

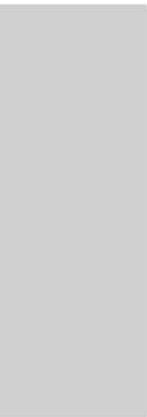


Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Division of Public Safety and Resource Protection

Annual Program Report

2023

Wisconsin Recreational Vehicle Safety Education & Enforcement



PUB-LE-314

CONTENTS

Program Scope	2
Recreational Vehicle Program Contacts.....	2
Program Summary.....	3
Recreational Vehicle Registrations	3
Registration Requirements.....	3
Trail Pass Requirements.....	3
Crash Reporting, Investigation and Statistics	4
Recreational Vehicle Crash Reporting Requirements.....	4
Crash Statistics Overview	5
ATV & UTV Crash Statistics	7
Boating Incident Statistics.....	10
Snowmobile Crash Statistics.....	11
Crash Factors & Conditions.....	12
Enforcement.....	16
Top Ten Citations Issued	20
Safety Education	22
Law Enforcement Operations & Saving Lives Initiative	24
County and Municipal Patrols.....	24
Saving Lives Initiative	24
Operation Dry Water.....	25
.....	26
Think Smart Before You Start & Sled Safe Campaigns	26
Farm Technology Days	27
Partners In Safety – Ride Safe Foundation.....	27
Partners In Safety – Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)	28
Kids Don’t Float! Life Jacket Loaner Board	28
Boating Safety Welcome Centers	29

PROGRAM SCOPE

The Division of Public Safety and Resource Protection provides response and presence for all recreational vehicle activities. Our belief is grounded in the overarching goal that safety is our No. 1 priority – and that the public has safe and enjoyable experiences recreating in our state’s waters and on our trails. We continue to promote recreational vehicle safety and enjoyment through education and enforcement initiatives, recreational vehicle regulation compliance and safety, and reducing crashes and fatalities through education, community involvement, outreach, and enforcement. Our duties and responsibilities in relation to ATVs/UTVs, off-highway motorcycles (OHMs), snowmobiles and boats include:

- Crash investigation and reconstruction, reporting and administration
- Enforcement
- Search and rescue
- Safety education
- Operations
- Public outreach and safety marketing
- Municipal boating ordinance review and administration
- Waterway marker permitting and administration

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PROGRAM CONTACTS

<p>Major April Dombrowski Bureau Director – Bureau of Recreational Safety & Outdoor Skills 608-852-9456 April.Dombrowski@wisconsin.gov</p>	
<p>Lieutenant Jacob Holsclaw Off-Highway Vehicle Administrator 715-491-0283 Jacob.Holsclaw@wisconsin.gov</p> <p>Ryan Serwe Off-Highway Vehicle Program Specialist 608-225-2310 Ryan.Serwe@wisconsin.gov</p>	<p>Lieutenant Darren Kuhn Boating Law Administrator 920-615-6075 Darren.Kuhn@wisconsin.gov</p> <p>Adrienne Sullivan Boating Program Specialist 608-720-0615 Adrienne.Sullivan@wisconsin.gov</p>

PROGRAM SUMMARY

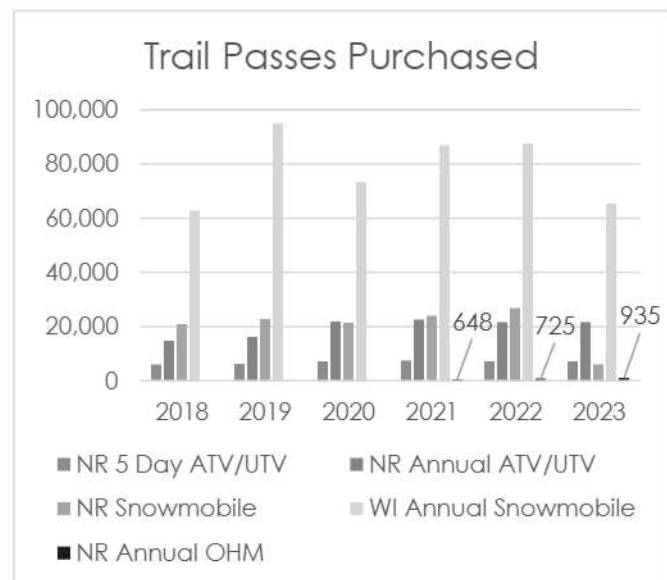
RECREATIONAL VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

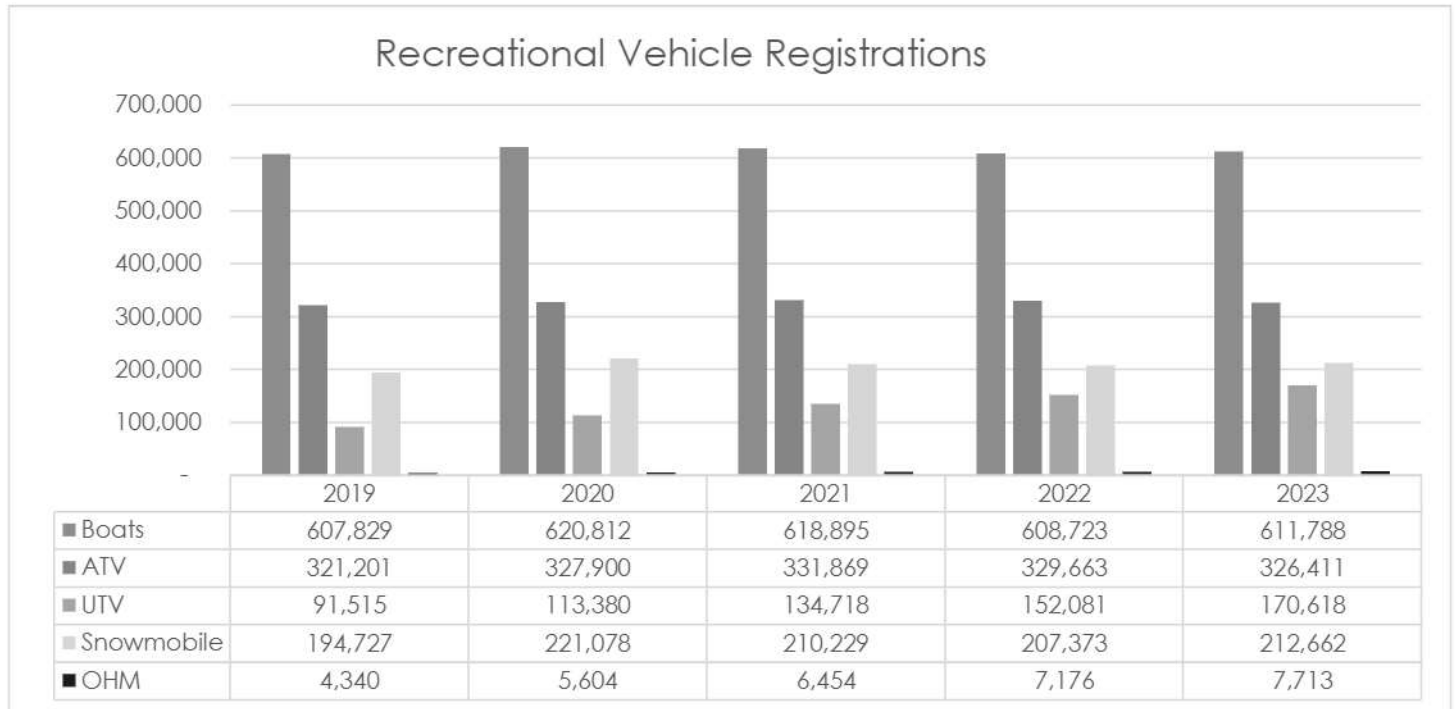
- **ATVs & UTVs** operating in Wisconsin must be registered as public use or private use, unless exempt from registration.
- **Snowmobile** registration is required for the operation of any snowmobile in Wisconsin unless the operation is exempt from registration.
- **Off-highway motorcycles** (OHMs) must be registered with the DNR if any of the following apply: An OHM is used for recreational purposes on public lands; an OHM is used for recreational purposes on private lands held open to the public; or an OHM is used for private agricultural purposes.
- **Boats** must be registered to legally operate in Wisconsin waters. Exceptions to the requirement to register a recreational vessel include: Sailboats 12 feet of length or less and not equipped with a motor; sailboards; manually propelled vessels not equipped with a motor or sail; and vessels registered in another state and using Wisconsin waters for less than 60 consecutive days.

TRAIL PASS REQUIREMENTS

- **Snowmobile Trail Pass:** All snowmobiles operating on a Wisconsin snowmobile trail or corridor must display a valid snowmobile trail pass whether registered in Wisconsin or another state. For more information regarding snowmobile trail pass requirements, visit the [snowmobile trail pass webpage](#).
- **Nonresident ATV/UTV Trail Pass:** Wisconsin law requires those who use Wisconsin ATV or UTV trails to display either Wisconsin registration or a nonresident trail pass. Funds from this program will be designated for use as trail aids and related costs to enhance all of Wisconsin's ATV and UTV recreation. If the ATV or UTV is kept in Wisconsin, it must be registered in Wisconsin. Visit the [nonresident trail pass webpage](#) for more information.



- **Nonresident OHM Trail Pass:** Nonresidents can operate their OHM for recreational use with either a nonresident OHM trail pass affixed to the OHM or a valid nonresident 5-day trail use receipt, which must be in the possession of the operator. Nonresidents who keep their OHM in Wisconsin must register their OHM in Wisconsin.



Reported numbers are as of December 31st of each calendar year. Registration periods generally run from April 1st through March 31st and need to be renewed every two to three years. For more information visit the [Recreational Vehicle Registration Webpage](#).

CRASH REPORTING, INVESTIGATION AND STATISTICS

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE CRASH REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

An ATV/UTV or snowmobile crash is any incident (regardless of the number of vehicles involved) resulting in a fatality, or an injury requiring a physician's medical treatment. Wisconsin law requires every ATV, UTV and snowmobile operator involved in a crash to report the incident without delay to law enforcement officials. The operator must also submit a written report to the DNR within 10 days of the crash.

An OHM crash is any incident (regardless of the number of vehicles involved) resulting in a fatality, or an injury requiring a physician's medical treatment that occurs on public land. Wisconsin law requires every OHM operator involved in a crash to give notice of the accident to a conservation warden or local law enforcement officer as soon as possible and submit a written report to the department within 10 days of the crash.

A reportable boat incident is any incident (regardless of the number of boats involved) resulting in loss of life, injuries that require medical treatment beyond first aid, boat or property damage more than \$2,000, or complete loss of a boat. Wisconsin law requires every boat operator involved in a reportable boat incident

to report the incident without delay to law enforcement officials. The operator must also submit a written report to the DNR within 10 days of the crash. The department is required by state and federal law to gather boat incident reports and convey the information to the United States Coast Guard by entering the incident information onto the Coast Guard's Boating Accident Report Database.

