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# DOGBITE INCIDENTS IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS APRIL 2022

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# NEWS ARTICLE

## FATAL ATTACK OF YOUNG CHILD BY VICIOUS DOG

- *PHILIPSBURG, Sint Maarten* — Detectives and Forensic Department are presently investigating a very serious dog attack at a home in the Oyster Pond area, which took place on Sunday January 3<sup>rd</sup> between 02.00 and 03.00 p.m. According to the information, the dog in question which is a large American Bull dog belongs to the residents of that home.
- *The seven month old baby boy was sitting in his “walker” when for no apparent reason the child was attacked by the dog. The grandparents who were taking care of the child at the time of the incident tried tirelessly to get the child away from the dog but, the dog refused to let go.*
- *When the dog finally let go, the child was immediately taken to the Sint Maarten Medical Center for medical treatment however, the child died as a result of the injuries he sustained.*

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# HOW BIG IS THE PROBLEM?

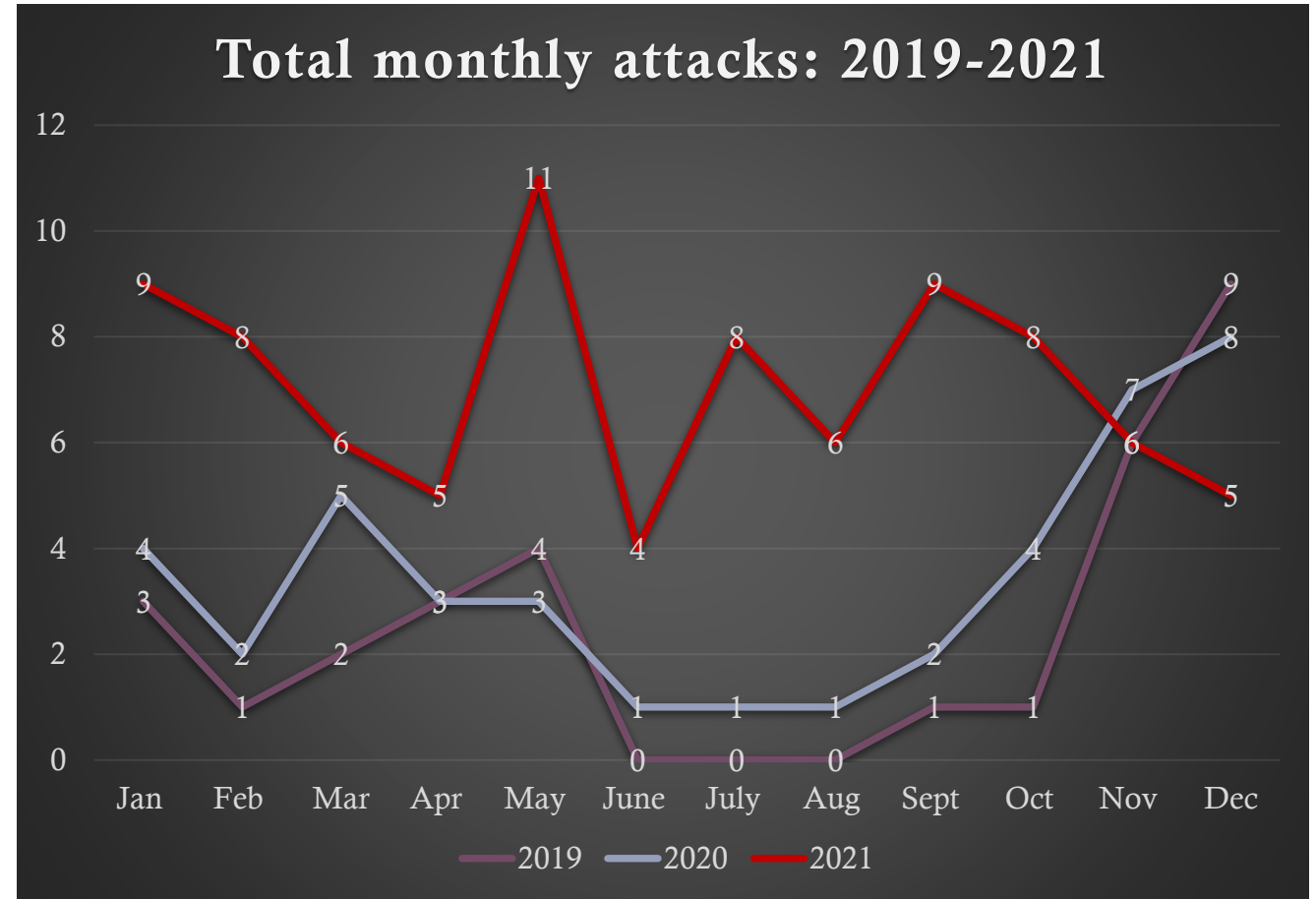
- According to a study from the Center For Disease Control (CDC), **approximately 4.5 million dog bites occur in the United States each year**
- 800,000 of those bites result in the need for medical care.
- 2020: in total 46 fatal (including 15 children) dog attacks were reported in the United States
- Review of period: 2005 - 2020, canines killed 568 Americans (\* Pit bulls contributed in 67% of cases)

