

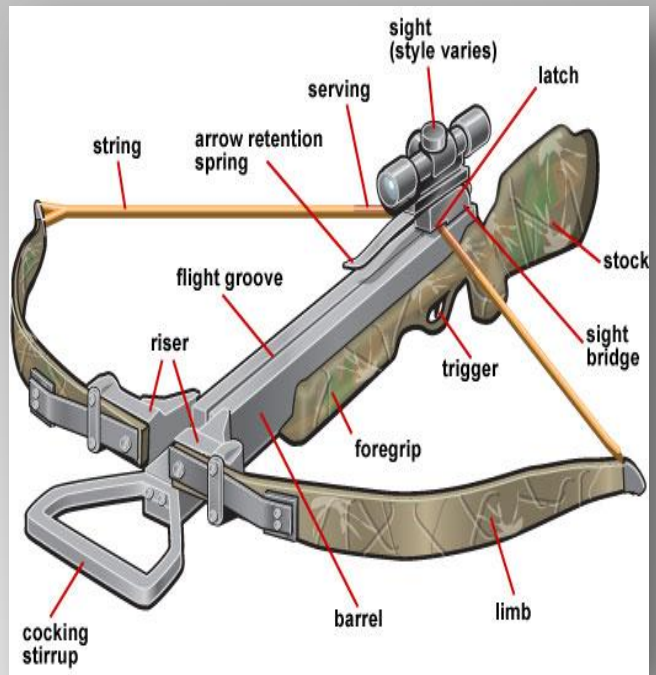
# Crossbow Hunting Today

[http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/library/reports\\_and\\_documents/Hunting\\_and\\_trapping/Crossbow\\_Hunting\\_Today.pdf](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/library/reports_and_documents/Hunting_and_trapping/Crossbow_Hunting_Today.pdf)

[http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/library/reports\\_and\\_documents/Hunting\\_and\\_trapping/Crossbow\\_Hunting\\_Update.pdf](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/library/reports_and_documents/Hunting_and_trapping/Crossbow_Hunting_Update.pdf)



- Likely originated in Asia, 400 BC
- Made a comeback in the 50s and 60s
- Recurve & compound
- Pistol (50lb) to full-size (125-200lbs)
- From \$175 to \$2,000
- Most manual cocking, some automatic



## Crossbows Today: Comparison

To protect and conserve our fish, wildlife and plants, and their habitats for the people of Vermont.


## Crossbows

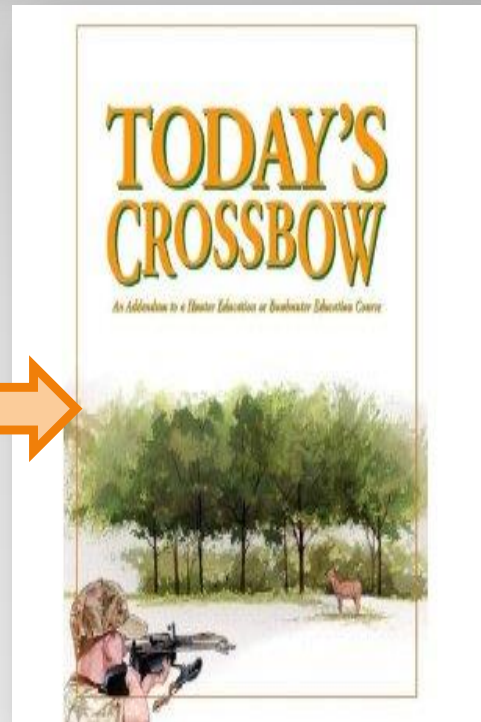
- Much greater draw weight
- Max bolt speed: 425 fps
- 50 – 60 yards
- Cocked and remain ready-to-fire
- Easier to shoot consistently

## Compounds

- Much greater 'power stroke'
- Max arrow speed: 370 fps
- 30 - 40 yards
- Difficult to draw when game is close
- Faster follow-up shot

## Crossbows Today: Comparison

- Considered archery equipment by the USFWS
- Subjected to the same excise taxes
- Safety record similar to 'vertical' bows
- Crossbow education 



## Crossbows Today: Comparison

To protect and conserve our fish, wildlife and plants, and their habitats for the people of Vermont.