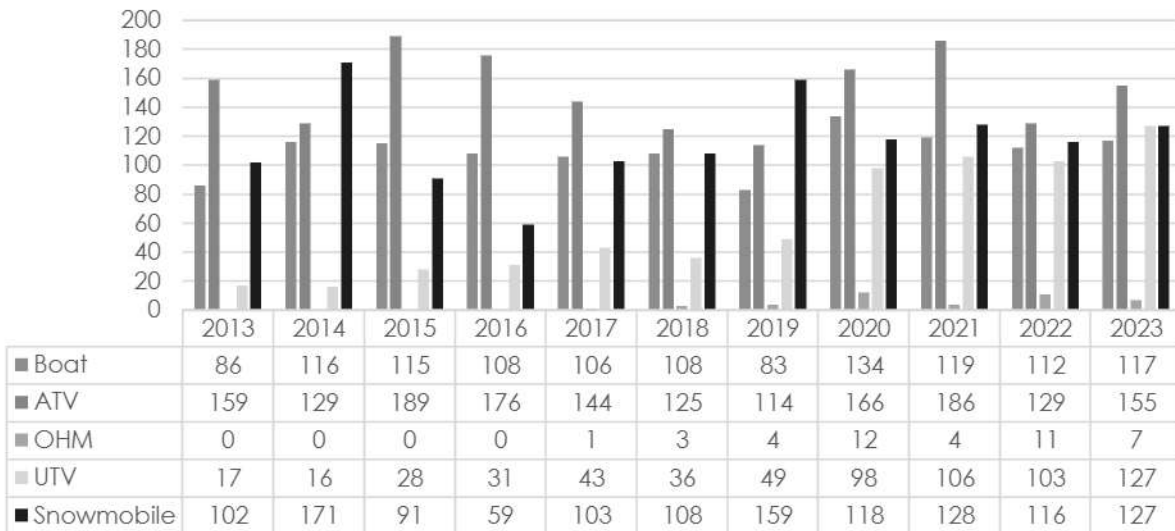
CRASH STATISTICS OVERVIEW

When reviewing crash statistics, it is important to note that law enforcement officials investigate 100% of fatal recreational vehicle crashes, resulting in high confidence in the data. In some cases, non-fatal crashes may not be investigated by law enforcement officers. The data collected is based on the operator's crash report in these cases. Of the 2023 reported non-fatal crashes, only 54% were able to be investigated by a law enforcement officer. In addition, non-fatal incidents may be under-reported because operators are unaware of the reporting requirements or are unwilling to report. It should be noted that statute requires all boating crashes, both fatal and reportable injury, to be investigated by law enforcement.

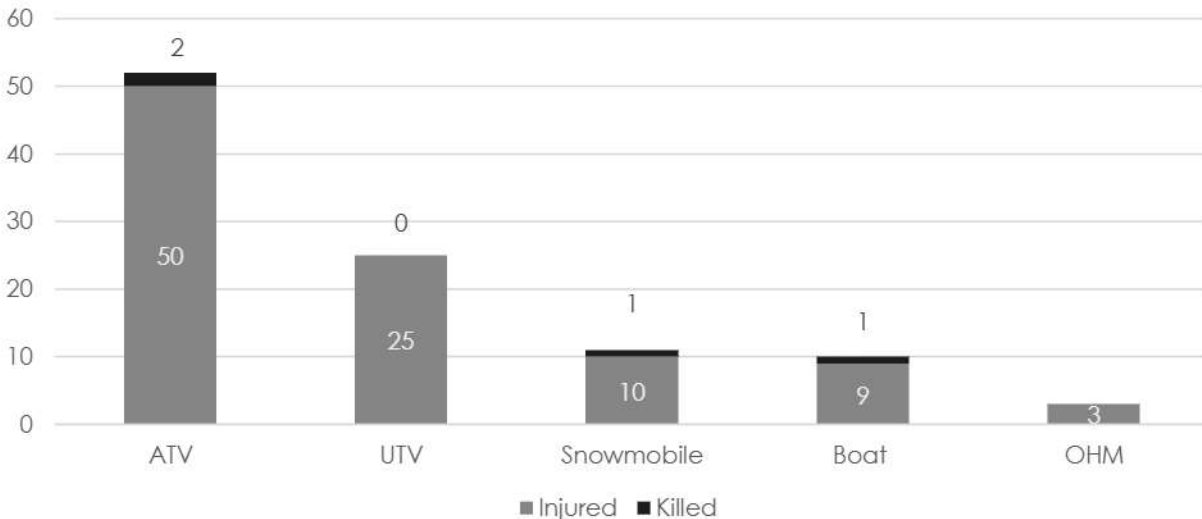
2023 Percentage Of Reported Non-Fatal Crashes Investigated By Law Enforcement			
Crash Type	Reported Non-Fatal Crashes	Non-Fatal Crashes Investigated By Law Enforcement	Percentage Of Non-Fatal Crashes Investigated By Law Enforcement
ATV	137	58	42%
Boat	93	81	87%
OHM	7	6	86%
Snowmobile	112	46	41%
UTV	114	59	51%
Total	463	250	54%

2023 Crash-Related Fatalities And Injuries		
Crash Type	Crash Deaths	Reported Injuries In Non-Fatal Crashes
ATV	18	143
Boat	28	47
OHM	0	7
Snowmobile	16	106
UTV	14	141
Total	76	444

Total Fatal & Non-fatal Crashes By Vehicle Type

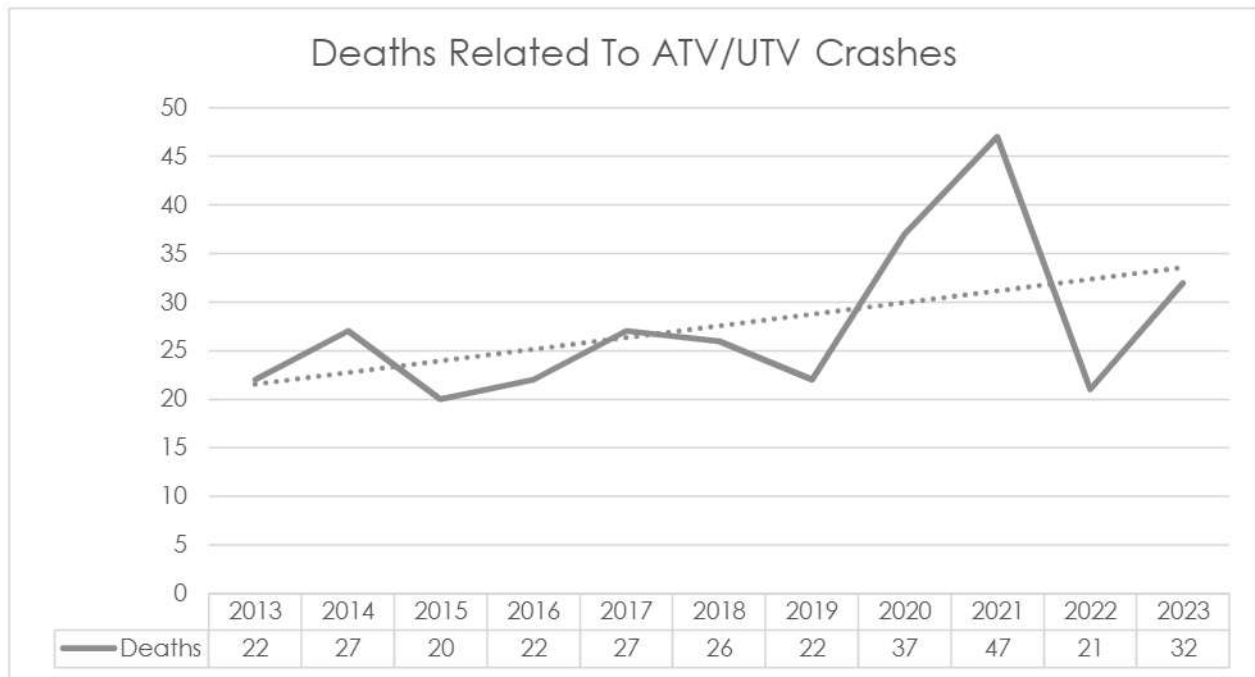


Minors (Age ≤ 17) Killed & Reported As Injured In Crashes

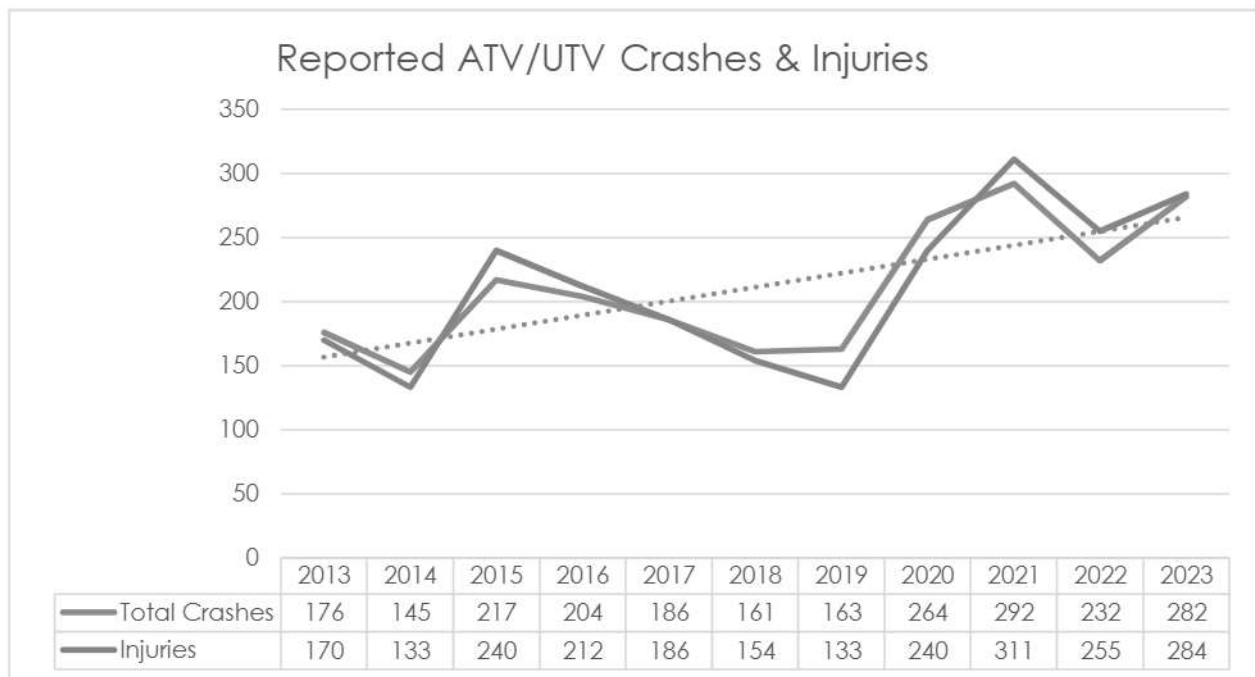


As the number of registered vehicles and recreational opportunities continue to grow, so does the number of reported injuries and crash related deaths. The program continues to focus on public education through the *Saving Lives* initiative, which includes targeted enforcement weekends, safety marketing campaigns and safety education classes.

ATV & UTV CRASH STATISTICS

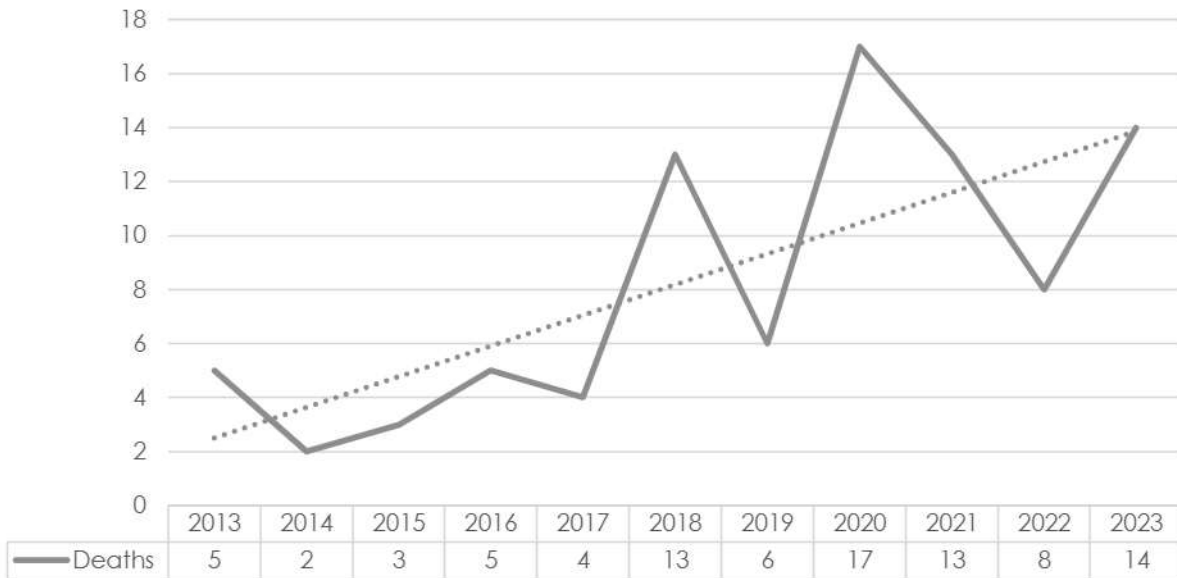


In 2023, four of the fatal crash victims in ATV/UTV crashes were passengers.

