

# Wisconsin Recreational Vehicle Safety Education And Enforcement

# 2024

## ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## Division of Public Safety & Resource Protection



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## 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

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## PROGRAM SUMMARY

### RECREATIONAL VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

#### REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

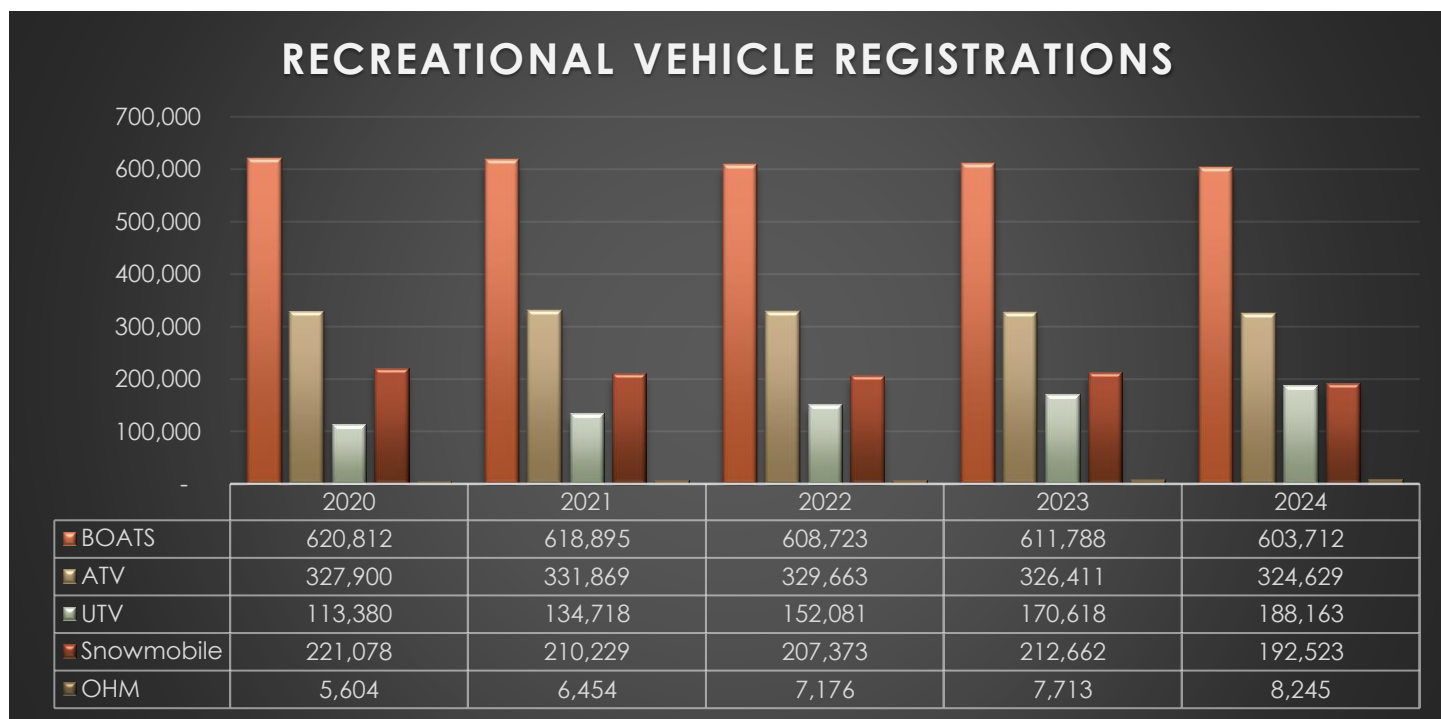
- **ATVs & UTVs** operating in Wisconsin must be registered as public use or private use, unless exempt from registration.
- **Snowmobile** registration is required for the operation of any snowmobile in Wisconsin unless the operation is exempt from registration.
- **Off-highway motorcycles** (OHMs) 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 31 of each calendar year. Registration periods generally run from April 1 through March 31 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 DNR 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 DNR 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 2024 reported non-fatal crashes, only 63% 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.

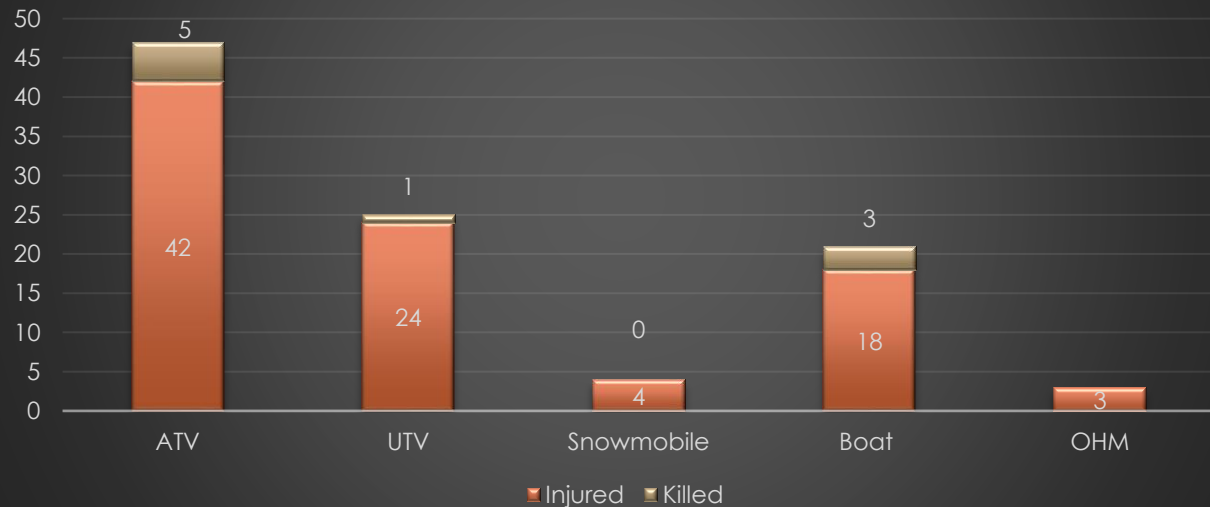
2024 Percentage of Reported Non-Fatal Crashes Investigated By Law Enforcement			
Crash Type	Reported Non-Fatal Crashes	Non-Fatal Crashes Investigated By Law Enforcement	Percentage Of Non-Fatal Crashes Investigated By Law Enforcement
ATV	131	85	65%
Boat	99	88	89%
OHM	8	5	62%
Snowmobile	23	7	30%
UTV	141	71	50%
Total	402	256	63%

2024 Crash-Related Fatalities And Injuries		
Crash Type	Crash Deaths	Reported Injuries In Non-Fatal Crashes
ATV	21	150
Boat	14	67
OHM	1	9
Snowmobile	3	27
UTV	19	166
Total	58	428

## Total Fatal & Non-fatal Crashes By Vehicle Type

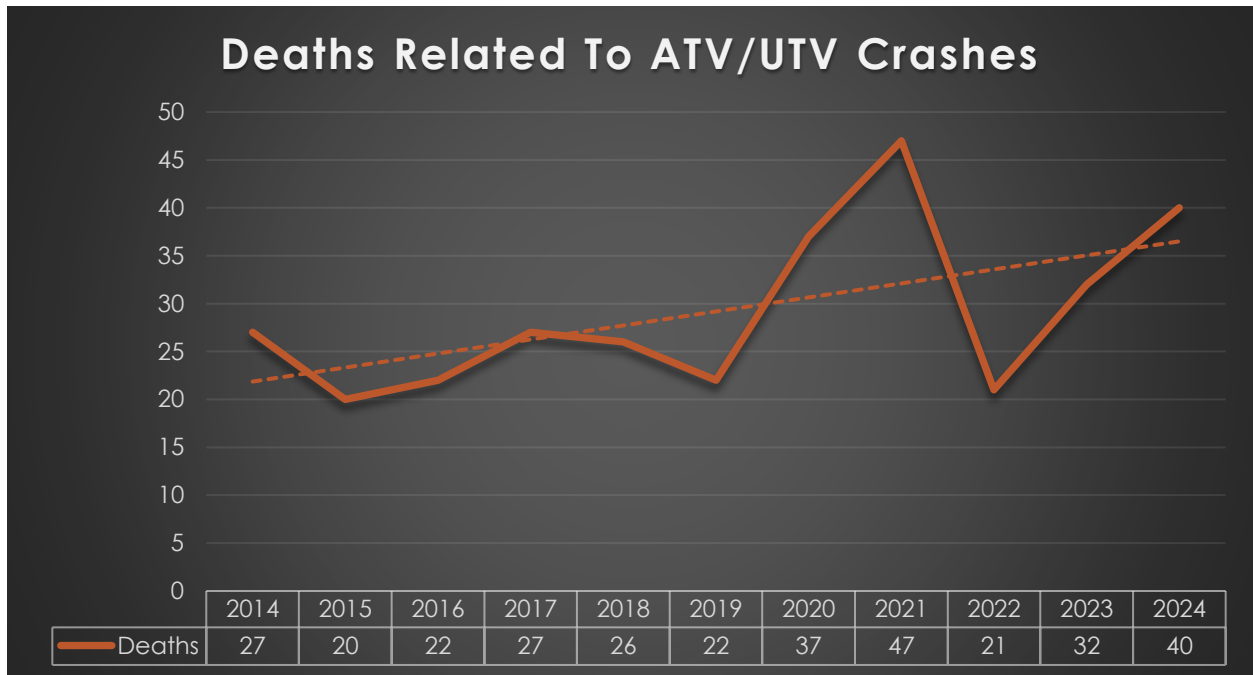


## Minors (Age ≤ 17) Killed & Reported As Injured In Crashes

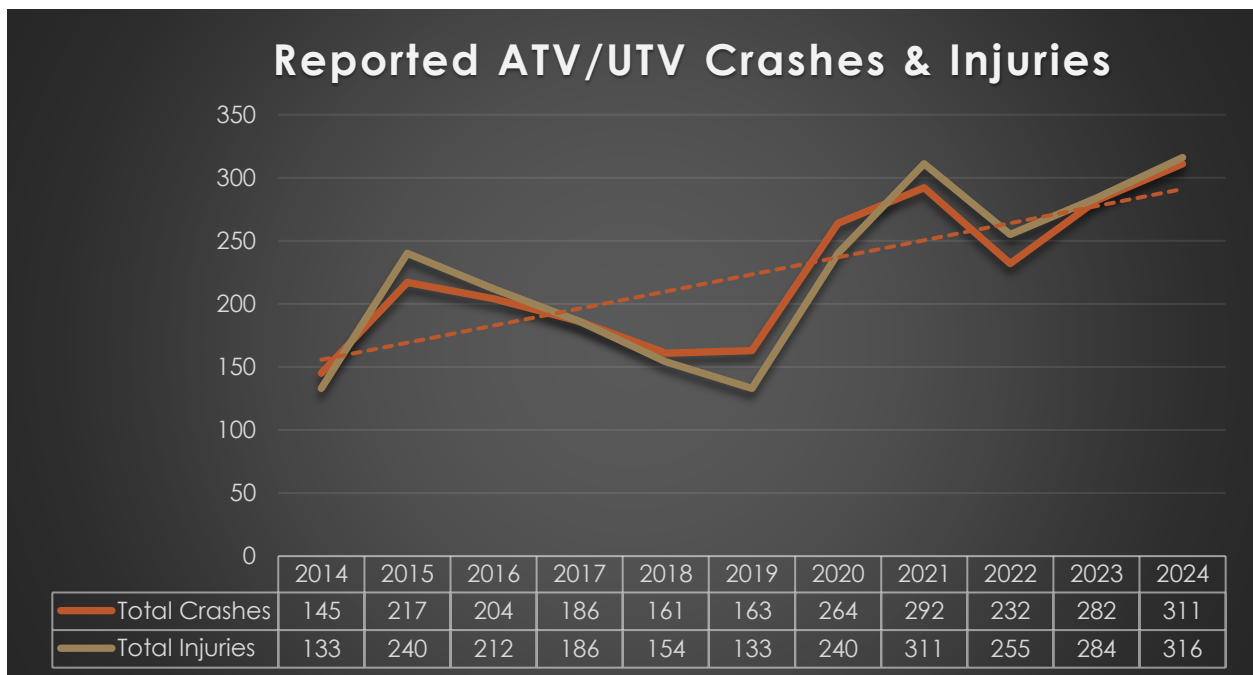


As the number of registered vehicles and recreational opportunities continue to grow, so does the number of reported injuries and crash-related deaths. The program continues to focus on public education through the *Saving Lives* initiative, which includes targeted enforcement weekends, safety marketing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

