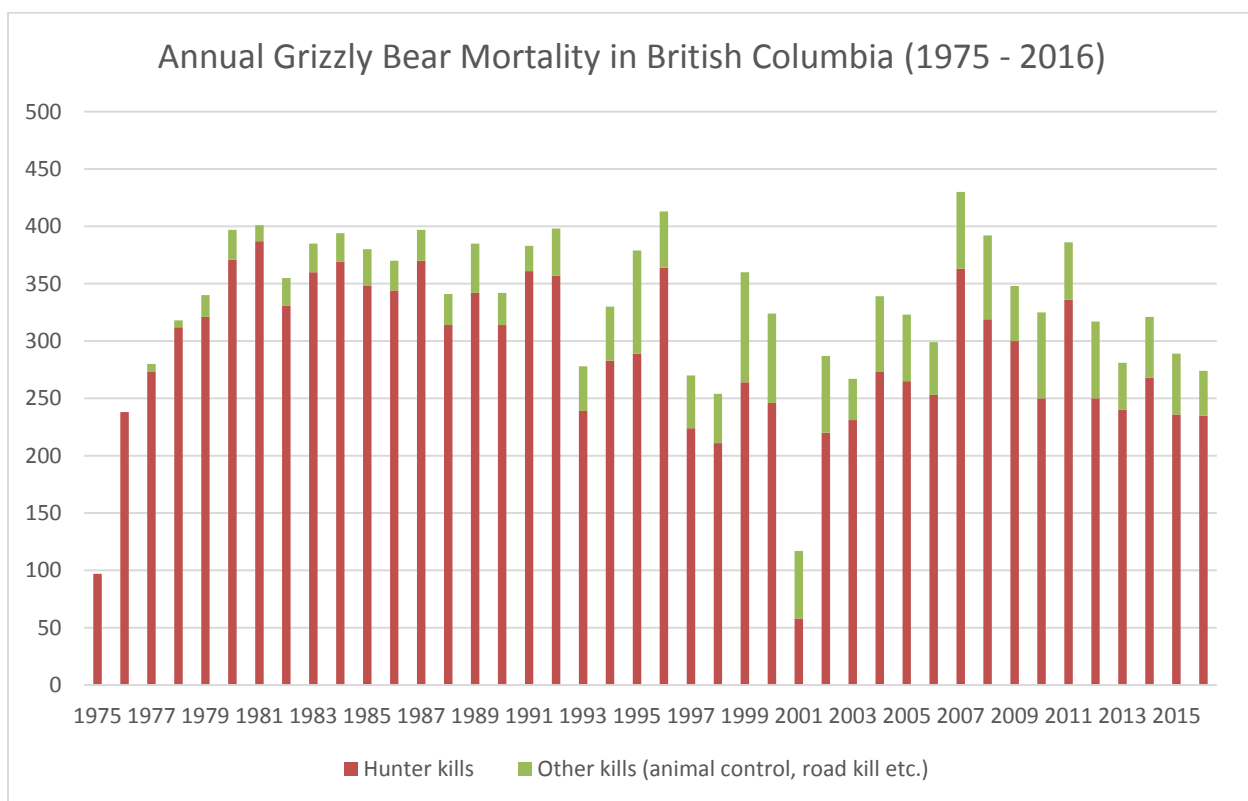


B.C.'s grizzlies and human-caused mortality in 2016

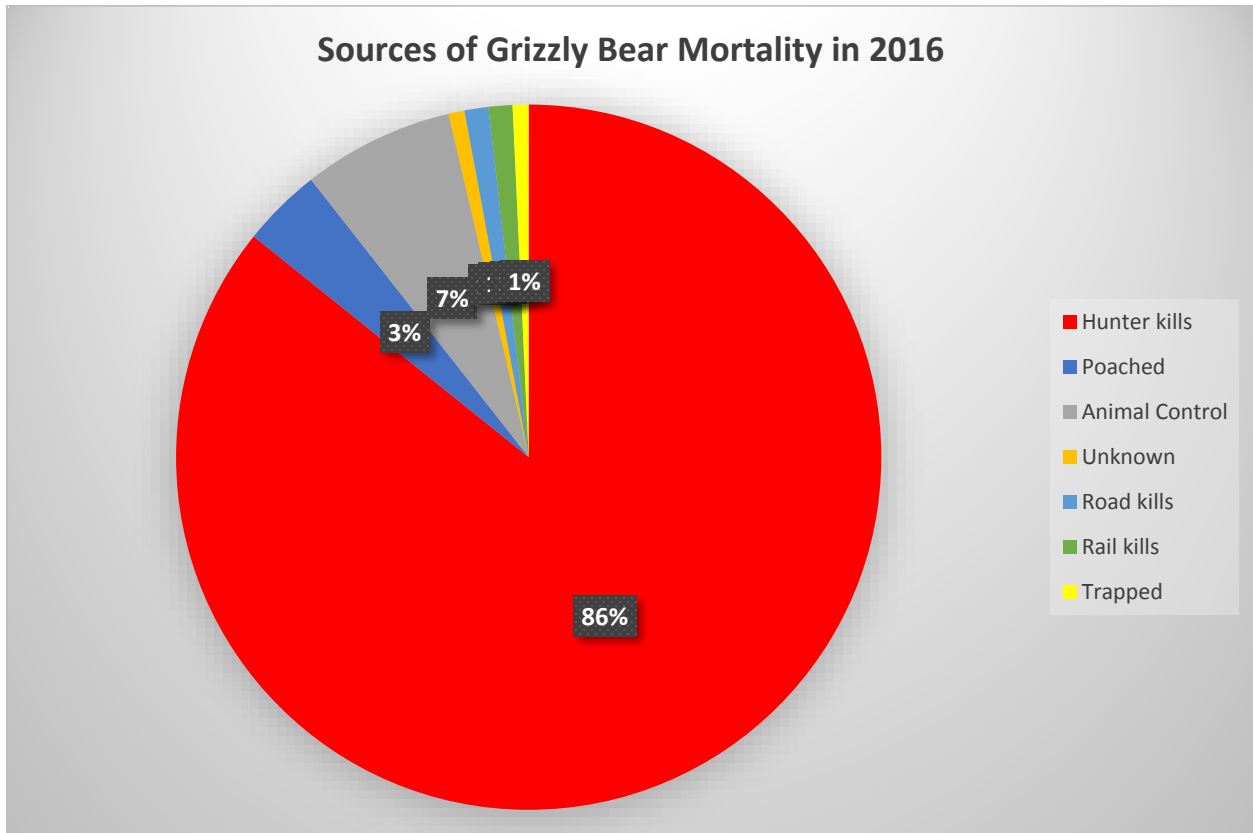
British Columbia's grizzly bears are among the most vulnerable large animals on the continent. Historically, humans have persecuted them, causing their range in North America to contract around Western and Northern Canada, leaving British Columbia as one of the last remaining strongholds for this species. The current threats to grizzly bears are still largely human-caused. They include climate change, loss of habitat from industrial and recreational development and unsustainable mortality rates from direct causes such as trophy hunting. The David Suzuki Foundation has obtained and analyzed government records (called the Compulsory Inspection Database) going back over four decades (1975 – 2016). They show:

- Humans have killed 13,804 grizzly bears in the province since the government began keeping mortality records for the species (from 1975 – 2016).
- On average, hunters in B.C.'s annual trophy hunt are responsible for 87 per cent of grizzly bear deaths each year. Hunters have killed 12,026 grizzly bears since the government began keeping mortality records (from 1975 – 2016).
- An average of 329 grizzly bears are killed in the province each year.



What happened in 2016?