# Crossbow Today: Regulations

All seasons, including archery, for all hunters: **24**  
(DE, PA, NJ, CT, RI, VA, WV)

Firearm seasons only: **10**

Disabled-only during archery only: **7** (MA, VT)

Legal for all hunters during a portion of archery & firearm seasons: **4** (NY)

## Less Common

- All seasons, including bear and moose, but disabled-only during archery deer: **2** (NH and ME)
- Firearm and 70 years plus during archery (also disabled): **1**
- All archery, but not late archery in one region (also disabled): **1**
- All seasons, but private land-only for archery (also disabled): **1**
- Always illegal: **1**

## Only one age-related regulation

To protect and conserve our fish, wildlife and plants, and their habitats for the people of Vermont.

## Most Common, if any

- Min. draw weight: 75lbs to **125lbs**
- Max. draw weight: **200lbs**
- Min. bolt length: **14-18"**
- Min. draw length: **24"**
- Min. limb width: **24"**
- Min. stock length: **25"**
- mechanical safety



**Many states have no restrictions**

## Crossbows Today: Regulations

To protect and conserve our fish, wildlife and plants, and their habitats for the people of Vermont.

## **Connecticut** (2013)

- Female participation increased **33%**
- Under 15 increased **130%**
- 16-18 increased **44%**

## **Ohio** (1976)

- Used by **55%** of archery hunters
- **75%** of gun hunters now participate
- Up from **32%** in 1995

## **Pennsylvania** (2009)

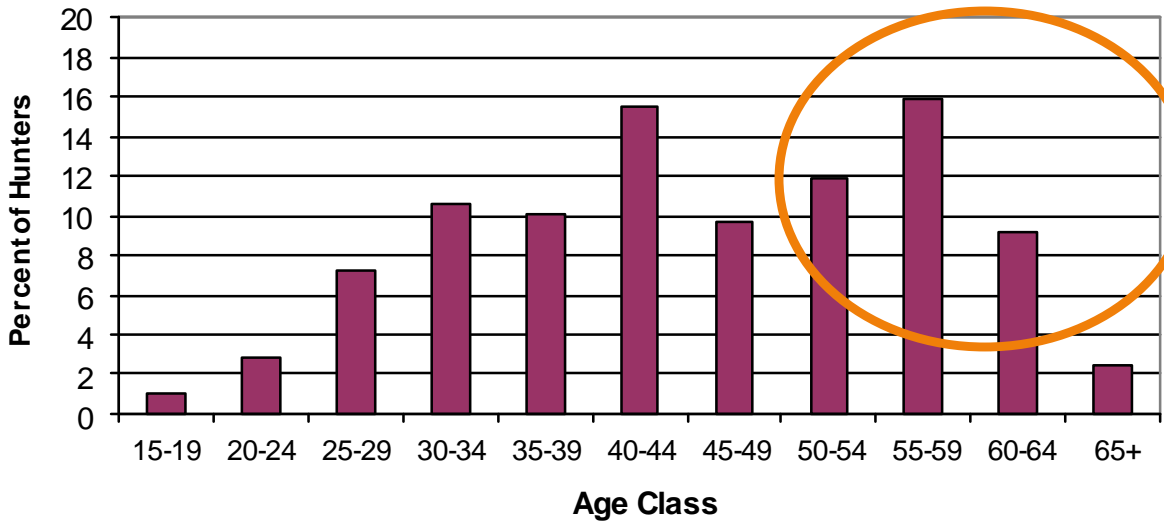
- Archery license sales have increased **22%**
- **53%** of crossbow users would not archery hunt if they couldn't use a crossbow

