

Personal Watercraft Accidents



Personal Watercraft Accidents photo detail

Cover Photos: (Courtesy of FWC)

NC17-4381: On June 24, 2017, a PWC was traveling east on Pottsburg Creek when it struck a residential dock. The homeowners, hearing the collision, looked out at the dock and observed the PWC drifting in the creek and the operator floating face down in the water. The homeowners called 911 while the operator was being recovered by a family member on a separate PWC. The injured operator was transported to the hospital and treated for serious injuries to his head, shoulders and water in his lungs.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

2017 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION AND ACCIDENTS BY COUNTY

County	Pleasure	Rental	Total	PWC Accidents	PWC Fatalities	PWC Injuries	Property Damage	Rank	Accident Rate*
Alachua	771	2	773	0	0	0	\$0		0
Baker	220	0	220	0	0	0	\$0		0
Bay	1,995	303	2,298	5	0	6	\$16,950	8	1:460
Bradford	237	1	238	0	0	0	\$0		0
Brevard	3,579	38	3,617	2	0	3	\$8,000	17	1:1,809
Broward	8,930	141	9,071	8	0	8	\$16,500	7	1:1,134
Calhoun	49	0	49	0	0	0	\$0		0
Charlotte	1,736	38	1,774	2	0	2	\$4,200	20	1:887
Citrus	996	5	1,001	0	0	0	0		0
Clay	1,685	14	1,699	3	0	3	\$1,400	13	1:566
Collier	3,216	333	3,549	5	0	4	\$15,600	9	1:709
Columbia	292	1	293	0	0	0	\$0		0
Desoto	171	4	175	0	0	0	\$0		0
Dixie	66	0	66	0	0	0	\$0		0
Duval	4,055	29	4,084	2	0	1	\$17,800	14	1:2,042
Escambia	1,782	49	1,831	2	0	1	\$2,000	21	1:916
Flagler	795	10	805	0	0	0	\$0		0
Franklin	146	6	152	1	0	1	\$2,000	28	1:152
Gadsden	72	0	72	0	0	0	\$0		0
Gilchrist	102	0	102	0	0	0	\$0		0
Glades	31	0	31	0	0	0	\$0		0
Gulf	119	8	127	1	1	1	\$0	30	1:127
Hamilton	42	0	42	0	0	0	\$0		0
Hardee	108	4	112	0	0	0	\$0		0
Hendry	189	0	189	0	0	0	\$0		0
Hernando	1,184	8	1,192	3	0	1	\$8,000	12	1:397
Highlands	1,142	2	1,144	1	0	2	\$1,000	29	1:1,144
Hillsborough	6,473	68	6,541	10	2	8	\$40,500	5	1:654
Holmes	62	0	62	0	0	0	\$0		0
Indian River	809	8	817	0	0	0	\$0		0
Jackson	247	3	250	0	0	0	\$0		0
Jefferson	41	0	41	0	0	0	\$0		0
Lafayette	47	0	47	0	0	0	\$0		0
Lake	2,400	11	2,411	4	0	5	\$15,500	10	1:603
Lee	4,738	260	4,998	8	1	6	\$30,300	6	1:625
Leon	699	5	704	0	0	0	\$0		0
Levy	199	0	199	0	0	0	\$0		0

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

2017 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION AND ACCIDENTS BY COUNTY