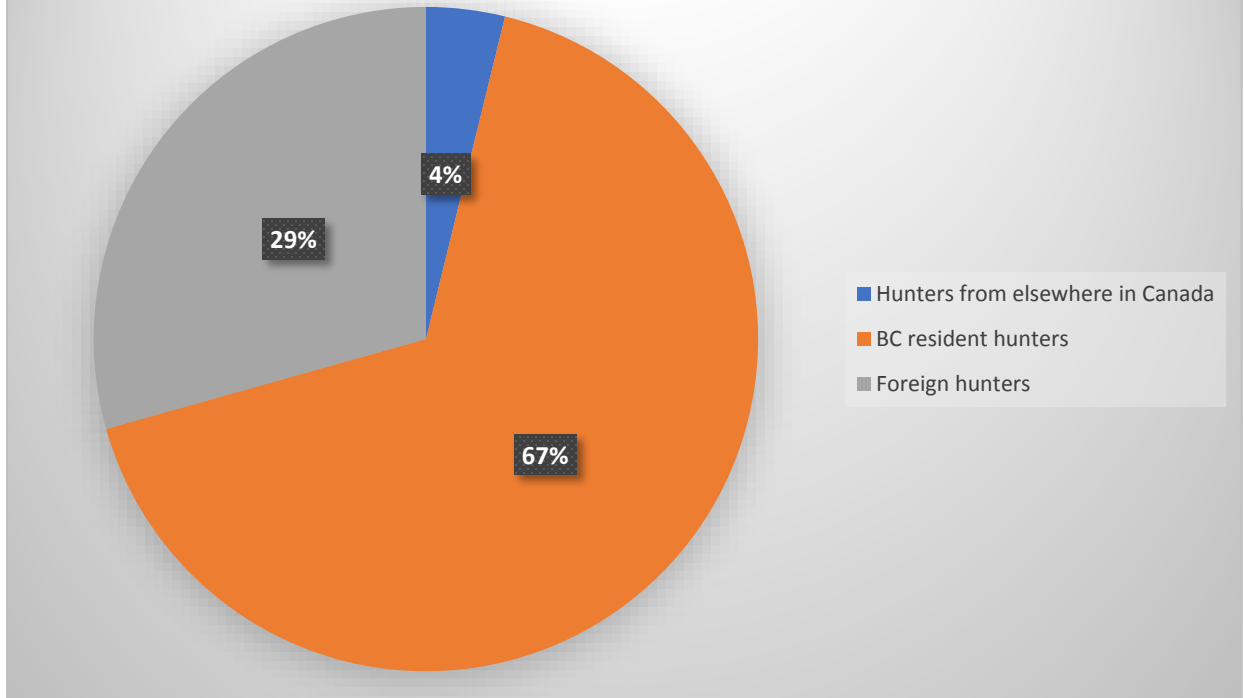
In 2016, 274 grizzly bears were killed in B.C., which is below the historical year-to-year average of 329 deaths per year. Of that total, hunters killed 235; 19 were destroyed by animal control officers; 10 were poached (carcass found); six were a result of collisions with cars and trains; two died after being trapped; and two died from unknown causes. Research by government biologists in B.C. indicates that people kill 50 to 100 per cent more bears than are reported, which suggests the total mortality for 2016 could be much higher than what the government has formally recorded in its Compulsory Inspection Database.



Female bears, the reproductive engine of grizzly populations, accounted for 30 per cent of the bears killed by humans in 2016, although known deaths from previous years show that females make up an annual average of 34 per cent of total bear kills. Most biologists recommend that female mortality be kept below 30 per cent to prevent populations from declining.

Grizzly bears are legally killed in the province's annual trophy hunt by both resident and non-resident (foreign) hunters. Non-resident hunters pay much higher licence fees to hunt grizzlies and must hunt with the assistance of a guide-outfitter, who can charge as much as \$20,000 for a hunt. According to the B.C. government, non-resident foreign hunters killed almost 30 per cent of the grizzlies in the 2016 trophy hunt.

Grizzly bears killed by resident vs. foreign hunters



The David Suzuki Foundation agrees with many bear biologists that the B.C. government must reduce human-caused mortality of grizzly bears by banning the annual trophy hunt.

Sources of data:

The data presented in this analysis are from the B.C. government's Compulsory Inspection Database. To comply with the British Columbia [Wildlife Act](#) and hunting regulations, hunters must have certain game species, like grizzly bears, inspected by a provincial inspector and/or contractor. Ministry officials use the information gathered from inspections to manage the grizzly hunt, including setting hunting quotas and authorizations. Details on the Compulsory Inspection Program and the Database in particular can be obtained at:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting/hunting/compulsory-inspection>

The David Suzuki Foundation obtained the Compulsory Inspection Database from the B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations in February 2016.