

U.S. LIGHTNING STRIKE DEATHS



The risk of being struck by lightning is low, but the consequences of being struck by lightning ARE SERIOUS.

444

From 2006 through 2021, 444 people in the United States **died from lightning strikes.**

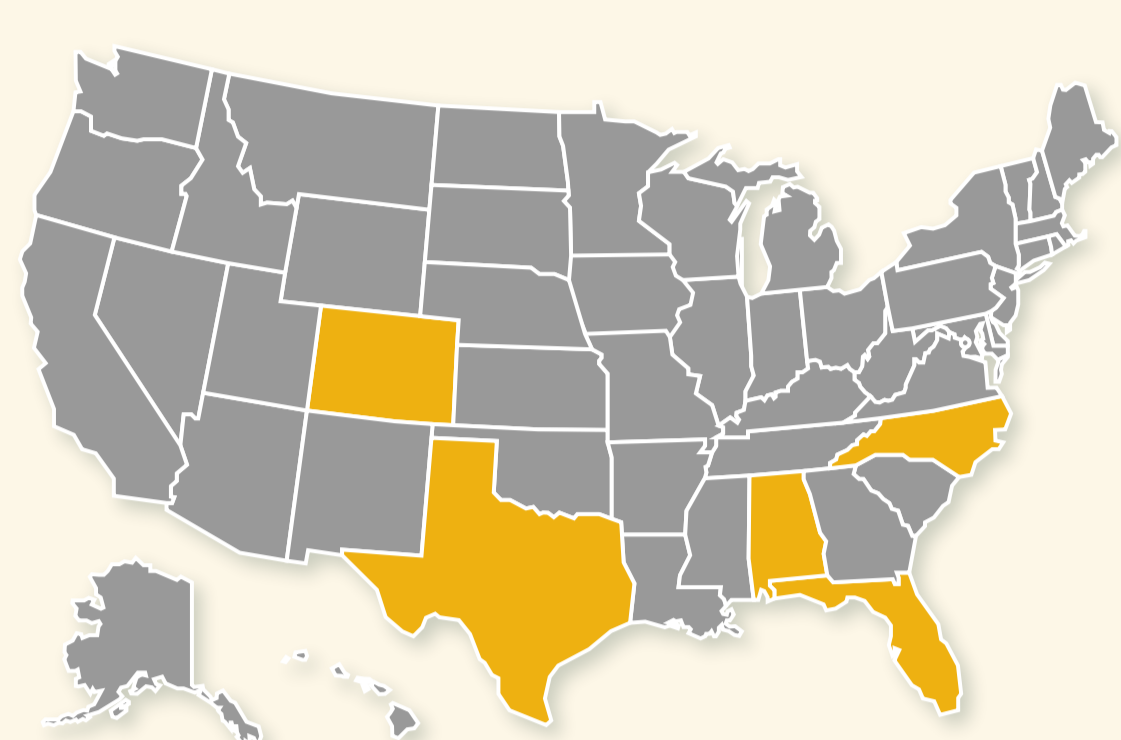
28

On average, 28 people in the United States die each year from lightning strikes, according to all U.S. lightning deaths reported from 2006 through 2021.