## ATV & UTV CRASH STATISTICS

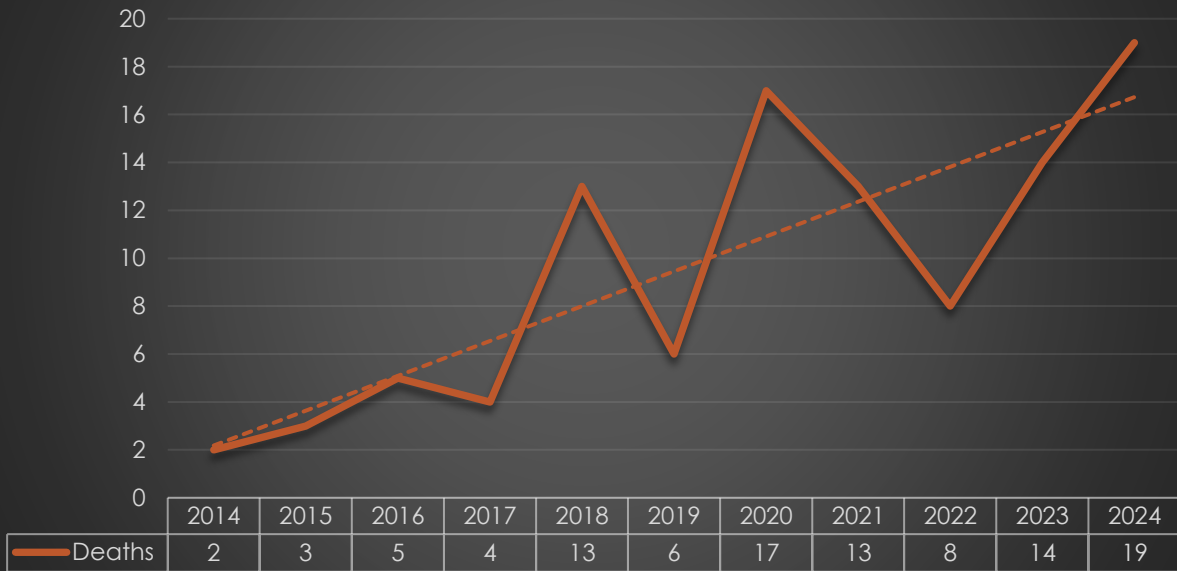


In 2024, seven of the fatal crash victims in ATV/UTV crashes were passengers.

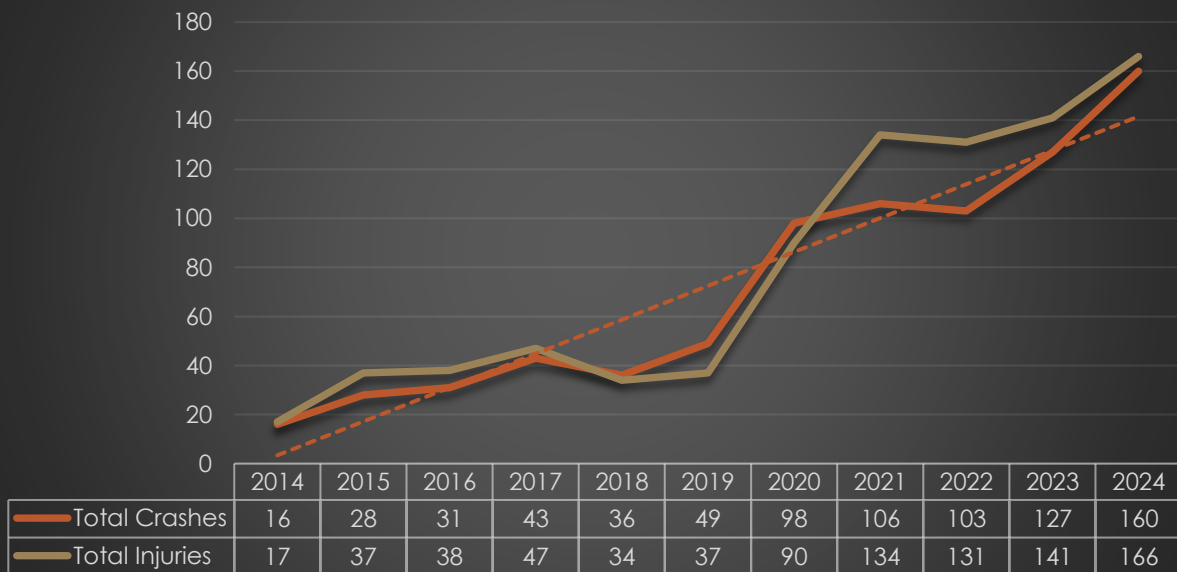


Of the 316 injuries in ATV/UTV crashes in 2024, 96 victims were passengers.

