



What are the Odds of Becoming a Lightning Victim

Your odds depend on your behavior when thunderstorms are in the area. If you take the lightning threat seriously and always get inside before lightning becomes a threat, your personal odds of being struck are near zero. However, if you ignore the lightning threat or take chances when thunderstorms are in the area, your odds of being struck are much higher.

Lightning not only affects the person that is struck, but also the person's family and relatives. Lightning injuries can be life-long, devastating, and very costly.

The following table provides an estimate based on the average person and includes the odds that you may be impacted by relatives or close friends who might be struck by lightning.

Odds of Becoming a Lightning Victim (based on averages for 2014-2023)			
Estimated U.S. population as of 2024			336,000,000
Average Number of Deaths Reported	21	Estimated number of Injuries	189
			210
Odds of being struck in a given year (estimated total deaths + estimated injuries)			1/1,600,000
Odds of being struck in your lifetime (Est. 80 years)			1/20,000
Odds you will be affected by someone struck (10 people affected for every 1 struck)			1/2000