

Personal Watercraft Accidents



Personal Watercraft Accidents photo detail

Cover Photos: (Courtesy of FWC)

On May 12, at approximately 2:30 pm, two personal watercraft (PWC) were operating in Biscayne Bay. The PWC were jumping the wakes of other vessels in the area. PWC #1 jumped the wake of a vessel and subsequently landed on PWC #2. The operator of PWC #2 was ejected by the impact. The operator of PWC #1 assisted him back onto his PWC and notified emergency services. Both operators were examined by Fire-Rescue for minor injuries. Both declined transport to a medical facility as they felt their injuries were not serious.

2018 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

2018 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION AND ACCIDENTS BY COUNTY									
County	Pleasure	Rental	Total	PWC Accidents	PWC Fatalities	PWC Injuries	Property Damage	Rank	Accident Rate*
Alachua	804		804						
Baker	236		236						
Bay	2,042	279	2,321	6		4	\$12,200	6	1:387
Bradford	262	1	263						
Brevard	3,641	17	3,658	2		2	\$8,000	14	1:1,829
Broward	9,357	42	9,399	3		0	\$11,400	11	1:3,133
Calhoun	55		55						
Charlotte	1,824	34	1,858						
Citrus	1,028		1,028						
Clay	1,743	14	1,757	2		2	\$0	20	1:879
Collier	3,245	315	3,560	4		4	\$600	10	1:890
Columbia	283		283						
Desoto	159	1	160						
Dixie	61		61						
Duval	4,192	13	4,205	3		4	\$5,500	12	1:1,402
Escambia	1,908	28	1,936	2		1	\$2,750	18	1:968
Flagler	819		819						
Franklin	162		162						
Gadsden	73		73						
Gilchrist	127		127						
Glades	31		31						
Gulf	131	7	138						
Hamilton	36		36						
Hardee	102	1	103						
Hendry	216	1	217						
Hernando	1,234		1,234						
Highlands	1,147	1	1,148						
Hillsborough	6,561	28	6,589	7	3	5	\$22,650	5	1:941
Holmes	61	1	62						
Indian River	887	3	890	1		1	\$0	23	1:890
Jackson	240	1	241						
Jefferson	43		43						
Lafayette	46		46						
Lake	2,515	7	2,522	2		2	\$9,600	13	1:1,261
Lee	4,880	185	5,065						
Leon	708	4	712	1		1	\$0	23	1:712
Levy	211		211						

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

Those Counties in bold print represent the top ten counties for PWC accidents.
Fields that equaled zero intentionally left blank.

2018 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

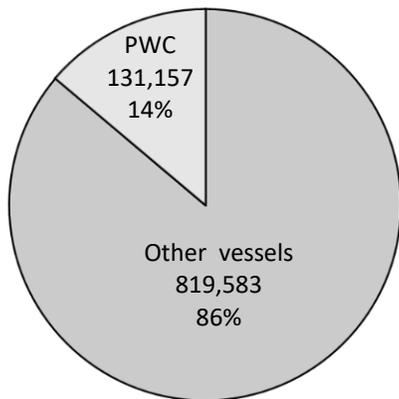
2018 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION AND ACCIDENTS BY COUNTY									
County	Pleasure	Rental	Total	PWC Accidents	PWC Fatalities	PWC Injuries	Property Damage	Rank	Accident Rate*
Liberty	28		28						
Madison	40		40						
Manatee	2,772	66	2,838	1		2	\$0	22	1:2,838
Marion	2,016	7	2,023						
Martin	1,704	44	1,748	2		2	\$3,200	17	1:874
Miami-Dade	15,519	290	15,809	20	2	14	\$48,800	1	1:790
Monroe	1,982	376	2,358	16	1	12	\$34,400	2	1:147
Nassau	685	8	693						
Okealoosa	3,298	370	3,668	12		6	\$47,900	4	306
Okeechobee	215		215						
Orange	7,424	42	7,466	1	1		\$5,500	21	1:7,466
Osceola	2,142	15	2,157	2		1	\$4,800	16	1:1,079
Palm Beach	6,192	25	6,217	6		3	\$12,000	7	1:1,036
Pasco	4,018	10	4,028						
Pinellas	8,945	313	9,258	13		8	\$27,900	3	1:712
Polk	3,323	5	3,328						
Putnam	483	1	484	2		2	\$2,700	19	1:242
Santa Rosa	2,159	83	2,242	2		1	\$4,950	15	1:1,121
Sarasota	2,305	120	2,425	4		4	\$12,100	9	1:606
Seminole	3,494	5	3,499						
St. Johns	1,874	5	1,879	2		2	\$0	20	1:940
St. Lucie	1,444	3	1,447						
Sumter	289	1	290						
Suwannee	200		200						
Taylor	76		76						
Union	63		63						
Volusia	2,865	44	2,909	4		4	\$17,680	8	1:727
Wakulla	163		163						
Walton	700	15	715						
Washington	137	1	138						
DHSMV	694	6	700						
TOTAL	128,319	2,838	131,157	120	7	87	\$294,630		1:1,093