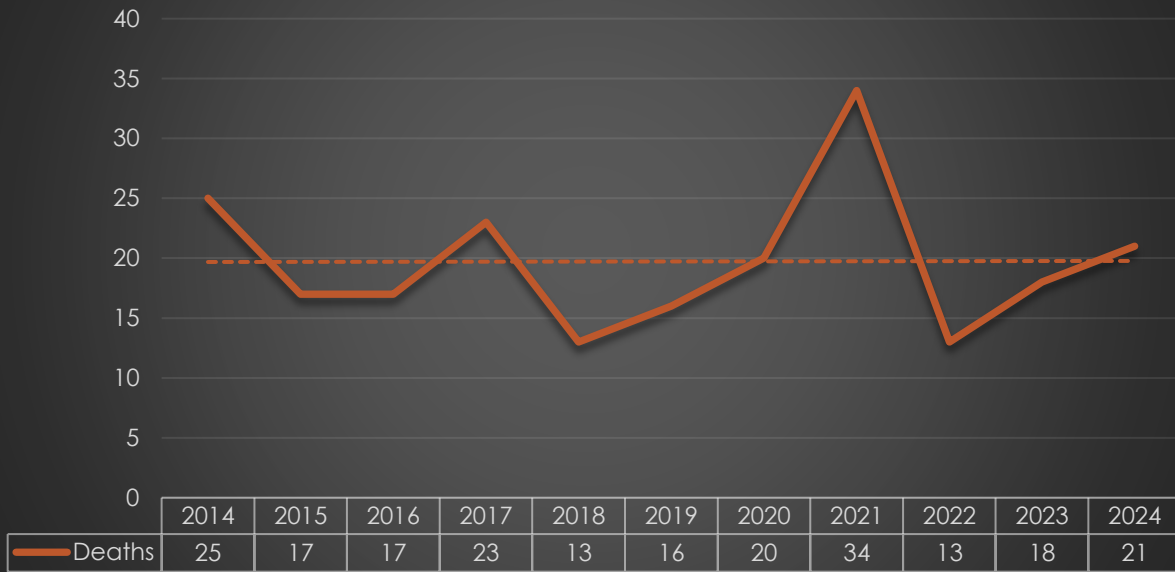
## Deaths Related To UTV Crashes



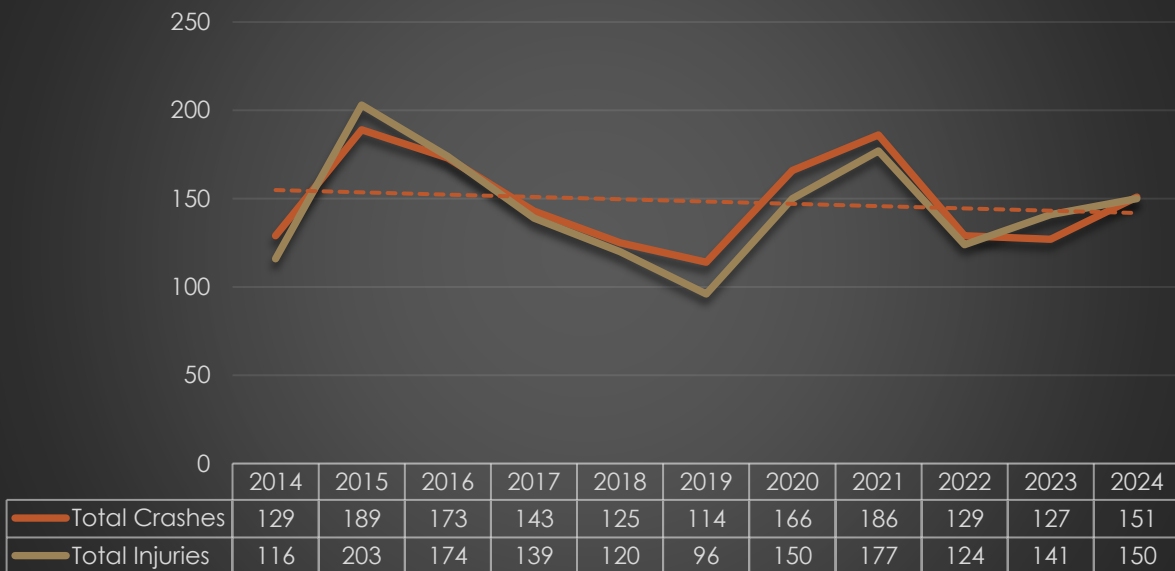
## Reported UTV Crashes & Injuries



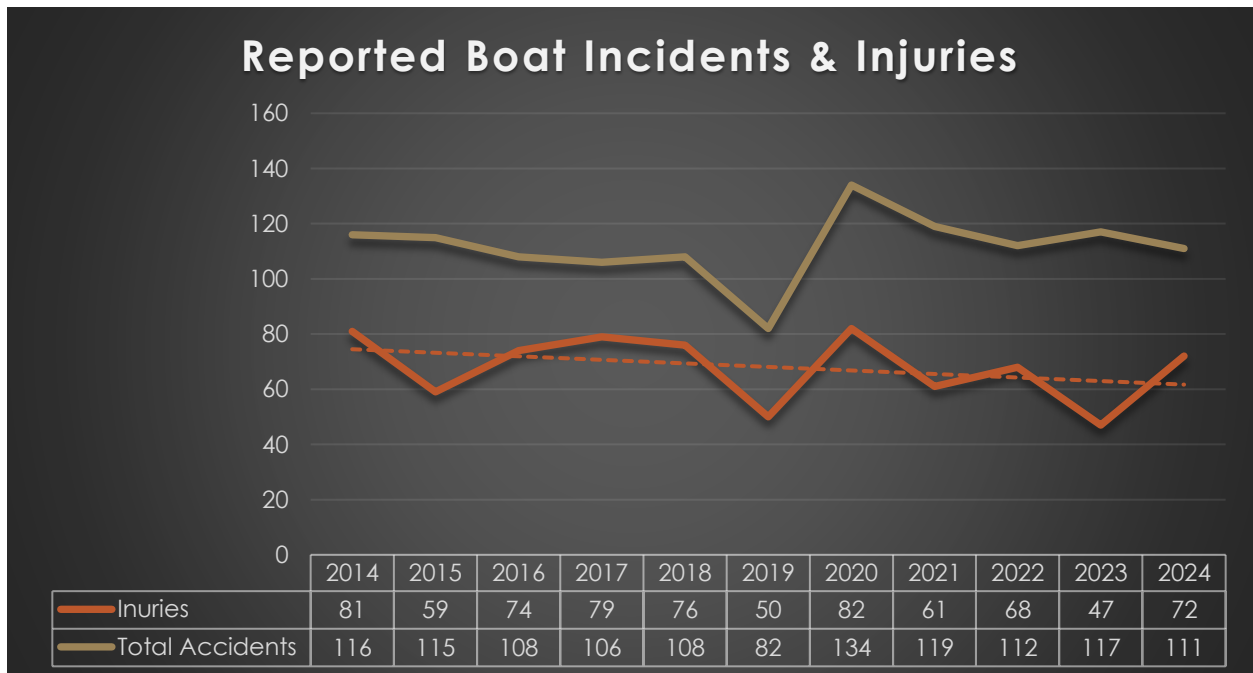
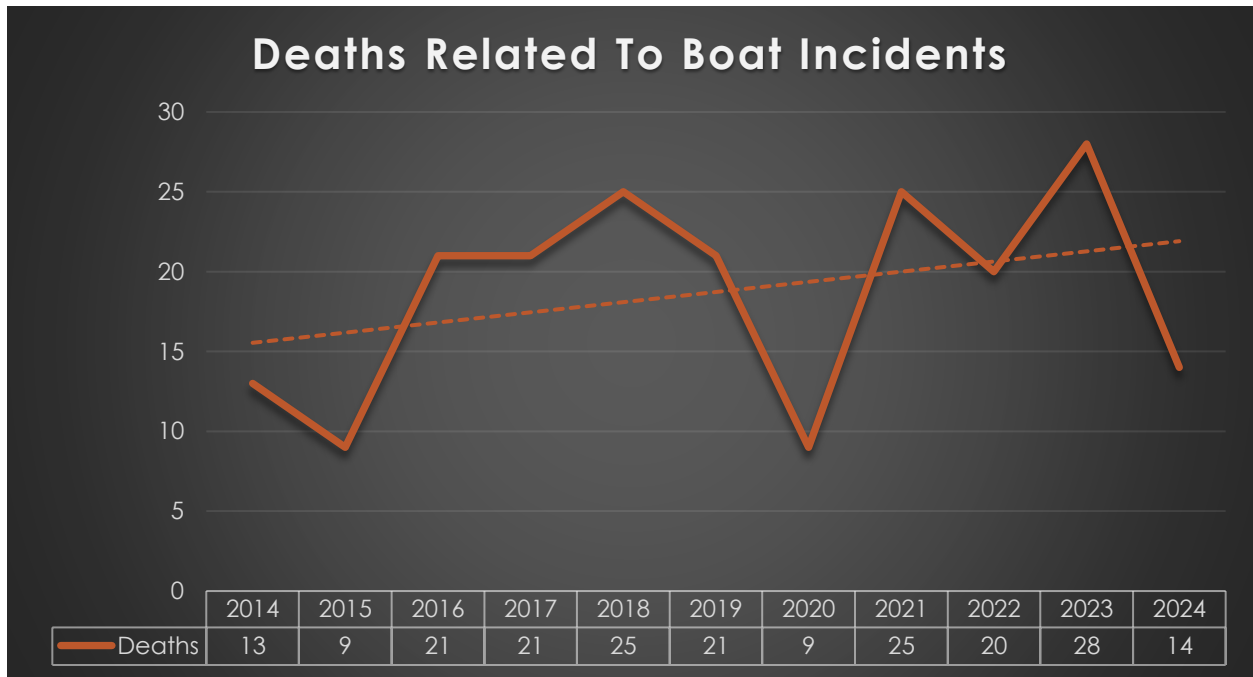
## Deaths Related To ATV Crashes



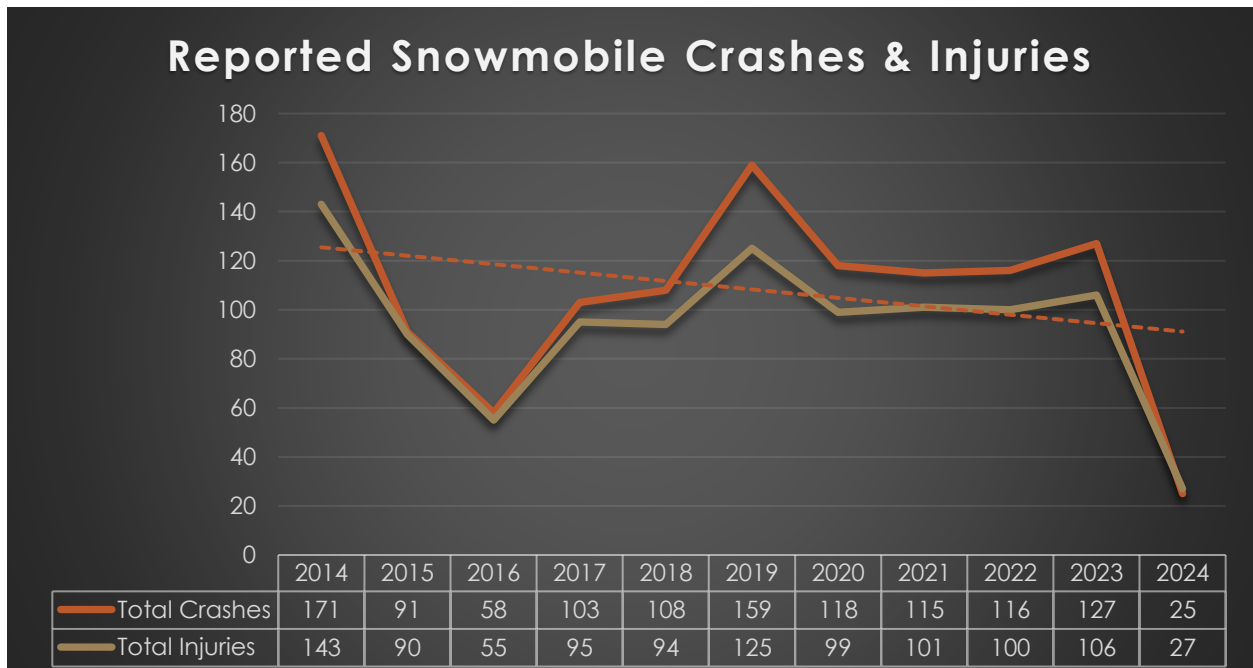
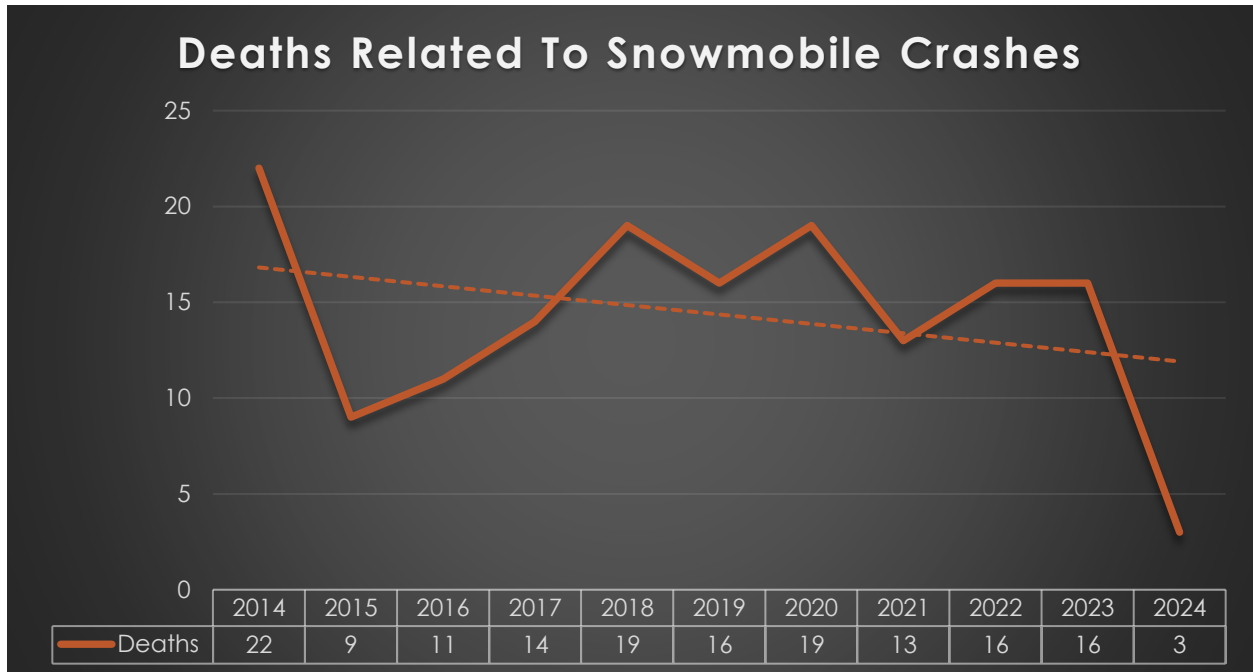
## Reported ATV Crashes And Injuries