## **Michigan** (2009, except for UP late archery)

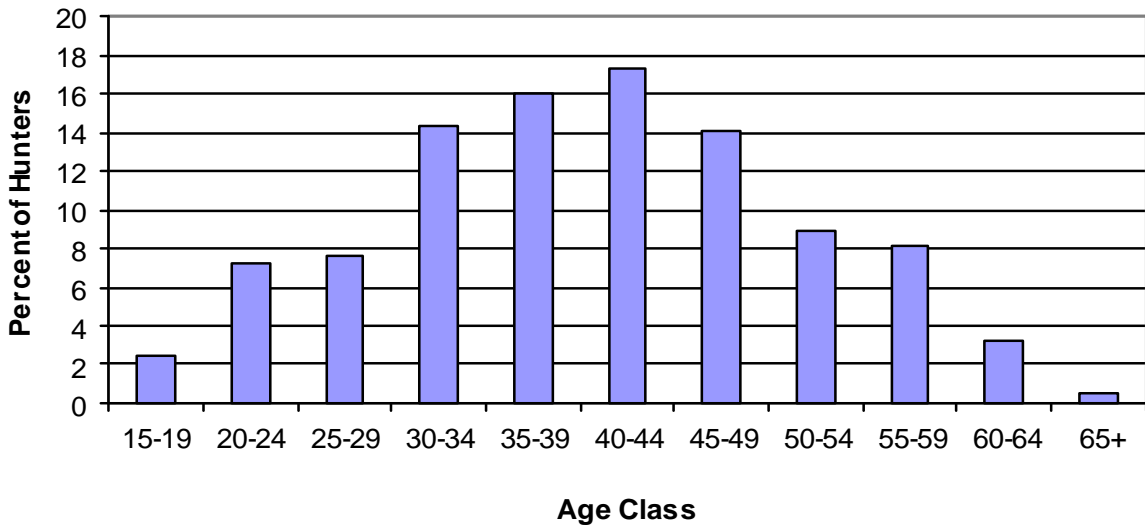
- Archery increased **13%**
- Overall participation declined **7%**
- **19%** new to archery season

