



Deaths while taking selfies, 'killfies,' are on the rise

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By **Matt Rocheleau**

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A new study has found that 127 people died worldwide while trying to take selfies between March 2014 and September of this year.

The [study](#), by scholars from Carnegie Mellon University and from two other colleges in India, defined selfie-related casualties, or “killfies,” as “a death of an individual or a group of people that could have been avoided had the individual(s) not been taking a selfie.”

The vast majority of selfie-related deaths that the study’s authors uncovered, 76 of them, occurred in India, where [no-selfie zones were established](#) recently to try to prevent people from trying to take dangerous selfies in high-risk areas.

Pakistan was a distant second with nine selfie-related deaths, followed by the United States, with 8; Russia, 6; China, 5; Philippines, 4; and Spain, 3.

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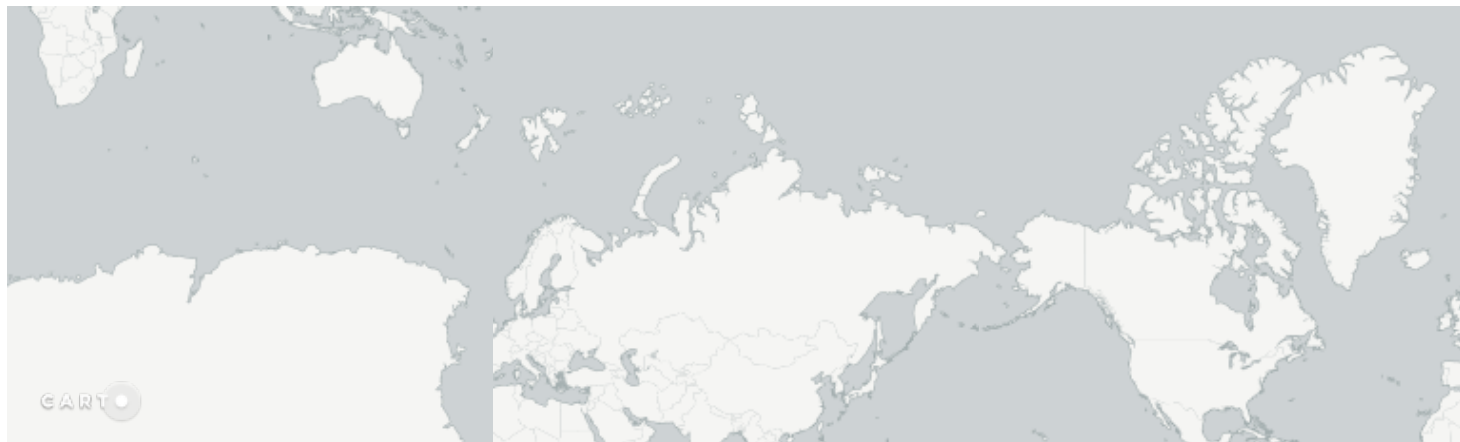
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There were two selfie-related deaths apiece in: Indonesia; Portugal, Peru, and Turkey. There was one apiece in: Romania, Australia, Mexico, South Africa, Italy, Chile, Serbia, and Nepal.





Map created by [divyansha](#)


Other [highlights of the report](#) include:

- Men accounted for about 76 percent of the deaths, suggesting they may be more prone to taking dangerous selfies, the researchers said.
- Nearly three-quarters of victims were 29 years old or younger. The researchers said that fit with the trend of taking selfies being “really popular among millennials.”
- The most common reason for the deaths, accounting for 25 percent of them, was falling from an elevated location, like off buildings or mountains, while trying to take a selfie. Water-related deaths and ones involving both height and water were tied as the next most common type, at 21 percent each. Next were cases involving trains, 12 percent; weapons, 6 percent; and vehicles, 5.5 percent.
- While 127 people died, there were only 85 deadly incidents. That’s because multiple lives were lost in 24 of the deadly selfie-taking attempts. (An example researchers provided was an incident in India where a number of youths were boating in a lake. While trying to take a selfie, the boat tilted and seven of them died.) The taking of “dangerous selfies not only puts the selfie-taker at a risk but also can also be hazardous to the people around them,” the study concluded.
- The report said the data dates back to March 2014 because that is the earliest case the researchers

were able to find of a selfie-related death. During 2014, there were 15 selfie-related deaths, followed by 39 in 2015 and 73 in just the first nine months of 2016.

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