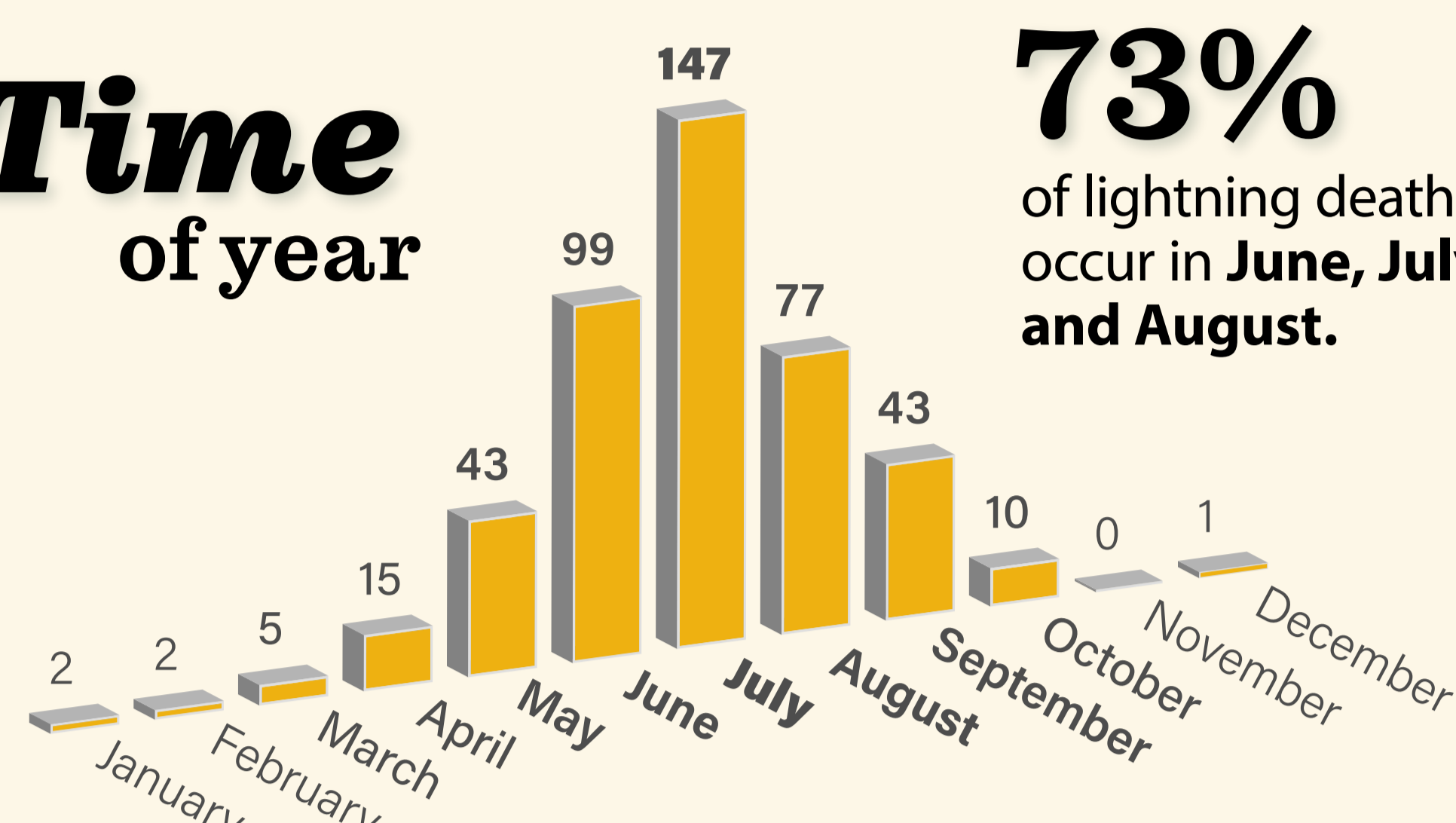
Lightning strike deaths vary by region, time of year, and day of the week.

Region

Florida, Texas, Colorado, North Carolina, and Alabama have the most lightning deaths.



