

Cape Hatteras National Seashore Annual Law Enforcement Report 2011



Fisherman on South Beach

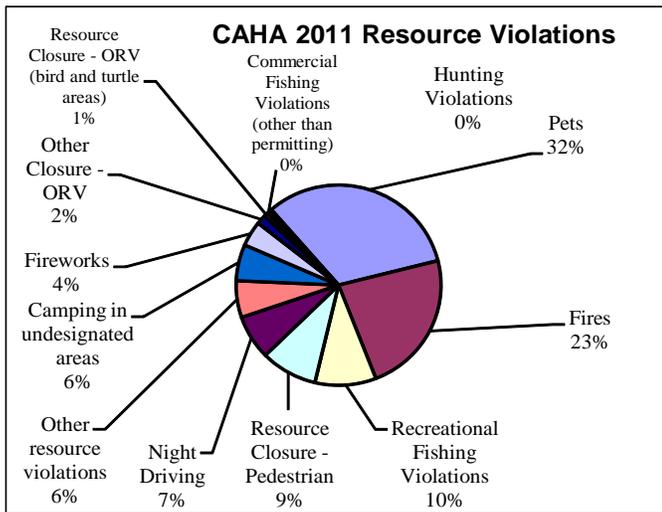
**National Park Service
Cape Hatteras National Seashore
1401 National Park Drive
Manteo, NC 27954**

Introduction

This report summarizes law enforcement and visitor use data for Cape Hatteras National Seashore (CAHA) for calendar year 2011. The information on law enforcement contacts is based on weekly reports prepared by each ranger district and includes citations, written warnings, and verbal warning issued for resource protection violations and vehicle and traffic safety violations.

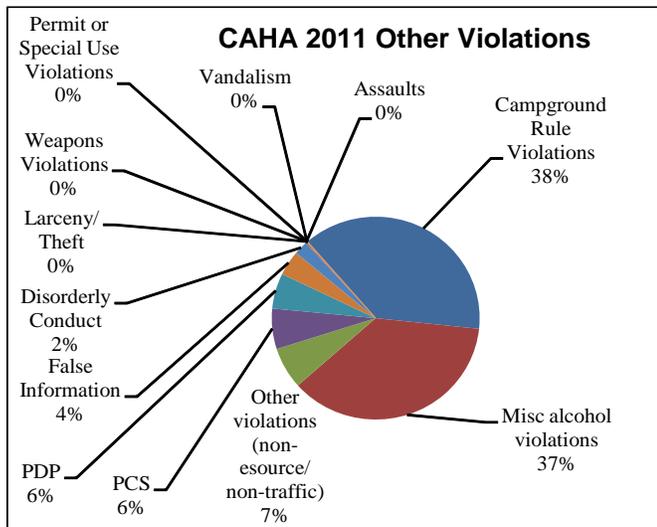
2011 Violator Contacts

The four diagrams below represent the total number and percentages of resource protection, public use and vehicle & traffic safety violator contacts documented at CAHA for calendar 2011. They are identified by citations, written warnings and verbal warnings, listed into 4 categories: Resource Violations, Other Violations, Traffic Violations on Paved Roads, Traffic Violations in ORV areas.



Resource Violations (Citations/Written and Verbal Warnings)

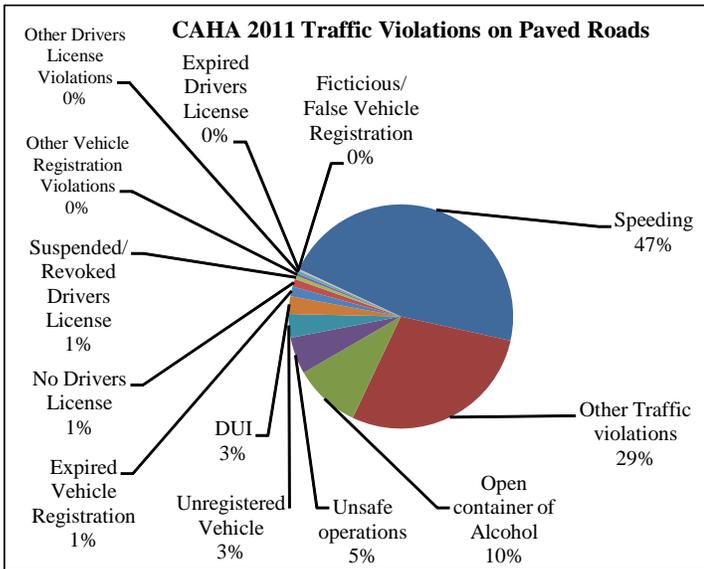
Pets	360
Fires	255
Recreational Fishing Violations	107
Resource Closure - Pedestrian	99
Night Driving	79
Other resource violations	66
Camping in undesignated areas	65
Fireworks	45
Other Closure - ORV	17
Resource Closure - ORV (bird and turtle areas)	7
Commercial Fishing Violations (other than permitting)	5
Hunting Violations	4