## BOATING INCIDENT STATISTICS

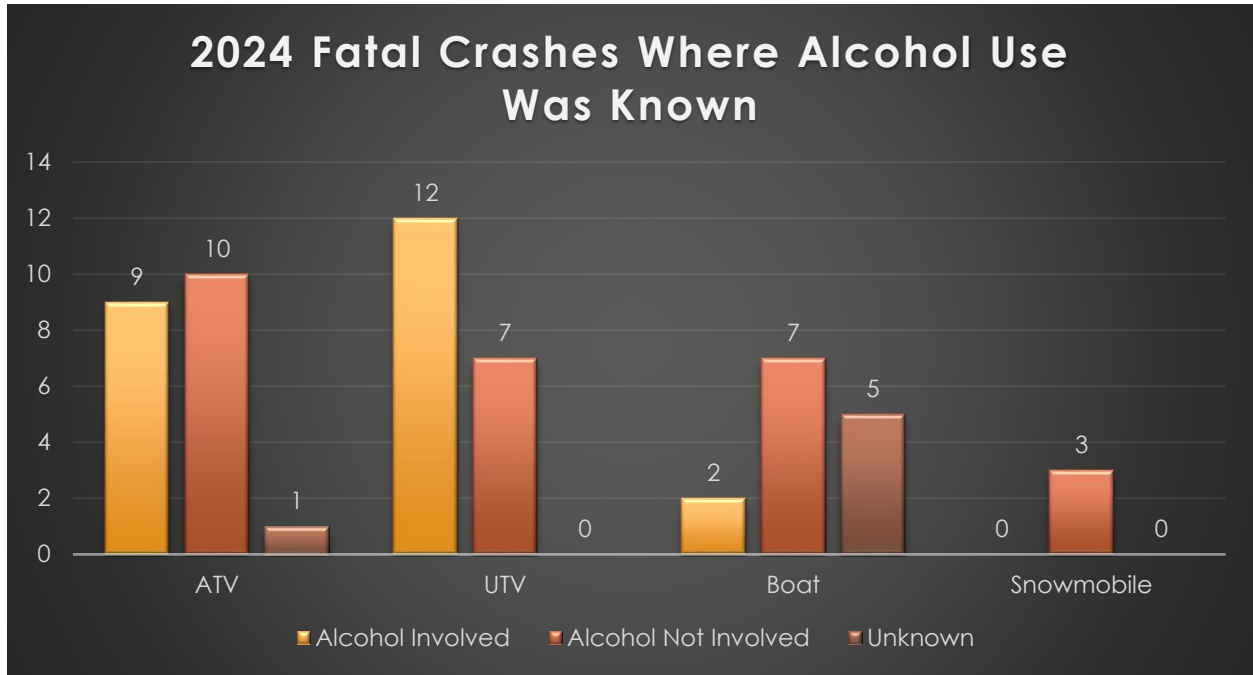


## SNOWMOBILE CRASH STATISTICS

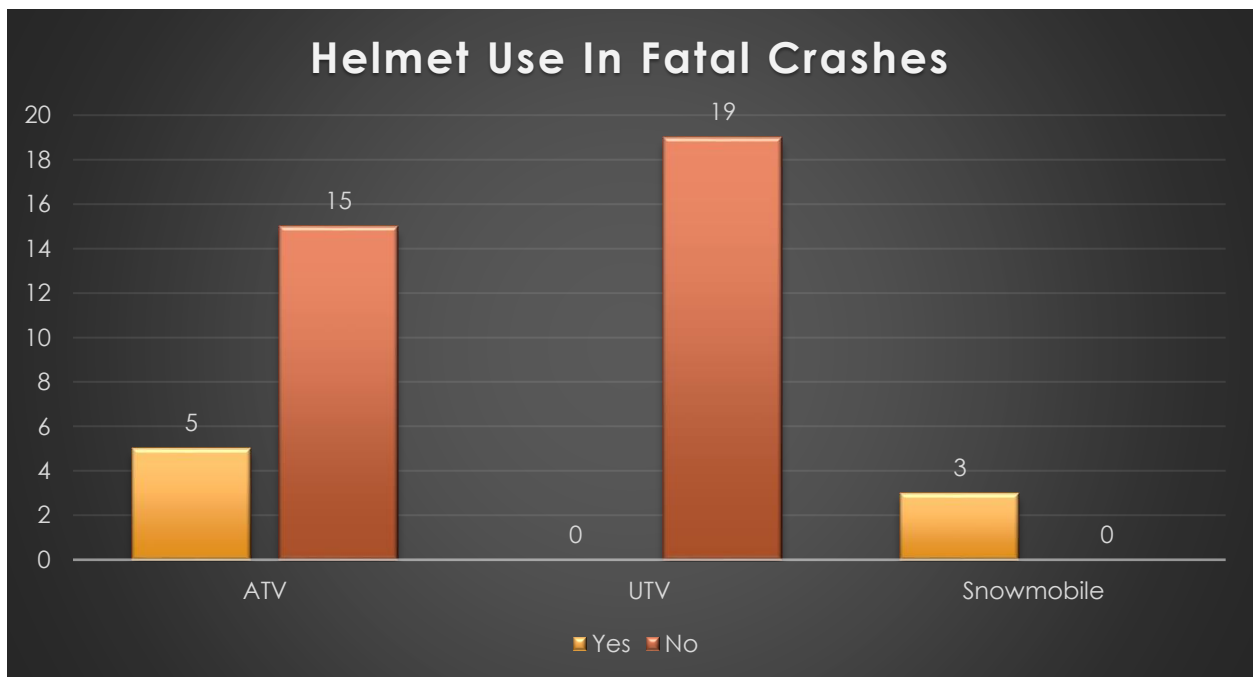


The total number of injury crashes and deaths was historically low in 2024. This can likely be attributed to relatively low snowfall totals statewide and a shorter than average snowmobile season.

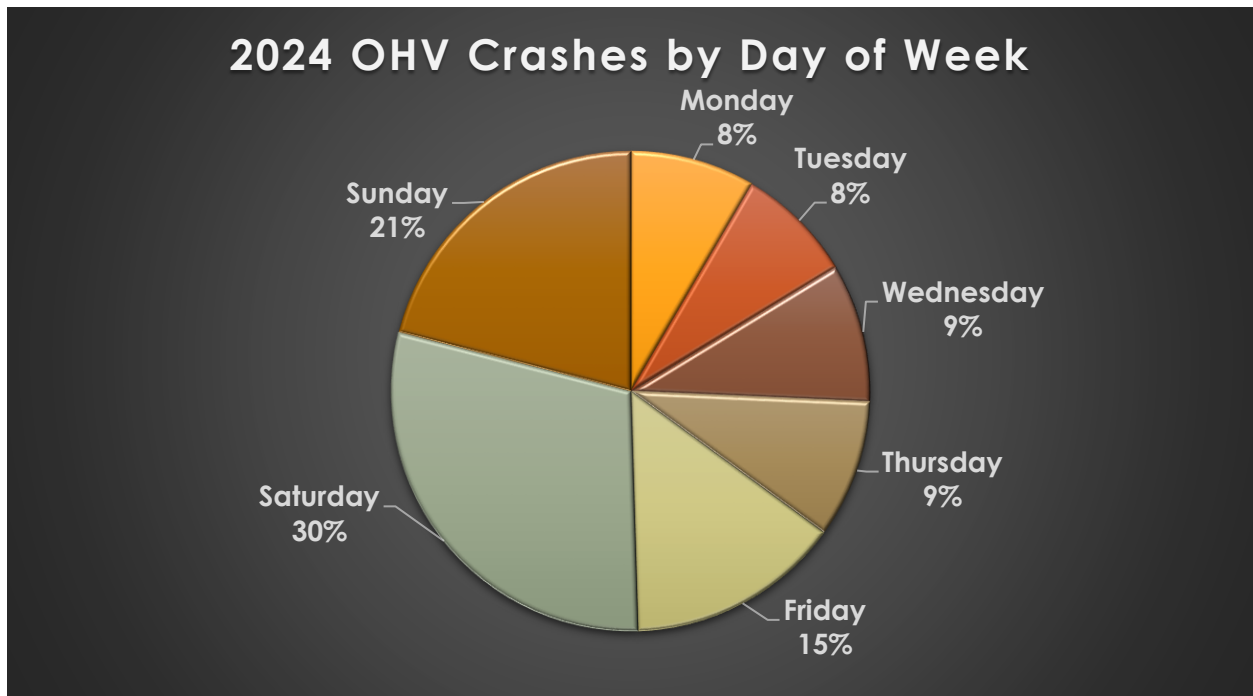
## CRASH FACTORS & CONDITIONS



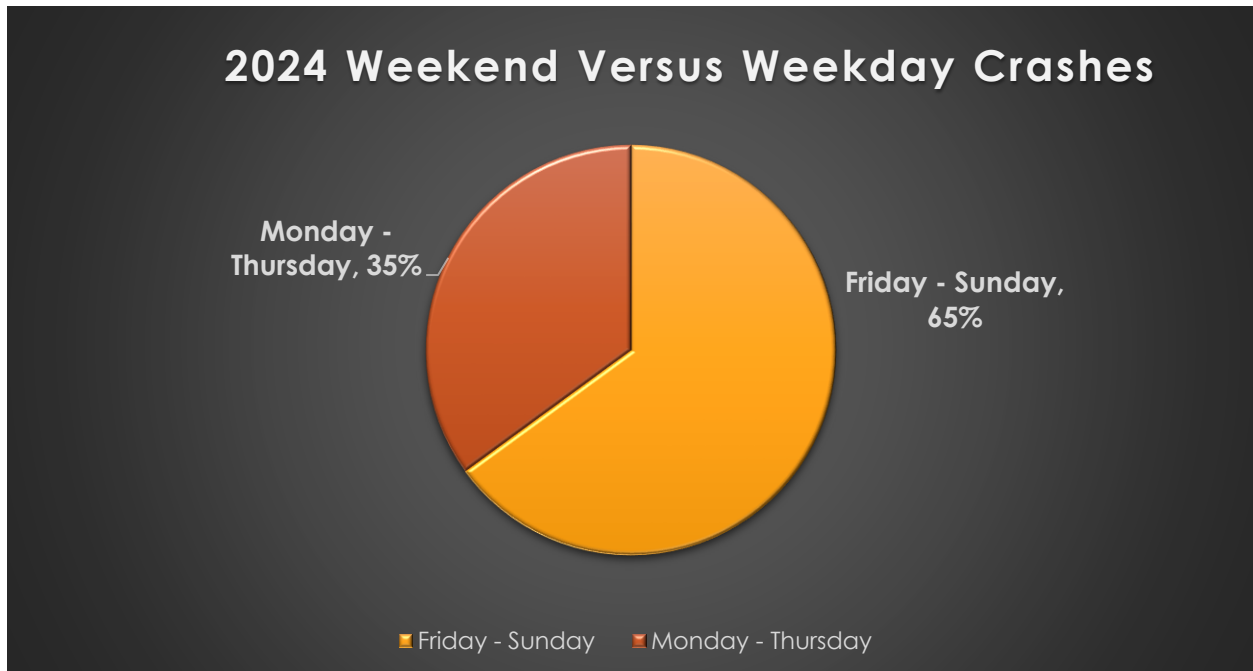
At least 23 fatal recreational vehicle crashes involved alcohol in 2024. Alcohol involvement was unknown in six crashes.



More than 85% of fatal ATV/UTV crash victims were not wearing a helmet at the time of the crash.

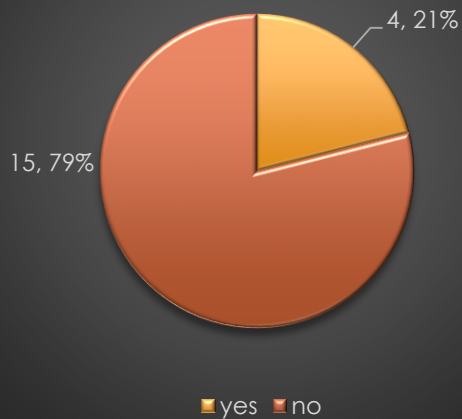


Data includes fatal and non-fatal crashes investigated by law enforcement.



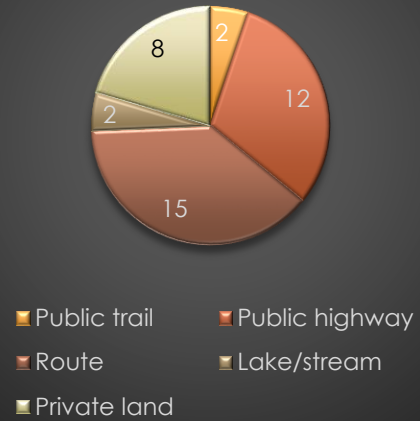
Data includes fatal and non-fatal crashes investigated by law enforcement.

### UTV Seatbelts Worn In Fatal Crashes



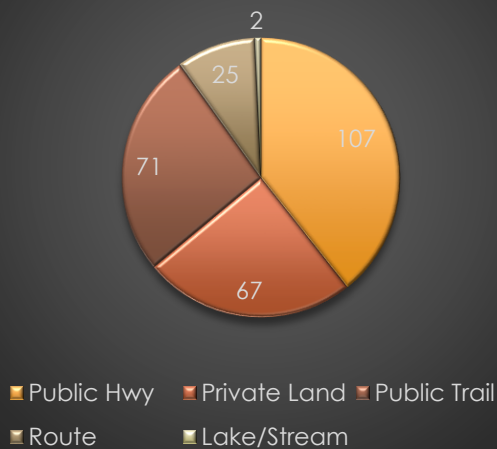
In 2024, nearly 80% of UTV fatal crash victims were not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash.