Time of year



73% of lightning deaths occur in **June, July, and August.**

Lightning Deaths by Month, United States, 2006–2021

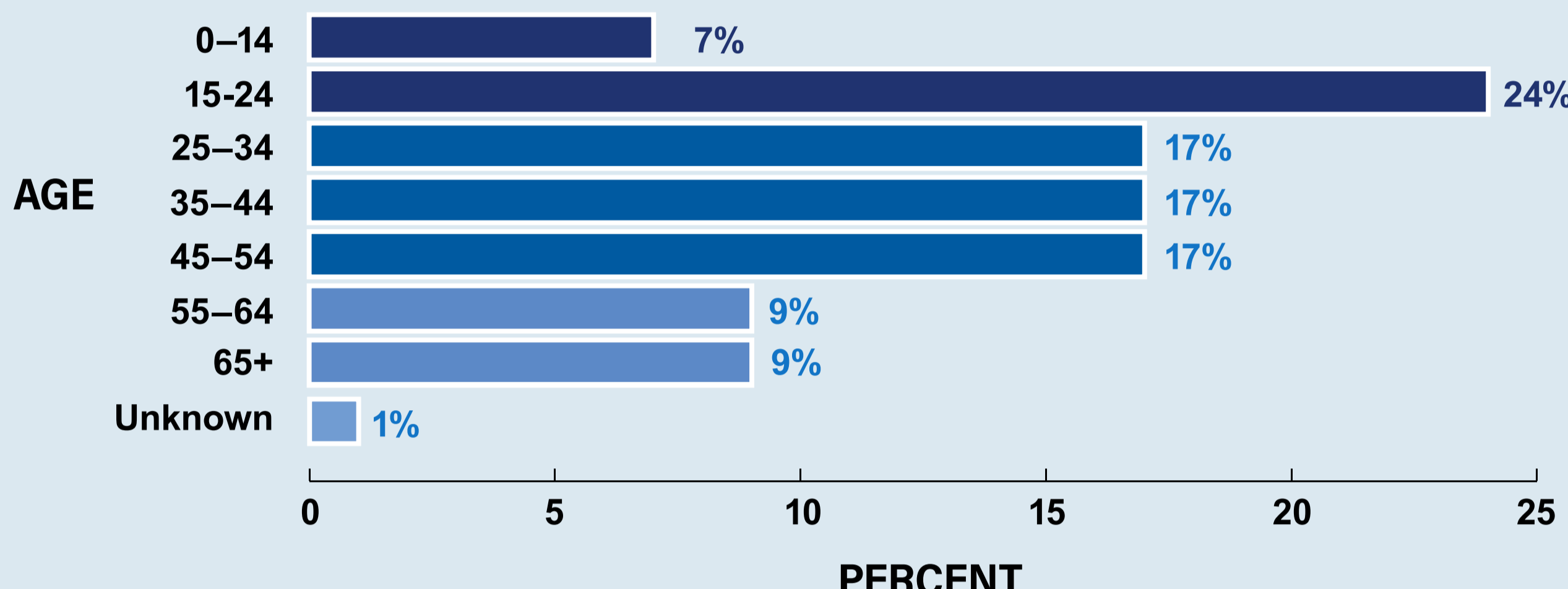
Day of the week

Lightning strikes cause more deaths on weekends, mostly on



59% of lightning strike victims engage in **outside leisure activities on the weekend.**

Lightning deaths by age category United States, 2006–2021



Lightning can strike anyone, but certain groups may be more at risk.

Almost **1 out of 4**

lightning strike victims are aged **15–24.**



80%

of people who die from a lightning strike are **males.***

*Males represent sex listed at birth.

Participating in outdoor activities increases the risk of being struck by lightning.

Outdoor leisure activities are responsible for nearly

6 out of 10

lightning deaths.

Leisure activities that contribute the most to lightning deaths are

Water-related activities

such as swimming, fishing, and other beach activities



Sports-related activities

such as golfing, hiking, and soccer



Other activities

such as camping, playing, and social gatherings



Work activities that contribute the most to lightning deaths are

Working outside increases the risk of being struck by lightning.



Construction



Farming



Roofing

Work-related activities are responsible for

2 out of 10

lightning deaths.

Protect yourself and your loved ones from lightning. When the thunder roars, go indoors!



Find a safe, enclosed shelter when you hear thunder.

Safe shelters include homes, offices, and hard-top vehicles with the windows rolled up.



Avoid open structures

such as porches, gazebos, baseball dugouts, and sports arenas. These structures won't protect you from lightning.



Avoid open spaces and stay away from tall structures,

such as trees or telephone poles. Lightning tends to strike the tallest object around.

Data source: National Weather Service

To learn more about lightning, visit:

www.cdc.gov/disasters/lightning



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention