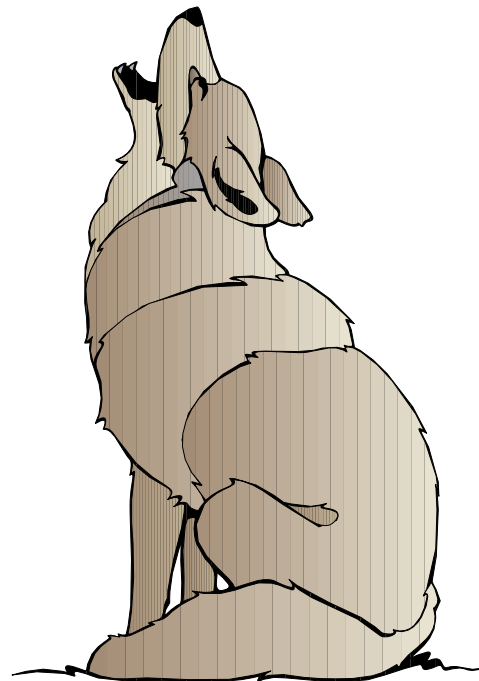

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Washington

July 1, 2009 — June 30, 2010



*Washington
Department of*
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

Hunting Incident Report
Hunter Education Division
Enforcement Program

HUNTING INCIDENT DATA SUMMARY

July 1, 2009 — June 30, 2010

	<u>Fatal Incidents</u>	<u>Non-Fatal Incidents</u>	<u>Total Incidents</u>
Eastern Washington	0	4	4
Western Washington	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
	0	7	7

SHOOTER STATUS, TYPE OF FIREARM, NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

<u>Shooter Status</u>	<u>Number of Incidents</u>	<u>Firearm Type</u>	<u>Fatal</u>	<u>Non-Fatal</u>	<u>Total</u>
Self-inflicted	4	Shotgun	0	1	1
Shot by someone in same party	2	Rifle	0	5	5
Shot by someone outside party	1	Handgun	0	0	0
Livestock	<u>0</u>	Muzzleloader	0	0	0
Total	7	Archery	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
			0	7	7

SPECIES BEING PURSUED AT TIME OF INCIDENT

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number Fatal Incidents</u>	<u>Number Non-Fatal Incidents</u>	<u>Total Incidents</u>
Upland birds/grouse	0	0	0
Deer/elk	0	5	5
Waterfowl	0	0	0
Cougar	0	0	0
Other / Unknown	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	0	7	7

This program receives Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is the policy of the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to adhere to the following: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 5604 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. The U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus prohibit discrimination on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability and sex (in educational programs). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, please contact WDFW ADA Coordinator at 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 or write to:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Office of External Programs
4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 130
Arlington, VA 22203

NON-FATAL INCIDENTS

1. **SHOOTER:** 42 year-old male **VICTIM:** Self-inflicted
 TACKLE: 65# bow **TYPE:** Non-fatal
 COUNTY: Lewis **BLAZE ORANGE:** N/A
 HUNTER ED GRADUATE: No **DATE OF INCIDENT:** 9/14/09

NARRATIVE: The shooter was stalking an elk with a nocked arrow. The shooter said he knew it was not safe, but he was attempting to get a shot at the elk. After tripping and falling he reported that he “felt a pull on his pant leg” before discovering an arrow embedded in his left leg.

CAUSE: Victim stumbled and fell; careless handling

2. **SHOOTER:** 20 year-old male **VICTIM:** Self-inflicted
 FIREARM: .30-30 rifle **TYPE:** Non-fatal
 COUNTY: Kittitas **BLAZE ORANGE:** N/A
 HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes **DATE OF INCIDENT:** 10/20/09

NARRATIVE: The shooter was hunting deer with a borrowed lever-action rifle and using a sling to carry the rifle. The sling swivel on the butt end of the rifle either failed or broke, causing the rifle to fall from the shooter’s shoulder, strike the ground and discharge into his elbow. The shooter reported the rifle was not cocked.