*Source: dogbite.org (resource center) and Center for Disease Control (2020).*

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# ST-MAARTEN MEDICAL CENTER STATISTICS

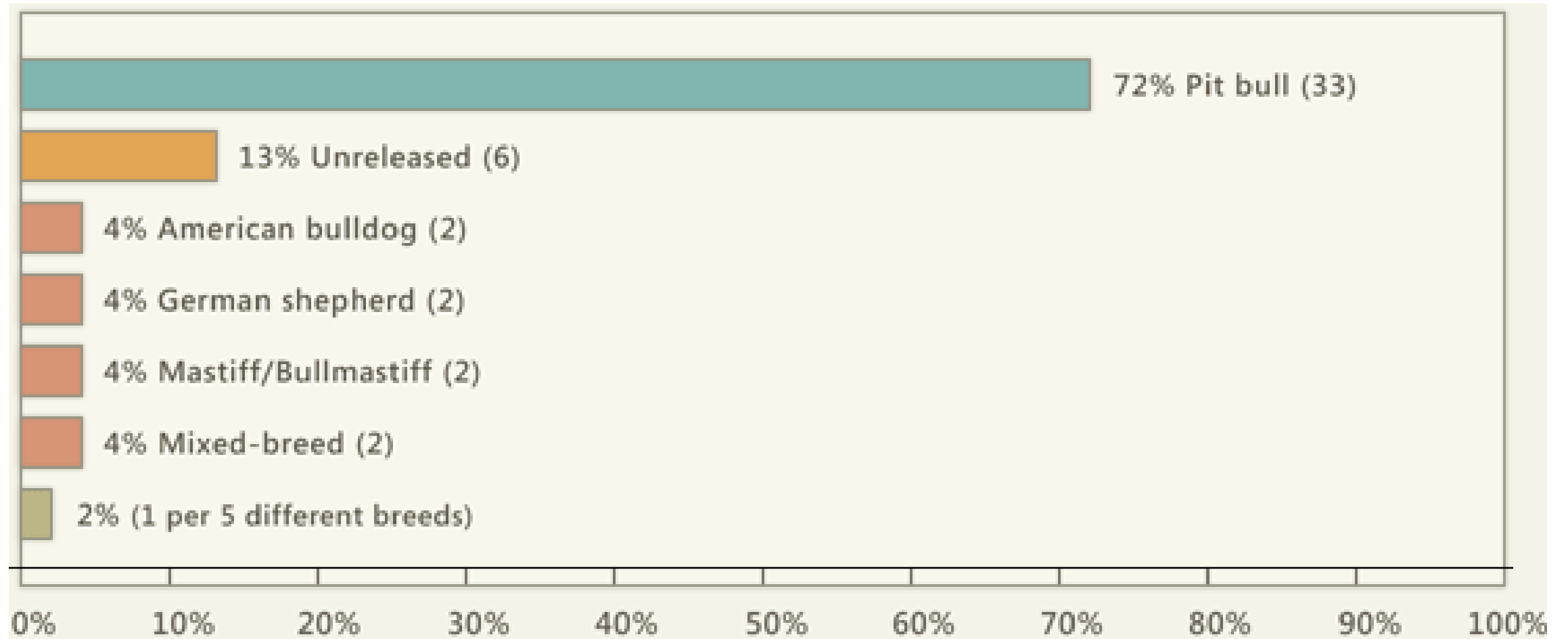
Monthly attacks	2019	2020	2021
Jan	3	4	9
Feb	1	2	8
Mar	2	5	6
Apr	3	3	5
May	4	3	11
June	0	1	4
July	0	1	8
Aug	0	1	6
Sept	1	2	9
Oct	1	4	8
Nov	6	7	6
Dec	9	8	5
Total	30	41	85



