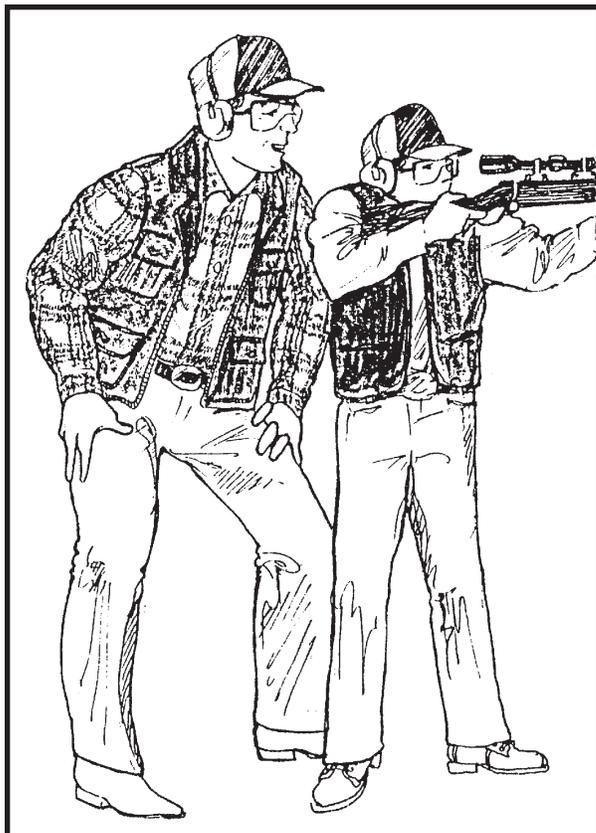


*TENNESSEE  
HUNTER EDUCATION  
PROGRAM*



# HUNTING ACCIDENT REPORT

*January 1, 2007 - December 31, 2007*



***For more information contact***  
The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency  
Hunter Education Section  
P.O. Box 40747  
Nashville, TN 37204  
(615) 781-6538

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Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Authorization No. 328729, 1,250 copies, March, 2008. This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$.55 per copy.



# TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY

ELLINGTON AGRICULTURAL CENTER  
P.O. BOX 40747  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37204

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## Hunter Education Instructors:

The following accident statistics, graphs and narratives represent the hunting accident information for the 2007 hunting season. The information was obtained through reports prepared and submitted by investigating wildlife officers in the counties where the incidents occurred.

While most incidents are known within the county of occurrence, we also rely on a statewide clipping service to alert us to hunting related incidents. For your information, copies of the forms used to report accidents are contained in the document.

In 2007, Tennessee experienced four more firearm related hunting accidents than the previous year. We experienced eleven firearm related hunting incidents during 2007. In 2007 we experienced two fatal firearm related hunting incidents; this was an increase from 2006 wherein we experienced one fatal firearm incident. The number of tree stand injuries for 2007 increased by one from 2006 for a total of ten tree stand injuries. No fatal tree stand accidents were reported during 2007; in 2006 we experienced two fatal tree stand accidents. We need to continue our efforts of encouraging the proper use of the fall arrest system. In the overwhelming majority of 2007 tree stand accidents, no fall arrest system was used. The simple act of using a good fall restraint device will save lives.

Please use the accident information as an educational tool in your classroom to initiate discussions on how incidents could be prevented.

Additional copies of this report are available on request from the TWRA Hunter Education Office in Nashville; an electronic version of the report will be available online.

Randy Huskey  
Hunter Education Administrator

**The State of Tennessee**

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## 2007 Hunting Accident Summary

	07 Fatal	07 Non-Fatal	2007 Total	2006 Total	2005 Total	2004 Total
<b>Shooter Status</b>						
Self-Inflicted	1	2	3	4	5	3
Shot by Hunting Partner	1	5	6	3	3	6
Shot Outside Hunting Party	0	2	2	0	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Hunting Implement</b>						
Rifle	1	1	2	3	5	9
Shotgun	1	7	8	3	6	3
Muzzleloader	0	0	0	1	0	0
Handgun	0	1	1	0	0	0
Bow	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tree Stand	0	10	10	9	7	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Cause of Accident</b>						
Unknown	0	0	0	0	1	0
Ricochet	0	1	1	0	0	2
Loading/Unloading	0	1	1	0	1	0
Careless Handling	1	2	3	5	2	3
Victim Mistaken for Game	1	3	4	1	3	4
Covered by Shooter's Swing	0	0	0	0	1	0
Trigger Caught on Object	0	1	1	0	1	1
Shooter Stumbled and Fell	0	0	0	0	2	1
Victim in Line of Fire	0	1	1	1	0	1
Defective Firearm	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tree Stand Accident	0	10	10	9	7	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Species Pursued</b>						
Deer	1	11	12	12	11	13
Dove	0	1	1	1	1	0
Waterfowl	1	0	1	0	0	0
Turkey	0	3	3	2	4	2
Quail	0	1	1	0	1	0
Squirrel	0	0	0	0	0	4
Rabbit	0	2	2	0	0	0
Boar	0	0	0	1	0	0
Bear	0	1	1	0	1	0
Coyote	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>

# 2007 Fatal Accidents

## Shooter Information

Age	28
Hunting Implement	Shotgun
Game Hunted	Waterfowl
Hunter Education Graduate	Yes
Shooter and Victim in Same Party	Self-inflicted
County of Accident	Davidson

## Victim Information

Age	Same
Type Accident	Fatal
Wearing Blaze Orange	No
Hunter Education Graduate	Yes
Distance Muzzle to Wound	2-5 yards
Date of Accident	1/11/2007
Law Violation	No

**Narrative:** Victim and hunting partner were hunting together during waterfowl season. Victim was standing in the water tossing decoys to hunting partner that had remained inside the front portion of the boat. The victims loaded shotgun was uncased and lying in the bottom of the rear end of the boat. The victims retriever was walking around in the area of the shotgun and possibly stepped on the shotgun's trigger. The shotgun fired through the side of the boat and struck the victim in the lower abdomen.

