The Mohave Rattlesnake Stats and Facts

FACTS

1. Causes of Mojave Rattlesnake Bite

- The snake is usually found away from developed areas. Even though it has a “nasty reputation”, the Mojave rattlesnake bites only if threatened or in self defense, when sufficiently provoked. Before it strikes, the snake displays sufficient warning and aggression signs, to be left alone.
- The severity of the signs and symptoms depend on factors such as the location of the bite, age and health of the individual, and amount of venom injected.

2. Risk Factors for Mojave Rattlesnake Bite

- Hiking and trekking in Mojave rattlesnake endemic regions
- Mountain climbing in unknown terrain, especially using one’s bare hands
- Living or residing in areas where the snake is found
- Walking unprotected through bushes, woods, and grasslands
- Venturing outdoors during the night without adequate protection
- Wildlife enthusiasts and scientific study groups, who explore the region
- Keeping them as pets
- Handling dead or live snakes; intentionally or accidentally picking up the snake
- Drug addicts and alcoholics who come into contact with the snake have a greater risk for being bitten
- Children, elderly adults, and individuals with weak immune system have a higher risk for severe symptoms

STATS

- Less than 1 % of the U.S. population is bitten by a venomous snake each year.
- More than 60,000 bites and stings are reported to poison centers and result in about 100 deaths each year in the US. About 45,000 are snakebites (of which 7000 to 8000 are venomous and cause about 5 deaths). Rattlesnakes account for the majority of snakebites and almost all deaths. Coral snakes (elapids) and imported species (in zoos, schools, snake farms, and amateur and professional collections) account for < 1% of all bites.
- Most patients are males between 17 and 27 years; 50% of them are intoxicated and deliberately handled or molested the snake. Most bites occur on the upper extremities. Five or 6 deaths occur annually in the US.
- Workers are far more likely to suffer long-term injuries from snake bites than to die from them. For those bitten by rattlesnakes, 10–44 percent will have lasting injuries. An example of a disability or permanent injury is the ability to use a finger or losing part or all of it.