CAUSE: Loaded firearm fell; careless handling

3. **SHOOTER:** 45 year-old male **VICTIM:** 46 year-old male
 FIREARM: .30-06 bolt-action **TYPE:** Non-fatal
 COUNTY: Clallam **BLAZE ORANGE:** N/A
 HUNTER ED GRADUATE: No **DATE OF INCIDENT:** 10/26/09

NARRATIVE: The shooter and victim returned from deer hunting to their vehicle. Both stood on opposite sides of the vehicle while the shooter began unloading his rifle with the barrel on the passenger seat pointed in the direction of the victim. The gun discharged, going through the seat and striking the victim with shrapnel.

CAUSE: Unloading; careless handling

4. **SHOOTER:** 68 year-old male **VICTIM:** Self-inflicted
FIREARM: 7mm magnum bolt rifle **TYPE:** Non-fatal
COUNTY: Yakima **BLAZE ORANGE:** N/A
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes **DATE OF INCIDENT:** 10/31/09

NARRATIVE: The shooter was walking down a small incline when he slipped in the mud. His rifle discharged and he shot himself in the leg. The investigating officer reported that the rifle appeared to be in working order, suggesting that the safety had not been engaged.

CAUSE: Victim stumbled and fell; careless handling

5. **SHOOTER:** 42 year-old male **VICTIM:** 43 year-old male
FIREARM: .308 bolt-action rifle **TYPE:** Non-fatal
COUNTY: Chelan **BLAZE ORANGE:** N/A
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes **DATE OF INCIDENT:** 10/31/09

NARRATIVE: The shooter and victim had been elk hunting and returned to camp, where they discovered that one rifle was jammed. The pair used a block and a hammer to lightly tap the bolt, which began to open just before it discharged, exploding the rifle. The shooter reported that he was using store-bought ammunition.

CAUSE: Mechanical failure; possible defective firearm

6. **SHOOTER:** 43 year-old male **VICTIM:** Self-inflicted
FIREARM: 12-gauge shotgun **TYPE:** Non-fatal
COUNTY: Grant **BLAZE ORANGE:** N/A
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Unknown **DATE OF INCIDENT:** 12/04/09

NARRATIVE: There were no details of the incident at the time this report was prepared.

CAUSE: Trigger caught on object

7. **SHOOTER:** Under investigation **VICTIM:** 16 year-old male
FIREARM: .17 rifle **TYPE:** Non-fatal
COUNTY: Skagit **BLAZE ORANGE:** No
HUNTER ED GRADUATE: Yes **DATE OF INCIDENT:** 02/27/10

NARRATIVE: The incident was still being investigated at the time this report was prepared. Preliminary information from the investigation revealed that the shooter and victim were raccoon hunting at night in separate parties about 85 yards apart. The shooter thought he saw a raccoon, fired and struck the victim in the femur.

CAUSE: Victim mistaken for game

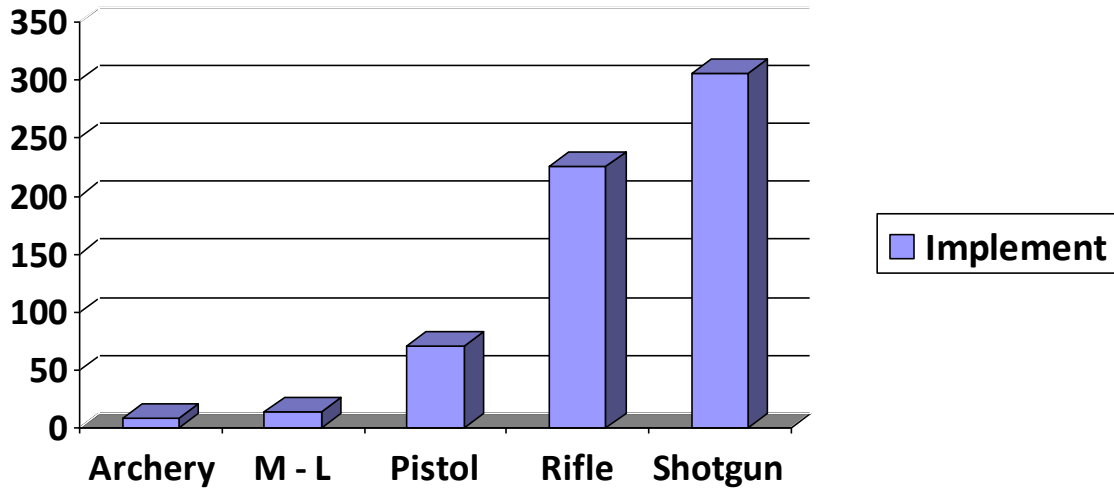
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Enforcement Program
 Hunter Education Division