**Cause:** Careless handling. Transporting loaded firearm in vehicle.

## Shooter Information

Age	25
Hunting Implement	Rifle
Game Hunted	Deer
Hunter Education Graduate	Yes
Shooter and Victim in Same Party	Yes
County of Accident	Hardeman

## Victim Information

Age	51
Type Accident	Fatal
Wearing Blaze Orange	No
Hunter Education Graduate	Yes
Distance Muzzle to Wound	21-50 yards
Date of Accident	10/30/2007
Law Violation	Yes

**Narrative:** Shooter and Victim were hunting with center fire rifles during archery season. Shooter incorrectly identified the victim as a deer and fired upon the victim. The shooter was charged with hunting with an illegal firearm and was convicted in court.

**Cause:** Victim mistaken for game. Positively identify your target.

## 2007 Non-Fatal Accidents

### Shooter Information

Age	56
Hunting Implement	Shotgun
Game Hunted	Quail
Hunter Education Graduate	Yes
Shooter and Victim in Same Party	Yes
County of Accident	Bledsoe

### Victim Information

Age	36
Type Accident	Non-fatal
Wearing Blaze Orange	Yes
Hunter Education Graduate	Yes
Distance Muzzle to Wound	21-50 Yards
Date of Accident	1/20/2007
Law Violation	No action taken

**Narrative:** Shooter and victim were quail hunting, a single quail flushed and was shot at by the shooter. A shot pellet ricocheted from a nearby pine tree and hit the victim in the forehead.

**Cause:** Ricochet. Be certain of your target and what is beyond your target.

### Shooter Information

Age	35
Hunting Implement	Shotgun
Game Hunted	Rabbit
Hunter Education Graduate	Yes
Shooter and Victim in Same Party	Yes
County of Accident	Bledsoe

### Victim Information

Age	40
Type Accident	Non-fatal
Wearing Blaze Orange	Yes
Hunter Education Graduate	Yes
Distance Muzzle to Wound	11-20 Yards
Date of Accident	1/20/2007
Law Violation	No action taken

**Narrative:** Shooter and victim were rabbit hunting together, shooter was traversing a thicket and using the gun to move limbs and briars out of the way. Victim was standing at the opposite end of the thicket. Victim raised his gun to protect his face while going through a dense thicket and gun discharged striking the victim in the neck.

**Cause:** Careless handling of a firearm. The firearm should have been unloaded and the safety should have been on while traversing difficult terrain.

## 2007 Non-Fatal Accidents

### Shooter Information

Age	59
Hunting Implement	Shotgun
Game Hunted	Rabbit
Hunter Education Graduate	No
Shooter and Victim in Same Party	No
County of Accident	McNairy

### Victim Information

Age	65
Type Accident	Non-fatal
Wearing Blaze Orange	No
Hunter Education Graduate	No
Distance Muzzle to Wound	over 101 yards
Date of Accident	2/6/2007
Law Violation	Yes

**Narrative:** Shooter was rabbit hunting privately owned land without permission. Shooter fired at a rabbit and a shot pellet struck a Department of Transportation employee in the neck. Victim was working at the Department of Transportation Garage.

**Cause:** Victim in line of fire. Shooter did not determine what was beyond his target.

### Shooter Information

Age	14
Hunting Implement	Shotgun
Game Hunted	Turkey
Hunter Education Graduate	Yes
Shooter and Victim in Same Party	Yes
County of Accident	Monroe

### Victims Information

Age	50	14	58
Type Accident	Non-fatal	Non-fatal	Non-fatal
Wearing Blaze Orange	No	No	No
Hunter Education Graduate	No	Yes	No
Distance Muzzle to Wound	21-50 yards	21-50 yards	21-50 yards
Date of Accident	3/24/2007	3/24/2007	3/24/2007
Law Violation	Yes	Yes	Yes

**Narrative:** Shooter and his mother had gone turkey hunting with 4 other family members. The shooter and his mother were stalking a gobbling turkey. Shooter saw something in the brush that he incorrectly identified as a turkeys' head. Shooter fired one shot that struck his two aunts and one cousin.

**Cause:** Victim mistaken for game. Positively identify your target before firing. Never stalk a gobbling turkey.

## 2007 Non-Fatal Accidents

### Shooter Information

Age	63
Hunting Implement	Shotgun
Game Hunted	Turkey
Hunter Education Graduate	No
Shooter and Victim in Same Party	Yes
County of Accident	Campbell

### Victim Information

Age	57
Type Accident	Non-fatal
Wearing Blaze Orange	No
Hunter Education Graduate	No
Distance Muzzle to Wound	21-50 yards
Date of Accident	3/31/2007
Law Violation	No

**Narrative:** Shooter and victim were turkey hunting together and had become separated. The shooter mis-identified the victims hen decoy for a real turkey. The shooter fired at the victims decoy that was sticking out of his hunting vest. Shotshell pellets struck the victim.

