



REXANO, 205 N. Stephanie Street Suite D # 131, Henderson, Nevada 89074, [www.REXANO.org](http://www.REXANO.org)

## USA: Captive Constrictor (aka Non - Venomous) Snakes Statistics Human Fatalities 1990-2012

**SYNOPSIS:** In the last 23 years, since 1990, only 10 people died in the USA (0.43 per year) by captive constrictors (aka non-venomous snakes).

REXANO, [www.REXANO.org](http://www.REXANO.org), only used fatality numbers since all deaths are (supposed to be) reported, and there is only one degree of death. The average life expectancy of 77 years was used to calculate the lifetime odds averages for the whole U.S. population. The vast majority of those killed by exotic animals are the trainers, handlers and owners. The odds of a member of the general public getting killed by exotics are therefore even lower than the averages and odds in the table below.

**Table 1: Yearly Average and Lifetime odds of Being Killed by a Captive Constrictor Snake in the USA Based on 1990 – 2012 data**

<b>Number of captive constrictor snakes related human fatalities in the USA: 1990 - 2012*</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Average Human Deaths per Year</b>	<b>0.43</b>
<b>One - Year Odds**</b>	<b>1 in 732,558,139</b>
<b>Lifetime Odds**</b>	<b>1 in 9,513,742</b>

*\*Based on news and animal industry reports*

*\*\*Based on the U.S. Census Bureau's December 2012 US population estimate of 315,000,000*

**Table 2: Captive Constrictor Snake Related Human Fatalities in the USA by State: 1990 – 2012**

STATE/ YEAR	CO	FL	IL	IN	NE	NY	OH	PA	VA	USA
<b>2010</b>					<b>1</b>					<b>1</b>
<b>2009</b>		<b>1</b>								<b>1</b>
<b>2008</b>									<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2006</b>				<b>1</b>			<b>1</b>			<b>2</b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>1</b>									<b>1</b>
<b>2001</b>								<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>1999</b>			<b>1</b>							<b>1</b>
<b>1996</b>						<b>1</b>				<b>1</b>
<b>1993</b>	<b>1</b>									<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL: 1990- 2012</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>



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**Table 3: Captive Constrictor Snake Related Human Fatalities in the USA by the Type of the Snake: 1990 – 2012**

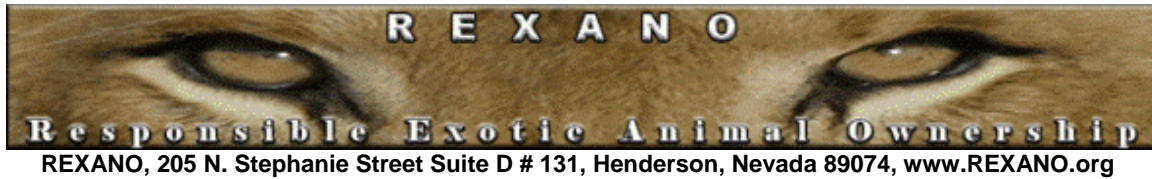
YEAR STATE	2010	2009	2008	2006	2002	2001	1999	1996	1993
CO					Owner, Burmese python				Owner's brother Burmese python
FL		Owner's daughter, Burmese python							
IL							Owner's son, African rock python		
IN				Owner, Reticulated python					
NE	Owner, Boa Constrictor								
NY								Owner, Burmese python	
OH				Owner, Burmese Python*					
PA						Owner's daughter, Burmese python			
VA			Owner, Reticulated python						

*\*Some news erroneously identified the snake in the Ohio 2006 incident as Boa constrictor.*