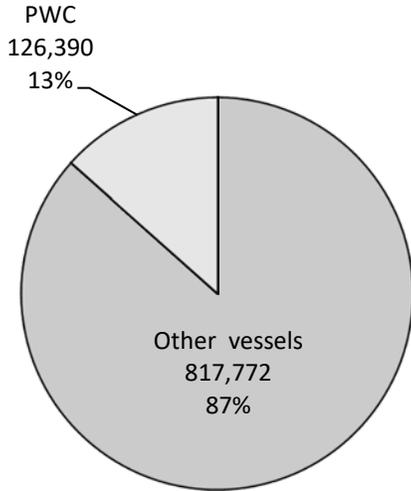
County	Pleasure	Rental	Total	PWC Accidents	PWC Fatalities	PWC Injuries	Property Damage	Rank	Accident Rate*
Liberty	27	1	28	0	0	0	\$0		0
Madison	33	0	33	0	0	0	\$0		0
Manatee	2,524	93	2,617	2	0	0	\$10,000	16	1:1,309
Marion	1,893	16	1,909	1	0	0	\$7,200	22	1:1,909
Martin	1,582	36	1,618	0	0	0	\$0		0
Miami-Dade	14,479	610	15,089	21	4	19	\$44,350	2	1:719
Monroe	1,850	440	2,290	22	0	26	\$29,650	1	1:104
Nassau	646	8	654	0	0	0	\$0		0
Okealoosa	3,157	283	3,440	16	1	18	\$30,499	4	1:215
Okeechobee	186	0	186	0	0	0	\$0		0
Orange	7,027	62	7,089	2	1	4	\$14,000	15	1:3,545
Osceola	2,001	13	2,014	0	0	0	\$0		0
Palm Beach	6,184	63	6,247	2	0	3	\$5,600	19	1:3,124
Pasco	3,891	21	3,912	0	0	0	\$0		0
Pinellas	8,435	346	8,781	17	1	12	\$59,650	3	1:1,254
Polk	3,078	30	3,105	1	0	0	\$7,000	23	1:3,105
Putnam	465	1	466	0	0	0	\$0		0
Santa Rosa	1,992	105	2,097	1	0	1	\$4,000	26	1:2,097
Sarasota	2,267	154	2,421	4	0	3	\$11,300	11	1:605
Seminole	3,395	17	3,412	2	0	2	\$7,000	18	1:1,706
St. Johns	1,765	18	1,783	1	0	0	\$5,000	24	1:1,783
St. Lucie	1,367	5	1,372	1	0	0	\$4,100	25	1:1,372
Sumter	255	1	256	0	0	0	\$0		0
Suwannee	203	4	207	0	0	0	\$0		0
Taylor	77	0	77	0	0	0	\$0		0
Union	61	1	62	0	0	0	\$0		0
Volusia	2,671	85	2,756	1	0	1	\$2,750	27	1:2,756
Wakulla	160	0	160	0	0	0	\$0		0
Walton	638	22	660	0	0	0	\$0		0
Washington	136	1	137	0	0	0	\$0		0
DHSMV	715	21	735						
TOTAL	122,582	3,808	126,390	151	11	141	\$413,849		1:837

*Accident Rate = $\frac{\text{\# of Registered Vessels}}{\text{\# of Accidents}}$

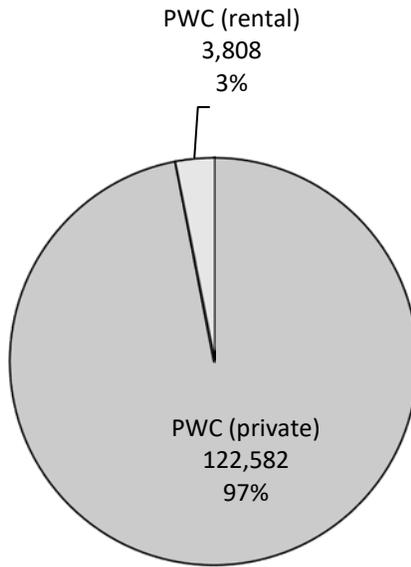
Those Counties in bold print represent the top ten counties for PWC boating accidents in 2017
DHSMV numbers represent registrations issued at the main office instead of at county level