**Cause:** Victim mistaken for game. Positively identify your target. Always conceal decoys while transporting them.

### Shooter Information

Age	53
Hunting Implement	Shotgun
Game Hunted	Turkey
Hunter Education Graduate	Yes
Shooter and Victim in Same Party	No
County of Accident	Marshall

### Victim Information

Age	28
Type Accident	Non-fatal
Wearing Blaze Orange	No
Hunter Education Graduate	Yes
Distance Muzzle to Wound	21-50 yards
Date of Accident	4/8/2007
Law Violation	No

**Narrative:** Shooter heard gobble from victims box call. Being late in the day the shooter decided to stalk the gobbling turkey. Shooter stalked within range and mistakenly identified the victims face as the white head of a gobbler and mistakenly identified camo burlap as the body of a turkey. Shooter fired upon victim striking him in the hands, forearm, and thigh.

**Cause:** Victim mistaken for game. Positively identify your target. Do not stalk gobbling turkeys.

## 2007 Non-Fatal Accidents

### Shooter Information

Age	9
Hunting Implement	Shotgun
Game Hunted	Dove
Hunter Education Graduate	No
Shooter and Victim in Same Party	Yes
County of Accident	Overton

### Victim Information

Age	50
Type Accident	Non-fatal
Wearing Blaze Orange	No
Hunter Education Graduate	No
Distance Muzzle to Wound	0-1 yard
Date of Accident	9/1/2007
Law Violation	No

**Narrative:** Shooter and victim were dove hunting together. After retrieving a downed bird they were returning to their hunting spot. Victim attempted to let the hammer down on a break action shotgun. The hammer slipped and gun discharged into the victims thigh.

**Cause:** Always point the muzzle in a safe direction. Take extra care when manually dropping an external hammer.

### Shooter Information

Age	17
Hunting Implement	Rifle
Game Hunted	Deer
Hunter Education Graduate	Yes
Shooter and Victim in Same Party	Self-inflicted
County of Accident	Fentress

### Victim Information

Age	Same
Type Accident	Non-fatal
Wearing Blaze Orange	Yes
Hunter Education Graduate	Yes
Distance Muzzle to Wound	0-1 yard
Date of Accident	11/17/2007
Law Violation	No

**Narrative:** Victim had returned from hunting trip and was unloading his firearm. The victim was resting the barrel of the rifle on his boot. The firearm discharged striking his foot.

**Cause:** Unloading firearm. Always point the muzzle in a safe direction. Use caution when unloading a firearm.

## 2007 Non-Fatal Accidents

### Shooter Information

Age	40
Hunting Implement	Handgun
Game Hunted	Deer Bear
Hunter Education Graduate	Yes
Shooter and Victim in Same Party	Self-inflicted
County of Accident	Unicoi

### Victim Information

Age	same
Type Accident	Non-fatal
Wearing Blaze Orange	No
Hunter Education Graduate	Yes
Distance Muzzle to Wound	0-1 yard
Date of Accident	11/25/2007
Law Violation	No

**Narrative:** Victim had become lost while hunting. Victim began traversing a laurel thicket in order to get to a road. The victim's sidearm was holstered, however, while crawling through the laurel the sidearm discharged striking victim in the upper calf.

**Cause:** Trigger caught on object. While traversing difficult terrain, always unload your firearm.

## 2007 Non-Fatal Tree Stand Accidents

### Victim Information

Age	53
Season	After Season
Hunter Education Graduate	Yes
Bowhunter Education Graduate	No
Type of Stand	Ladder
Safety Belt Used	No
County of Accident	Hardeman
Date of Accident	3/3/2007
Type of Injury	Shattered pelvis

**Narrative:** Victim was attempting to remove a ladder stand by himself (season was over). Windy conditions caused the tree to sway. The stand separated from the tree and crashed to the ground. Victim crawled to the edge of field to call for help.

**Cause:** Failure to use fall arrest system. Always attach yourself the tree while hanging and removing elevated stands.

### Victim Information

Age	61
Season	Archery
Hunter Education Graduate	Yes
Bowhunter Education Graduate	No
Type of Stand	Lock-on
Safety Belt Used	Yes
County of Accident	Meigs
Date of Accident	9/21/2007
Type of Injury	Broken hip

**Narrative:** Victim was hanging his lock-on stand. Victim's safety belt broke causing him to fall approximately 15 feet.

**Cause:** Faulty equipment. Fall arrest system broke. Always inspect your equipment before each hunt.

## 2007 Non-Fatal Tree Stand Accidents

### Victim Information

Age	41
Season	Archery
Hunter Education Graduate	Yes
Bowhunter Education Graduate	No
Type of Stand	Climbing
Safety Belt Used	No
County of Accident	Trousdale
Date of Accident	10/5/2007
Type of Injury	Numerous broken bones

**Narrative:** Victim was beginning to descend tree. Victim stepped off edge of stand and fell head first approximately 30 feet.

**Cause:** Victim climbing into/out of position. Failure to use fall arrest system.

### Victim Information

Age	43
Season	Archery
Hunter Education Graduate	Yes
Bowhunter Education Graduate	Yes
Type of Stand	Permanent
Safety Belt Used	No
County of Accident	Lincoln
Date of Accident	10/11/2007
Type of Injury	Bruised hip

**Narrative:** Victim was in process of tearing down and re-working an old permanent tree stand. Victim fell from tree when rotting wood gave way.