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

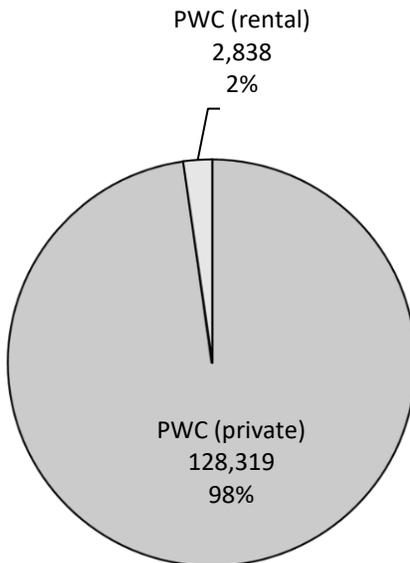
Those Counties in bold print represent the top ten counties for PWC boating accidents in 2018
 DHSMV numbers represent registrations issued at the main office instead of at county level
 Fields that equaled zero intentionally left blank.

2018 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

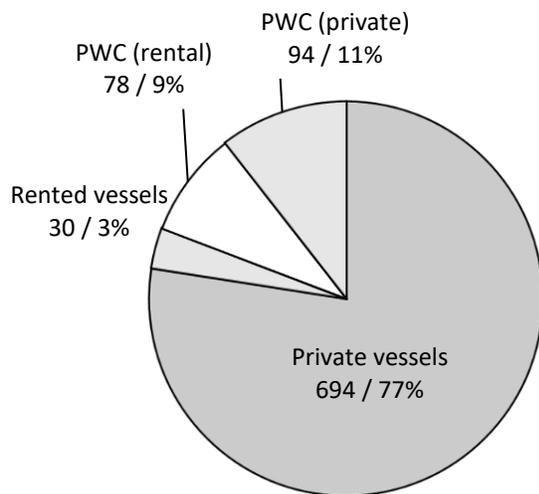
TOTAL REGISTERED PWC



PWC OWNERSHIP BY REGISTRATION

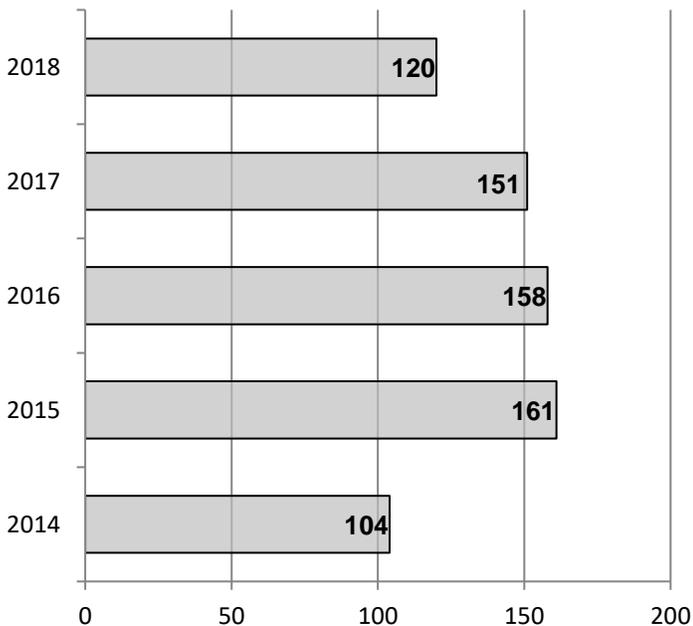


COMPARISON OF PWC TO VESSELS INVOLVED IN ACCIDENTS

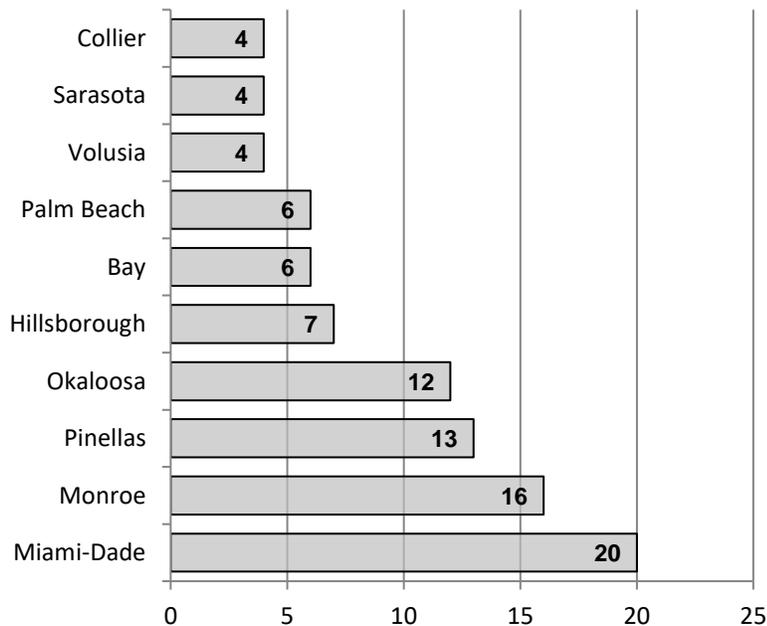


*896 vessels involved in accidents

ACCIDENTS 2014-2018

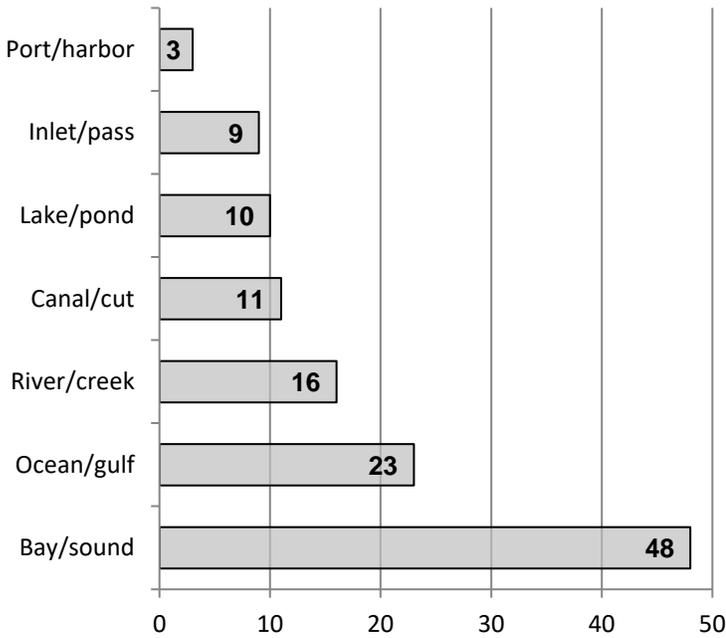