Common Causes Of Hunting Incidents
 1978 – 2008

I.	Intentional Discharges	# Of Incidents	Rank
	1 Victim moved into line of fire	34	
	2 Victim covered by shooter swinging on game	129.....	#2
	3 Victim out of sight of shooter	58.....	#4
	4 Victim mistaken for game	59.....	#3
II.	Accidental Discharges		
	1 Shooter stumbled and fell	42	
	2 Trigger caught on brush	13	
	3 Removing/placing firearm in/out of vehicle	9	
	4 Loaded firearm in a motor-driven vehicle	56.....	#5
	5 Firearm fell from insecure rest	13	
	6 Horseplay with a loaded firearm	2	
	7 Crossing fence/obstacle with a firearm	6	
	8 Loading	20	
	9 Unloading	27	
	10 Careless handling	141.....	#1
III.	Mechanical Discharges		
	1 Defective firearm/equipment	4	
	2 Defective ammunition	2	
	3 Firearm rupture	<u>9</u>	
		 624	

Data Source For All Graphs: WDFW Hunter Education Division

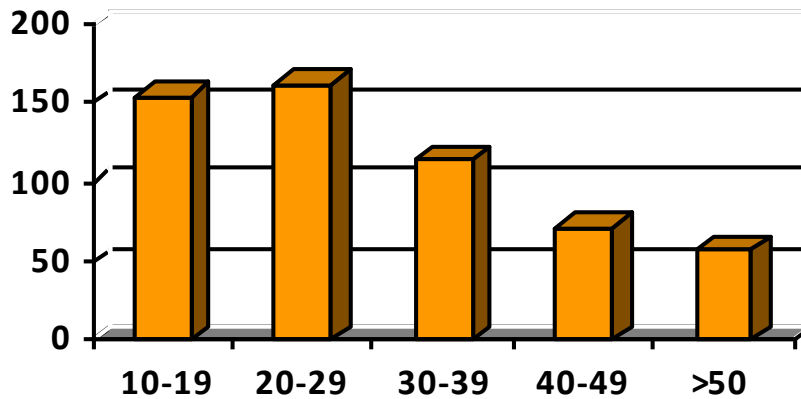
Incidents By Equipment Type



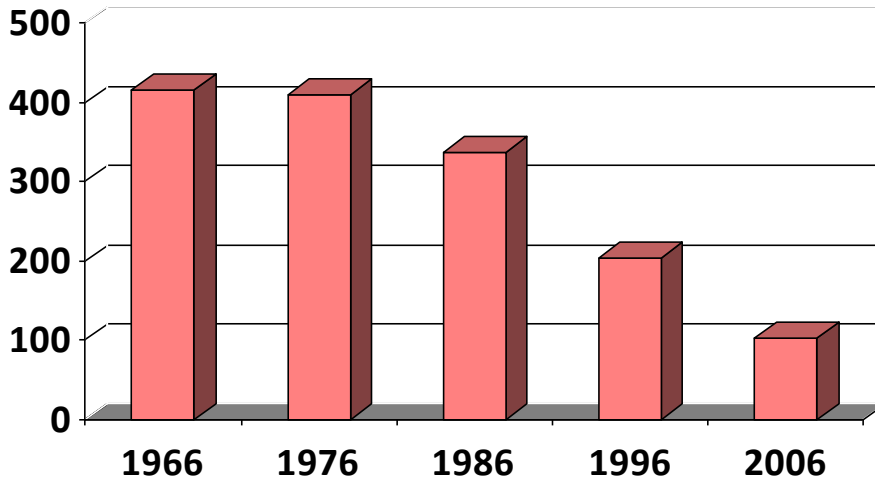
NOTES: 12 gauge (209 incidents) and .22LR (85 incidents) were most commonly involved.
M-L = muzzleloading equipment

NOTE: Unknown shooters were involved in 64 hunting incidents.