**Cause:** Failure to use fall arrest system. Do not use permanent, home-made type stands. Make sure you always use a Treestand Manufacturers Association (TMA) approved stand.

## 2007 Non-Fatal Tree Stand Accidents

### Victim Information

Age	18
Season	Archery
Hunter Education Graduate	Yes
Bowhunter Education Graduate	No
Type of Stand	Homemade ladder stand
Safety Belt Used	No
County of Accident	Grundy
Date of Accident	10/14/2007
Type of Injury	Contusions

**Narrative:** The stand had been in the same location for three years. The strap holding it to the tree had deteriorated. Victim attempted to climb down after discovering the stand was unstable. The stand collapsed and the victim fell approximately 15 feet.

**Cause:** Failure to use fall arrest system. Inspect your stand before each hunting trip. Do not leave stands hanging for extended periods. Make sure you always use a Treestand Manufacturers Association (TMA) approved stand.

### Victim Information

Age	36
Season	Archery
Hunter Education Graduate	Yes
Bowhunter Education Graduate	No
Type of Stand	Climbing
Safety Belt Used	No
County of Accident	Hamblen
Date of Accident	11/2/2007
Type of Injury	Broken right ankle

**Narrative:** Victim was attempting to secure the treestand to a tree with a cable. Victim lost balance and fell approximately 20 feet landing on right foot.

**Cause:** Failure to use fall arrest system.

## 2007 Non-Fatal Tree Stand Accidents

### Victim Information

Age	52
Season	Muzzleloader
Hunter Education Graduate	Yes
Bowhunter Education Graduate	No
Type of Stand	Non-climbing, ladder
Safety Belt Used	No
County of Accident	Coffee
Date of Accident	11/3/2007
Type of Injury	Broken ribs, separated shoulder

**Narrative:** Top section of the ladder stand was not properly constructed. One of the pins that holds the sections together was not properly installed. Stand was not secure causing victim to fall when the stand collapsed.

**Cause:** Failure to use fall arrest system. Follow treestand manufacturers instructions, keep the manufacturers instructions for later reference.

### Victim Information

Age	43
Season	Gun
Hunter Education Graduate	No
Bowhunter Education Graduate	No
Type of Stand	Non-climbing
Safety Belt Used	No
County of Accident	Humphreys
Date of Accident	11/17/2007
Type of Injury	Broken right leg, two spinal fractures

**Narrative:** Victim had climbed into treestand and was attempting to remove coat. Victim lost balance and fell from stand.

**Cause:** Failure to use fall arrest system. Hook up your fall arrest system from the time you begin climbing until you are back on the ground.

## 2007 Non-Fatal Tree Stand Accidents

### Victim Information

Age	35
Season	Gun
Hunter Education Graduate	Yes
Bowhunter Education Graduate	No
Type of Stand	Permanent
Safety Belt Used	No
County of Accident	Hickman
Date of Accident	11/17/2007
Type of Injury	

**Narrative:** Victim was using a permanent, wooden tree stand that was built five years prior. The wood was rotten and when victim stepped onto stand it collapsed and victim fell 12 feet.

**Cause:** Failure to use fall arrest system. Hook up your fall arrest system from the time you begin climbing until you are back on the ground. Do not use home made tree stands. Make sure you always use a Treestand Manufacturers Association (TMA) approved stand.