TOP TEN COUNTIES

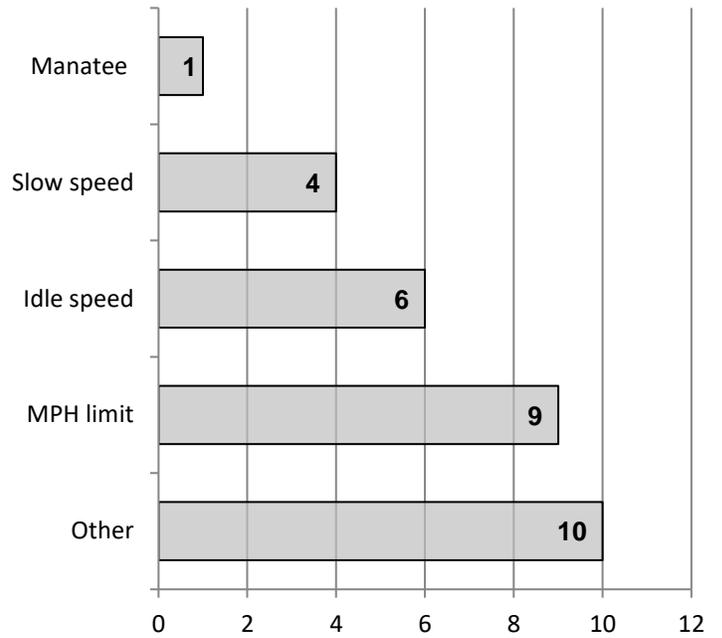


2018 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

ACCIDENT SITE LOCATION

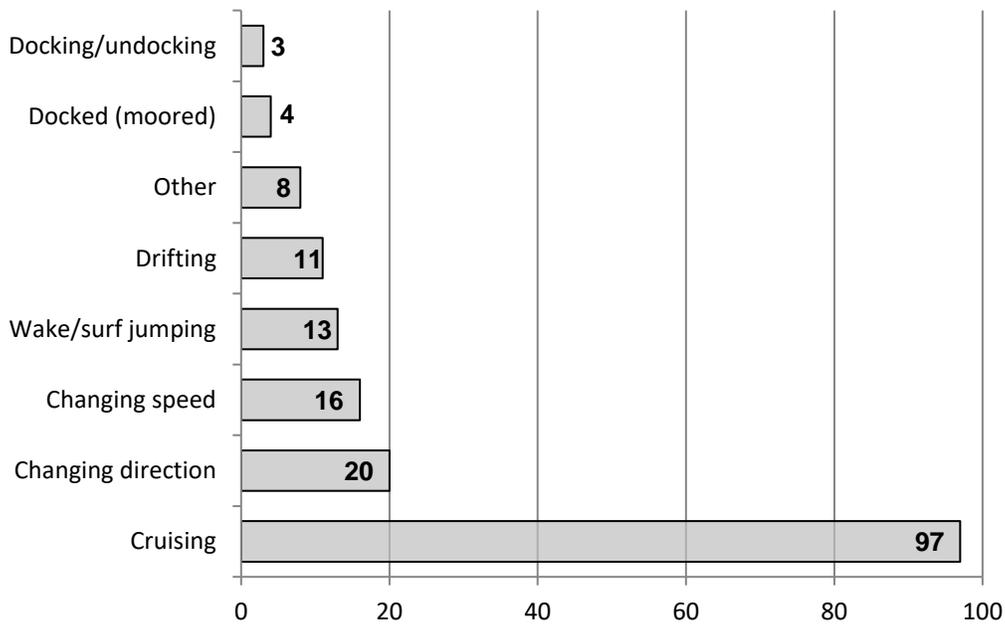


RESTRICTED AREA ACCIDENTS



*30 PWC accidents occurred within a restricted area

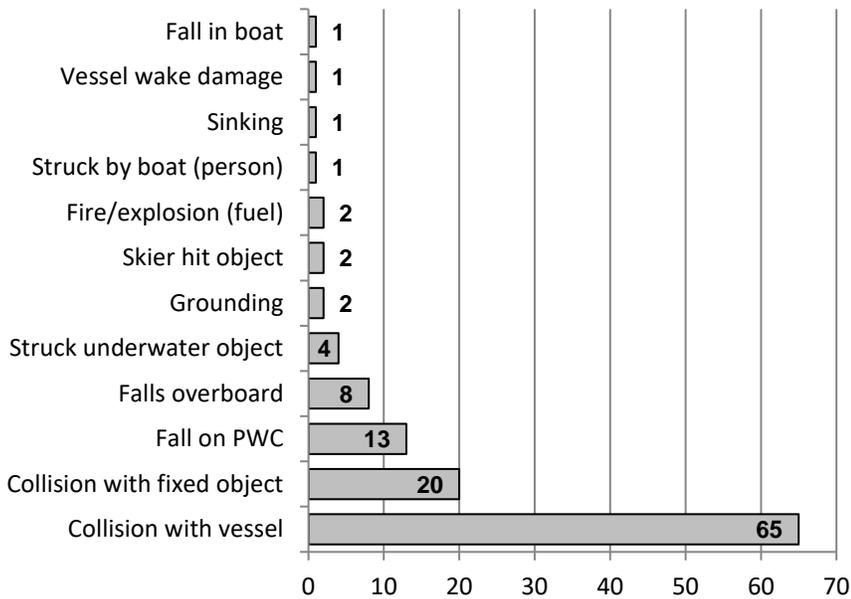
OPERATION AT TIME OF ACCIDENT



*172 PWC involved in 120 accidents

2018 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

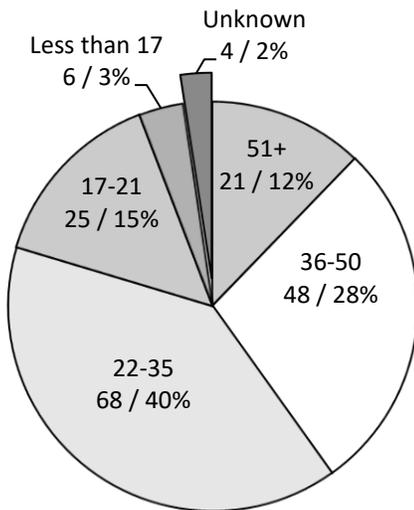
PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT



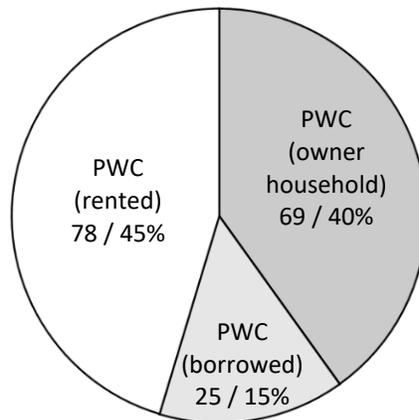
*120 PWC accidents
(Based on first harmful event as determined by the state reviewing authority)

