE: The two victims/shooters are the same from a self-inflicted injury

Type of Game Hunted During 2019 Nebraska Hunting Incidents



Type of Game Hunted During Incidents 2000 – 2019



Non-game includes all mammals and birds not listed in the hunting guide (coyote, prairie dog, porcupine, woodchuck, common pigeon, European starling, English sparrow, etc.)

Furbearer includes all animals listed as fur bearers in the hunting guide (bobcat, mink, raccoon, badger, red fox, gray fox, Virginia opossum, long-tailed weasel, striped skunk, etc.)

Small Game includes rabbits and squirrels

Upland Birds includes pheasant, quail, dove, snipe, woodcock, partridge, rail and grouse

Waterfowl includes ducks, geese and coot

Big Game includes deer, antelope, elk, mountain (bighorn) sheep and mountain lion

Turkey includes all species of wild turkey

Target includes all types of target practice and sighting in equipment

Nebraska Hunting Incident Statistical Summary

Includes all hunting incidents resulting in injury or death which meet IHEA reporting criteria –
 Compiled by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
 1958 through 2019

NEBRASKA HUNTING INCIDENTS	1958 - 2019	2019 Only
Fatal injury	121	1
Non-fatal injury	809	2
TOTAL	930	3

Self-inflicted (includes fatal and non-fatal)	365	2
Caused by someone else (includes fatal and non-fatal)	563	0
TOTAL	928	2

PRIMARY CAUSES OF INCIDENTS	1958 - 2019	2019 Only
Victim covered by shooter swinging on game	176	0
Victim out of sight of shooter	88	0
Shooter stumbled and fell	65	0
Removing or placing a firearm in to vehicle	59	2
Riding in vehicle with loaded firearm	57	1
Victim moved into line of fire	55	0
Trigger caught on an object	41	1
Victim mistaken for game	36	0
Improper crossing of fence	27	0
Defective firearm	28	0
Unloading firearm	28	0
Firearm fell from insecure rest	22	0
Loading firearm	22	0
Careless or reckless handling of firearm	21	2
Horse play with loaded firearm	22	0
Ricochet	16	0
Fall from tree stand	14	0
Using firearm as rest or brace	6	0
Other	7	1

TOTAL INCIDENTS BY AGE

	1958 – 2019 Combined		2019 Calendar Year Only	
	Shooter	Victim	Shooter	Victim
0-9 years old	9	11	0	0
10-19 years old	363	358	0	0
20-29 years old	191	185	1	1
30-39 years old	95	134	0	0
40-49 years old	61	101	0	0
50-59 years old	38	63	1	1
Over 60 years old	32	41	0	0
Age unknown			88	21 0 0