### ATV/UTV Fatal Crash Locations



A combined 69% of crashes occurred on public highways and road routes in 2024.

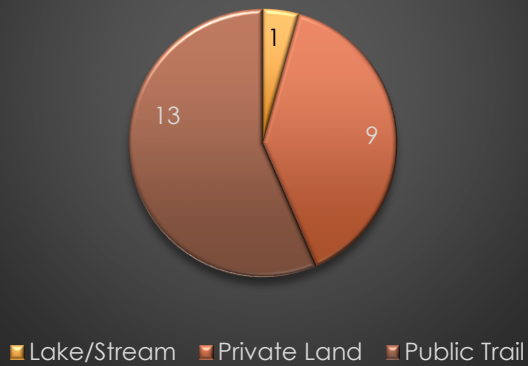
### ATV/UTV Non-fatal Crash Locations



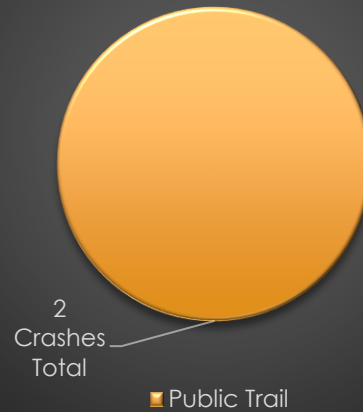
Over 130 non-fatal crashes occurred on public highways and road routes in 2024.



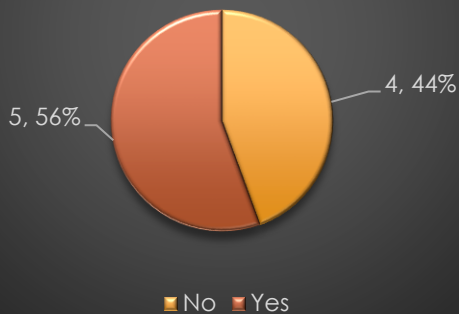
### Snowmobile Non-fatal Crash Locations



### Snowmobile Fatal Crash Locations

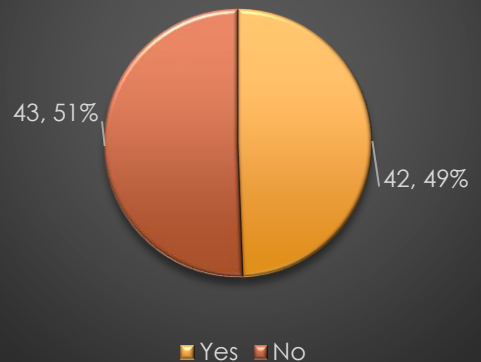


### Snowmobile Operator Safety Education Compliance

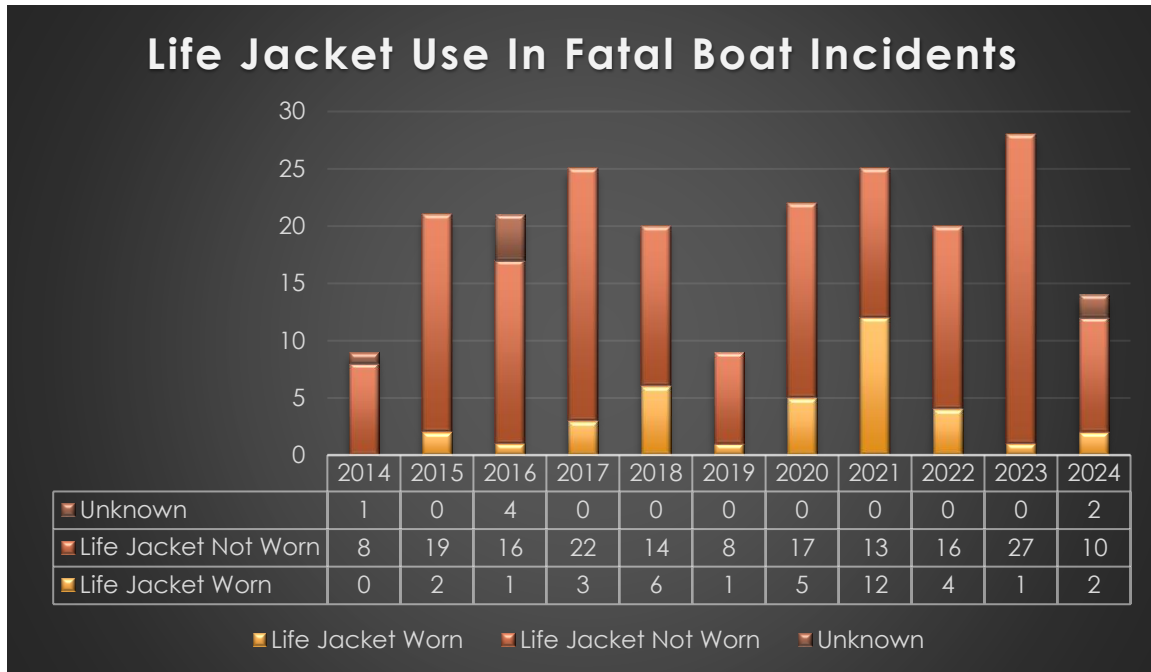


Of the 9 operators required by law to have a valid snowmobile safety certification, 5 had completed the required training.

### ATV/UTV Operator Safety Education Compliance



Of the 85 operators required by law to have a valid ATV safety certification, 42 had completed the required training.



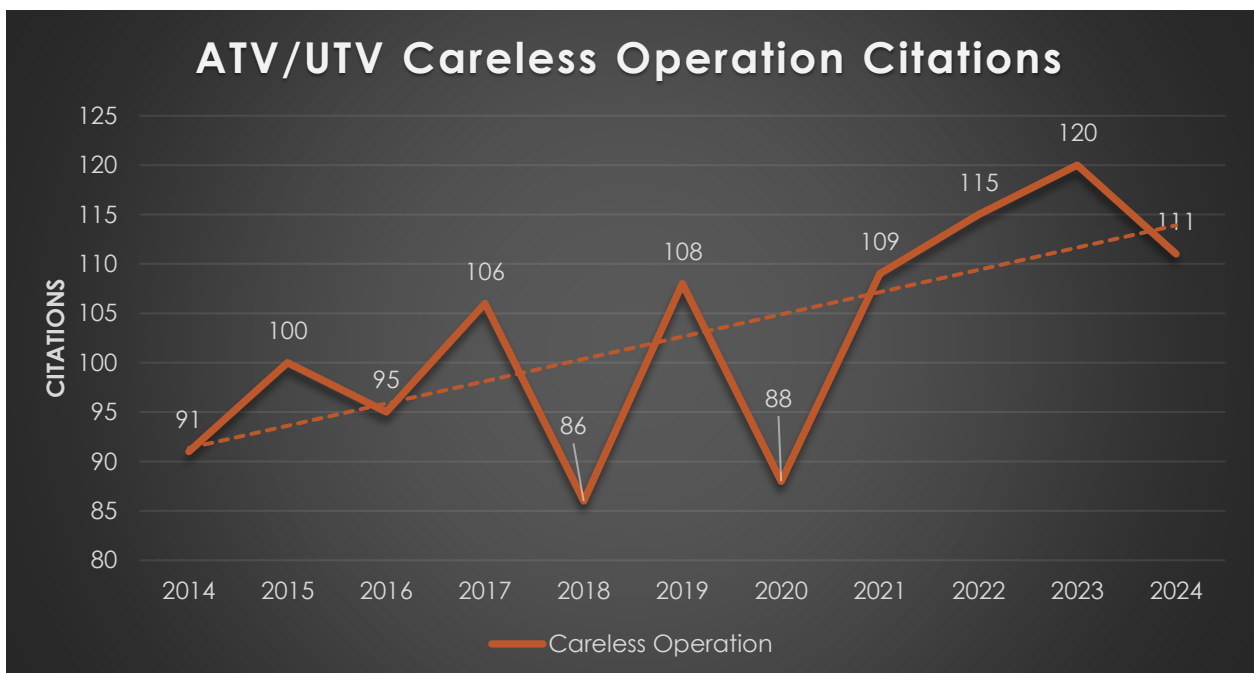
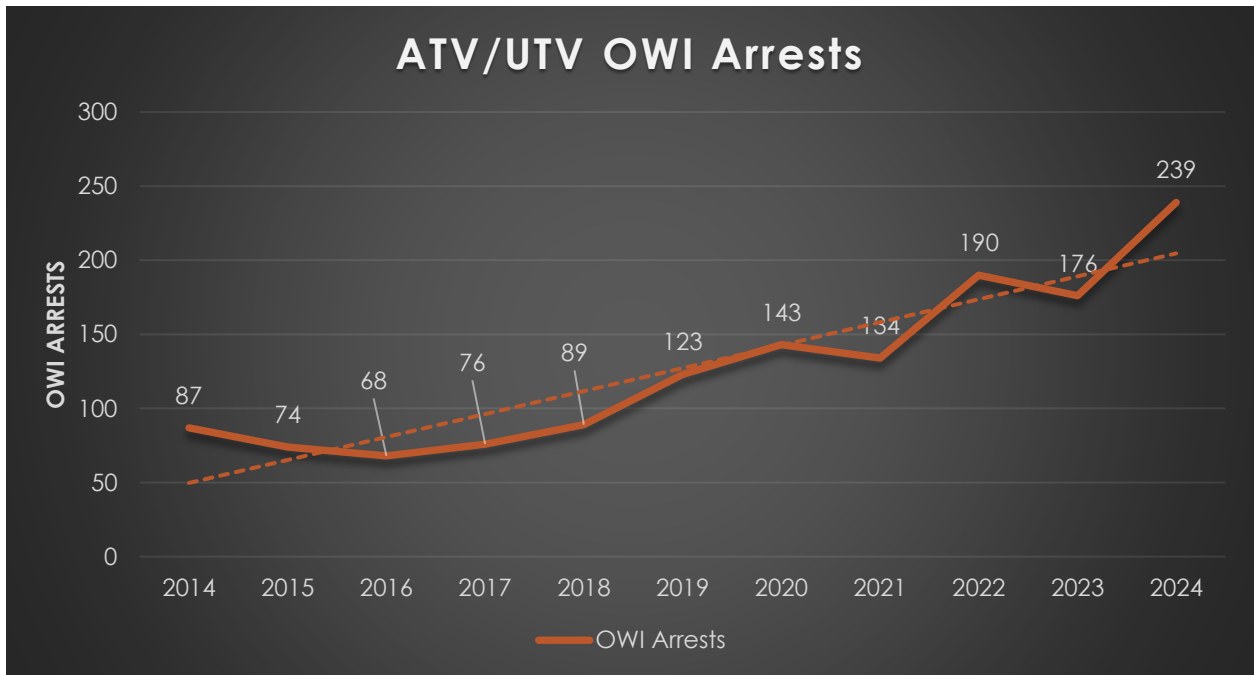
Top 3 Factors In Non-Fatal Crashes	
ATV	1. Excessive speed 2. Careless/reckless operation 3. Alcohol
UTV	1. Careless/reckless operation 2. Alcohol use 3. Excessive speed
Snowmobile	1. Operator inattention 2. Careless/reckless operation 3. Alcohol use
Boat	1. Operator inattention 2. Operator inexperience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