**Table 4: US Constrictor Snake Related Human Fatalities 1990 – 2012**

<b>YEAR/ STATE</b>	<b>RELATIONSHIP TO SNAKE</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>2010 - NE</b>	Man/owner was strangled to death by his pet boa constrictor	Voluntarily accepted hobby/occupational hazard, no risk to uninvolved public
<b>2009 - FL</b>	Parents of 2-year-old kid killed by their Burmese python received 12-year sentences after being convicted of manslaughter and child neglect. <a href="http://www.rexano.org/Pythons/FWC_Python_Strangulation.pdf">FWC Report: Fatal Kid's Injuries Due to Python's Escape 2009 (4MB PDF)</a> <a href="http://www.rexano.org/Pythons/FWC_Python_Strangulation.pdf">http://www.rexano.org/Pythons/FWC_Python_Strangulation.pdf</a>	Parents should always be held responsible. Death by a snake shouldn't be treated any differently than accidental death involving other activities. No risk to uninvolved public
<b>2008 - VA</b>	Woman/owner was killed by her Reticulated python while she was trying to give the 13-foot pet snake medication	Voluntarily accepted hobby/occupational hazard, no risk to uninvolved public
<b>2006 – IN</b>	Man/owner was crushed to death by his 14 foot pet Reticulated python	Voluntarily accepted hobby/occupational hazard, no risk to uninvolved public
<b>2006 - OH</b>	Man/owner was killed when his 13-foot Burmese python who wrapped itself around his neck	Voluntarily accepted hobby/occupational hazard, no risk to uninvolved public
<b>2002 - CO</b>	Man/owner died when his pet Burmese python strangled him by coiling around his head, neck and chest and squeezed him to death	Voluntarily accepted hobby/occupational hazard, no risk to uninvolved public
<b>2001 – PA</b>	Owners' 8-year-old daughter was squeezed to death by the family's 11-foot Burmese python. Her father was later found not guilty of involuntary manslaughter, but guilty of endangering the girl's welfare	Parents should always be held responsible. Death by a snake shouldn't be treated any differently than accidental death involving other activities. No risk to uninvolved public
<b>1999 – IL</b>	Owners' 3-year-old son was crushed to death after the family's 7 - foot African rock python got out of its cage (possibly through 2-inch gap in the aquarium's homemade wood lid) as the family slept. Judge issued a directed verdict -- innocent of child endangerment -just before attorneys were scheduled to begin closing arguments. The couple could have faced 10 years in prison. Supposedly, prosecutors had not presented enough evidence to even justify sending the matter to the jury.	Parents should always be held responsible. Death by a snake shouldn't be treated any differently than accidental death involving other activities. No risk to uninvolved public
<b>1996 – NY</b>	Man/owner, 19, was killed by his 13-foot Burmese python who might have possibly mistaken him for food	Voluntarily accepted hobby/occupational hazard, no risk to uninvolved public
<b>1993 – CO</b>	Boy,15, had his torso crushed by his older brother's 11 1/2-foot pet Burmese python, and died from asphyxiation due to mechanical compression of the chest	Parents should always be held responsible. Death by a snake shouldn't be treated any differently than accidental death involving other activities. No risk to uninvolved public



**Table 5: US Captive Constrictor Snake Related Human Fatalities by Type of the Snake and Percentage: 1990 – 2012**

TYPE OF SNAKE	AFRICAN ROCK PYTHON	BURMESE PYTHON*	RETICULATED PYTHON	BOA CONSTRICTOR	TOTAL
<b>HUMAN DEATHS</b>	1	6*	2	1	10
<b>PERCENT OF TOTAL</b>	10 %	60 %	20 %	10%	100 %

*\*The larger number of Burmese pythons related fatalities doesn't mean that Burmese pythons are more dangerous than other large constricting snakes. More people likely keep and interact with captive Burmese pythons in the USA than with other large constrictors. [www.REXANO.org](http://www.REXANO.org)*

**CONCLUSION:**

None of these 10 deaths were the result of the constrictor (aka non – venomous) snakes being unsupervised off the private owners' property. Instead, all victims were voluntarily on the property where the animal was kept, be it owner(s) or family members.

In the last 23 years, since 1990, only 10 people died in the USA by captive constrictors (aka non-venomous snakes). That means on average, 0.43 people die in USA per year as a result of non venomous snake attack. That translates to one-year odds of 1 in 732,558,139, and lifetime odds 1 in 9,513,742.

Since 1990, there is no record of a member of the general uninvolved public in the USA dying as a result of a constrictor snake at home, or at large. Captive keeping of large constrictors might be a slight voluntarily accepted hobby/occupational hazard, but it is NOT a public safety issue.