# **Crossbow Update: Participation**

### 2003-2004 Georgia crossbow hunters



### 2003-2004 Georgia compound/recurve archers

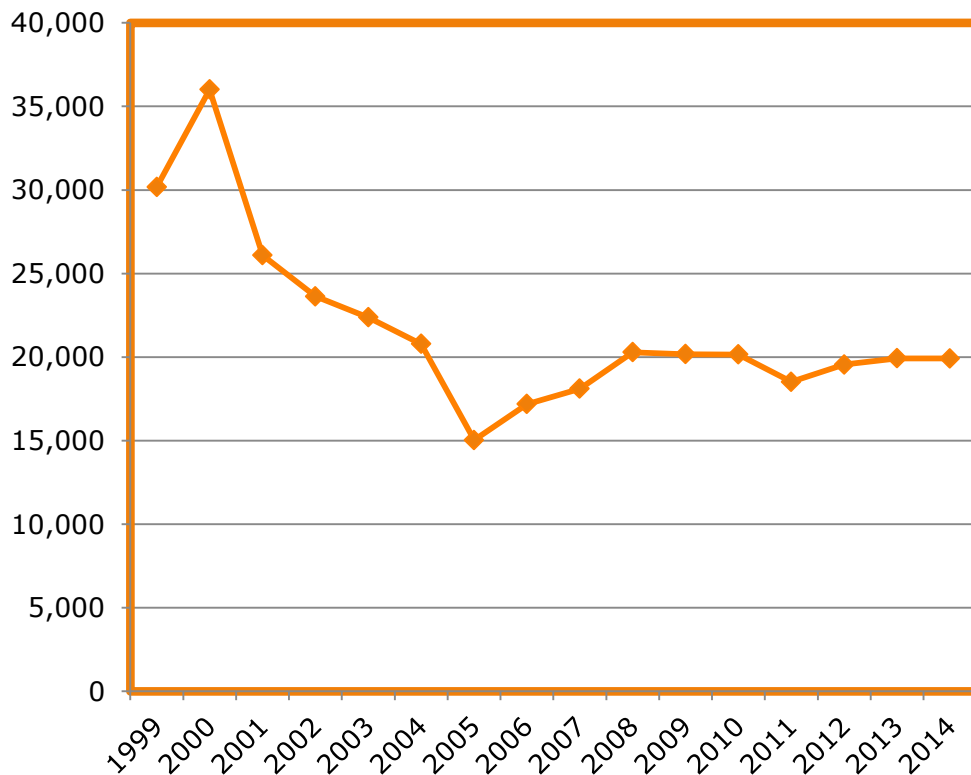


## Crossbows Today: Participation

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## Resident Archery Sales

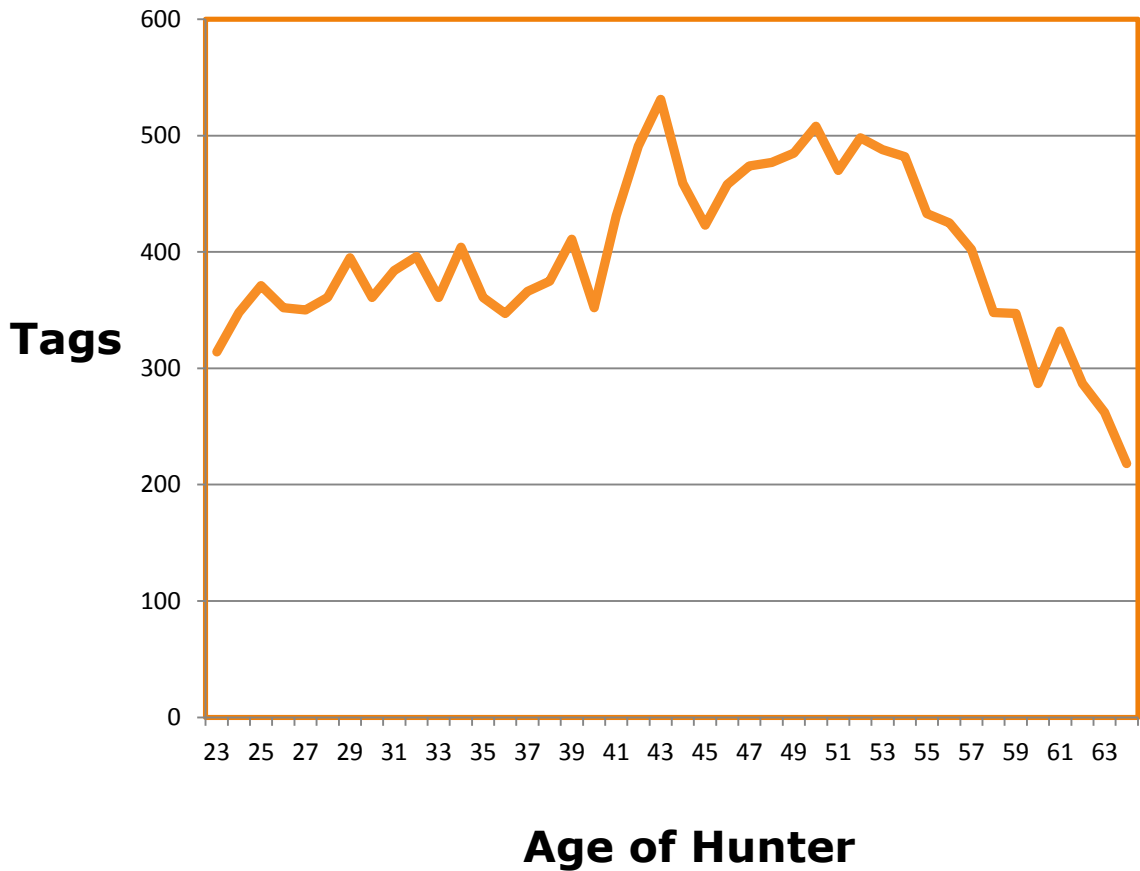


- In the past 15 years, archery license sales have dropped **34%**
- Hunting license sales down **25%**
- Bowhunter education became mandatory in 2001; grandfather clause likely explains spike in 2000.