On October 13th, at approximately 3:45 PM in Marathon a single PWC accident occurred. The 30-year-old male operator was traveling at a high rate of speed when he hit a boat wake and the PWC ramped off the wake. Upon landing, he hit his head on the handlebars, causing injuries to his head and neck before falling overboard. He was retrieved from the water unresponsive. CPR was performed, and he was transported to the hospital, he later succumbed to his injuries.

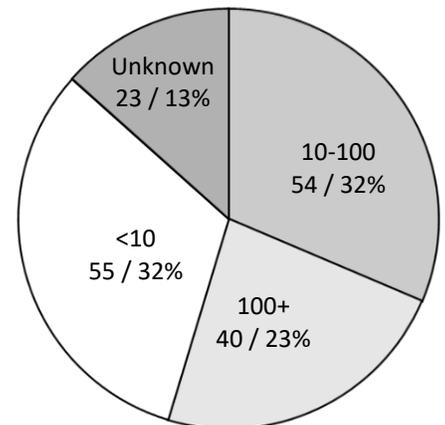
OPERATOR AGE



OWNERSHIP



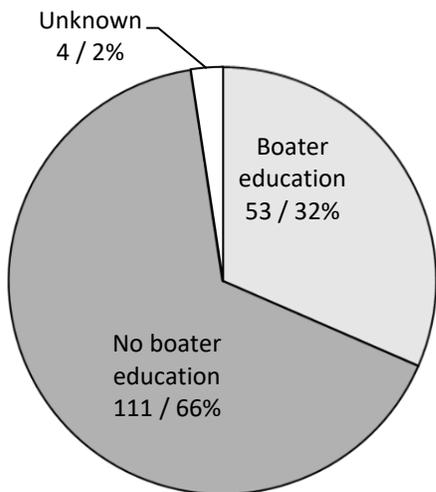
OPERATOR EXPERIENCE (HOURS)



*120 PWC accidents involving 172 PWC and 168 operators
Operator information for four PWC are unknown due to hit and run accidents or no operators at time of accident