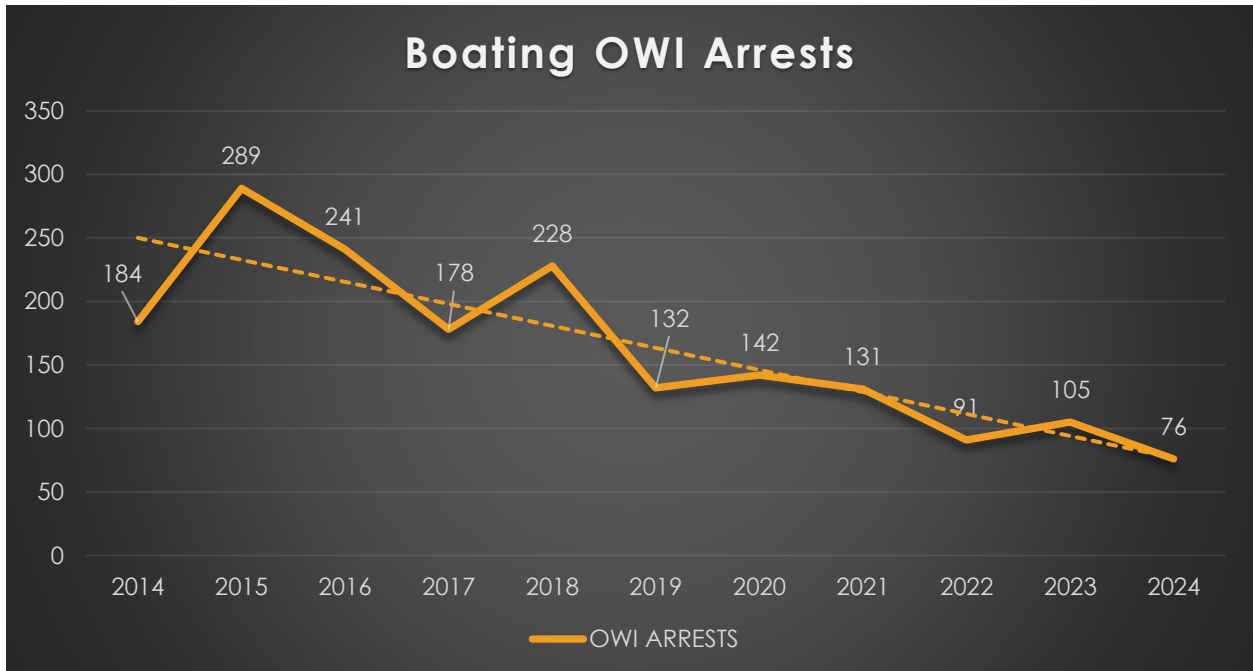
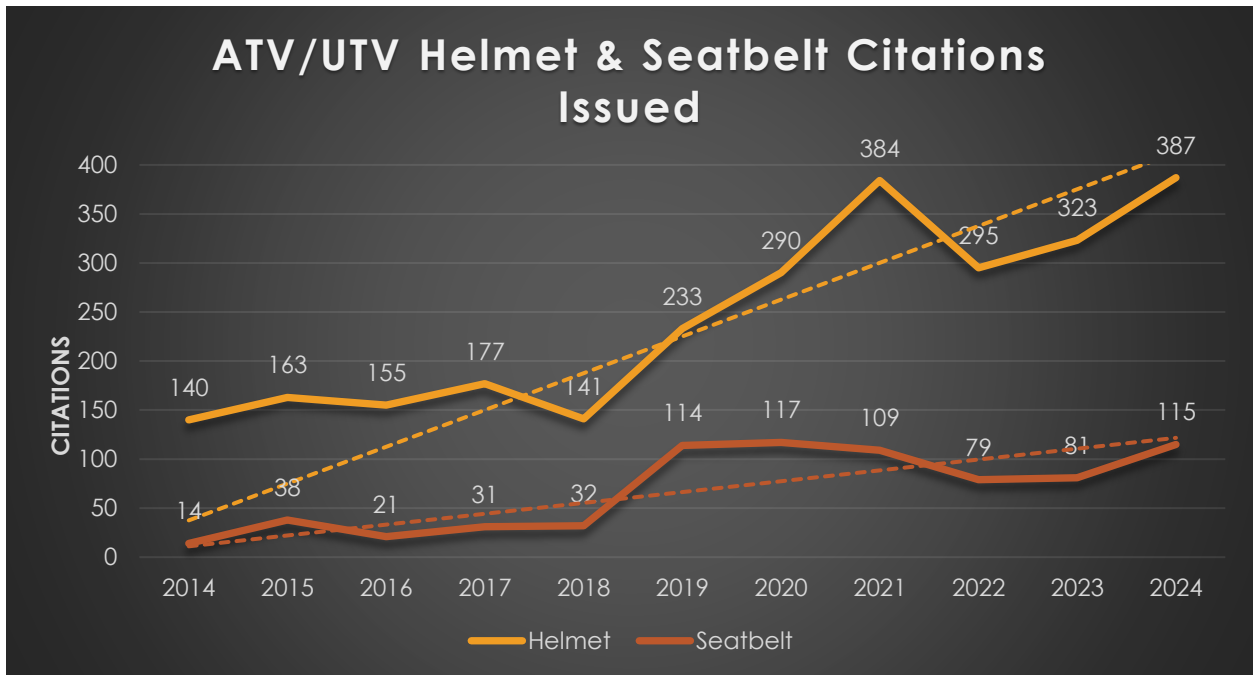
Top 3 Factors In Fatal Crashes	
ATV	1. Alcohol use 2. Excessive speed 3. Careless/reckless operation
UTV	1. Alcohol use 2. Excessive speed 3. Operator inattention
Snowmobile	1. Excessive speed 2. Careless/reckless operation 3. Sharp turn
Boat	1. Operator inexperience 2. Weather 3. Overloading

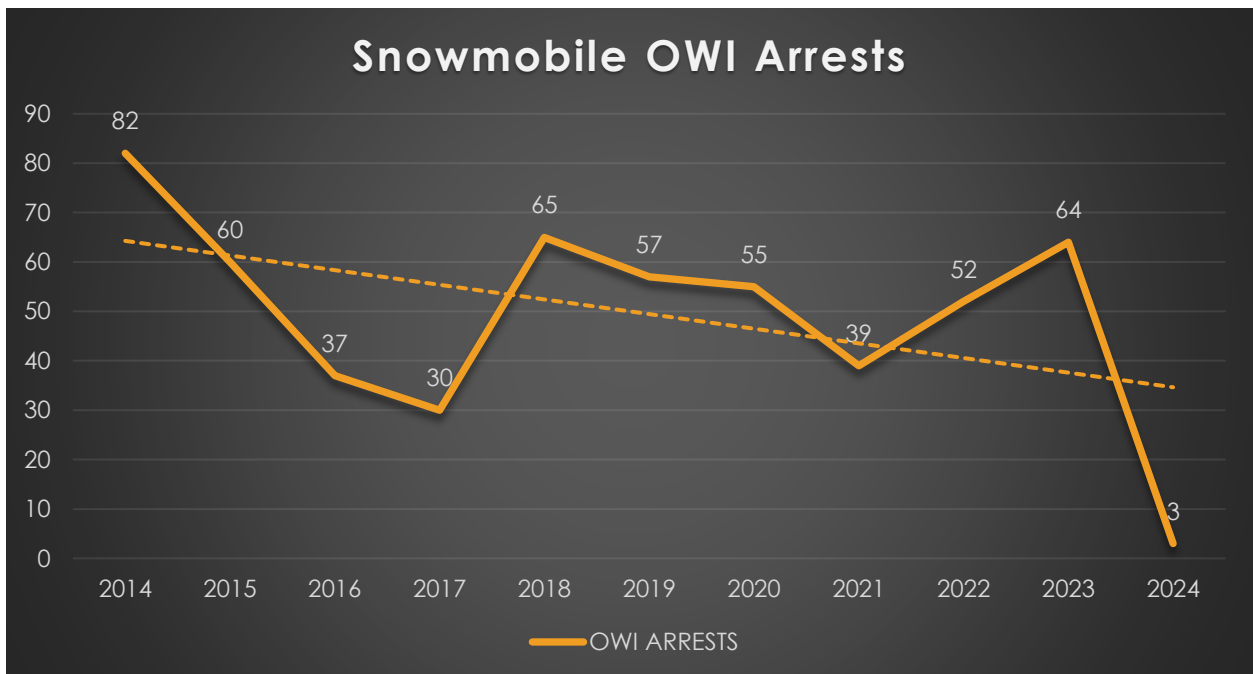
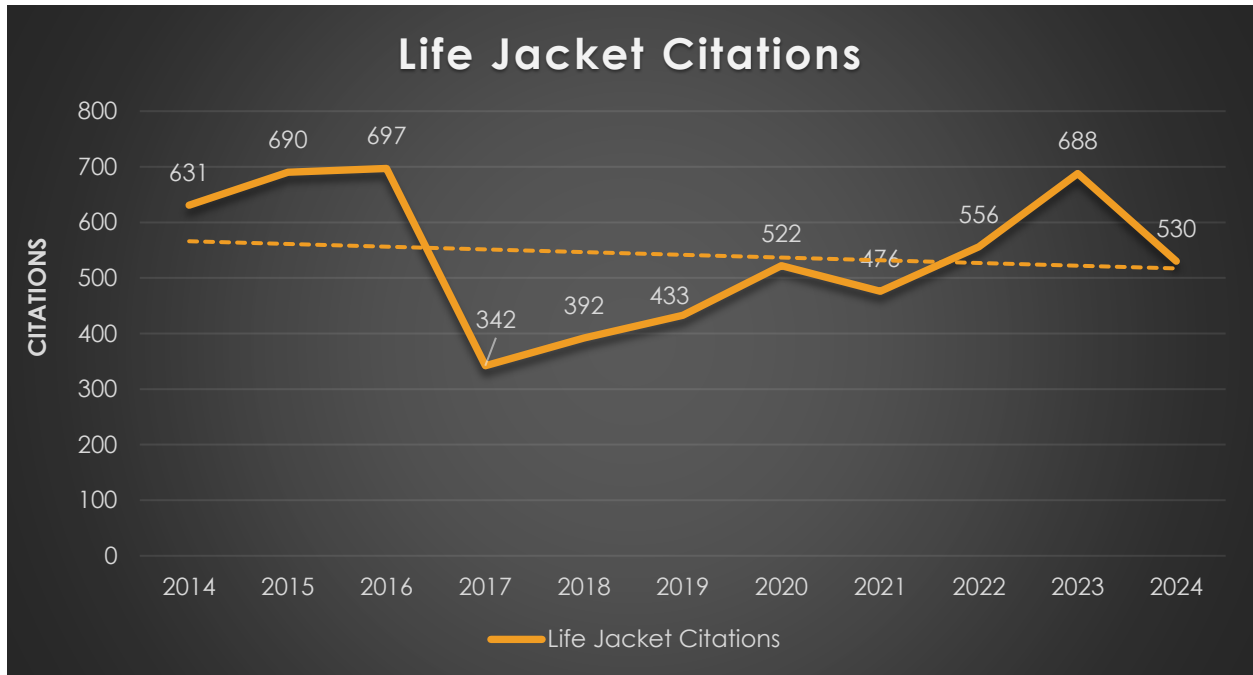
Alcohol, excessive speed and reckless operation continue to be the top contributing factors in recreational vehicle crashes.