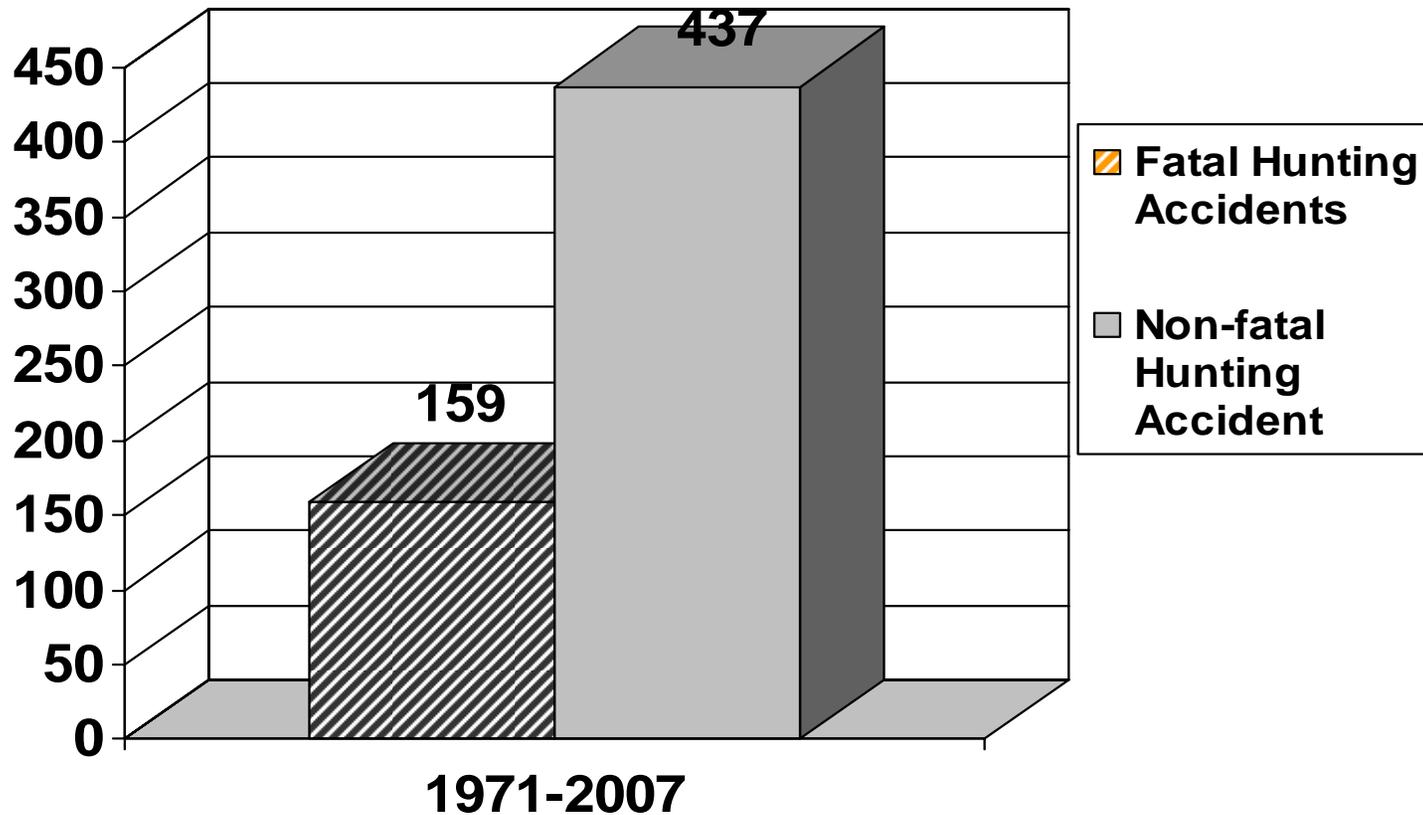
### Victim Information

Age	36
Season	Muzzleloader
Hunter Education Graduate	Yes
Bowhunter Education Graduate	No
Type of Stand	Climbing
Safety Belt Used	No
County of Accident	Henderson
Date of Accident	12/29/2007
Type of Injury	Broken left leg

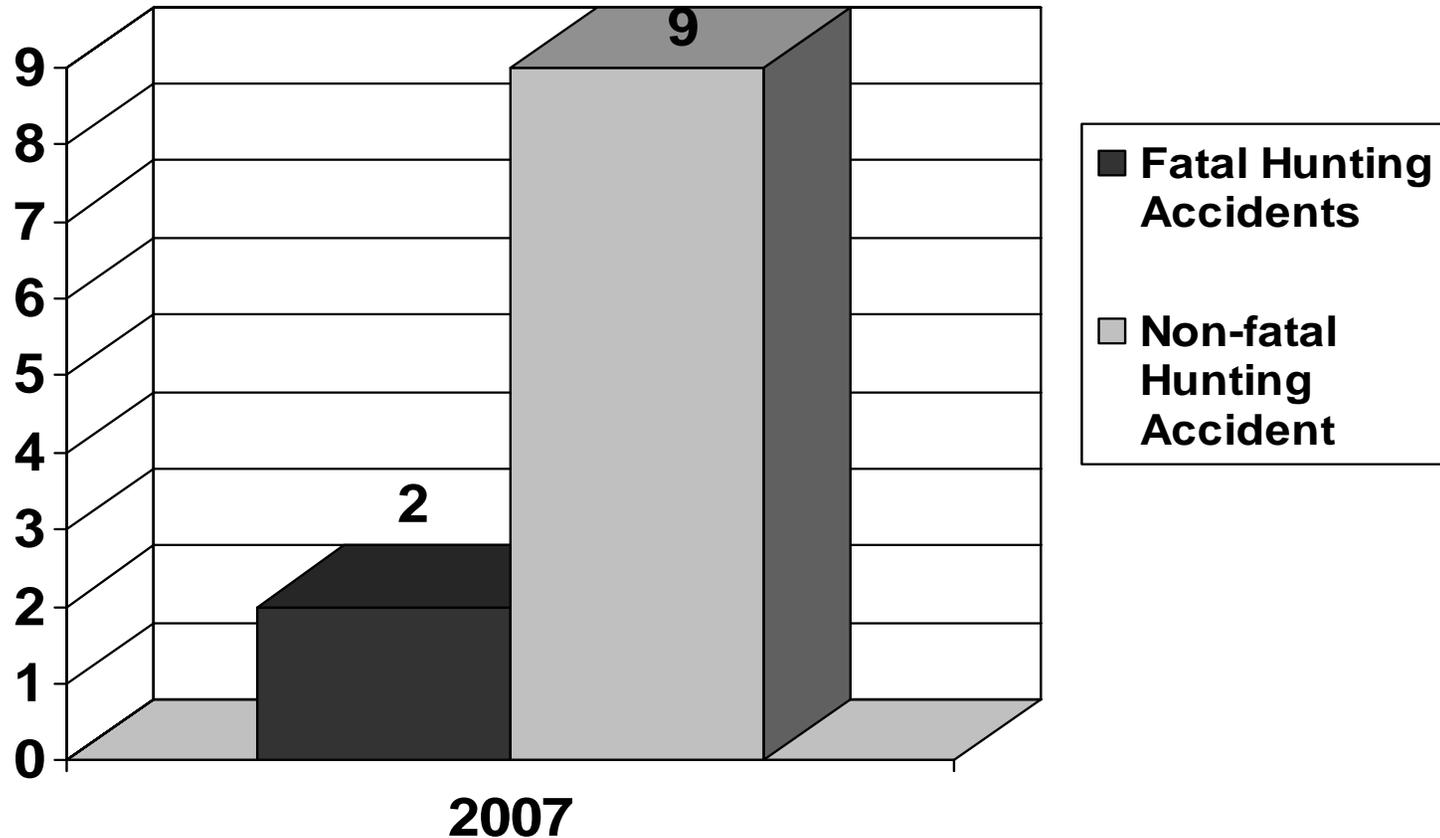
**Narrative:** Victim was descending tree. While trying to avoid a knot in the tree, the bottom portion of the stand slipped from around tree and victim fell approximately 15 feet.