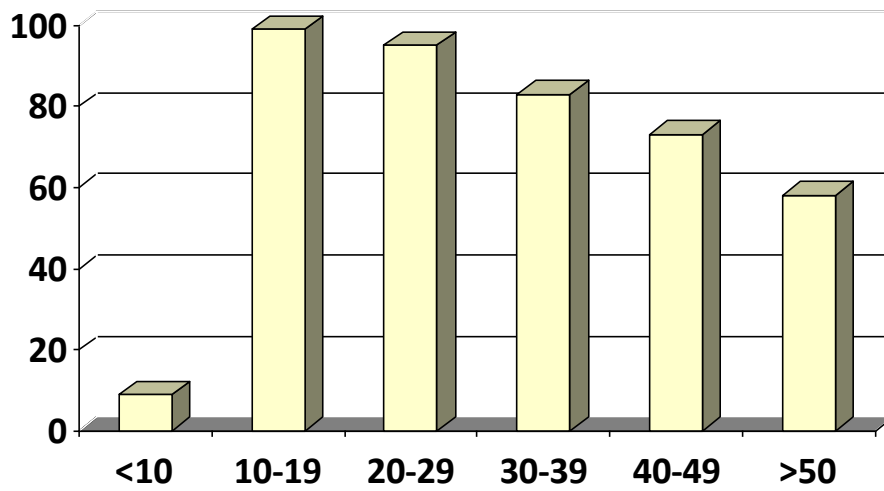
Incidents By Shooter Age



Incidents By Decade

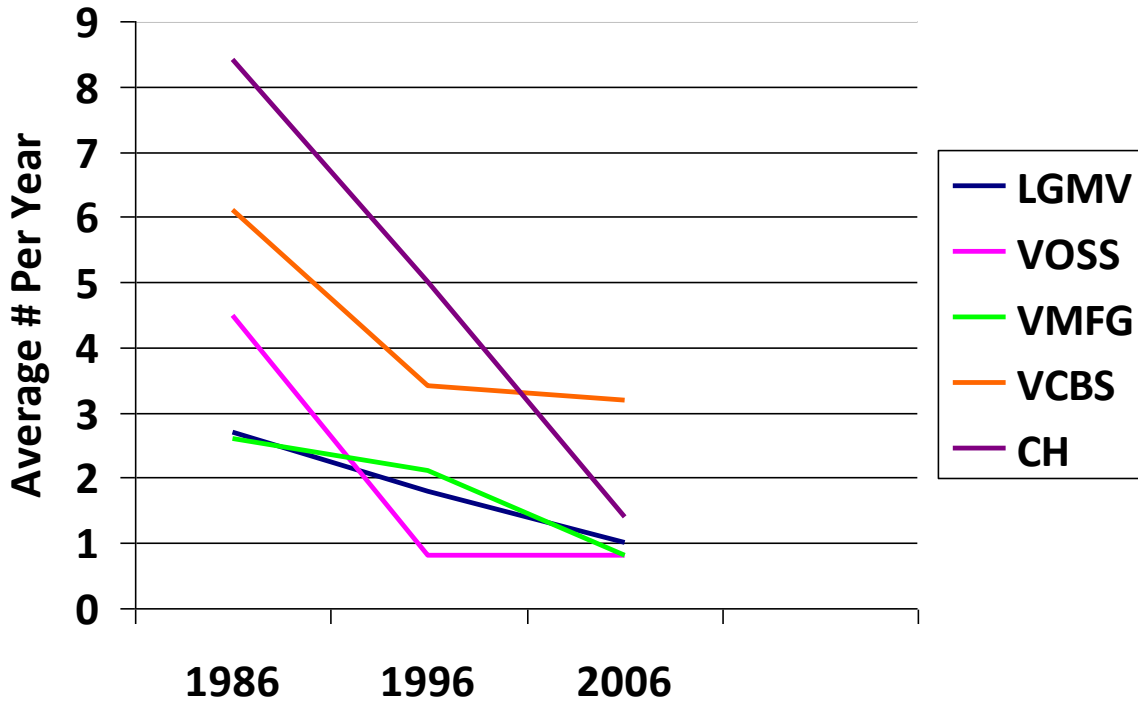


Incidents By Victim Age



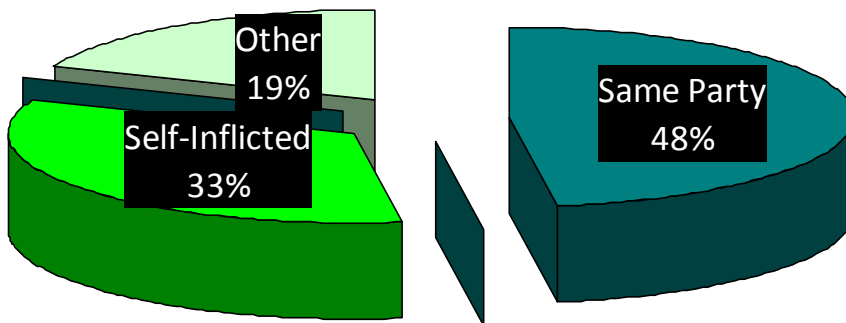
Leading Causes Of Hunting Incidents 1977-2006