## ENFORCEMENT

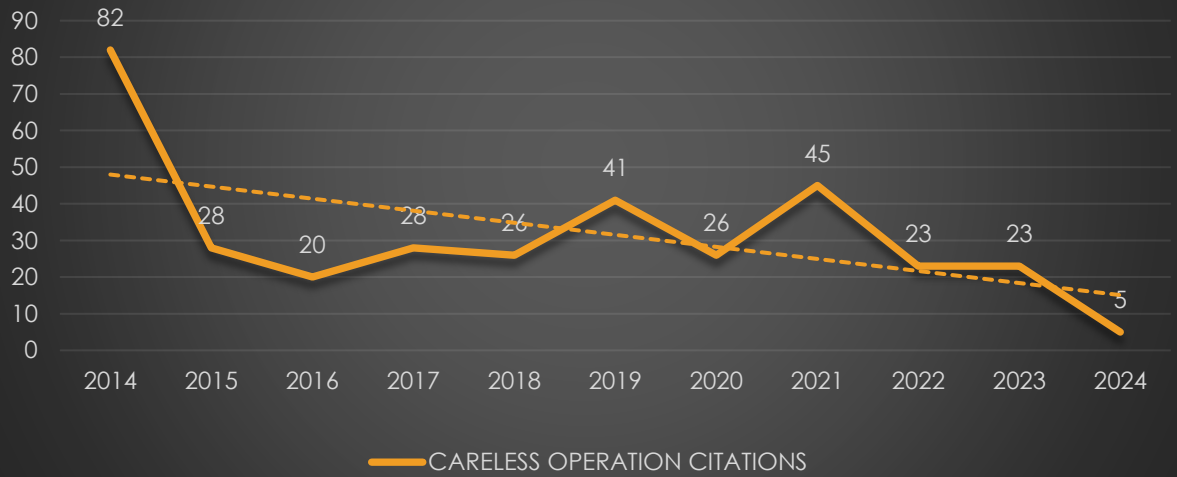
State conservation wardens and local law enforcement officers provide enforcement of recreational vehicles. The DNR administers funding to county and municipal enforcement patrols to reimburse part of their operating expenses. Citations issued by those patrol agencies are included in the figures below.



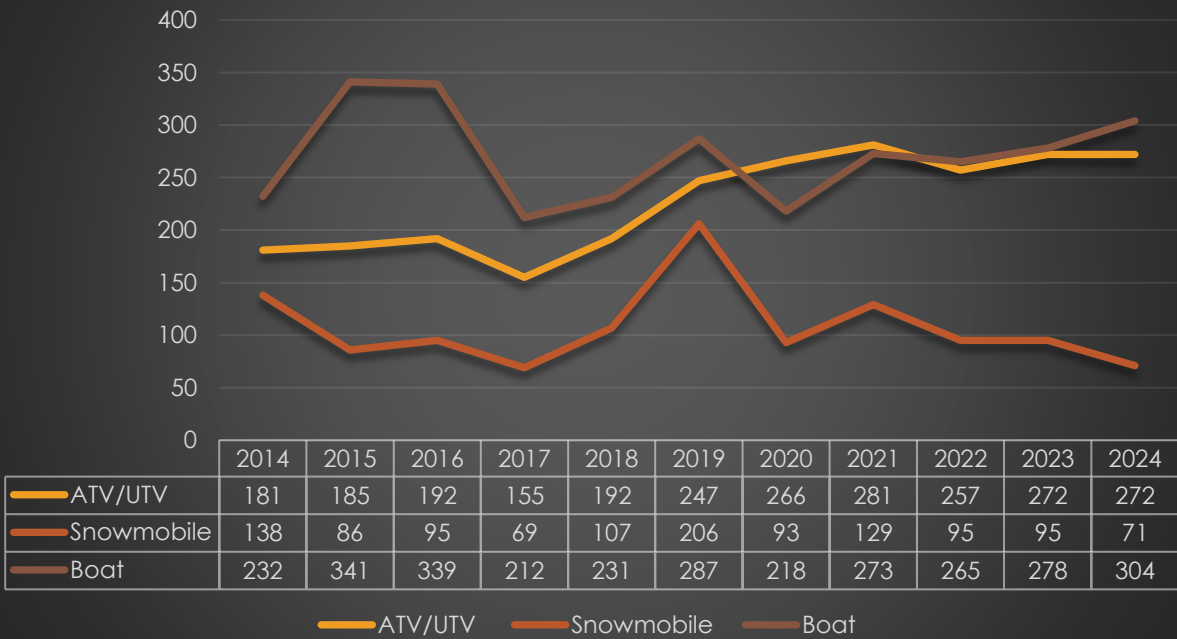




## Snowmobile Careless Operation Citations



## Safety Education Citations Issued



## TOP 10 CITATIONS ISSUED

2024 Top 10 ATV/UTV Citations	
COUNT	STATUTE DESCRIPTION
415	Unauthorized operation of all-terrain vehicle or utility terrain vehicle on or in the vicinity of highways
387	Operate or ride all-terrain vehicle or utility terrain vehicle without required headgear
239	Operate ATV/UTV under the influence of an intoxicant
209	Give permission to operate all-terrain vehicle without valid registration
174	Operate all-terrain vehicle without valid safety certificate
115	Operate UTV without passengers wearing seatbelts
111	Operate all-terrain vehicle or utility terrain vehicle in a careless manner
98	Operate all-terrain vehicle without valid safety certificate
94	Operate all-terrain vehicle or utility terrain vehicle on public property posted closed
86	Operate ATV/UTV contrary to stop sign, yield sign or other regulatory sign

2024 Top 10 Boating Citations	
COUNT	STATUTE DESCRIPTION
334	Fail to carry required number/type of readily accessible portable flotation device for each person on board or being attended by boat
171	Operate at speed in excess of posted notice established by regulatory markers
151	Operate a personal watercraft greater than slow-no-wake within 100 feet of another boat
127	Operate Boat without valid certificate of number
109	Fail to have required fire extinguishing equipment on board
97	Operate motorboat while age 16 or older without valid safety certificate
86	Operate a personal watercraft greater than slow-no-wake within 200 feet of shore
77	Fail to properly display certification/registration decal on boat
75	Operate a personal watercraft greater than slow-no-wake within 200 feet of shore on any lake
70	Allow riding on decks or gunwales

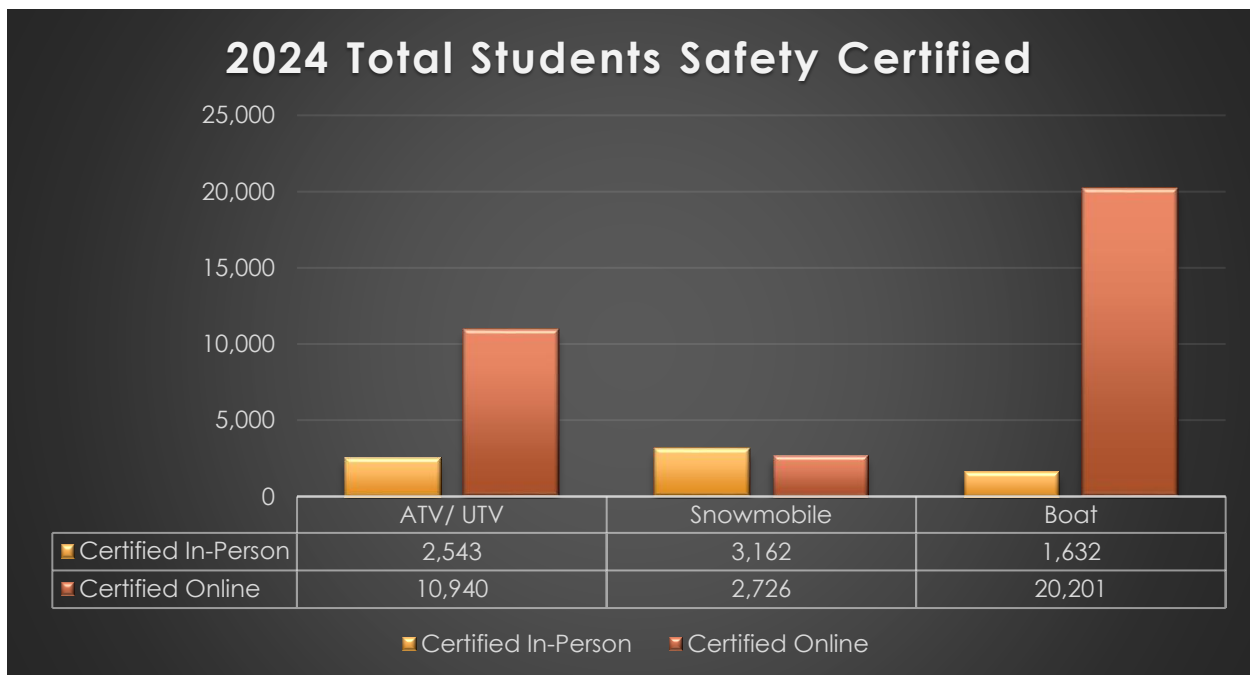
2024 Top 10 Snowmobile Citations	
COUNT	STATUTE DESCRIPTION
71	Operate snowmobile without valid safety certificate
66	Owner operating/giving permission to operate on public trail without proof of temporary trail use receipt
46	Give permission to operate snowmobile without valid registration
29	Fail to comply with regulatory signs
18	Failure of owner to properly display registration decal or trail use sticker on a snowmobile
14	Operate snowmobile on public property posted closed or where otherwise prohibited by law
13	Operate snowmobile on private property without owner's consent
11	Operate snowmobile without possession of valid registration certificate or valid proof of temporary operating receipt
8	Fail to carry or exhibit valid proof of safety certificate when operating snowmobile
8	Modify snowmobile so total exhaust exceeds manufactured noise level

2024 Top 10 Off-Highway Motorcycle Citations	
COUNT	STATUTE DESCRIPTION
47	Unauthorized operation of limited use OHM on roadway
14	Operate OHM without valid registration
10	Operate OHM without required safety certificate
10	Operate OHM on public property posted closed or where prohibited by law
6	Refuse to stop OHM after being requested or signaled to do so by law enforcement
6	Operate OHM in a careless manner
5	Operate limited use OHM on route/highway without wearing required protective headgear
2	Operate OHM with an alcohol concentration of .08 or more
2	Operate limited use OHM during darkness without proper lamps
2	Fail to exhibit proof of OHM registration to law enforcement officer