**Cause:** Victim climbing into/out of position. Failure to use fall arrest system. Hook up your fall arrest device from the time you begin climbing until you are back on the ground. While using a climbing stand always attach the upper and lower sections with a string.

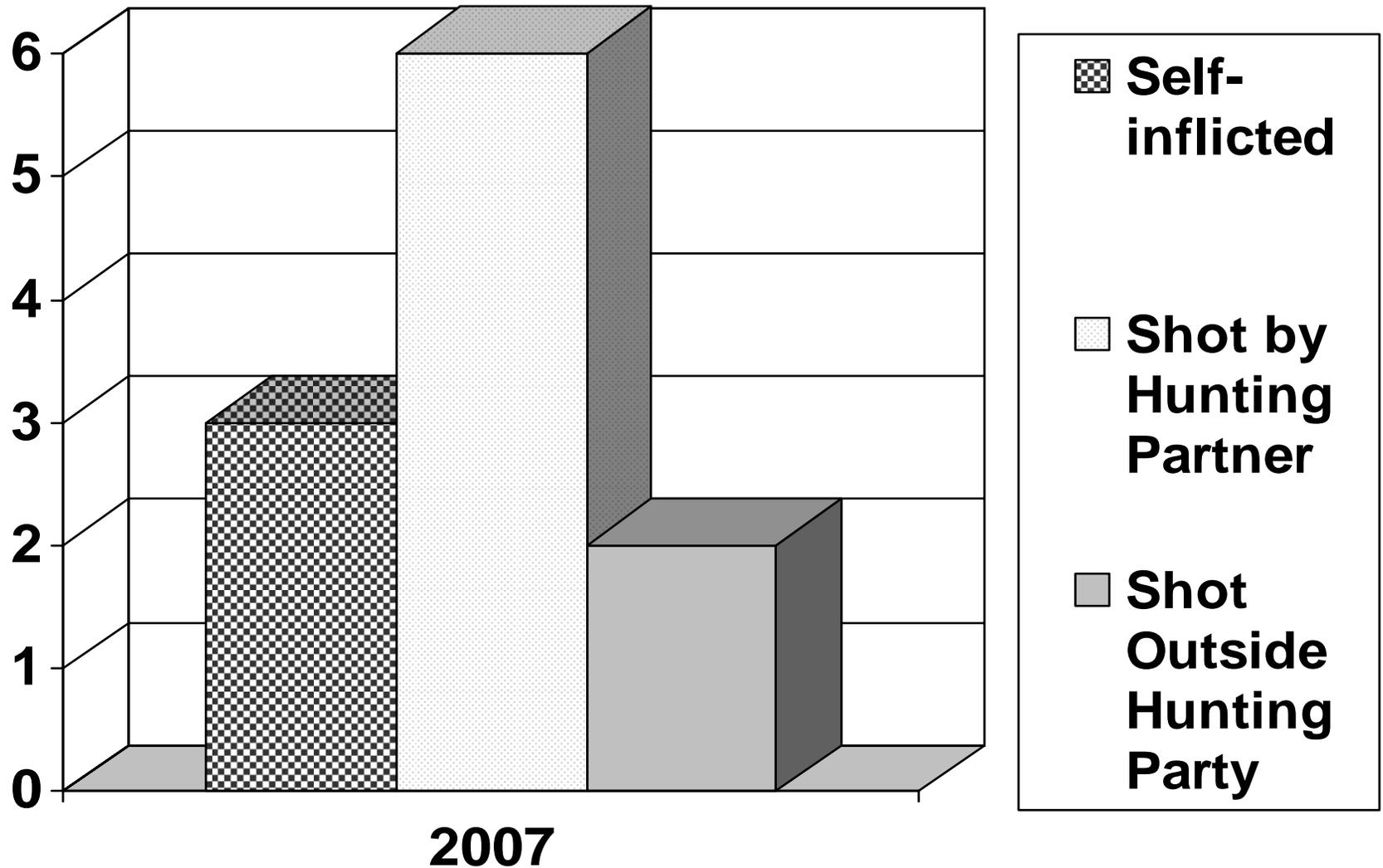
# Fatal and Non-fatal Hunting Accidents 1971-2007