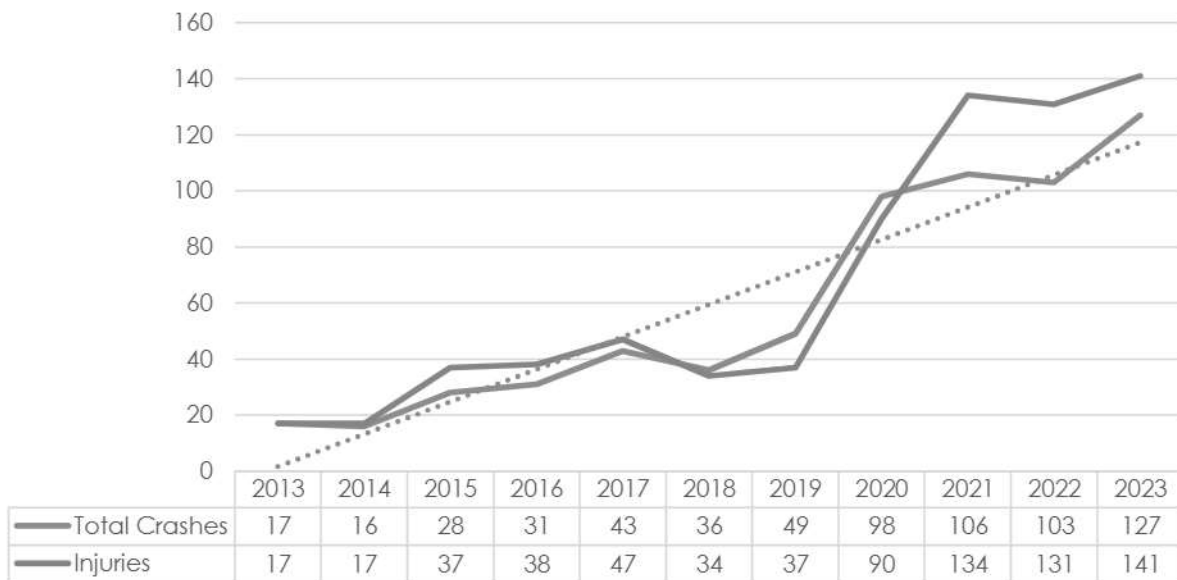


Of the 284 injuries in ATV/UTV crashes in 2023, 99 passengers were passengers.

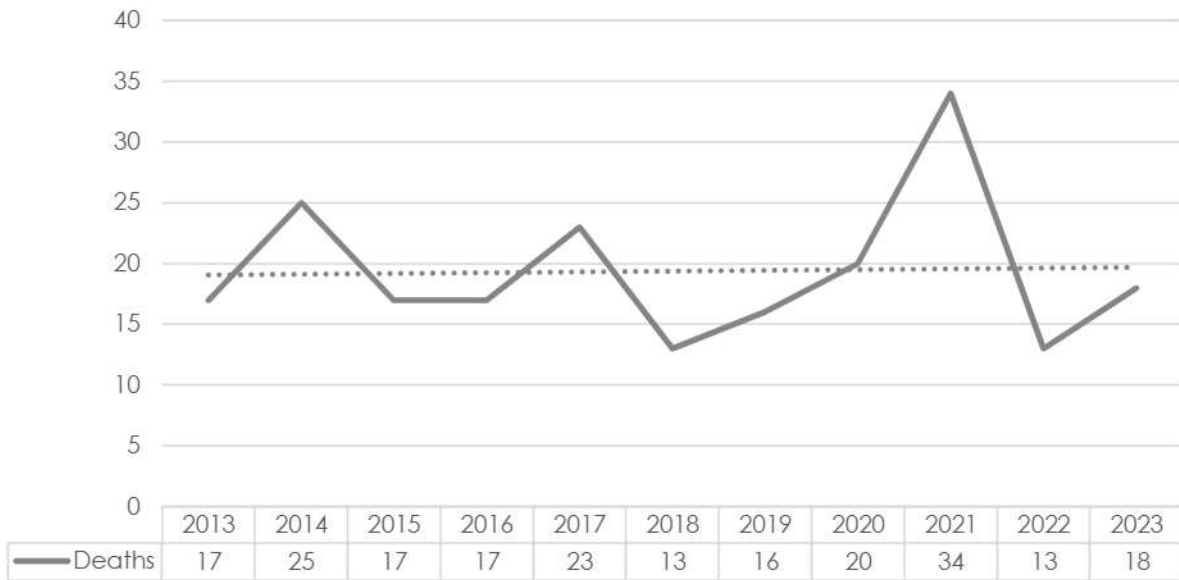
Deaths Related To UTV Crashes



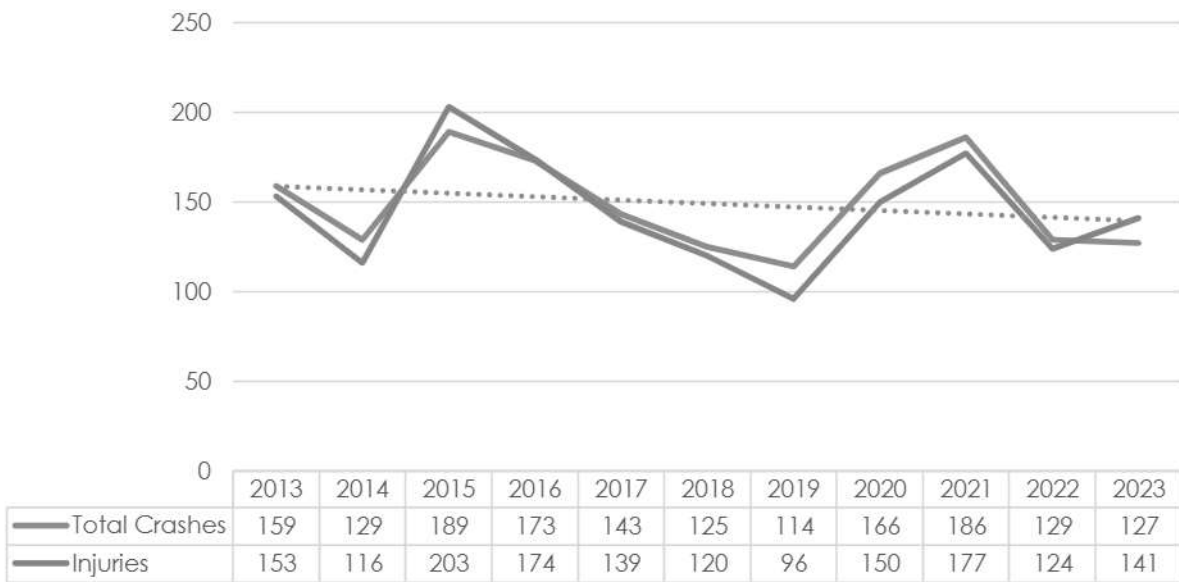
Reported UTV Crashes & Injuries



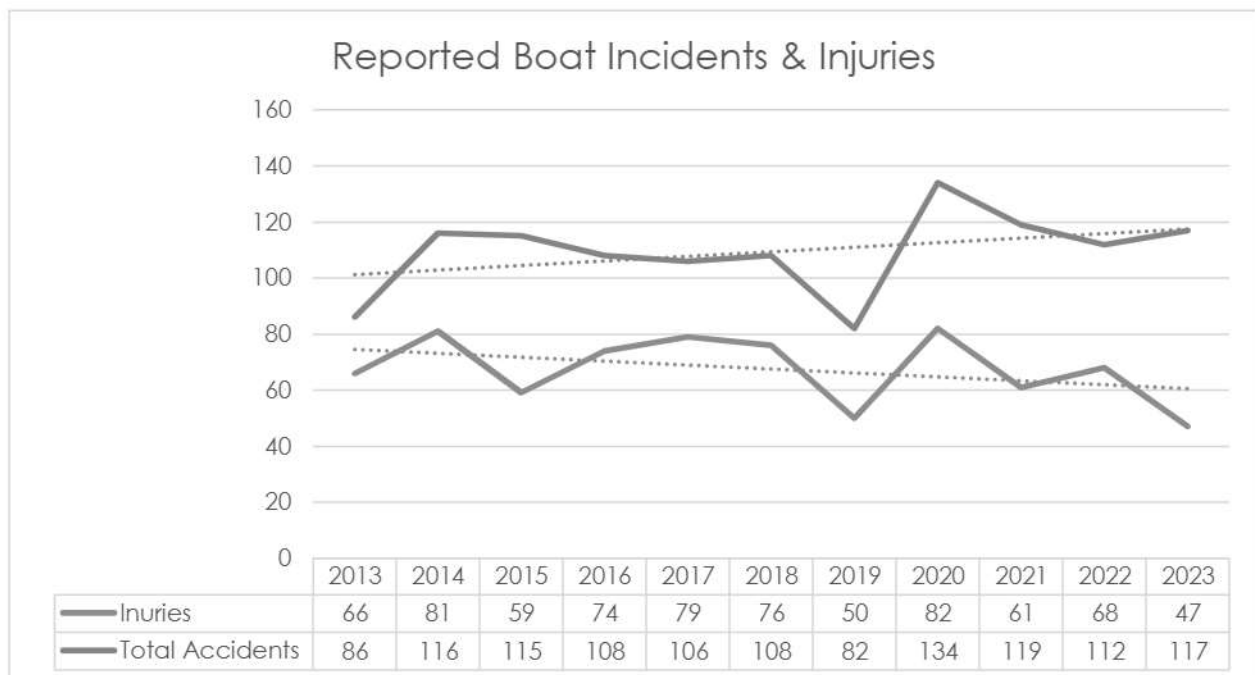
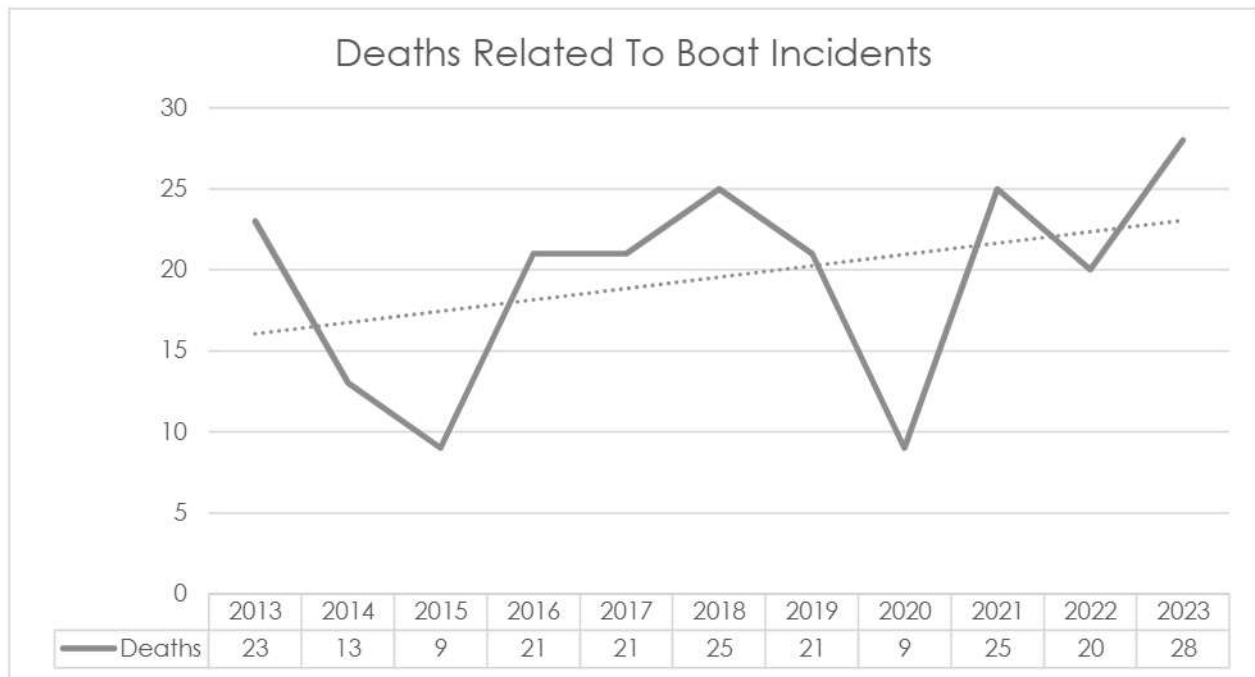
Deaths Related To ATV Crashes