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# WHICH BREEDS ARE INVOLVED 2020?:

Source: dogsbite resource center, Dogsbite.org





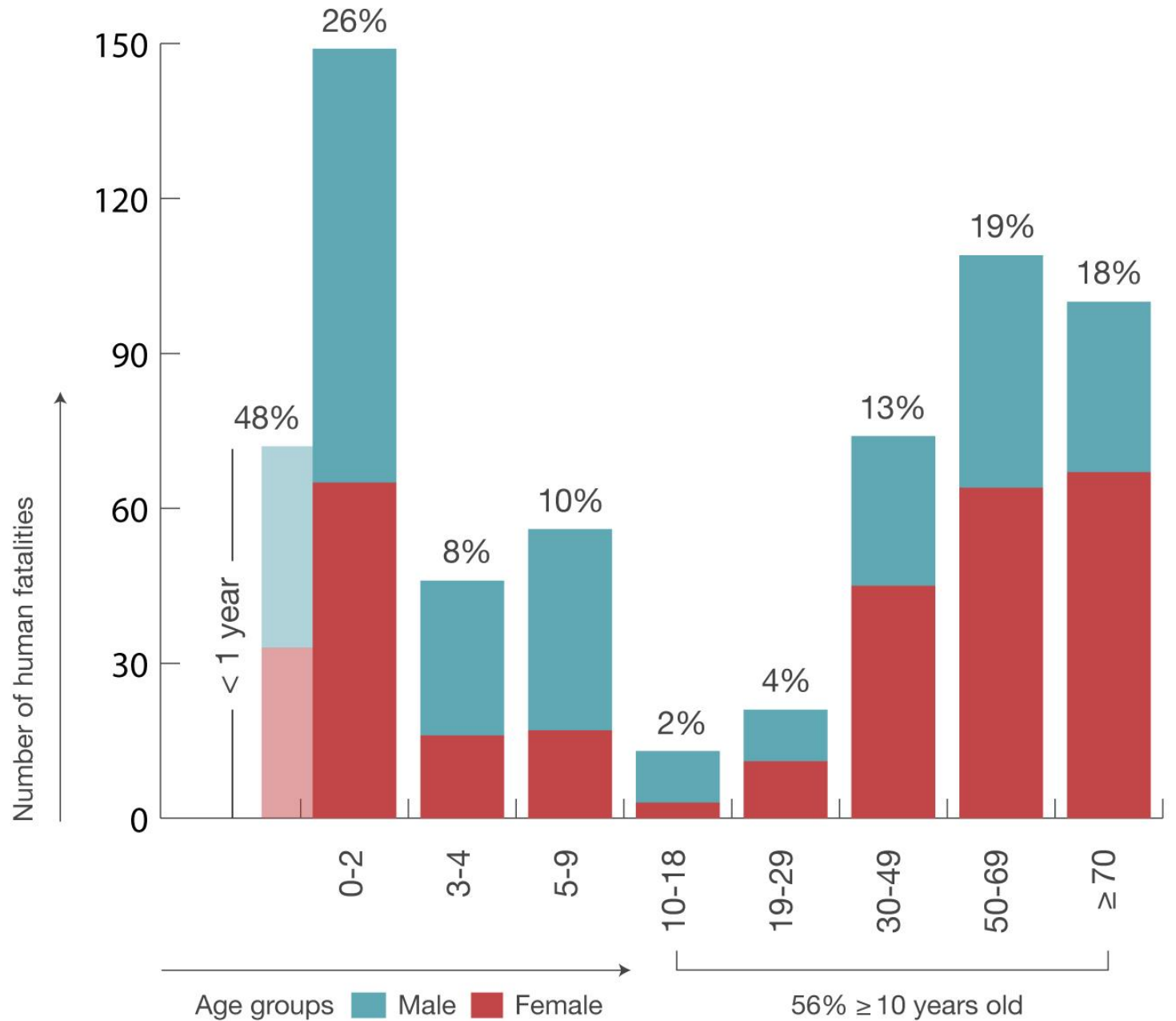


*Devastating and mutilating effects on the short term and long term.*



# FATALITY RATES IN AGE-GROUPS 2005-2020

Source: Dogbite.org



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# INCIDENTS IN THE HOUSEHOLD

- In 2020: Family dogs inflicted: 27 of all deadly attacks (59%).
  - 11% (5) of canine inflicted deaths involved a family dog killing its owner.
  - In 2020, 17% of attacks resulting in human death, involved the dog or victim *new* to a household  
**Newborns made up 50% (4) of these victims.**
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# FINANCIAL ASPECTS

- Around 120 million \$ on annual base \*(United states) for Emergency Care only.
  - St-maarten Dutch side: between 25000 -75000 naf / yr
    - 300 naf ER-consultation fee x 85 cases per year
    - Plastic surgery
    - Absence from work
    - Psychological trauma-care
    - .....
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# LEGAL ASPECTS/ REGULATIONS

- Dutch Criminal Code *Nederlands Wetboek van Strafrecht* : *artikel 425*:
  - The following shall be punished by detention not exceeding six months or a fine of the third category:
    - ❖ he who causes an animal to attack a person,
    - ❖ or does not hold back an animal under his care when it attacks a person;
    - ❖ he who does not take sufficient care to keep a dangerous animal in his care harmless.
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# RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

- Responsible pet ownership: builds a solid foundation for dog bite prevention.
  - Education:
    - carefully selecting the dog that's right for your family
    - proper training
    - regular exercise
    - neutering or spaying ('castration') your pet.
    - **Maintain a well-fenced yard** so the dog cannot jump over the fence or dig out underneath and escape.
    - A dog's leash in good condition at all times and its collar properly fitted so the dog can't get off leash in public.
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# SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY / BEL AIR?



- Obligation for wearing of a muzzle where necessary?
  - Role of community officer?
  - Can the owner be held accountable for the behavior of their dog?
  - Further legislation?
  - Better fencing?
  - Restrictions?
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If you could help your child avoid a dog bite, would you?

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# RESOURCES

- *“Incidence of dog bite injuries treated in emergency departments,”  
H.B. Weiss: JAMA 1998;279:53.*
  - *Dogbite Resource Center: website date: <http://Dogbite.org>*
  - *Dog bites in The Netherlands: A study of victims, injuries, circumstances and aggressors to support evaluation of breed specific legislation; Cornelissen e.a.  
The veterinary journal, volume 186, issue 3 (2010).*
  - *Guidelines of the Center of Disease Control*
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