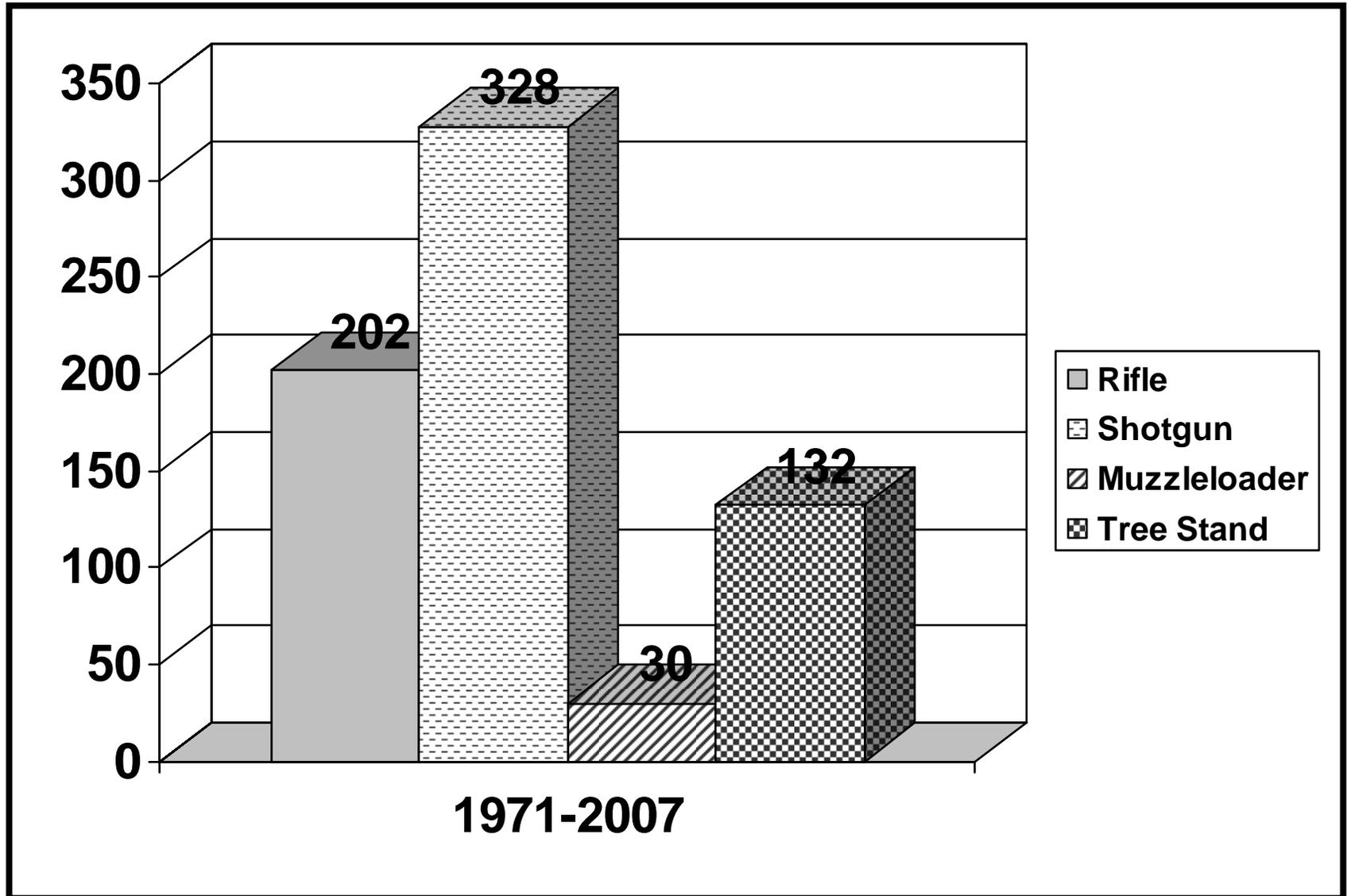
# Fatal and Non-fatal Hunting Accidents 2007