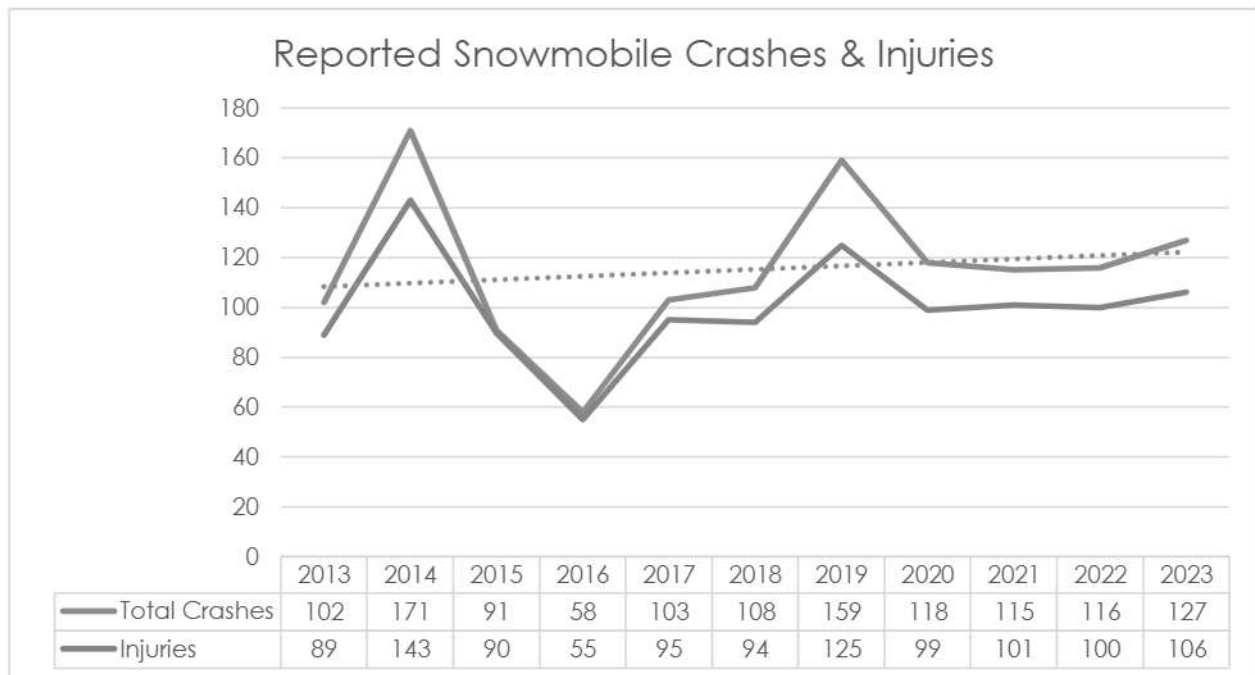
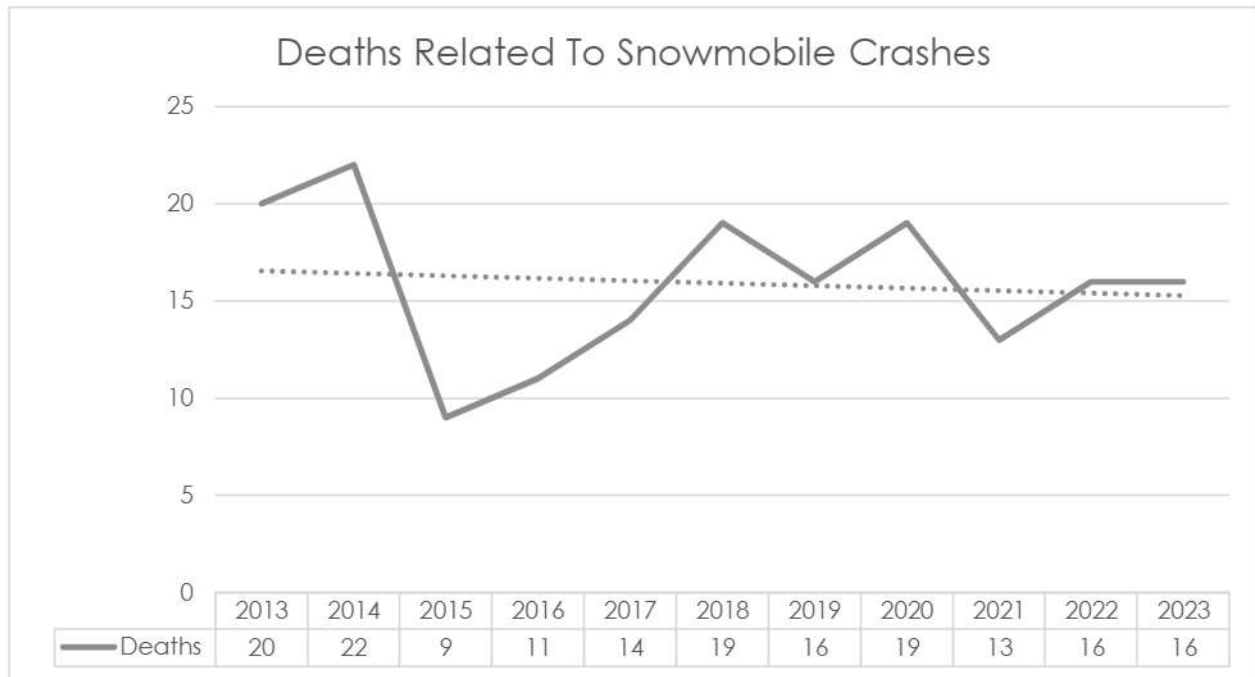
Reported ATV Crashes And Injuries



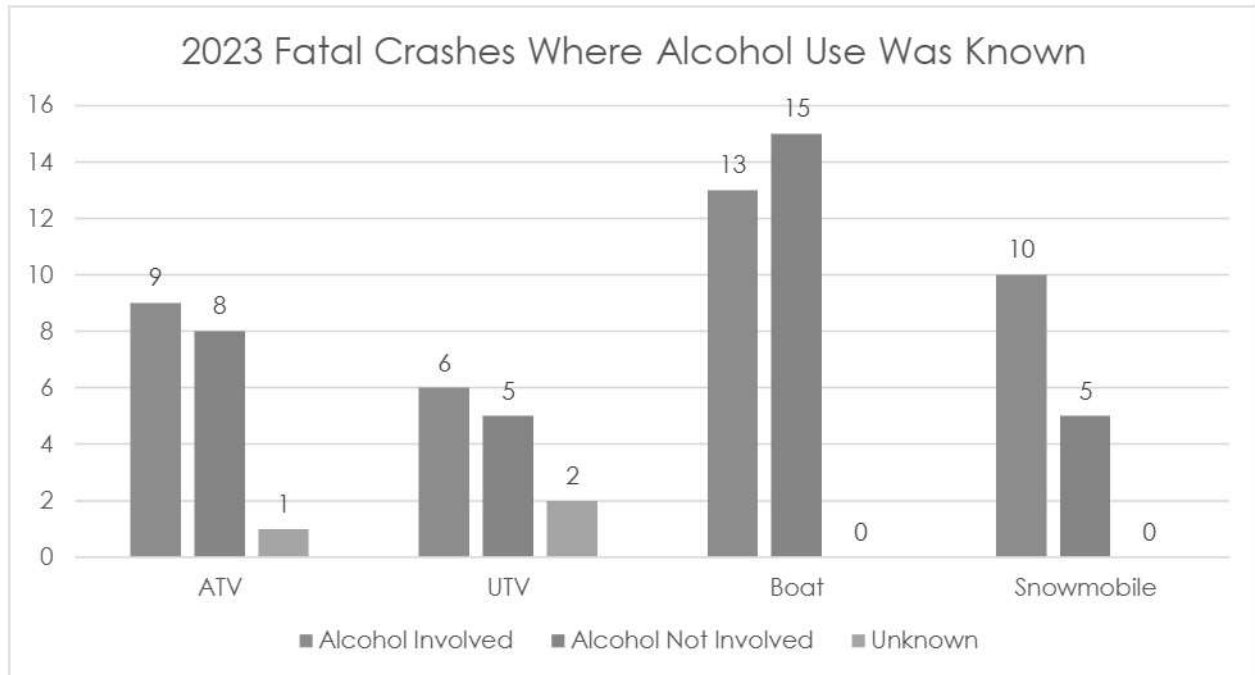
BOATING INCIDENT STATISTICS



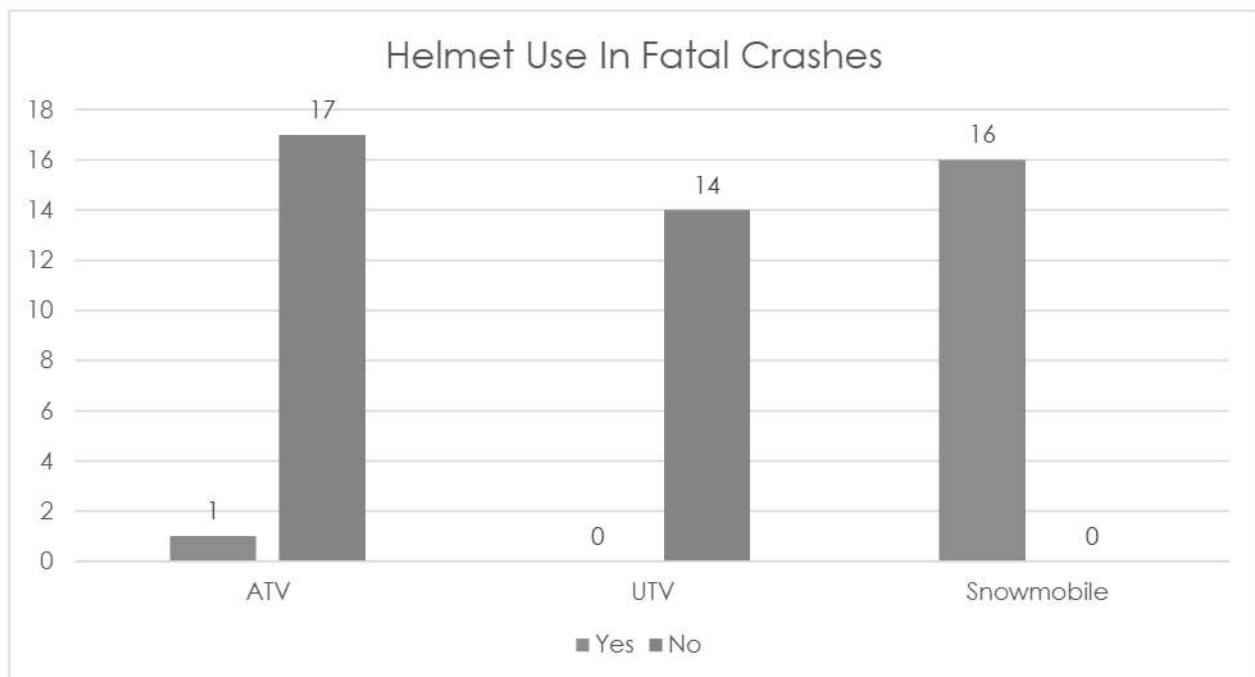
SNOWMOBILE CRASH STATISTICS



CRASH FACTORS & CONDITIONS

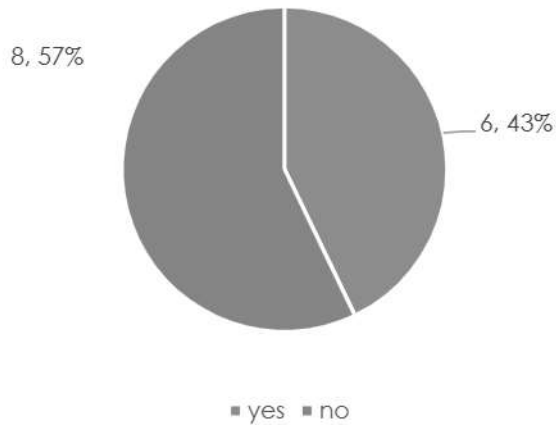


At least 38 fatal recreational vehicle crashes involved alcohol in 2023. Alcohol involvement was unknown in three crashes.