Changes In Average Number Of Incidents Per Year Per Decade



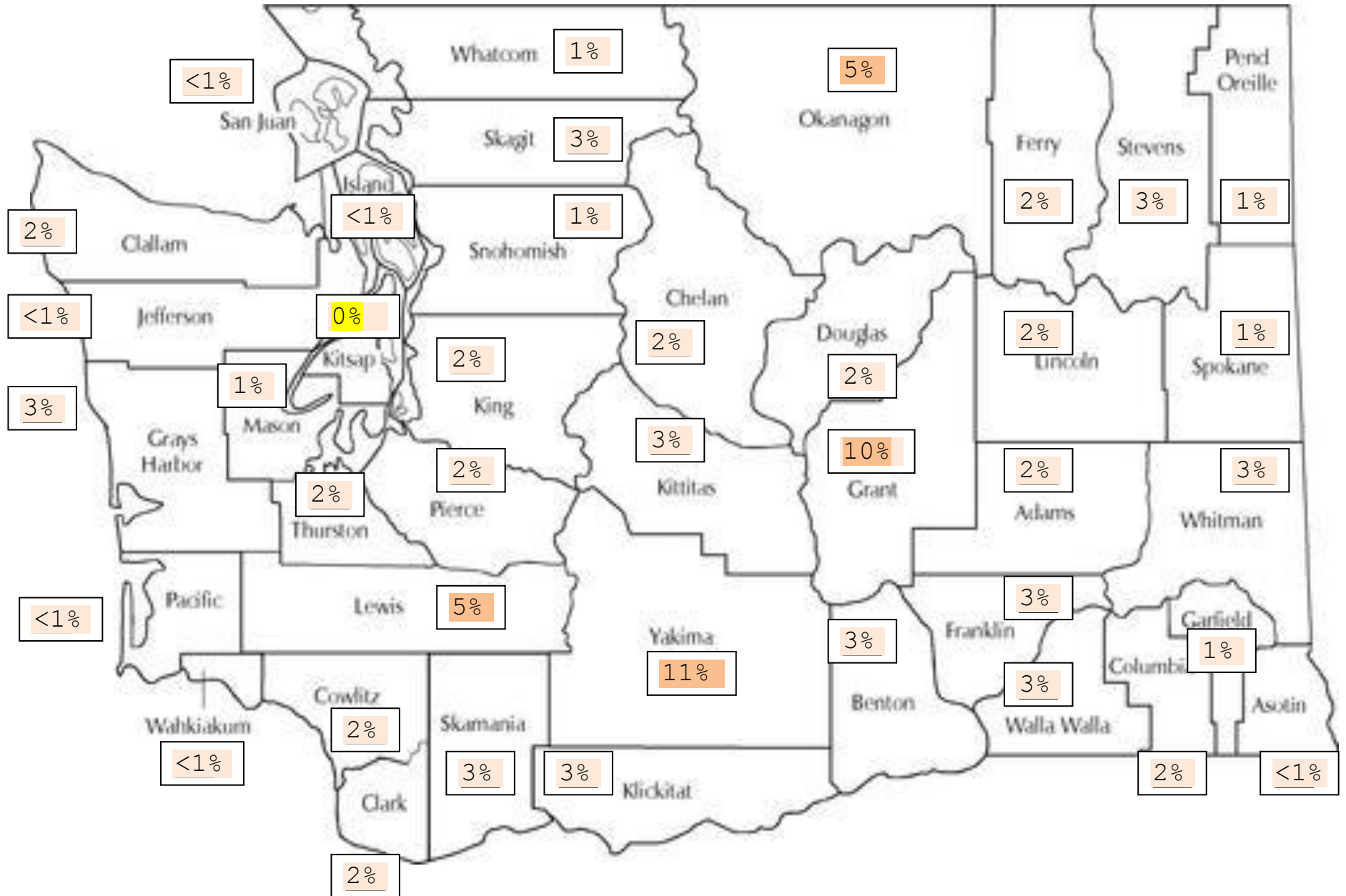
- LGMV = Loaded gun in a motor driven vehicle
- VOSS = Victim out of sight of shooter
- VMFG = Victim mistaken for game
- VCBS = Victim covered by shooter while swinging on game
- CH = Careless handling

