

# Dog bites

## Summary

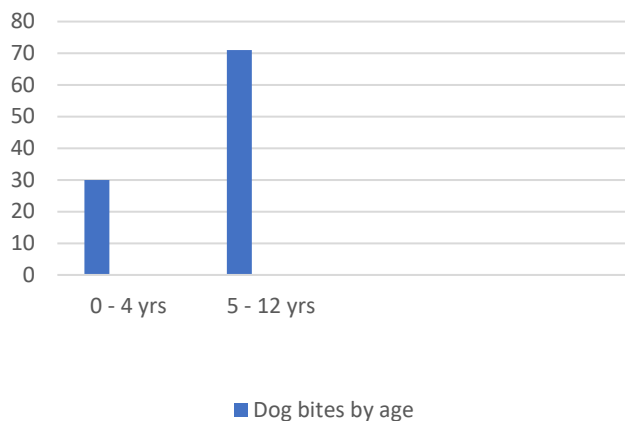
- Dog bites were the 7<sup>th</sup> leading cause of injury in 2019.
- In 2019, 101 children were treated for dog bites.
- Children between the ages of 5 and 12 years were twice as likely to be treated for dog bites, accounting for 70% of all the dog bites.
- The dog bite injuries happened at the child's home in 70% of the cases, at another home in 11% of cases, and in a public place or a road in 19% of cases.
- Boys were injured through dog bites at twice the rate of girls.
- 42% of children were bitten on the lower body, thighs, hips, knees and ankles.
- 30% of children were bitten in the face, scalp and neck. Majority of these children were under 5 years. 20% had upper body, including the arm, injuries.
- 26% of children were admitted to hospital for injuries.



To help prevent dog bite injuries in children we should:

- Never leave a small child alone with a dog, no matter if it is the family dog, a dog that is known to you or even a dog that you have been assured is well behaved. Any dog can bite.
- Educate families on neutering male dogs and avoid choosing unsafe breeds as pets.
- Educate children on how to interact with unfamiliar and pet dogs
- Not allow children to play aggressive games with a dog, such as tug-of-war or wrestling, as this can lead to bites.
- Teach children to ask a dog owner for permission before petting any dog.

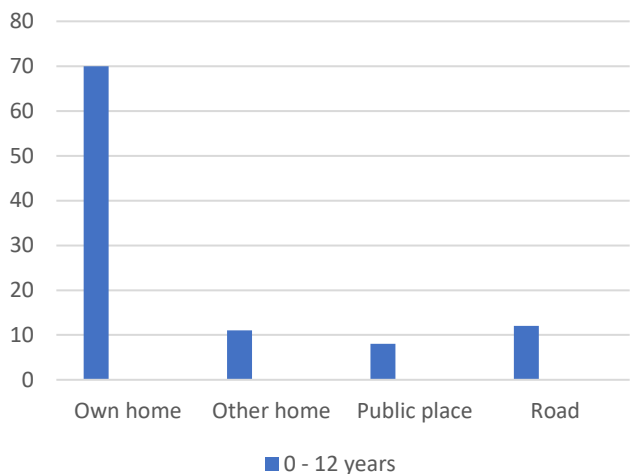
## Dog bite injury by age



Children between the ages of 5 and 12 years are over twice as frequently injured through dog bites than younger children.

Children in general are most frequently bit in the face, neck and head.

## Dog bite injury by location



Dog bite injuries happened at the child's home in 70% of the cases, which indicates that the dog was likely known to the child,

11% of injuries happened at another home,

19% of cases were in a public place or on a road.