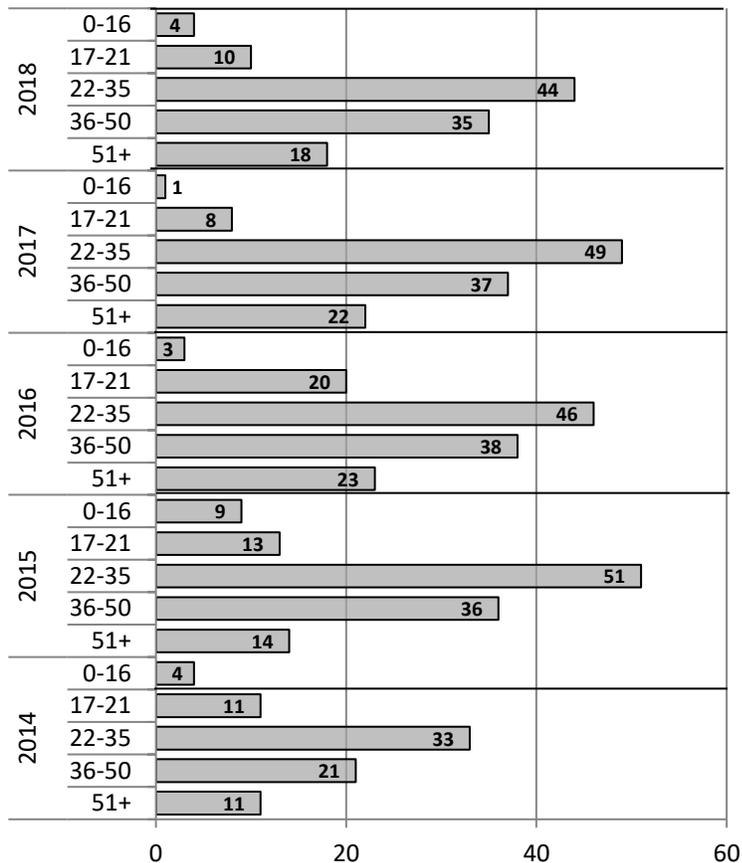
2018 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