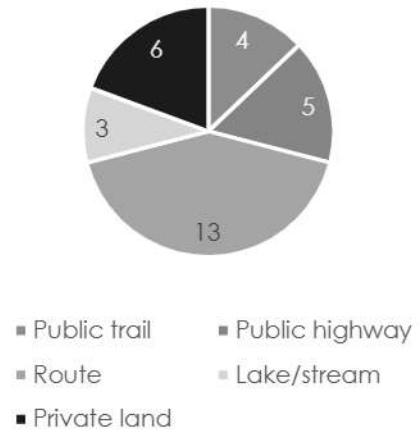
More than 95% of fatal ATV/UTV crash victims were not wearing a helmet at the time of the crash.

UTV Seatbelts Worn In Fatal Crashes



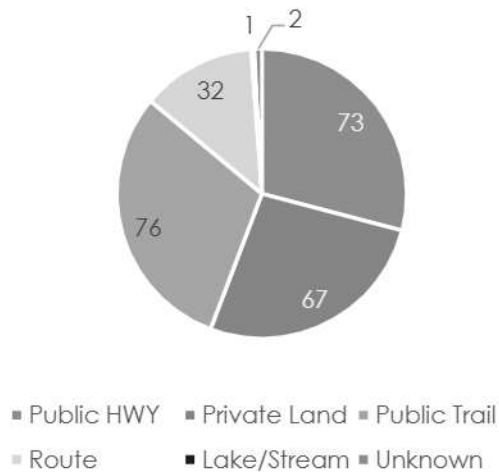
In 2023, 57% of fatal crash victims were not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash.

ATV/UTV Fatal Crash Locations



A combined 58% of crashes occurred on public highways and road routes in 2023.

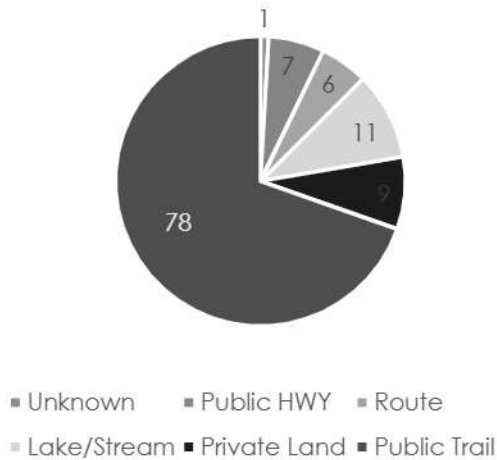
ATV/UTV Non-fatal Crash Locations



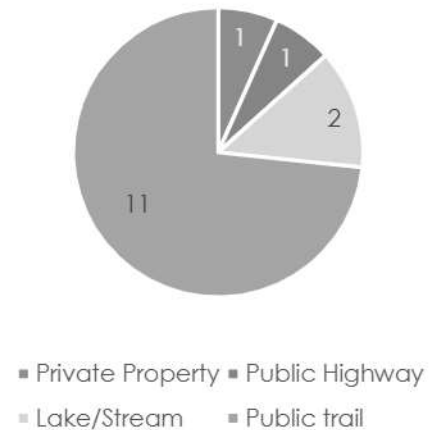
Over 100 non-fatal crashes occurred on public highways and road routes in 2023.



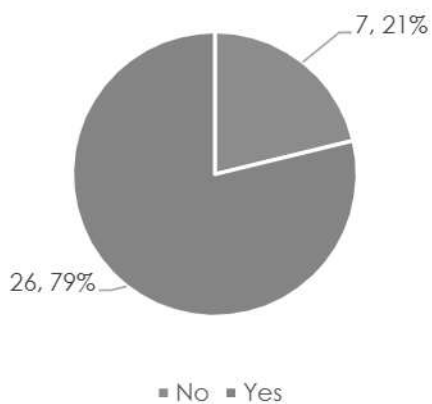
Snowmobile Non-fatal
Crash Locations



Snowmobile Fatal Crash
Locations

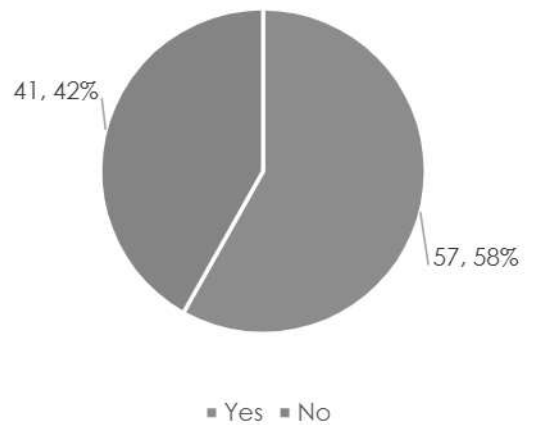


Snowmobile Operator
Safety Education
Compliance

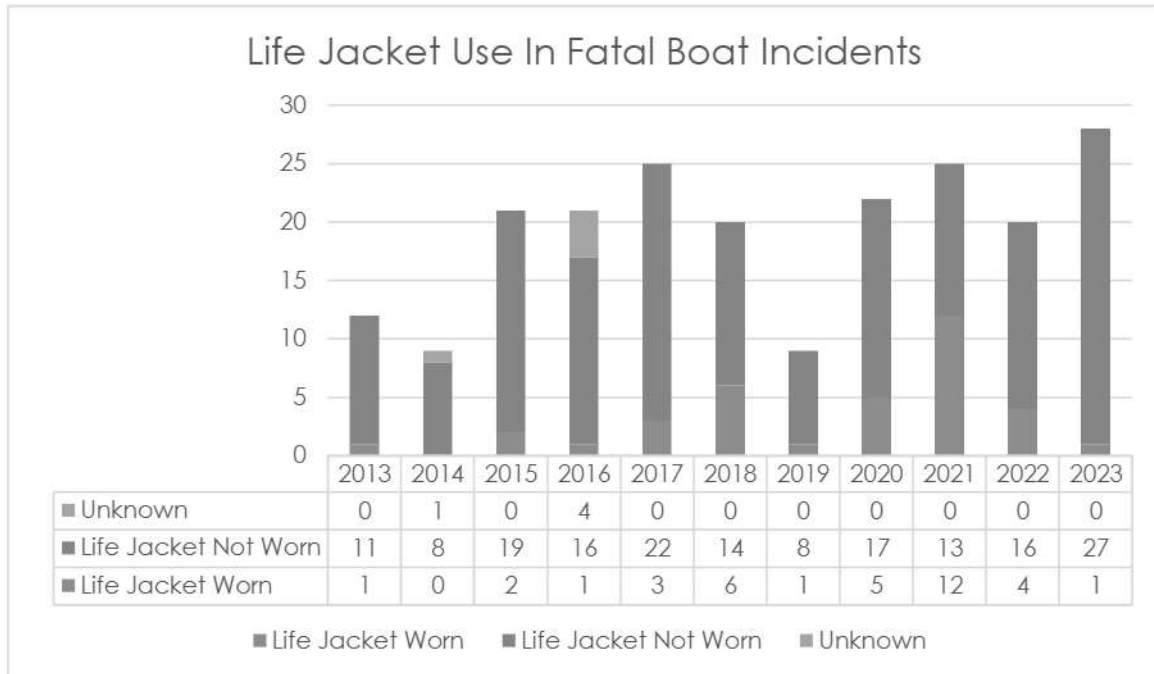


Of the 33 operators required by law to have a valid snowmobile safety certification, 26 had completed the required training.

ATV/UTV Operator Safety
Education Compliance



Of the 98 operators required by law to have a valid ATV safety certification, 57 had completed the required training.



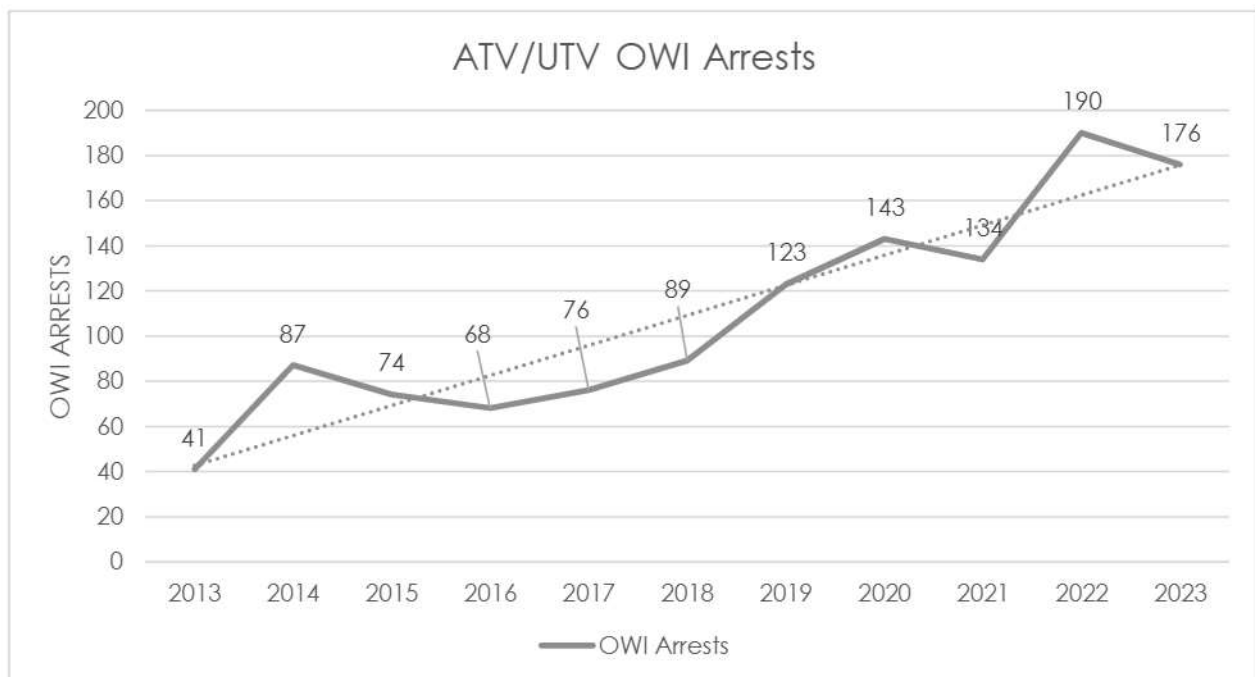
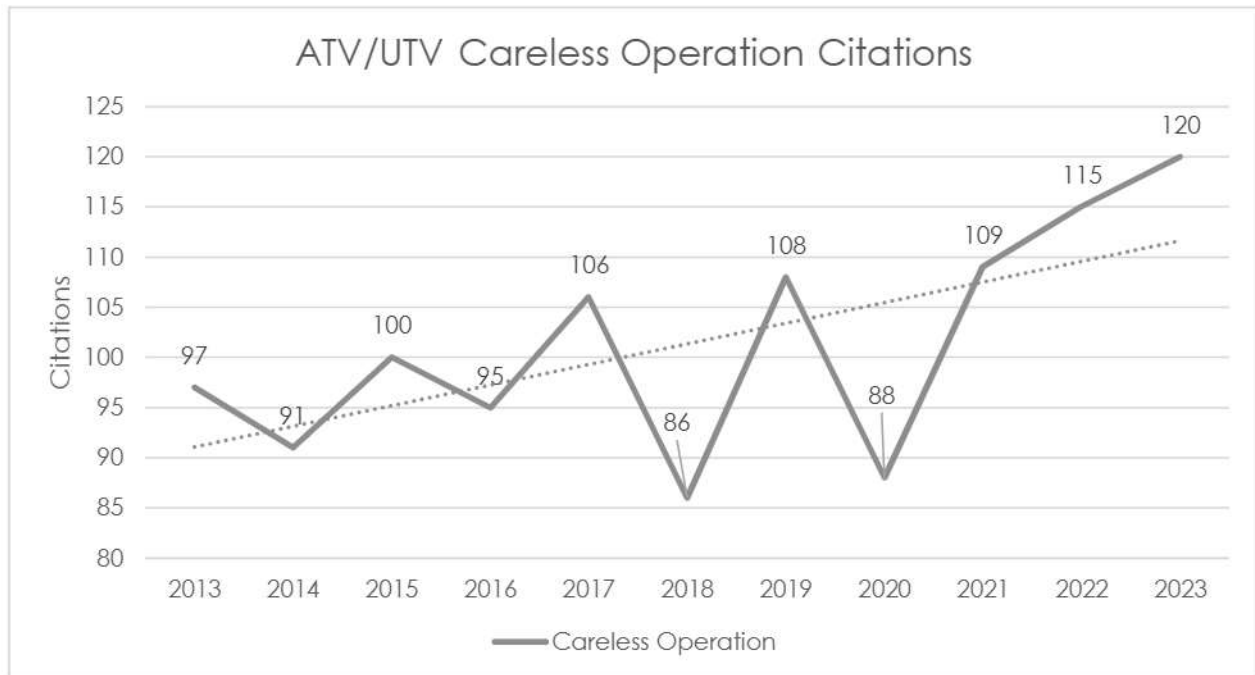
Top 3 Factors In Non-Fatal Crashes	
ATV	1. Careless/reckless operation 2. Operator inexperience 3. Excessive speed
UTV	1. Careless/ reckless operation 2. Alcohol use 3. Excessive speed
Snowmobile	1. Excessive speed 2. Careless/ reckless operation 3. Alcohol use
Boat	1. Operator inexperience 2. Equipment failure 3. Operator inattention