Other Violations (non-resource/non-traffic)

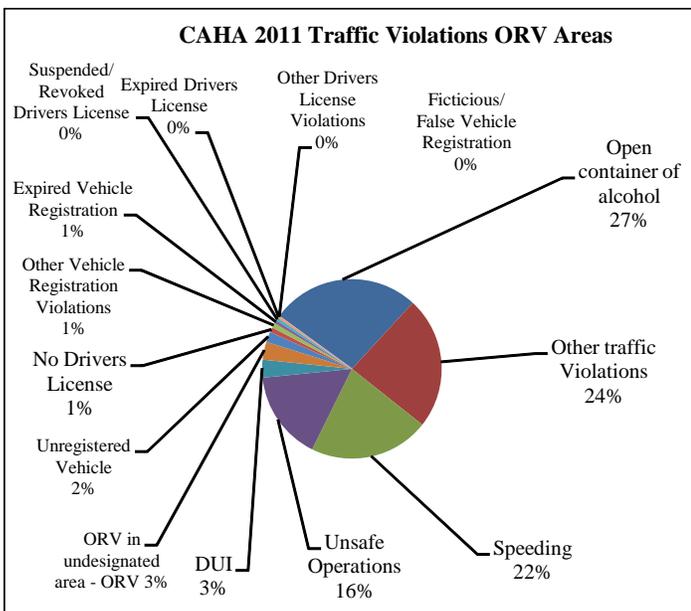
Campground Rule Violations	230
Misc alcohol violations (such as, underage possession....)	222
Other violations (non-resource/non-traffic)	40
Possession of Controlled Substances (PCS)	39
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (PDP)	34
False Information	24
Disorderly Conduct	13
Assaults	1
Vandalism	1
Larceny/Theft	0
Permit or Special Use Violations	0
Weapons Violations	0

2011 Violator Contacts (continued)



Traffic Violations Paved Roads

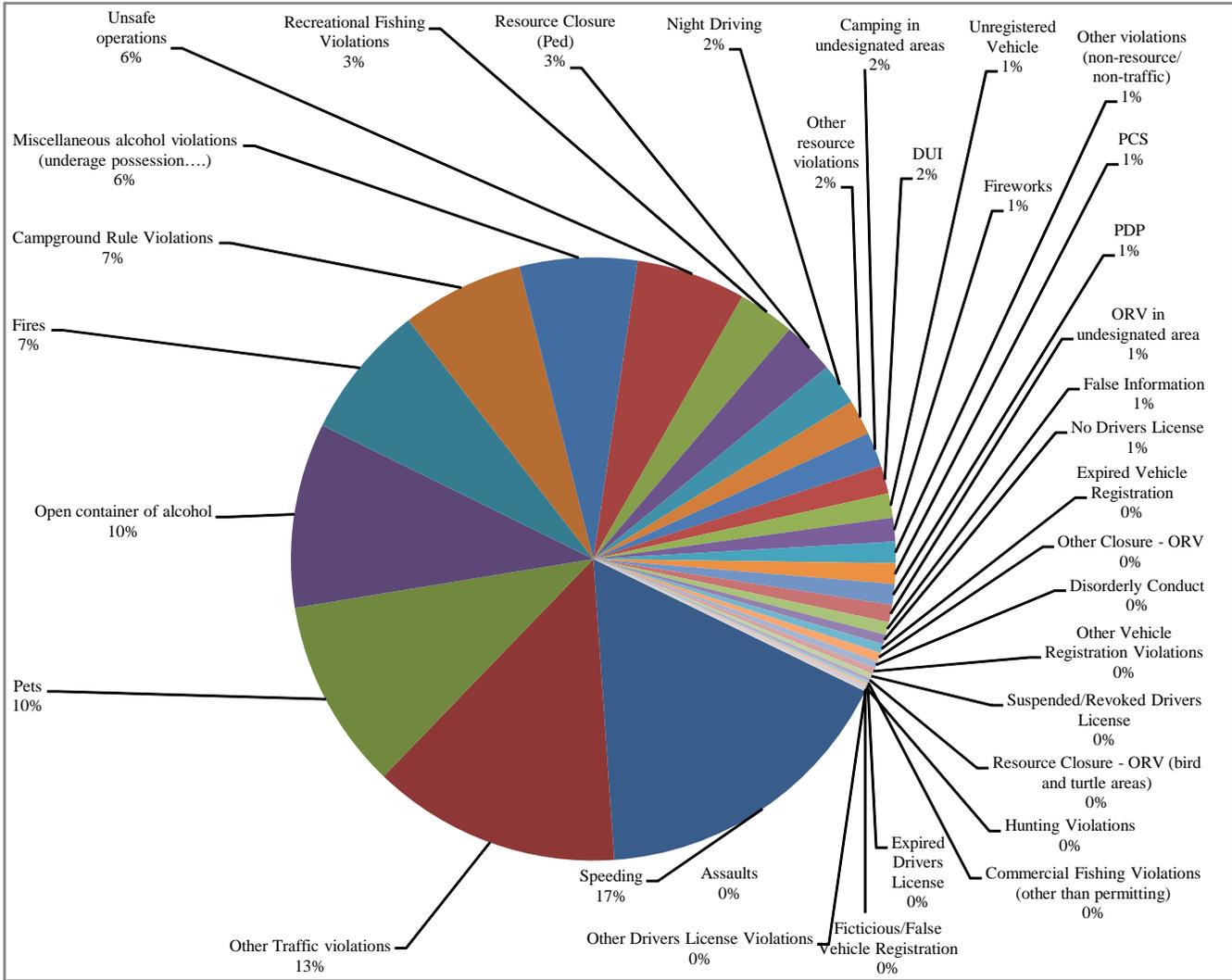
Speeding	368
Other Traffic violations	226
Open container of Alcohol	76
Unsafe operations	42
Unregistered Vehicle (to include ATVs, UTVs, golf carts, etc..)	27
Driving under the influence (DUI)	20
Expired Vehicle Registration	11
No Drivers License	9
Suspended/Revoked Drivers License	4
Other Vehicle Registration Violations	3
Other Drivers License Violations	3
Fictitious/False Vehicle Registration	1
Expired Drivers License	1



Traffic Violations ORV Areas

Open container of alcohol	273
Other traffic Violations	243
Speeding	220
Unsafe Operations	164
Driving under the influence	33
ORV in undesignated area - ORV (e.g. driving outside designated area, or in a safety/seasonal/admin closure)	33
Unregistered Vehicle (ATV,UTV,gold cart, etc)	19
No Drivers License	9
Other Vehicle Registration Violations	9
Expired Vehicle Registration	6
Suspended/Revoked Drivers License	5
Expired Drivers License	4
Fictitious/False Vehicle Registration	0
Other Drivers License Violations	0

TOTAL 2011 LE Contacts by Violation type



Data for this graph is provided on the next page.

The graph on previous page depicts percentages of the violations listed below.

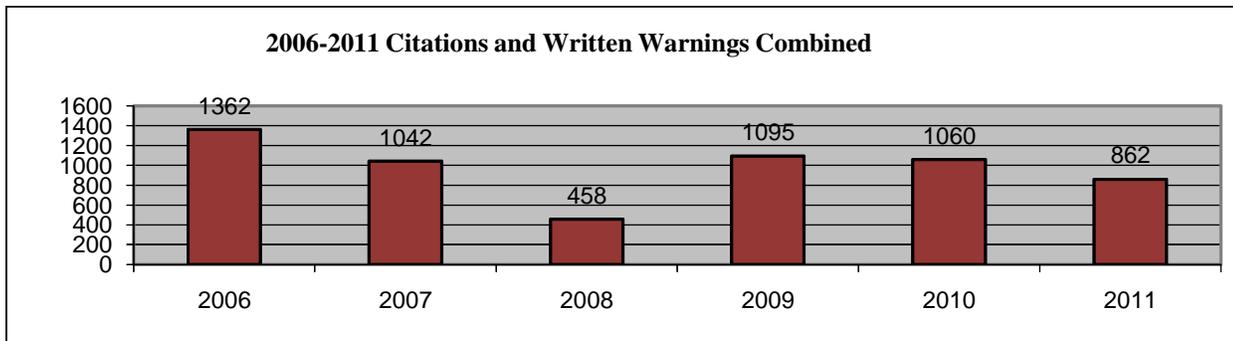
Citations/Written Warnings/Verbal Warnings

Speeding	588
Other Traffic violations	469
Pets	360
Open container of alcohol	349
Fires	255
Campground Rule Violations	230
Miscellaneous alcohol violations (underage possession....)	222
Unsafe operations	206
Recreational Fishing Violations	107
Resource Closure - Pedestrian	99
Night Driving	79
Other resource violations	66
Camping in undesignated areas	65
Driving under the influence	53
Unregistered Vehicle (ATV,UTV,gold cart, etc)	46
Fireworks	45
Other violations (non-resource/non-traffic)	40
Possession of Controlled Substances (PCS)	39
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (PDP)	39
ORV in undesignated area - ORV (e.g. driving outside designated area, or in a safety/seasonal/admin closure)	33
False Information	24
No Drivers License	18
Expired Vehicle Registration	17
Other Closure - ORV	17
Disorderly Conduct	13
Other Vehicle Registration Violations	12
Suspended/Revoked Drivers License	9
Resource Closure - ORV (bird and turtle areas)	7
Commercial Fishing Violations (other than permitting)	5
Expired Drivers License	5
Hunting Violations	4
Other Drivers License Violations	3
Assaults	1
Fictitious/False Vehicle Registration	1

Comparison of Total Citations/Warnings in 2006 - 2011

The graph represents total Citations and Written Warnings combined for calendar years 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011. Verbal Warnings are not included in this comparison.

Citations and Written Warnings Combined	
2006	1362
2007	1042
2008	458
2009	1095
2010	1060
2011	862



Night Driving Restrictions and Permits

- **September 16 to November 15** - A signed Night Beach Driving Permit is required to be visible on the dashboard of vehicles for night driving between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Hard copies of the permit are available at any NPS Visitor Center or Outer Banks Visitors Bureau Welcome Center, as well as local tackle shops and realty offices. Electronic copies are also made available for download on the Park's website: <http://www.nps.gov/caha>
- **November 16 to April 30** - Night driving is allowed at all hours. No permit is needed.
- **May 1 to September 15** - Night driving is prohibited from 10 p.m. until 6 a.m. Signs advising the public of the regulation are posted at all beach access ramps in the Cape Hatteras Seashore. To further advise the visiting public, an electronic message board is placed at the main entrance to the Seashore on Highway 12 that alerts the public to the prohibition of beach driving from 10 p.m. through 6 p.m.
- **Permits issued in 2011** - Night time driving permits distributed by Rangers, or tackle shops and visitor contact stations: 3,990. Interpretation reports the total # of "hit counts" for permits on the park website between, 15 September through 15 November 2011, was 665. Total number of permits distributed during the Fall of 2011 is 4,655.
- **Night Driving Violations** – In 2011 there were 13 citations and 8 written warnings issued for violations of the night driving restriction.
- **Early Access Permits for Commercial Fishermen** – The stipulation and order modifying the consent decree that was approved by the Court on June 4, 2009, paragraph 4, authorized NPS to permit commercial fishermen, who are actively engaged in authorized commercial fishing activity with nets, to operate vehicles on the beach during the hours of 5 a.m. to 6 a.m., subject to terms of a special use permit and in accordance with certain conditions specified in the stipulation. In 2011, no permits for this activity were requested or issued.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Cape Hatteras National Seashore

**NIGHT BEACH DRIVING
PERMIT**
SEPT. 16 – NOV. 15

Permit Procedures:

1. Read Sections #1, #2 and #3 inside this permit brochure.
2. Sign and date below.
3. Place this permit on your vehicle dashboard in plain view while driving on seashore beaches from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

I have read and understand
Sections #1, #2 and #3 of this permit.

Signature _____

Name _____
(please print)

Date _____

Persons violating any of the conditions
and/or requirements of the permit may be
subject to civil and/or criminal penalties
and revocation of this permit.

08/2011

Beach Driving and Resource Information

- A brochure was developed in 2008 with the assistance of local Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) and recreational fishing organizations to provide park visitors with information about the rules, regulations, and safety tips concerning ORV beach driving within Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The brochure is available on the Seashore's website and at any NPS Visitor Center, Outer Banks Visitors Bureau Welcome Center, as well as local tackle shops, and realty offices. The brochure also provides a detailed map for locating beach access ramps, seasonal closure areas, campgrounds, and other points of interest concerning ORV and beach access.
- NPS prepared and distributed a weekly beach access report from April 1 to November 4, 2011, and a weekly resource management report from April 1 to August 25, 2011.
- NPS maintained an interactive GoogleEarth map on the Seashore's website to provide current information on the status of access to Seashore beaches. The website address is:
<http://www.nps.gov/caha/planyourvisit/googleearthmap.htm>

The screenshot shows the NPS.gov website for Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The header includes the NPS logo, the text 'National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior', and the park name 'Cape Hatteras National Seashore'. A search bar is located on the left. The main content area features a large image of a ship and the title 'Current Interactive Beach Access Map using Google Earth'. Below the title, there is a paragraph explaining Google Earth and a link to the map. A 'Please Note' section provides instructions for using the map. At the bottom, there is a disclaimer regarding non-DOI products.

nps.gov
(home)

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

search go

Search this park
Search nps.gov

Cape Hatteras
National Seashore

view map text sizes printer friendly

Current Interactive Beach Access Map using Google Earth

Google Earth is a virtual globe program that maps the earth by the superimposition of images obtained from satellite imagery, aerial photography and GIS 3D globe. The viewer is available for free download at [Google Earth](#). The product is designed for use on newer computers with broadband or higher levels of connection.

Once you have downloaded Google Earth, you can click on this updated **December 20, 2011** beach access map link and zoom-in to the shoreline area in which you are interested to see the current access status. The color-coded "access line" indicates the status of shoreline access at the time the map was updated and is based on recent GPS coordinates of the actual shoreline. The underlying Google Earth photo image is dated and may not accurately reflect the current location of the shoreline. **Closure conditions may change in the field on short notice. On-site signage, rather than the Google Earth map, is the most accurate and current indication of what is open or closed to the public.** Closed areas are clearly marked in the field with closure signs or "symbolic fencing" consisting of posts, closure signs, string and flagging tape. Knowledge of tidal changes and caution should be exercised while traveling the beaches of the park.

Please Note: As you close Google Earth, the program will ask you if you wish to save these items in My Places. To ensure that you continue to view the most current beach access map, select "Discard".

References to non-U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) products do not constitute an endorsement by the DOI. By viewing the Google Maps API on this web site the user agrees to these [Terms of Service](#) set forth by Google.

PARK HOME

PLAN YOUR VISIT

- Directions
- Operating Hours & Seasons
- Fees & Reservations
- Things To Do
 - Camping
 - Fishing
 - Hunting
 - Off-Road Vehicle Use
 - Google Earth Map**
- Schedule Of Events
- Swimming
- Visit Lighthouses
- Visitor Centers

Things To Know Before You Come

PHOTOS & MULTIMEDIA

HISTORY & CULTURE

NATURE & SCIENCE

FOR TEACHERS

FOR KIDS

PARK NEWS

PARK MANAGEMENT

SUPPORT YOUR PARK

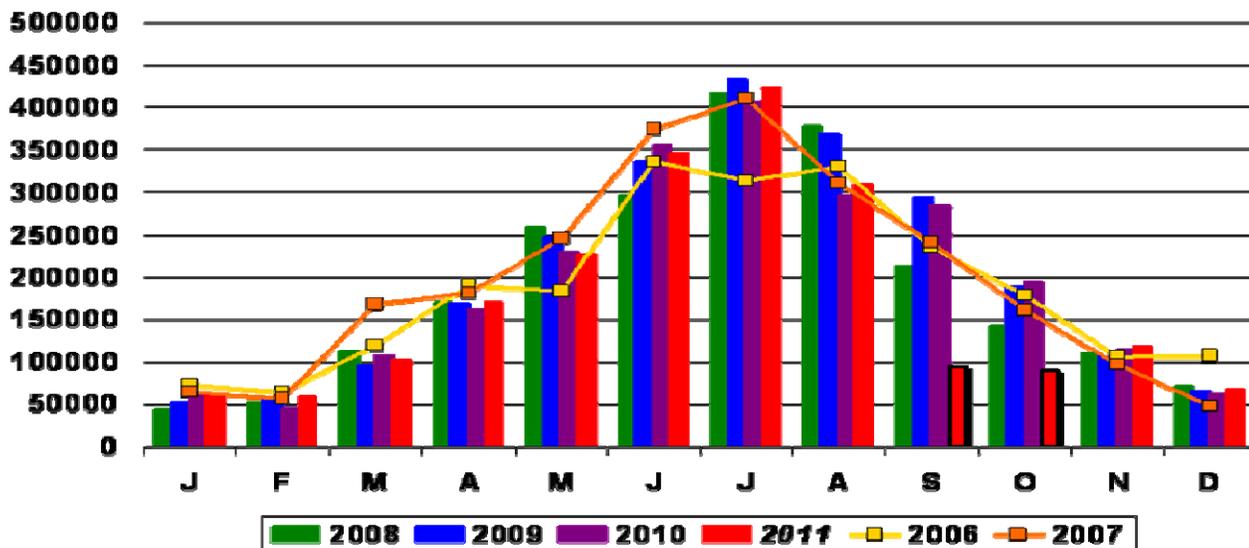
Cape Hatteras National Seashore Important Habitat/Popular Areas were closed (2011)

Location	Date Closed	Date Reopened	# of Days Closed
Bodie Island Spit (ocean shoreline to inlet)	May 6	August 17	103
Cape Point (east side to the hook)			
Pedestrian	April 8	July 13	87
ORV	March 18	July 18	92
Hatteras Spit (ocean shoreline to the Rip)	March 10	July 15	126
South Point (ocean shoreline to the inlet)			
Pedestrian	March 31	July 23	113
ORV	March 31	August 3	124

CAHA Visitation in 2011

Month	2011 Total Visitors Per Month	Visitors for Same Month in 2010	Monthly % Comparison to 2010	2011 YTD Visitors	YTD Visitors for Same Month in 2010	YTD % Comparison to 2010
January	60,813	61,557	-1.21%	60,813	61,557	-1.21%
February	58,003	44,212	+31.19%	118,816	105,769	+12.34%
March	102,419	106,424	-3.76%	221,326	212,193	+4.26%
April	169,526	161,121	+5.22%	390,762	373,314	+4.67%
May	226,097	229,015	-1.27%	616,859	602,329	+2.41%
June	346,215	354,503	-2.34%	963,074	956,832	+0.65%
July	422,328	405,552	+4.14%	1,385,402	1,362,383	+1.69%
August	308,902	398,516	-22.49%	1,694,303	1,760,899	-3.78%
September	94,098	282,855	-66.73%	1,788,402	2,043,754	-12.49%
October	89,430	193,307	-53.74%	1,877,832	2,237,062	-16.06%
November	117,854	112,962	+4.33%	1,995,687	2,350,023	-15.08%
December	67,228	61,349	+9.58%	2,062,914	2,411,372	-14.45%
	Dec 2011	Dec 2010	Month of Dec +/-	Year-to-Date 2011	Year-to-Date 2010	Year-to-Date +/-
Grand Total	67,228	61,349	+9.58%	2,062,914	2,411,372	-14.45%

CAHA Visitation by Month 2006 – 2011



Interim Strategy 2006 – 2007: Consent Decree 2008 – 2011
Hurricane Irene closed NC Hwy 12 to Hatteras Island from August 27 to October 10, 2011