Incidents By Shooter Status

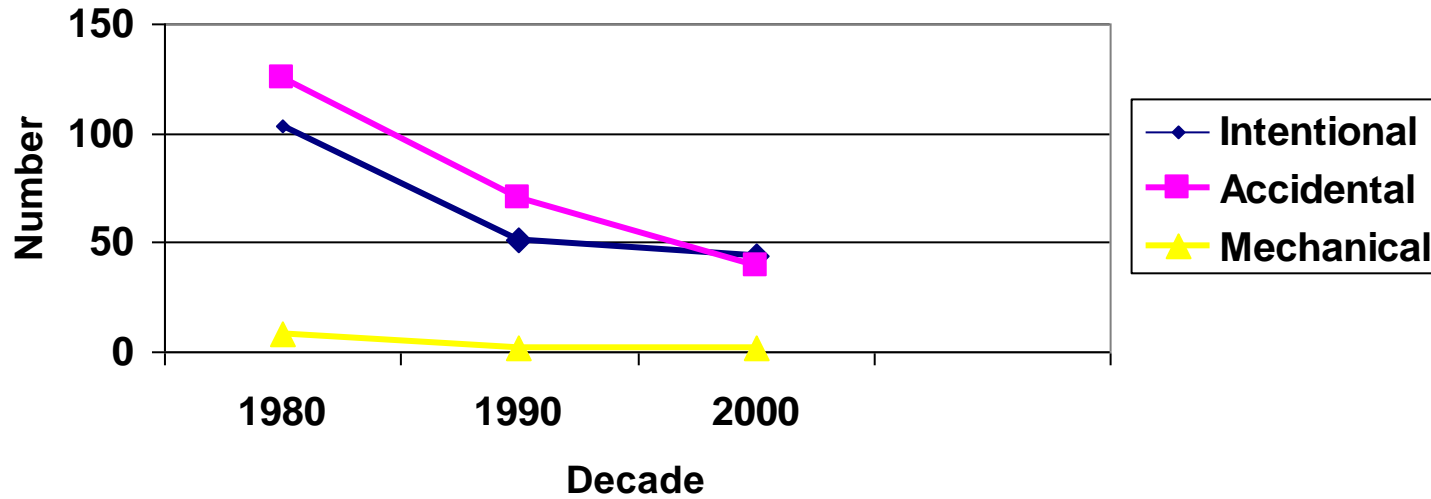


Washington Department of Fish And Wildlife Hunting Incident Locations By County: 1977 – 2009

(NOTE: Figures have been rounded and total does not equal 100%)



Number Of Incidents By Category



Percentage Of Incidents By Category