2017 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

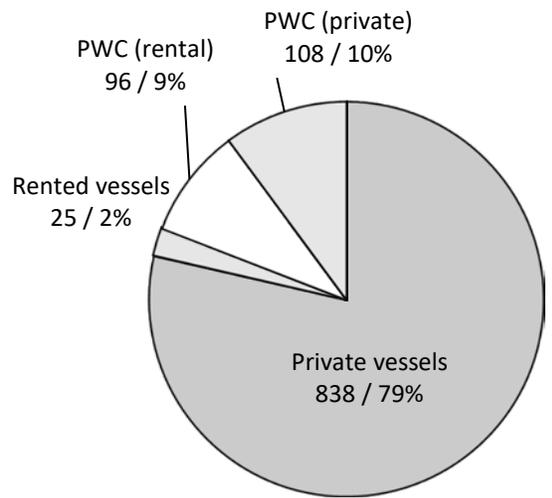
TOTAL REGISTERED PWC



PWC OWNERSHIP BY REGISTRATION

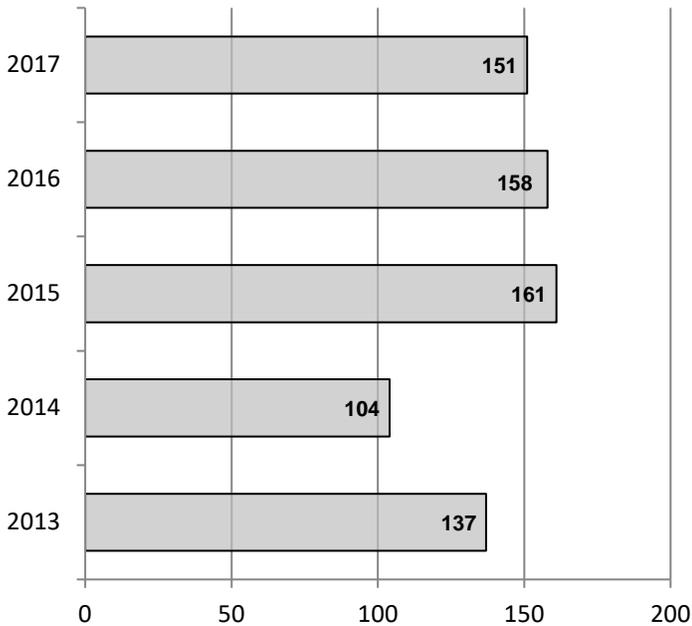


COMPARISON OF PWC TO VESSELS INVOLVED IN ACCIDENTS

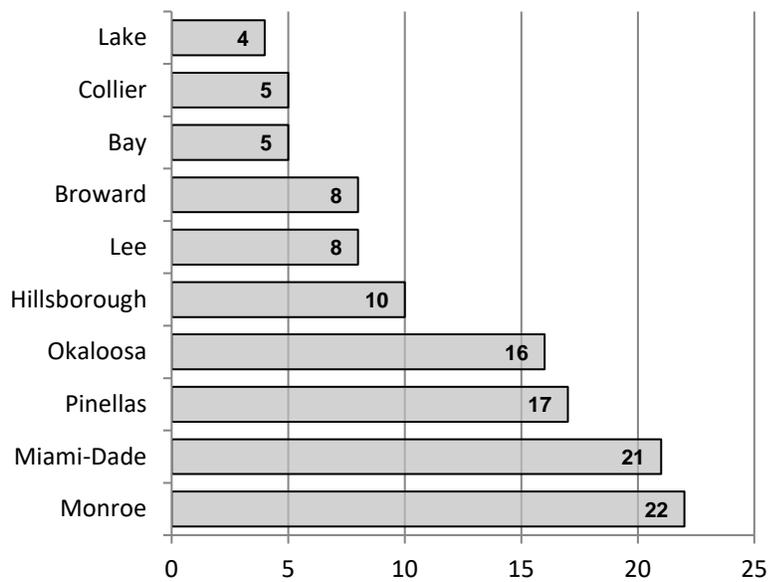


*1,067 vessels involved in accidents

PWC ACCIDENTS 2013-2017

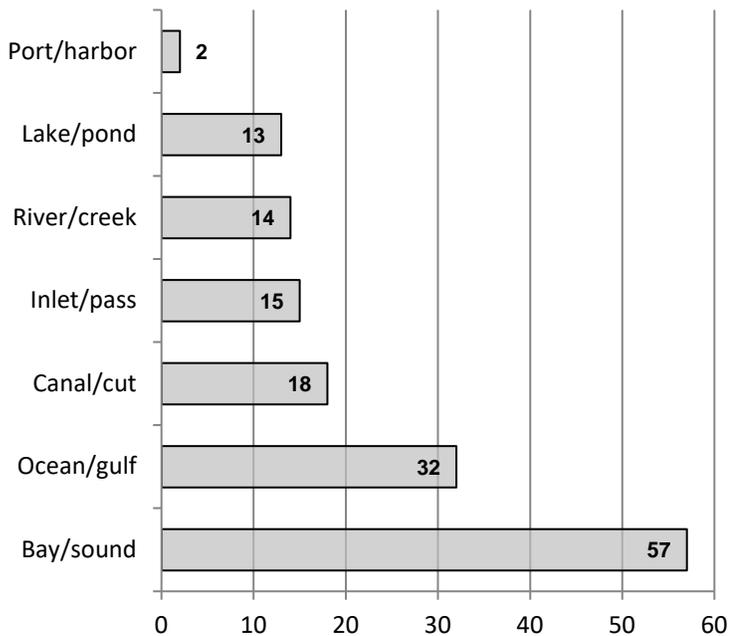


PWC ACCIDENTS TOP TEN COUNTIES

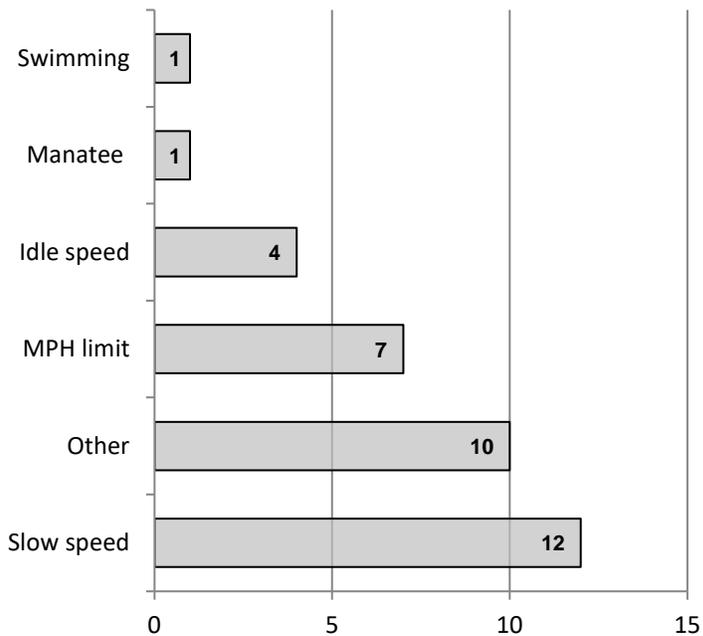


2017 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