OPERATOR EDUCATION

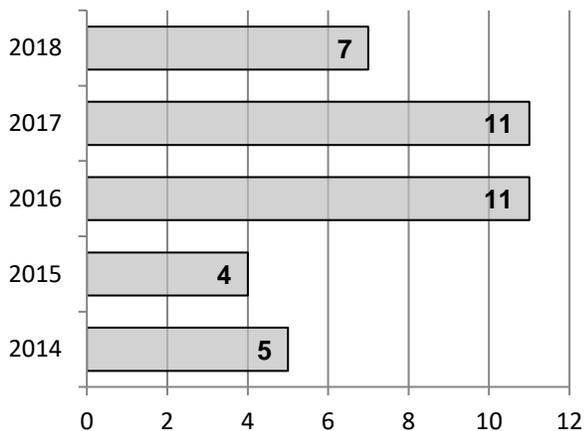


*120 accidents involving 168 operators

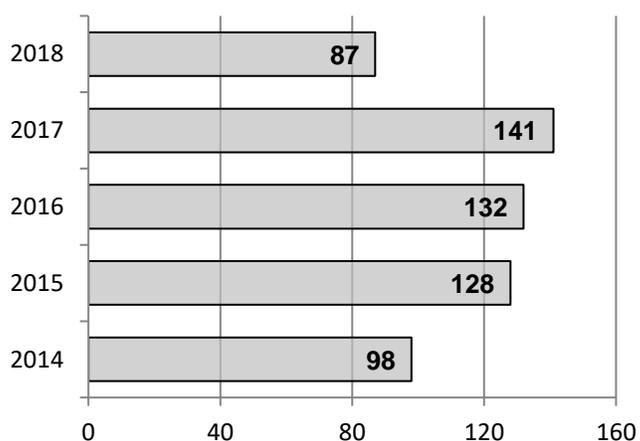
OPERATORS BY AGE WITHOUT BOATER EDUCATION



FATALITIES 2014-2018

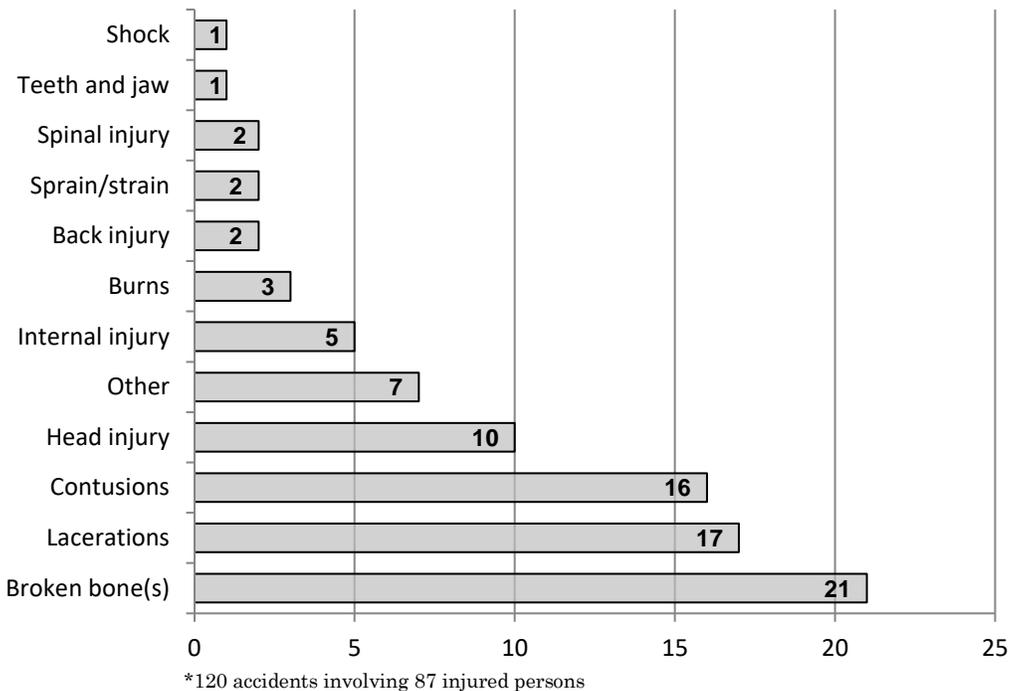


INJURIES 2014-2018