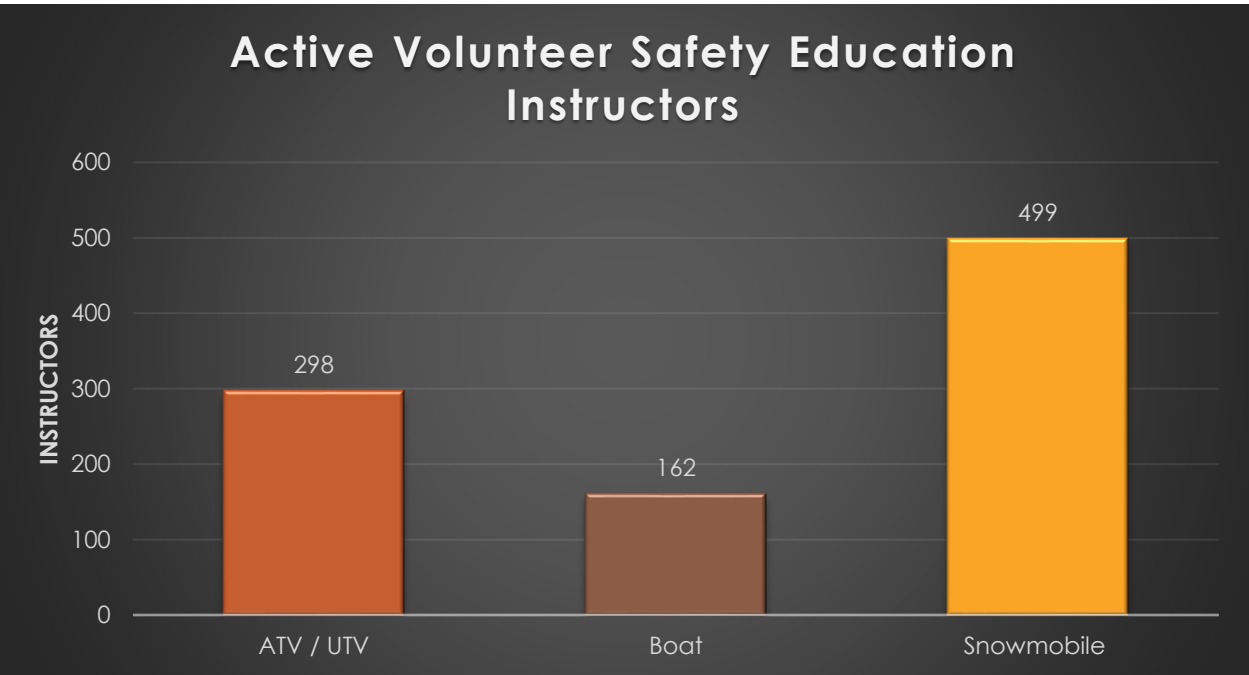
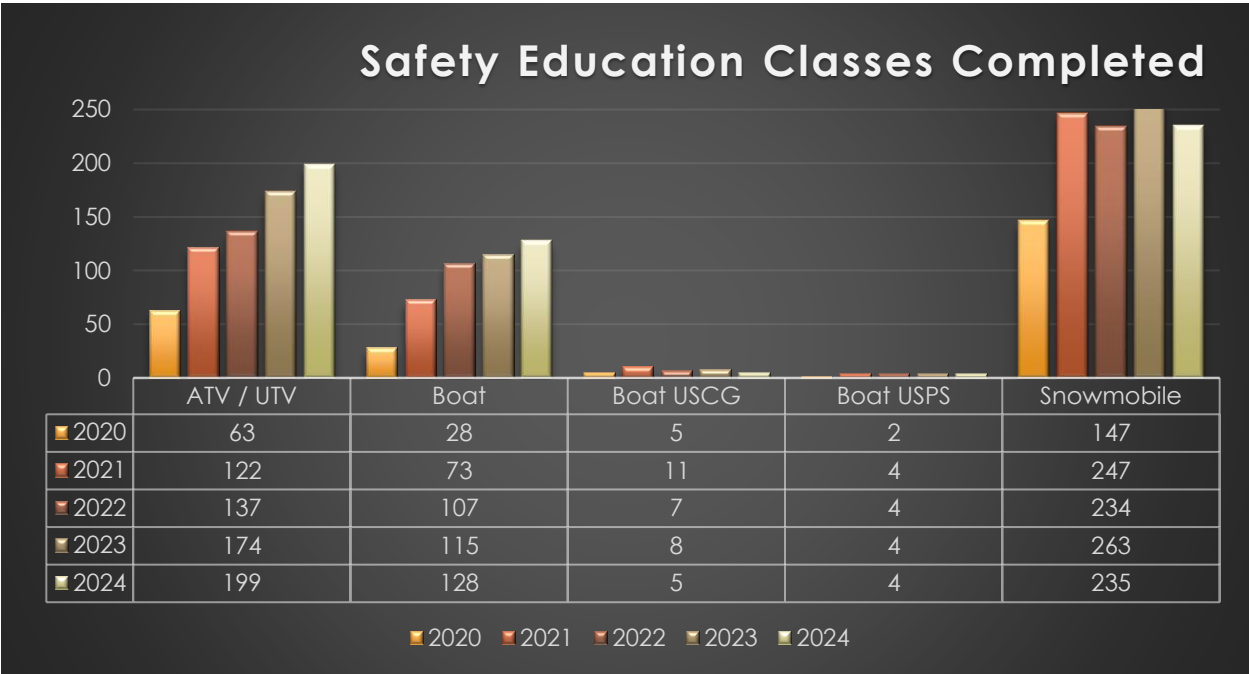
## SAFETY EDUCATION

- **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/UTV certifications also receive OHM safety certification.



Numbers reflect the total number of certified instructors who actively participated in teaching a course in 2024.

## 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 2024, sheriff's deputies and municipal patrol officers logged a total of 76,418 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	26,182	13	Total hours logged by 38 county sheriff's offices
Boat	47,409	23	Total hours logged by 95 county and municipal patrol agencies
Snowmobile	2,827	1	Total hours logged by 24 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 DNR collaborates with non-profit groups, partner law enforcement agencies and media outlets to accomplish these goals.



## 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 4-6, 2024.



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.

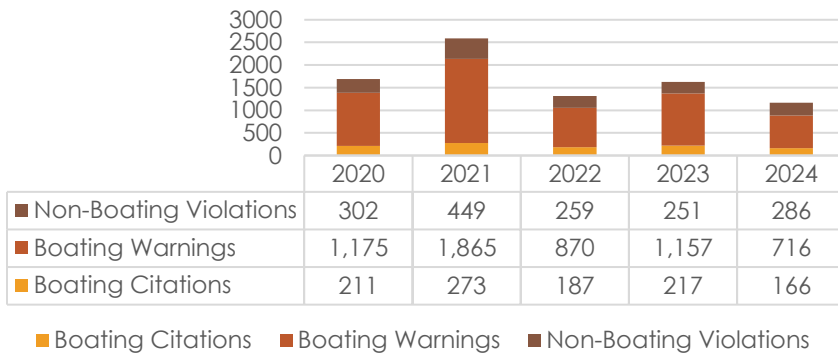
Law enforcement agencies that participate in Operation Dry Water are asked to increase BUI enforcement during the targeted enforcement weekend of Operation Dry Water as well as work with their local media, businesses and recreational boaters to spread the message and raise awareness of the dangers of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

In 2024, 89 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.

During the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 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 1,815 boats and conducted 8 media contacts during the weekend.

Wardens removed 27 impaired boaters from the water, assisted stranded boaters, responded to accidents and partnered with local law enforcement agencies and the United States Coast Guard.

## 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. Due to lack of snow conditions, the Division was unable to lead the planned Sled Safe campaign in 2024.

### Highlights from the 2024 Think Smart Before You Start ATV/UTV campaign:

- Two intoxicated operators removed from public trails/routes
- Over 850 miles of trail patrolled
- Nearly 180 contacts made
- Coordinated outreach via local media and DNR press releases

### ATV AND UTV OPERATORS: BE AWARE OF INCREASED LAW ENFORCEMENT AUG. 2-4



## FARM TECHNOLOGY DAYS

In August, division staff promoted the safe and responsible use of ATVs and UTVs at Farm Technology days. This annual event is a perfect venue for outreach to agricultural users and recreational riders alike. This year, the event was held in Chippewa County. Staff were 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 continue to advocate for safety at future Farm Technology Days.



## PARTNERS IN SAFETY – WISCONSIN ATV/UTV ASSOCIATION & RIDESAFE FOUNDATION



The [Wisconsin ATV-UTV Association](#) is a major partner in advancing the message of safe and responsible operation of OHVs in Wisconsin. The [Trail Ambassador Program](#) is a network of volunteers that work to educate the riding public by promoting and demonstrating the use of proper helmet/seatbelt use, operating within your limits and state regulations, and providing an overall positive image of the sport.

The DNR and WATVA also partner with the [RideSafe Foundation](#) to promote education and safe operation of ATVs and UTVs in schools. The main mission is centered around wearing the proper gear, safety certification and training. These presentations include an overview of safety equipment, helmet sizing and hands-on learning to get familiar with the various parts of an Off-highway Vehicle.

## PARTNERS IN SAFETY – ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN SNOWMOBILE CLUBS

The [Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs](#) is dedicated to the preservation of snowmobiling in Wisconsin. The group is a major advocate for the sport, with a history spanning back to the late 1960s. The DNR Snowmobile Safety Program partners with members of the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs to volunteer and recruit safety education instructors. There are many clubs around the state that offer safety classes annually, contributing to over 3,000 students certified through in-person snowmobile classes. The Association also assists the DNR in highlighting the importance of safe snowmobiling through their website and media channels. Sober and responsible operation, along with safe speeds are among the top subjects.



## PARTNERS IN SAFETY – MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING (MADD)

The DNR again partnered with [Mothers Against Drunk Driving \(MADD\)](#) in 2024 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.

### DNR PARTNERS WITH MADD TO PROMOTE SNOWMOBILE SAFETY THIS WINTER



## 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 2024. 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 committed resources to Boating Safety Welcome Centers, which successfully promoted lifejacket wear, responsible boating practices and water safety marketing.

Building off the Loaner Life Jacket program and to expand safe and responsible boating messaging, the DNR 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 and staffed primarily by DNR Outdoor Skills Trainers (OSTs) and Community Service Officers (CSO). The purpose of these welcome centers was to provide opportunity to interact with DNR 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 around the state. We will continue to expand this program statewide in 2025.

Highlights consist of:

- Seventeen events held in 2024 consisting of 5 National Night Out events, 6 safety fairs, a paddle event, lake locations, Mallard’s game and Farmers market
- Over 5,000 contacts with boating public
- Provided over 200 safety demonstrations



## ICE SAFETY

Mild winters combined with frequent temperature swings in recent years prompted the DNR to spearhead outreach for [ice safety](#). This effort has included media outreach and interviews, press releases and the creation of a [Know Before You Go Ice Safety Pamphlet](#) for public education.

The main message being that no ice is 100% safe, and the utmost caution should be used when traveling across ice. Many UTVs are manufactured weighing over 2,000 pounds – the same weight as a compact car. There has been an increase in ice related recreational vehicle incidents

and rescues in recent years, and the DNR aims to continue preventative outreach relating to ice safety.

### FACTS ABOUT ICE

**CLIMATE FLUCTUATIONS**

**APPEARANCE**      **SNOW COVERAGE**

**THICKNESS**      **DEPTH**

**SIZE WATER BODY**

Recognize that determining the safety of ice is dependent on a combination of factors, **not on one factor alone**, including:

- ▲ Appearance of the ice – its color, texture and features
- ▲ Thickness of the ice
- ▲ Cracks
- ▲ External temperature over a period of time and on the day
- ▲ Amount of sunlight
- ▲ Wind
- ▲ Snow coverage
- ▲ Depth of water under ice
- ▲ Size of water body
- ▲ Springs and currents
- ▲ Inlets and outlets
- ▲ Local climate fluctuations
- ▲ Extent of ice

### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- ▲ Consider all ice unpredictable.
- ▲ Ice is never completely safe under any conditions.
- ▲ Check local ice conditions – bait shops, radio, local establishments, etc.
- ▲ Wear proper clothing and equipment.

- ▲ Bring a buddy – don't go alone.
- ▲ Let people know where you will be going and returning home.
- ▲ Do not venture out in unfamiliar areas.
- ▲ Avoid being on the ice at night.

## Ice Safety

Know Before You Go!

**BE PREPARED:** ✓

Make sure to carry this essential equipment, and know how to use it:

- Spud bar
- Ice picks
- Lifejacket
- Rope
- Float-coat
- Ice cleats
- GPS/navigation
- Cell phone

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