ACCIDENT SITE LOCATION

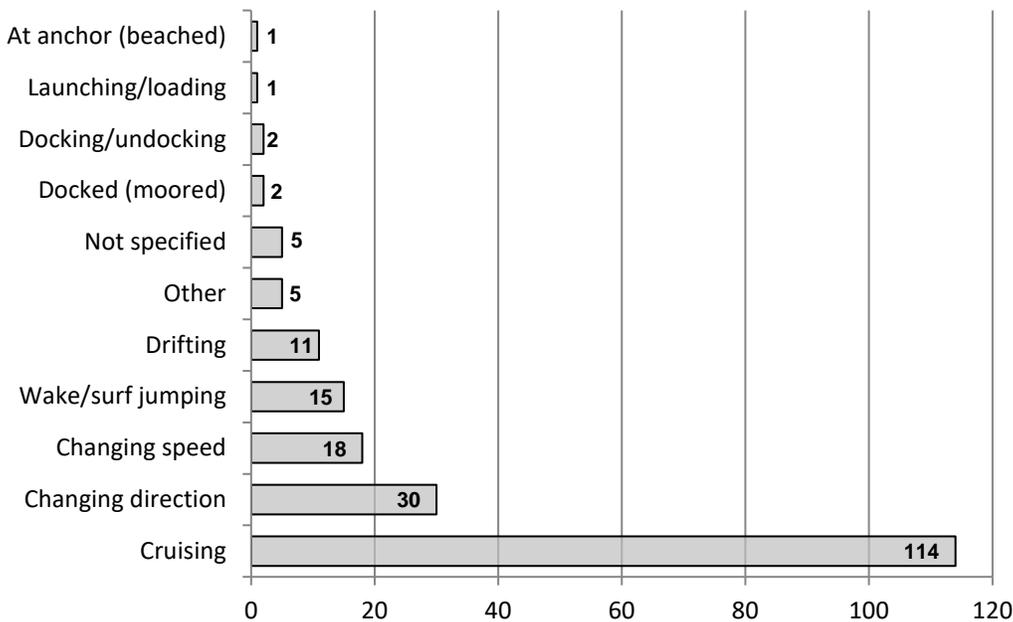


RESTRICTED AREA ACCIDENTS



*35 PWC accidents occurred within a restricted area

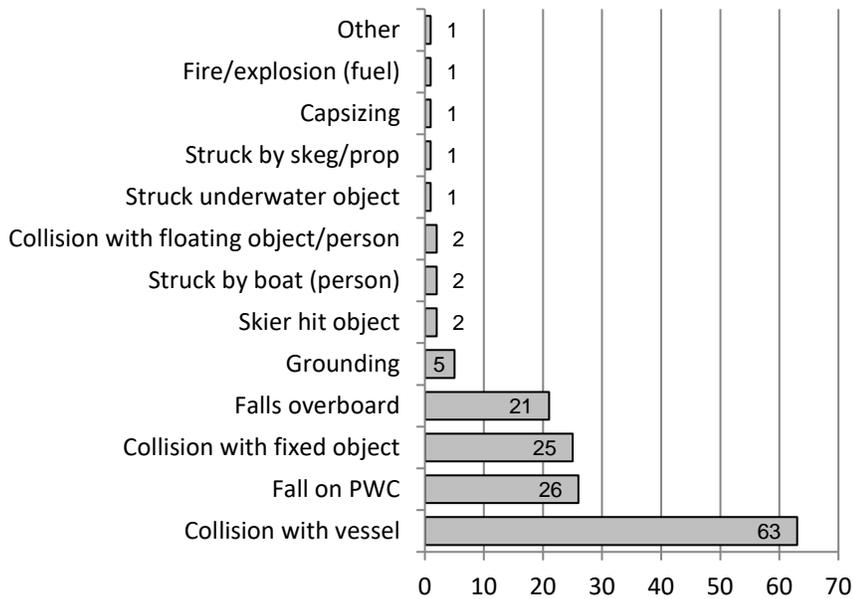
OPERATION AT TIME OF ACCIDENT



*204 PWC involved in 151 accidents

2017 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

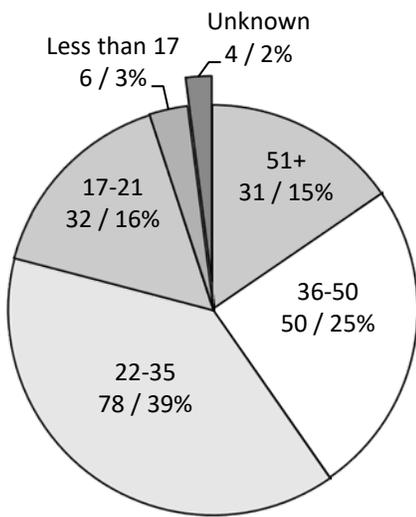
PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT



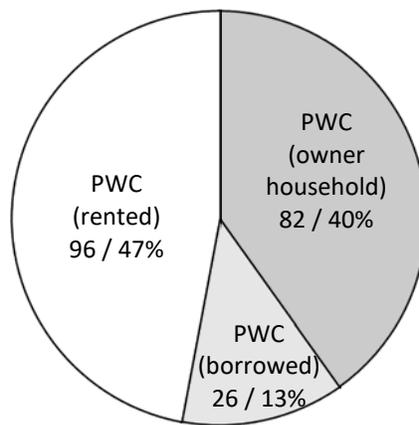
*151 PWC accidents
(Based on first harmful event as determined by the state reviewing authority)

On May 21 2017, a PWC being operated by a 25-year-old male, with one occupant onboard, was cruising close to Picnic Island when it collided with a 29-foot-motorboat. The operator and occupant of the PWC were ejected upon impact and received serious injuries from striking the vessel. One of the occupants of the vessel was also injured by the impact collision, falling inside the vessel and fracturing her wrist. The PWC operator had been consuming alcohol and showed signs of being impaired.