## Crossbows Today: Vermont

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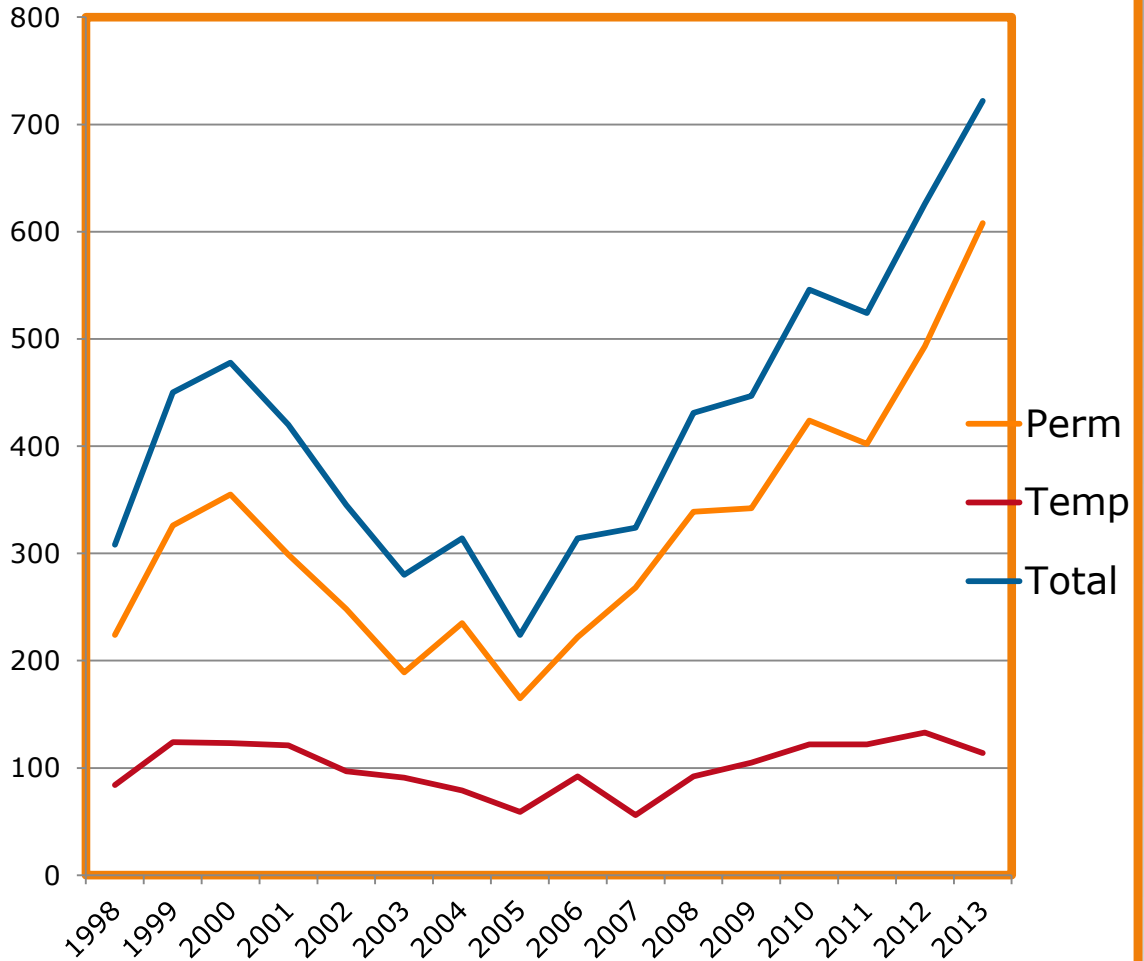
## 2013 Archery Tags by Age



## Crossbows Today: Vermont

To protect and conserve our fish, wildlife and plants, and their habitats for the people of Vermont.

## Crossbow Permits



**In 2014, approximately 7,000 crossbow users may have been in the woods**

## Crossbows Today: Vermont

To protect and conserve our fish, wildlife and plants, and their habitats for the people of Vermont.

- **Primary advantages**
  - Cocked and remain ready-to-fire
  - Easier and faster consistency
- **Trend: rapid liberalization**
- **Clear recruitment and retention benefits**
  - Particularly with older hunters

## Crossbows Today: **In Sum**

To protect and conserve our fish, wildlife and plants, and their habitats for the people of Vermont.