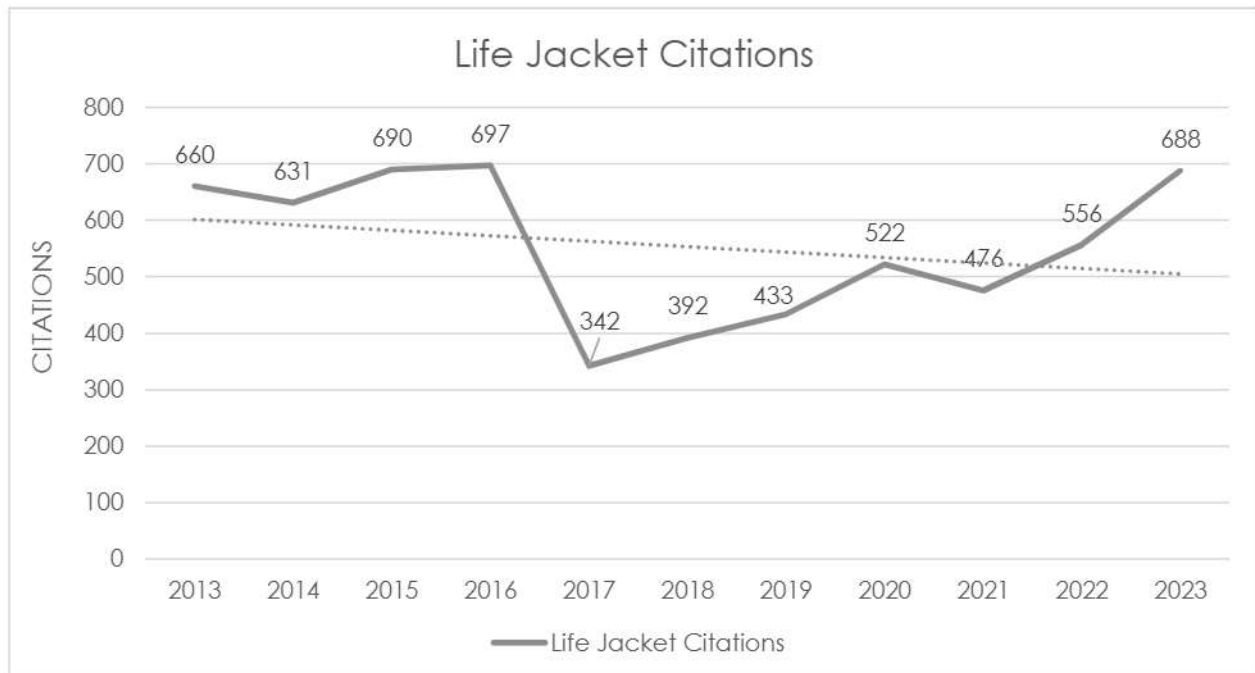
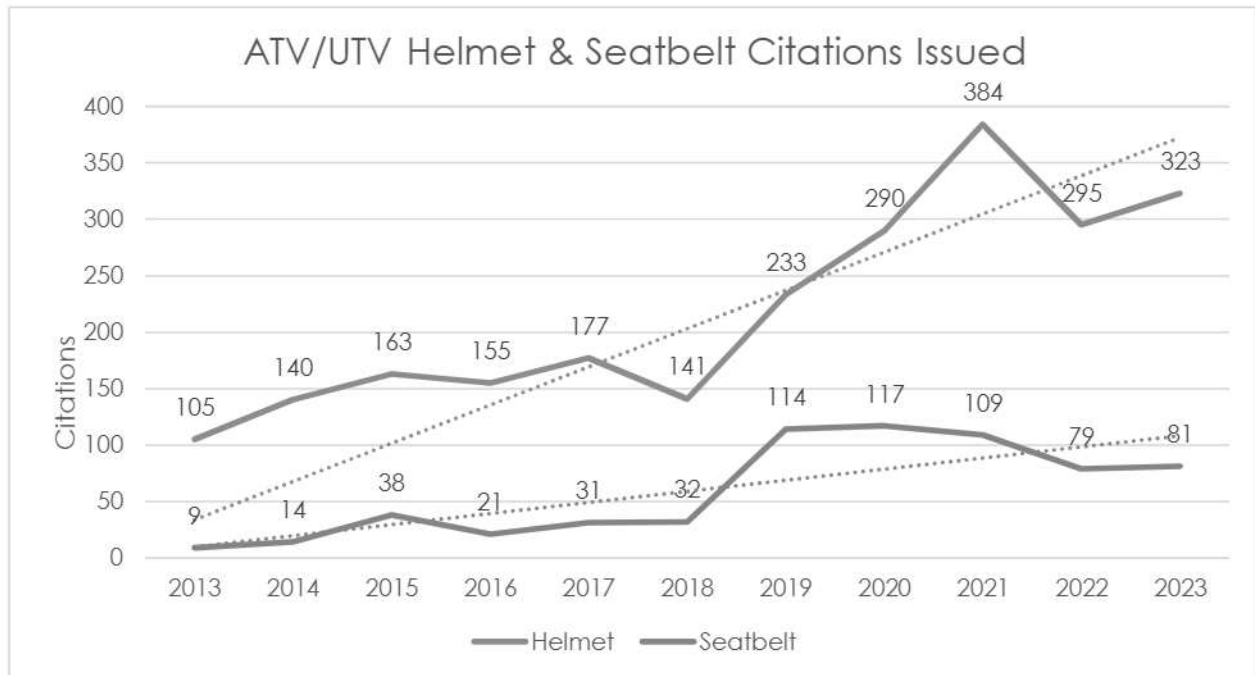
Top 3 Factors In Fatal Crashes	
ATV	1. Alcohol use 2. Excessive speed 3. Restricted visibility
UTV	1. Alcohol use 2. Excessive speed 3. Sharp turn
Snowmobile	1. Excessive speed 2. Alcohol use 3. Careless/reckless operation
Boat	1. Alcohol use 2. Weather 3. Hazardous waters

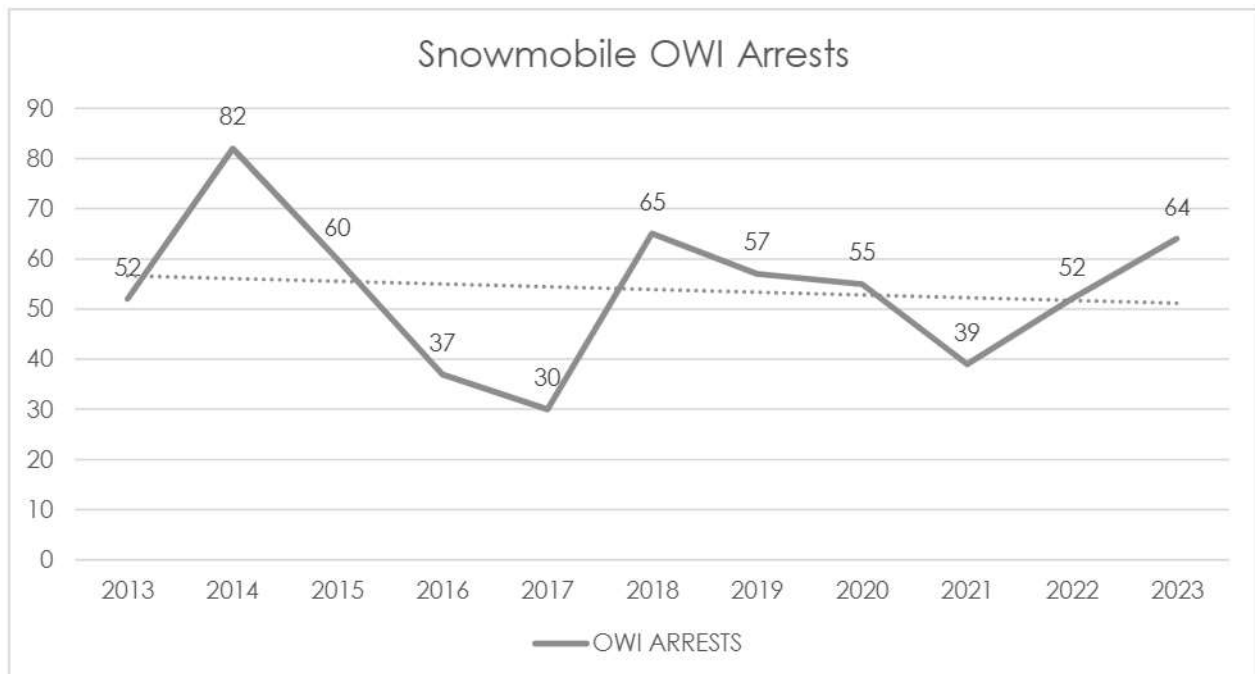
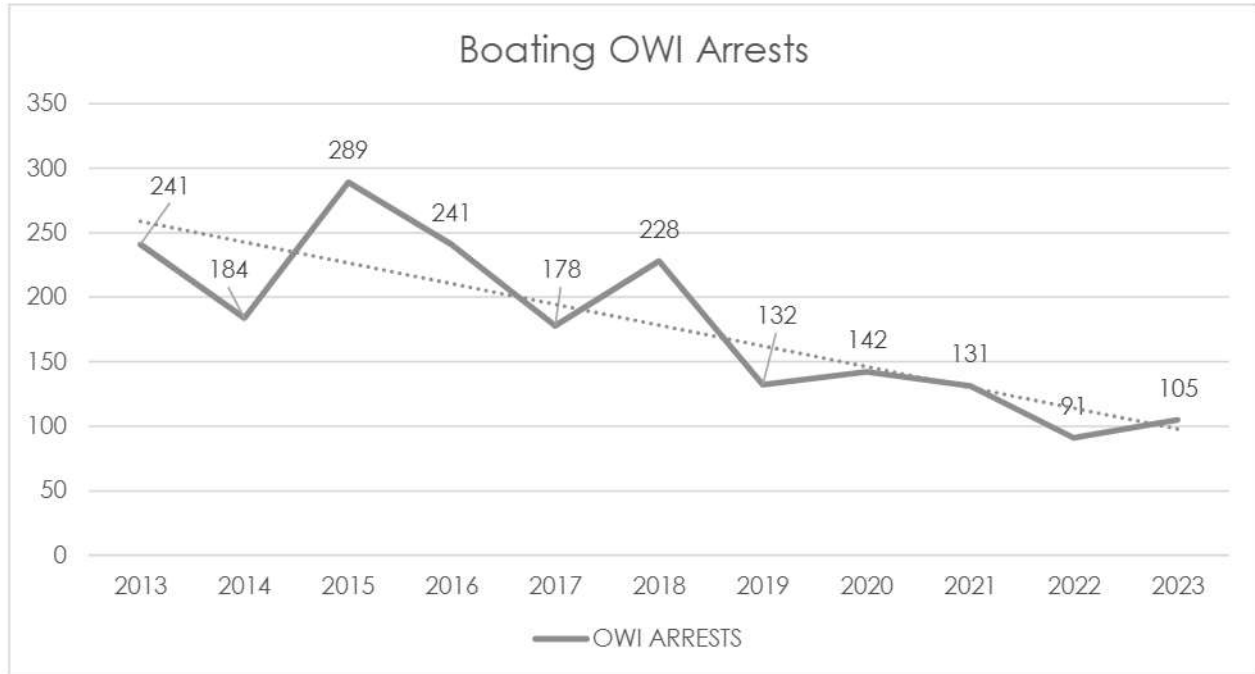
Alcohol, excessive speed, and reckless operation continue to be the top contributing factors in recreational vehicle crashes.