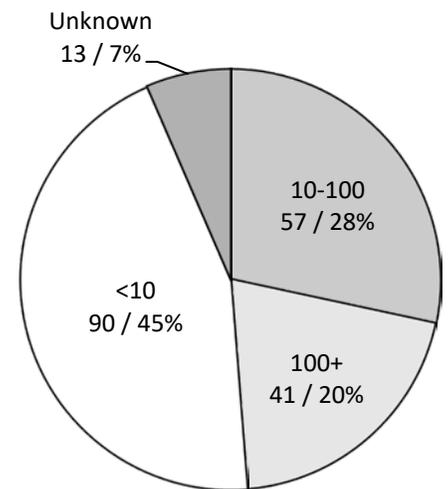
PWC OPERATOR AGE



PWC OWNERSHIP



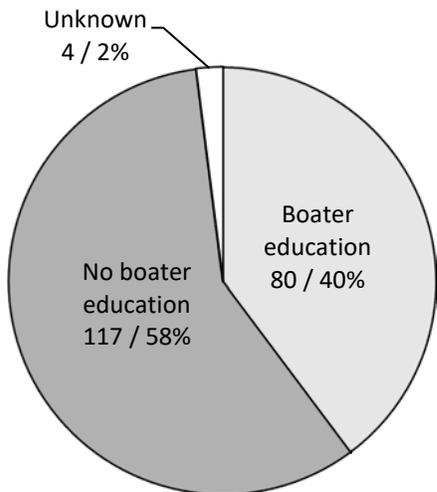
PWC OPERATOR EXPERIENCE (HOURS)



*151 PWC accidents involving 204 PWC and 201 operators
Operator information for four PWC are unknown due to hit and run accidents or no operators at time of accident

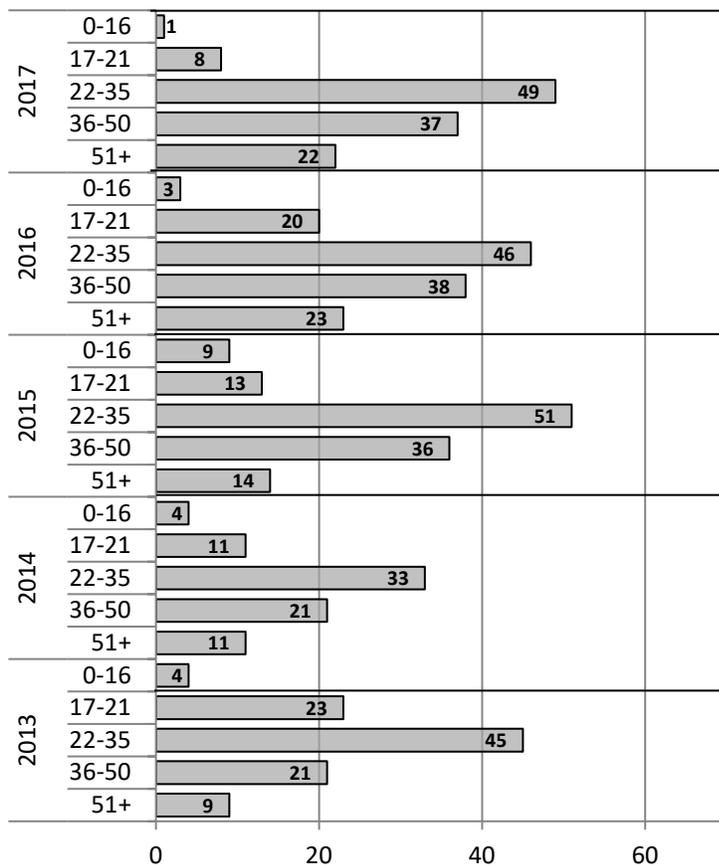
2017 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