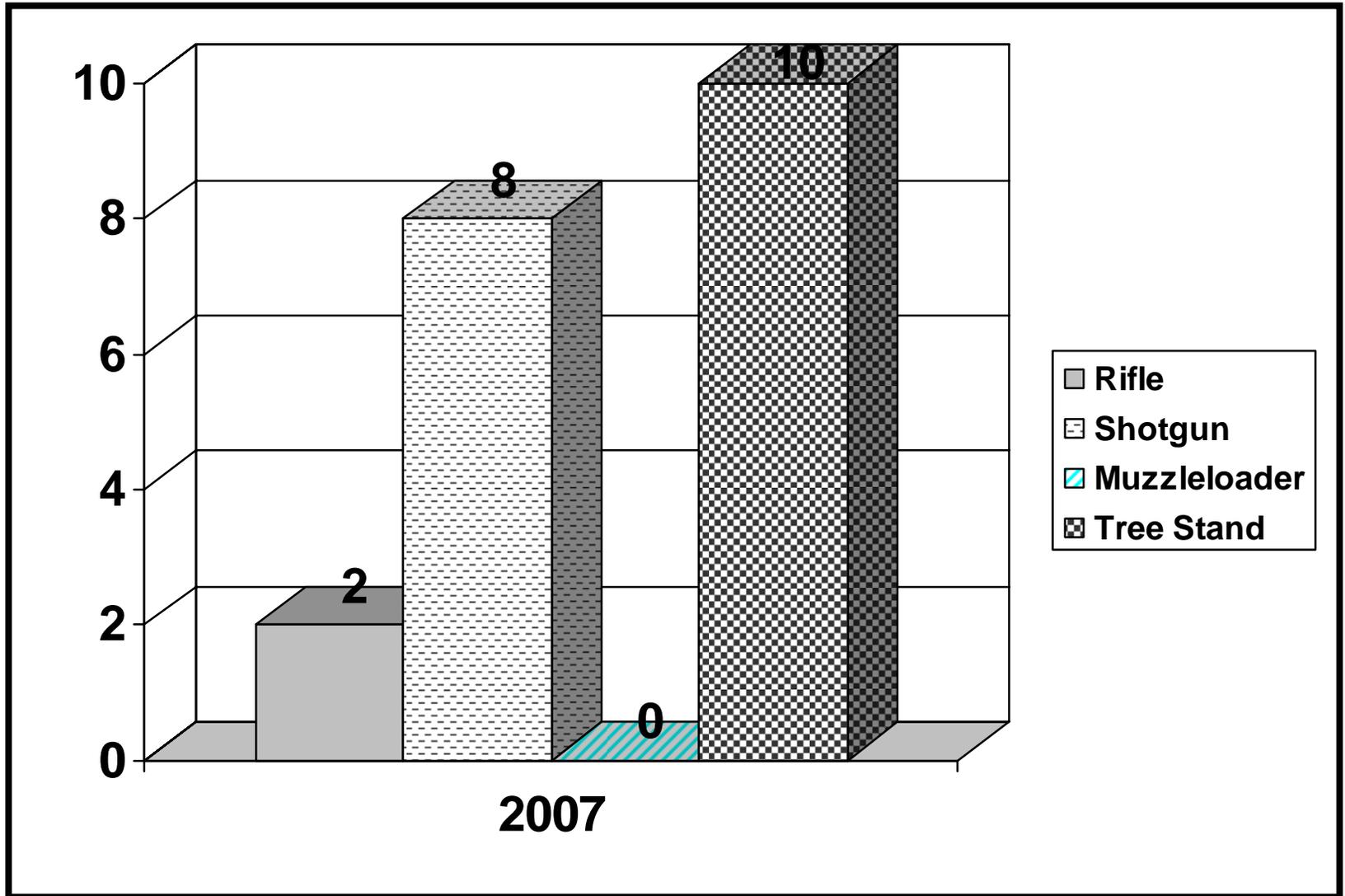
# 2007 Hunting Accidents



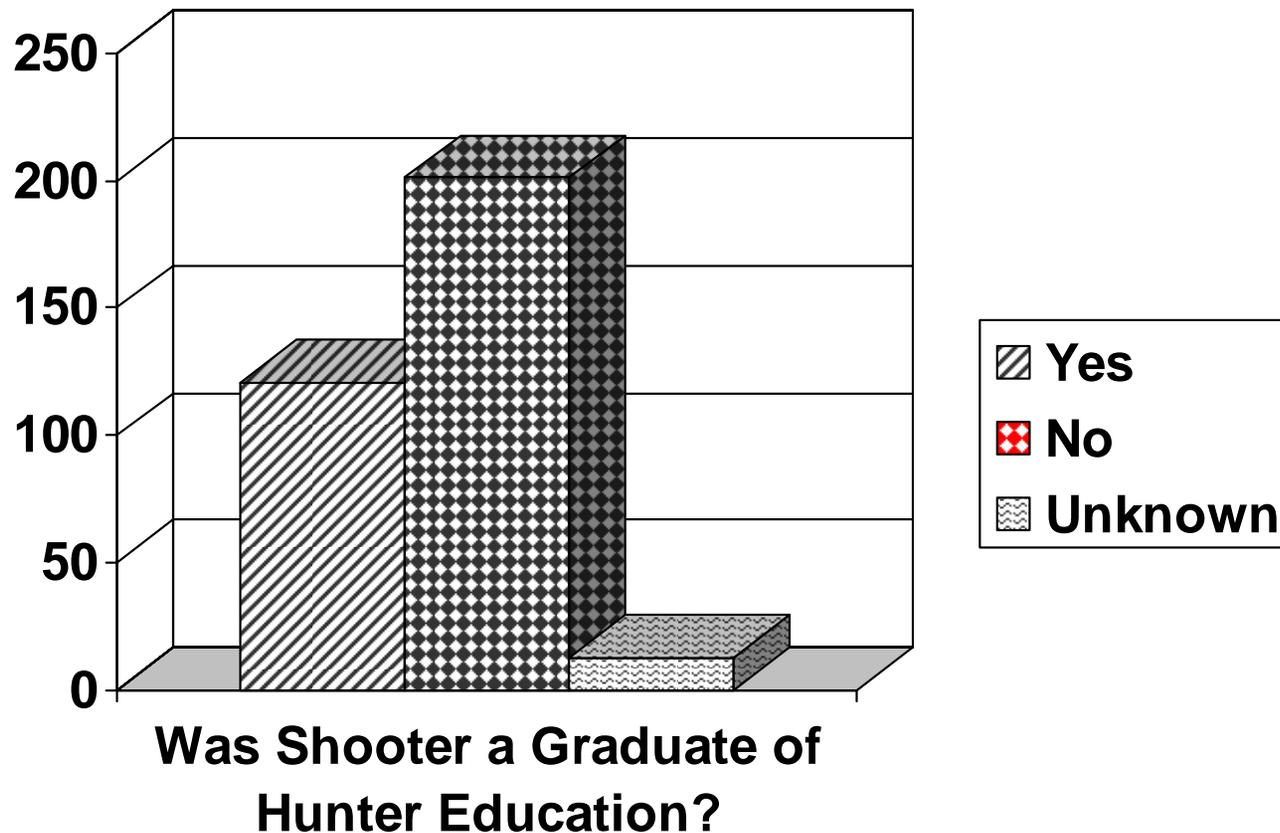
# Hunting Accidents 1971-2007



# Hunting Accidents 2007



# Hunting Accidents 1971-2001



# Hunting Accidents 2007