ENFORCEMENT

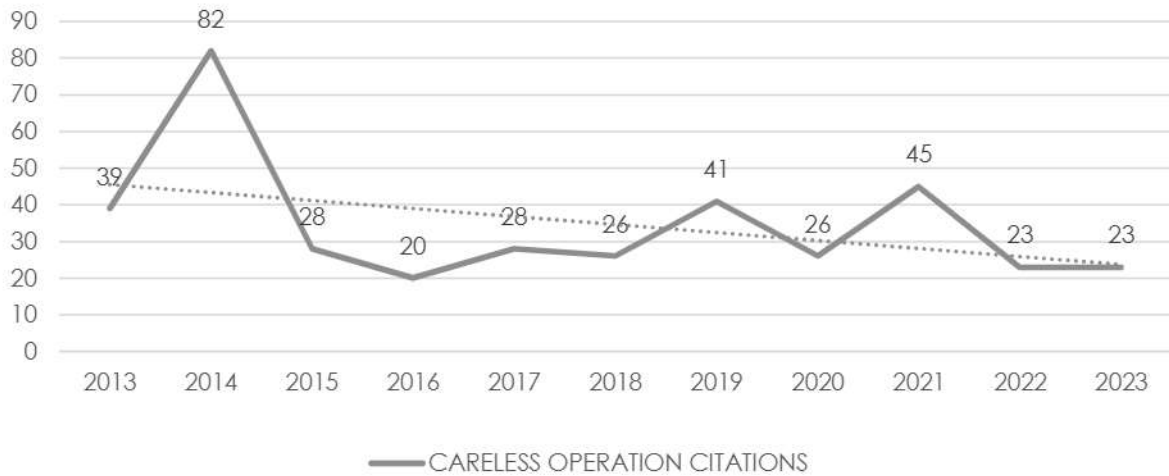
State conservation wardens and local law enforcement officers provide enforcement of recreational vehicles. The DNR administers funding to county and municipal enforcement patrols to reimburse part of their operating expenses. Citations issued by those patrol agencies are included in the figures below.







Snowmobile Careless Operation Citations



Safety Education Citations Issued



TOP TEN CITATIONS ISSUED

2023 Top 10 ATV/UTV Citations	
COUNT	STATUTE DESCRIPTION
386	Unauthorized operation of all-terrain vehicle or utility terrain vehicle on or in the vicinity of highways
323	Operate or ride all-terrain vehicle or utility terrain vehicle without required headgear
220	Give permission to operate all-terrain vehicle or utility terrain vehicle without valid registration
192	Operate all-terrain vehicle without valid safety certificate
170	Operate ATV/UTV under the influence of an intoxicant
120	Operate all-terrain vehicle or utility terrain vehicle in a careless manner
99	Operate all-terrain vehicle or utility terrain vehicle on public property posted closed or where otherwise prohibited by law
91	Operate ATV/UTV contrary to stop sign, yield sign, or other regulatory sign
81	Operate UTV without passengers wearing safety belts
80	Operate utility terrain vehicle without valid safety certificate

2023 Top 10 Boating Citations	
COUNT	STATUTE DESCRIPTION
477	Fail to carry required number/type of readily accessible PFD for each person on board or being attended by boat
201	Operate a personal watercraft greater than slow-no-wake within 100' of another boat
163	Operate at speed in excess of posted notice established by regulatory markers
139	Allow riding on decks or gunwales
116	Operate motorboat while age 16 or older without valid safety certificate
113	Operate boat without valid certificate of number
105	Operate a motorboat under the influence of an intoxicant
92	Operate a personal watercraft greater than slow-no-wake within 200' of a shoreline
92	Operate personal watercraft while age 16 or older without valid safety certificate
82	Operate motorboat within 100 feet of a dock, raft, pier or buoyed restricted area at a speed in excess of slow-no-wake

2023 Top 10 Snowmobile Citations	
COUNT	STATUTE DESCRIPTION
224	Fail to comply with regulatory signs
201	Owner operating/giving permission to operate snowmobile on public corridor/trail without trail use sticker/valid proof of temporary trail use receipt
116	Give permission to operate snowmobile without valid registration
95	Operate snowmobile without valid safety certificate
64	Operate snowmobile while under the influence of an intoxicant
58	Operate snowmobile on private property without owners' consent
46	Failure of owner to properly display registration decal or trail use sticker on a snowmobile
43	Modify snowmobile so total vehicle noise exceeds manufactured noise level
27	Operate snowmobile on public property posted closed or where otherwise prohibited by law
24	Operate snowmobile illegally on or in the vicinity of highways

2023 Top 10 Off-Highway Motorcycle Citations	
COUNT	STATUTE DESCRIPTION
38	Unauthorized operation of limited use OHM on roadway
12	Operate OHM on public property posted closed or where prohibited by law
11	Operate OHM without required safety certificate
11	Operate OHM without valid registration
11	Owner permit operation of off-highway motorcycle without valid registration
5	Operate OHM in a careless manner
3	Operate limited use OHM on OHM route/highway (or be passenger)
2	Refuse to stop OHM after being requested or signaled
2	Operate OHM on OHM corridor (or be passenger) without wearing required protective headgear
1	Fail to exhibit valid proof of OHM registration to law enforcement

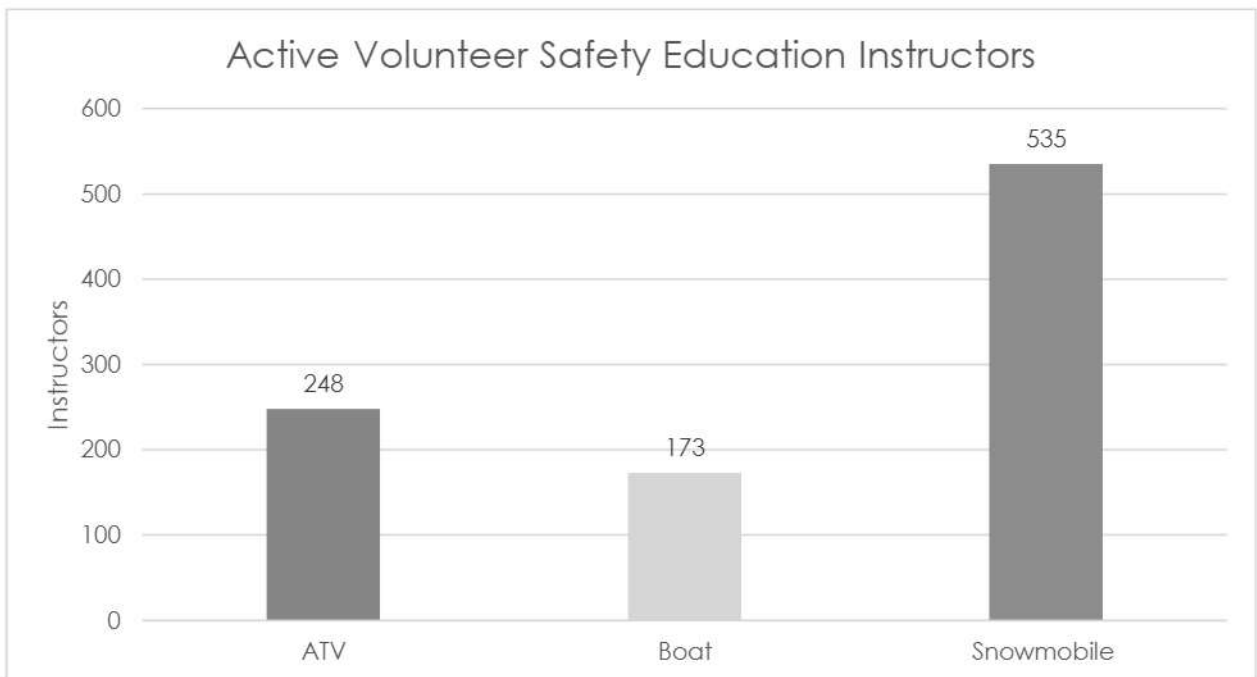
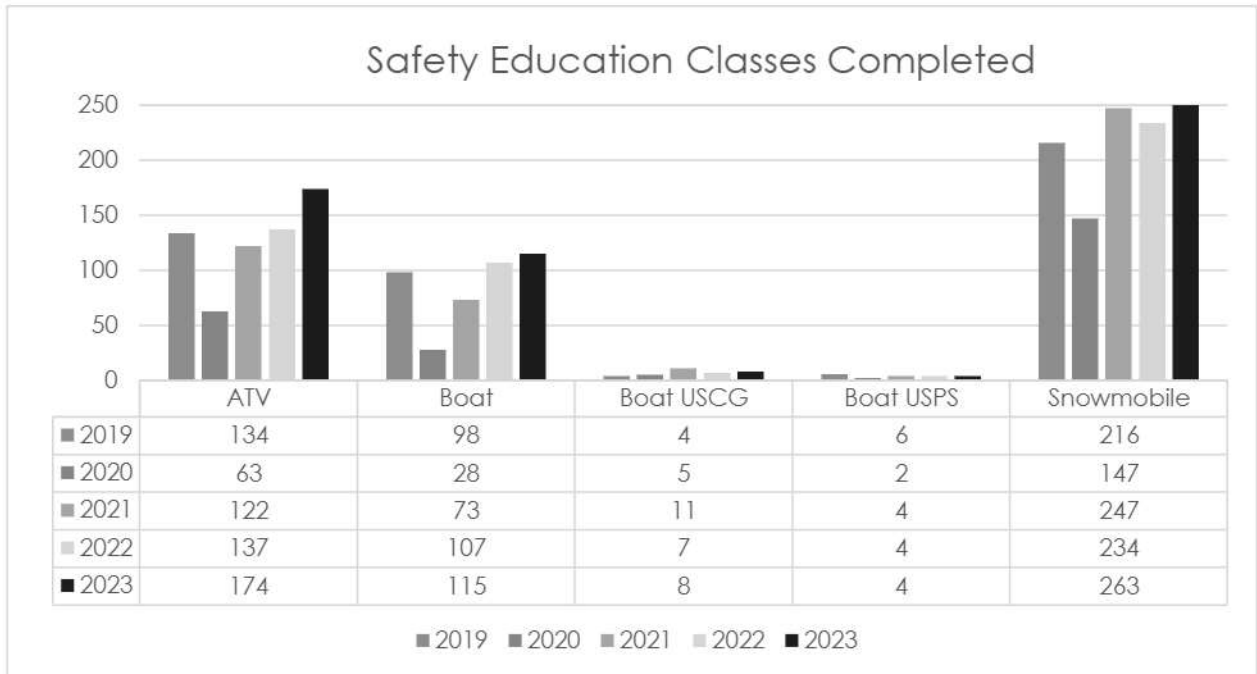
SAFETY EDUCATION

- **ATV/UTV** operators at least age 12 and born on or after Jan. 1, 1988, must possess a valid ATV safety certificate issued by Wisconsin or any other state or province. Operators must be in possession of this certificate while operating in areas open to the public such as trails, routes and frozen waterways, and display it to a law enforcement officer upon request. Operators of any age are eligible to take the online-only safety class.
- **Boat** operators born on or after Jan. 1, 1989, are required to obtain and carry a valid boaters safety certificate when operating a boat or personal watercraft. Operators of any age are eligible to take the online-only safety class.
- **Off-Highway Motorcycle** operators at least 12 years of age and born after Jan. 1, 1998, must possess a valid Wisconsin ATV/OHM combination safety certificate or valid certificate from another state. Students who complete the Wisconsin ATV safety online course automatically receive OHM safety certification. For those who have completed ATV safety in-person, there is a free OHM safety short course available on the DNR website.
- **Snowmobile** operators born after Jan. 1, 1985, and who have reached the age of 12 must have obtained and carry a valid snowmobile safety certificate when operating a snowmobile in Wisconsin. Operators under the age of 16 are required to take an in-person safety class.

Visit the [DNR website](#) for more information or to enroll in a class.



Students who complete online ATV certifications also receive OHM safety certification.



Numbers reflect the total number of certified instructors who actively participated in teaching a course in 2023.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS & SAVING LIVES INITIATIVE

COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL PATROLS

In addition to Wisconsin conservation wardens enforcing recreational vehicle laws, the DNR administers a law enforcement aids program for counties and local patrol agencies across the state, providing enforcement on Wisconsin trails and waterways. Counties may receive law enforcement aids for up to 100% of the net costs for the operation and maintenance of snowmobile and ATV patrol units. Municipalities may receive law enforcement aids for up to 75% of the net costs for operating and maintaining a water safety patrol unit.

In 2023, law enforcement officers and staff statewide logged a total of 179,894 hours to recreational vehicle activities, including law enforcement, education and outreach, incident investigation, training and program administration.

Vehicle Type	Number Of Hours	Full-Time Position Equivalent	Notes
ATV/UTV	38,249	18	Includes hours logged by 38 county sheriff's offices
Boat	110,992	53	Includes hours logged by 94 county and municipal patrol agencies
Snowmobile	30,653	15	Includes hours logged by 42 county sheriff's offices

Total hours logged includes DNR and county sheriff's offices.

SAVING LIVES INITIATIVE

The Division of Public Safety and Resource Protection provides response and presence for all outdoor recreation activities in the state. Our belief is grounded in the overarching goal that safety is our No. 1 priority. The *Saving Lives Initiative* is a statewide effort to prevent deaths and injuries across all types of outdoor recreation, including hunting, ATV/UTVing, snowmobiling, boating and more. The *Saving Lives Initiative* encompasses all the work done by the division to make outdoor recreation safer for everyone. These efforts include safety communication planning, safety marketing, weekend-long campaigns (Operation Dry Water, Think Smart Before You Start), presence at public events and expos, and more. The Division collaborates with non-profit groups, partner law enforcement agencies and media outlets to accomplish these goals.



New for 2023: program trailer with decals promoting safe and sober operation



OPERATION DRY WATER

Operation Dry Water is a national outreach and enforcement campaign to spread awareness about the dangers of boating under the influence (BUI) and the effort to remove impaired operators from our nation's waterways. It's a coordinated annual effort to create

a heightened national awareness and enforcement campaign. The three-day campaign normally runs near the Fourth of July holiday and last year, Operation Dry Water weekend was July 1 – 3, 2023.



Launched in 2009 by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) in partnership with the United States Coast Guard, Operation Dry Water has been a highly successful effort to draw public attention to the dangers of boating under the influence of alcohol and drugs. NASBLA is a national nonprofit organization that develops public policy for recreational boating safety and it represents the recreational boating authorities of all 50 states and the U.S. territories.

Law enforcement agencies that participate in Operation Dry Water are asked to increase BUI enforcement during the targeted enforcement weekend of Operation Dry Water as well as work with their local media, businesses and recreational boaters to spread the message and raise awareness of the dangers of boating under the influence.

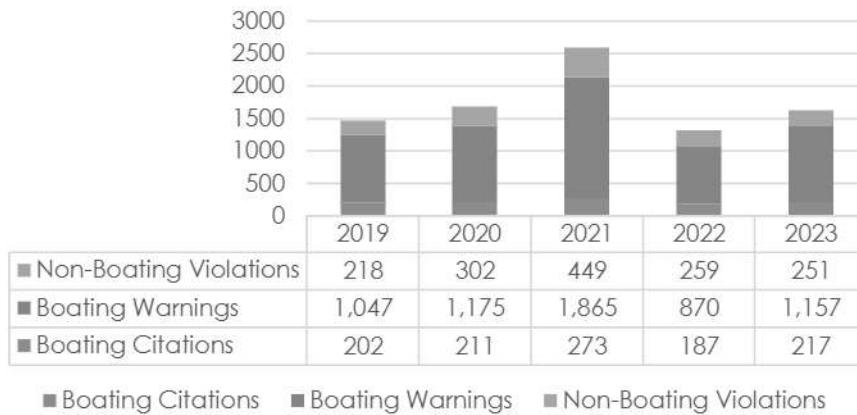
In 2023, 98 Wisconsin DNR conservation wardens participated in this national campaign. We cannot report the number of lives saved from this effort, but the experiences shared from law enforcement patrolling the waters show it is making a difference:

While patrolling during Operation Dry Water in La Crosse county, we stopped a vessel operating above the spillway on Pool 7 of the Mississippi River inside of the restricted area. The operator said he was told that you could go through the spillway and he was operating his boat in an unsafe manner next to the spillway. When we stopped the operator, he almost collided with our patrol boat. He was arrested for OWI and taken to the hospital for a blood draw. The PBT result was .178.

During the July Fourth weekend, DNR wardens on the water concentrated their efforts on:

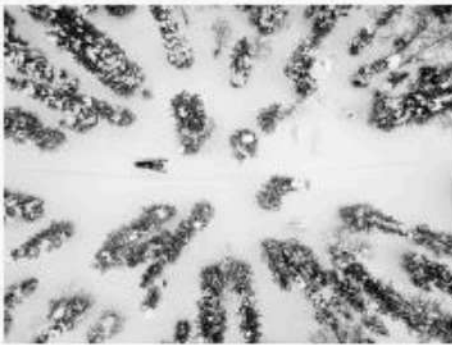
- Boating under the influence enforcement
- Drug enforcement
- Safety compliance checks
- Search and rescue
- Saturation patrol
- Heighted awareness during normal patrol
- Education
- Public Disturbance and disorderly conduct

Operation Dry Water Boating Violations



Wardens contacted 2,691 boats and conducted 6 media contacts during the weekend.

Wardens removed 28 impaired boaters from the water, assisted stranded boaters, responded to accidents and partnered with local law enforcement agencies and the United States Coast Guard



SAFETY | SNOWMOBILE

SNOWMOBILERS: SLED SAFE THIS SEASON

As Wisconsin receives measurable snowfall and many trails are anticipated to open for the first time this season, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is reminding snowmobilers to operate within their limits, stay sober and ride only on designated trails.

THINK SMART BEFORE YOU START & SLED SAFE CAMPAIGNS

The Think Smart Before You Start and Sled Safe campaigns are all-out, all hands-on-deck ATV/UTV and snowmobile safety and enforcement campaigns. The idea behind these campaigns was to create off-highway vehicle equivalents to the annual boating Operation Dry Water weekend. During these weekend-long events, division staff partner with county sheriff's offices to focus on heightened law enforcement presence and deterrence on our state's trails and roadway routes. The mission is to raise awareness and promote safe off-highway vehicle operations. Seatbelt and helmet use as well as intoxicated operation are the main focuses during the events.

Highlights from the 2023 Sled Safe snowmobile campaign:

- Over 2,000 miles of trails patrolled
- 15 distressed snowmobilers assisted
- Over 1,000 snowmobilers contacted
- 7 intoxicated operators removed from public trails





Highlights from the 2023 Think Smart Before You Start ATV/UTV campaign:

- 7 intoxicated operators removed from public routes and trails, 1 illegal drug violation
- Nearly 500 ATV/UTV riders contacted
- 150 violation warnings issued
- 1,400 miles of trail patrolled

FARM TECHNOLOGY DAYS

In August, division staff joined partners from the Wisconsin ATV UTV Association to promote the safe and responsible use of ATVs and UTVs. The annual Farm Technology Days is a perfect venue for outreach to agricultural users and recreational riders alike. This year, the event was held in Sauk County. The group was able to generate many contacts centered around the importance of helmet and seatbelt use and answered general questions about the ATV/UTV program and laws. The event was a great success and the division plans to participate again in



PARTNERS IN SAFETY – RIDE SAFE FOUNDATION

In early September, the division partnered with the [Ride Safe Foundation](#) and helped in delivering OHV safety messages to around 3,000 children in northern Wisconsin. This multiday effort focused on children attending schools in Maple, Minong, and Hayward. Powersport celebrities, Conservation Wardens, Outdoor Skills Trainers, Wisconsin ATV Association, Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs, and other statewide groups and volunteers contributed to the success of this event. Key safety messages included helmet use, seatbelt use, wearing a life jacket in a boat, taking an DNR sponsored safety class, and learning how to ride responsibly with an adult mentor.

PARTNERS IN SAFETY – MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING (MADD)



RECREATION | SAFETY | SNOWMOBILE

DNR PARTNERS WITH MADD TO PROMOTE SNOWMOBILE SAFETY THIS WINTER

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) are teaming up to promote a safe snowmobile season and educate Wisconsinites on the dangers of operating a snowmobile while impaired by alcohol and/or other drugs.

The Division was also able to partner with the [Mothers Against Drunk Driving \(MADD\)](#) to help spread the word on safety. Together, the agencies were successful in delivering timely safety messages statewide for ATV, snowmobile, and boating safety. The press releases and informational “rack cards” focused on the fact that many fatal and injury recreational vehicle crashes involve alcohol use. The message was clear – drive sober.

KIDS DON'T FLOAT! LIFE JACKET LOANER BOARD



The Kid's Don't Float! Life Jacket Loaner Board program is a cooperative program between the DNR and community partners that places life jacket loaner stations at boat landings around Wisconsin. The stations provide life jackets for boaters to borrow if they do not have the appropriate amount or size for everyone in their boat. Boaters return their borrowed life jackets to the station at the end of their voyage.



There are currently more than 100 stations in the Life Jacket Loaner Board program, with five stations added in 2023. At the end of the season, staff at several stations reported positive interactions during the busy summer months and said they look forward to displaying them each year.



Partners in this program represent a variety of government and service organizations. The DNR provides the construction instructions, signage and life jackets. Partners are responsible for obtaining permission to place the structure, construction materials, constructing and maintaining the station, over-winter storage and periodically checking the stations for damage, theft or other issues.

Each station is provided with three infant, eight child, eight youth, eight adult and five adult XL life jackets and four Type IV throwables.

Station partners have received donated life jackets that they evaluated and included in the inventory as appropriate. Several

partners opt to fund their own station, helping us expand the program further and cover more high-use boating landings.

The program also provides a visual reminder to boaters to make sure they have a life jacket when boating. The Life Jacket Loaner Board program continues to grow in Wisconsin thanks to the efforts of the partners involved.

BOATING SAFETY WELCOME CENTERS

To reduce the trend in boating related fatalities, this boating season the DNR Division of Public Safety And Resource Protection committed resources to *Boating Safety Welcome Centers*, of which successfully promoted life jacket wear, responsible boating practices and water safety marketing.

Building off the Loaner Life Jacket program and to expand safe and responsible boating messaging, the division attended events and promoted safety with boating “Welcome Centers.” Supplies including Wear It Wisconsin corn hole boards, attention grabbing flags, tables and screen-printed tents were displayed. The division’s Outdoor Skills Trainers and Community Service Officers staffed these events. The purpose of these welcome centers was to provide opportunity to interact with division staff and boaters to discuss safe boating and the importance of wearing life jackets. In the program’s second season, we have deployed at 20 different venues statewide. We will continue to expand this program in 2024.

Highlights consist of:

- 20 events held consisting of 6 National Night Out events, 7 boat ramp/lake locations, 4 safety fairs, 2 paddle events and an OutWiGO event
- Over 2,600 contacts with boating public
- Provided over 500 safety demonstrations