PWC OPERATOR EDUCATION

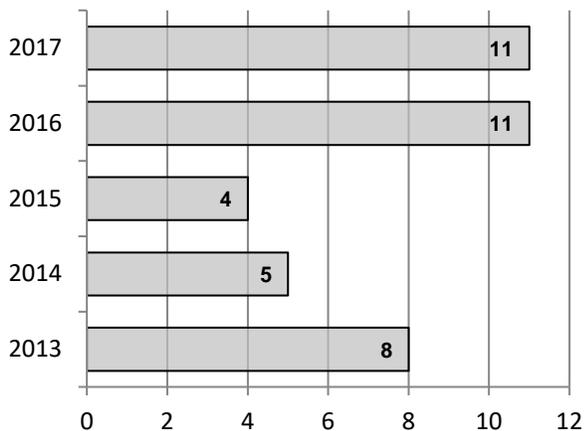


*151 accidents involving 201 operators

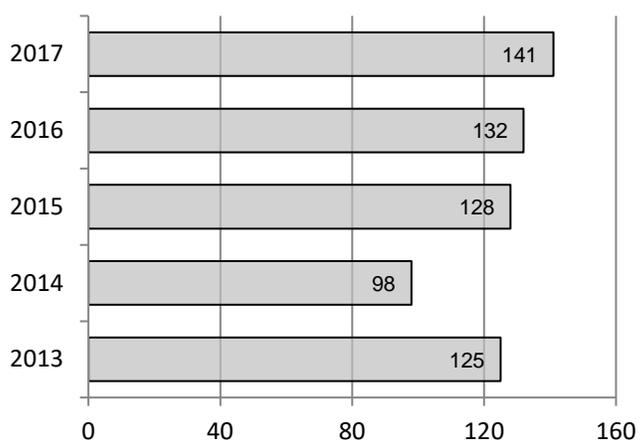
PWC OPERATORS BY AGE WITHOUT BOATER EDUCATION



PWC FATALITIES 2013-2017

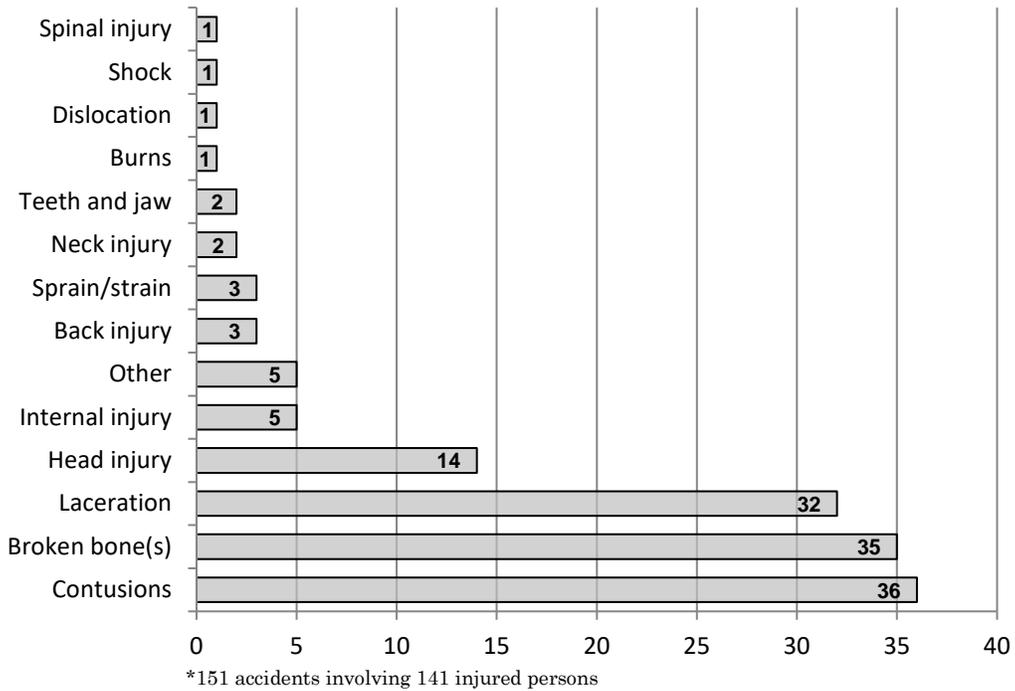


PWC INJURIES 2013-2017

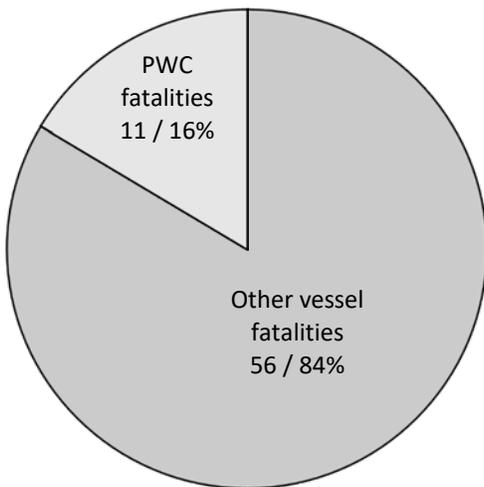


2017 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