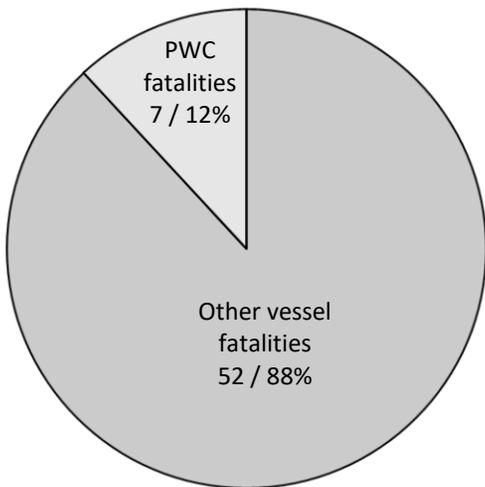


2018 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

PRIMARY INJURY TYPES

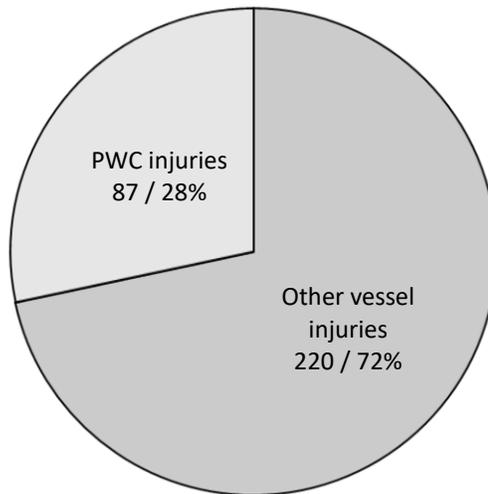


COMPARISONS OF PWC FATALITIES



*59 Fatalities

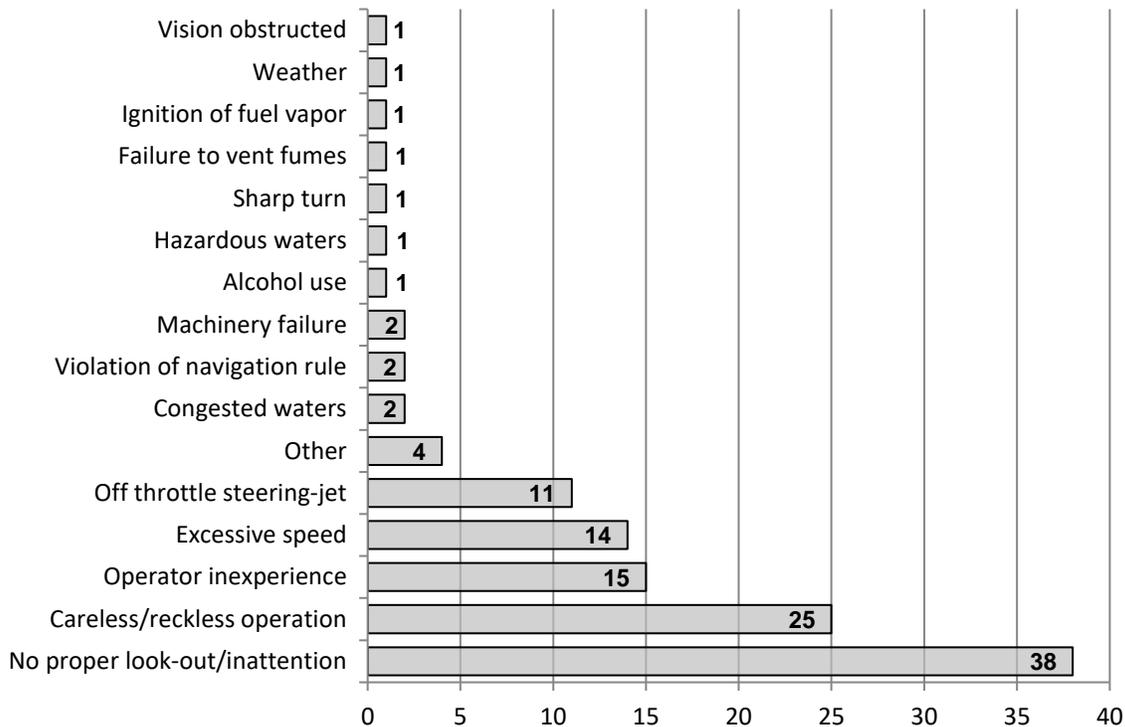
COMPARISONS OF PWC INJURIES



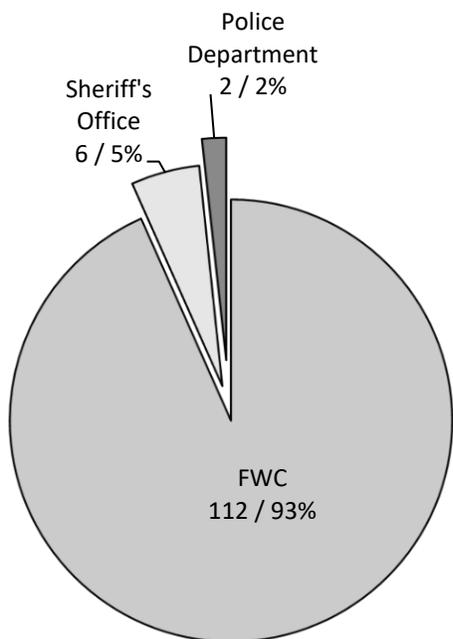
*307 injuries

2018 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

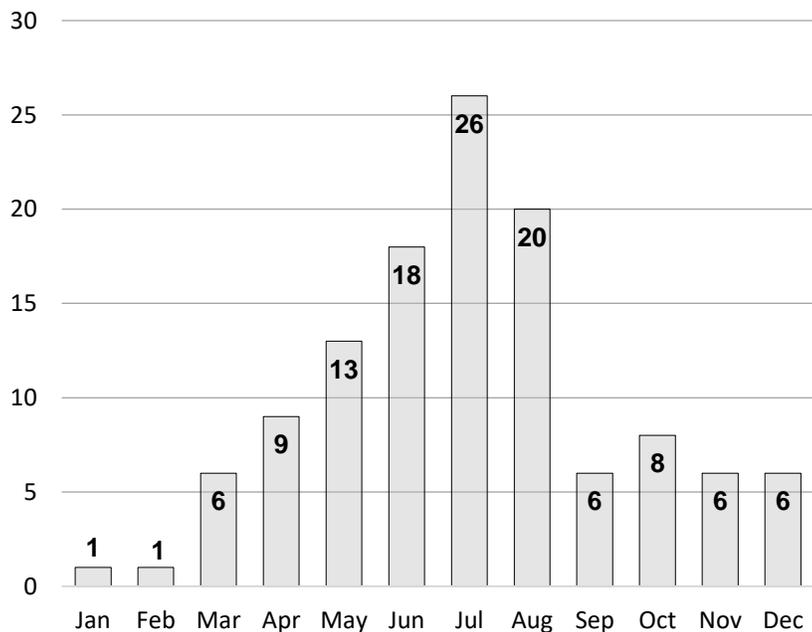
PRIMARY CAUSE ASSESSED BY REVIEWING AUTHORITY



INVESTIGATING AGENCY



ACCIDENTS BY MONTH



*120 PWC accidents