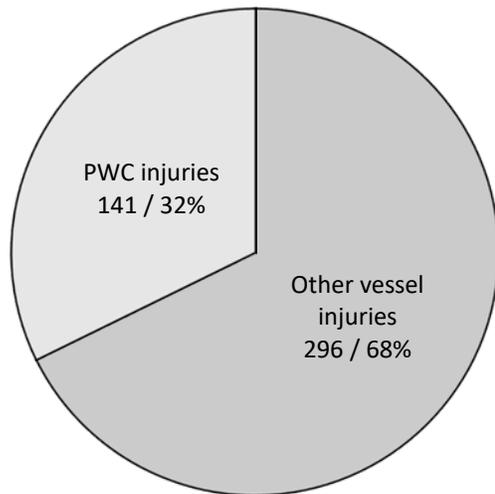
PRIMARY INJURY TYPES



COMPARISONS OF PWC FATALITIES

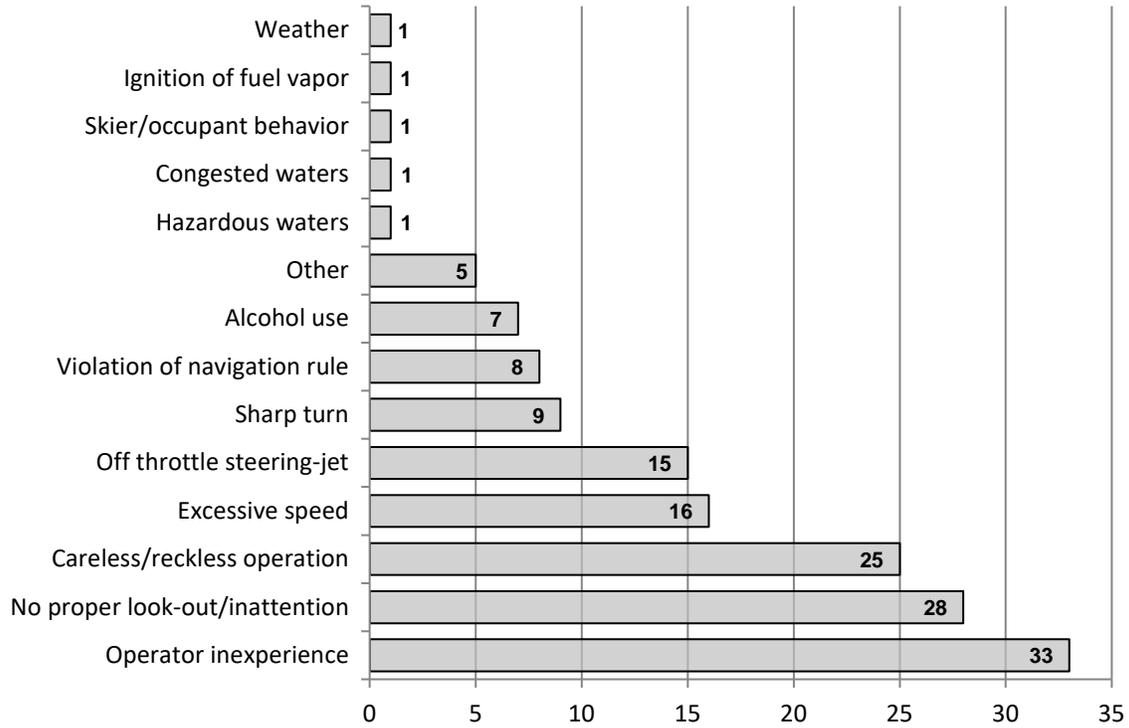


COMPARISONS OF PWC INJURIES

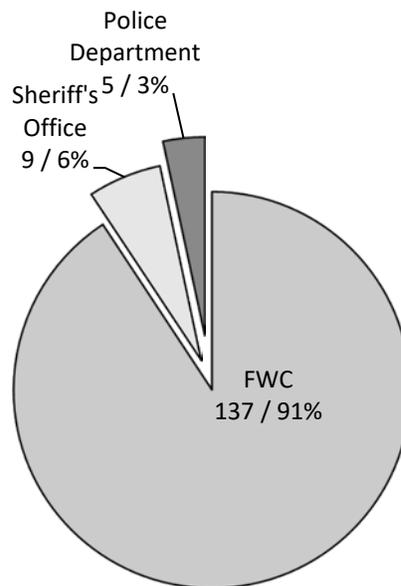


2017 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

PRIMARY CAUSE ASSESSED BY REVIEWING AUTHORITY



INVESTIGATING AGENCY



*151 PWC accidents