

2013 Personal Watercraft Accidents



Personal Watercraft Accidents photo detail

On Angelfish Creek in Miami-Dade County, at approximately 11:50 am, two personal watercraft were heading outbound toward the ocean. A large vessel was also navigating out toward the ocean. The two PWC operators decided to jump the large wake of the large vessel and proceeded to separate. The white PWC jumped the wake in a southerly direction. The black PWC jumped the wake from a northerly direction. Both PWC jumped the wake at the same time and collided head on. The operators were ejected, both were wearing their personal flotation device (PFD) and were uninjured. The operator of the white PWC had received boater safety training. The operator of the black PWC did not have any formal training and had limited experience operating PWC.

Top photo: Damage to the black PWC as a result of the head on collision.

Bottom photo: Damage to the white PWC as a result of the head on collision.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

2013 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION AND ACCIDENTS BY COUNTY

County	Pleasure	Rental	Total	PWC Accidents	PWC Fatalities	PWC Injuries	Property Damage	Rank	Accident Rate*
Alachua	700	2	702	0	0	0	\$0	26	0
Baker	200	0	200	0	0	0	\$0	27	0
Bay	2,021	294	2,315	6	0	6	\$6,550	7	1:386
Bradford	245	0	245	0	0	0	\$0	28	0
Brevard	3,358	19	3,377	2	1	1	\$5,400	14	1:1,689
Broward	7,659	87	7,746	4	0	3	\$17,300	10	1:1,937
Calhoun	50	0	50	0	0	0	\$0	29	0
Charlotte	1,397	64	1,461	1	1	1	\$7,500	20	1:1,461
Citrus	919	1	920	0	0	0	\$0	30	0
Clay	1,637	6	1,643	3	0	3	\$11,000	12	1:548
Collier	2,866	245	3,111	2	0	3	\$5,250	15	1:1,556
Columbia	261	2	263	0	0	0	\$0	31	0
Desoto	163	1	164	0	0	0	\$0	32	0
Dixie	59	0	59	0	0	0	\$0	33	0
Duval	3,696	17	3,713	0	0	0	\$0	34	0
Escambia	1,711	59	1,770	1	0	0	\$1,250	22	1:1,770
Flagler	602	4	606	1	0	1	\$2,100	18	1:606
Franklin	173	38	211	0	0	0	\$0	35	0
Gadsden	83	1	84	0	0	0	\$0	36	0
Gilchrist	92	0	92	0	0	0	\$0	37	0
Glades	32	1	33	0	0	0	\$0	38	0
Gulf	127	3	130	0	0	0	\$0	39	0
Hamilton	34	0	34	0	0	0	\$0	40	0
Hardee	109	1	110	0	0	0	\$0	41	0
Hendry	185	0	185	0	0	0	\$0	42	0
Hernando	893	2	895	1	0	0	\$12,000	19	1:895
Highlands	1,086	2	1,088	0	0	0	\$0	43	0
Hillsborough	6,058	54	6,112	7	0	8	\$3,000	6	1:873
Holmes	93	2	95	0	0	0	\$0	44	0
Indian River	744	0	744	0	0	0	\$0	45	0
Jackson	256	4	260	0	0	0	\$0	46	0
Jefferson	116	0	116	0	0	0	\$0	47	0
Lafayette	54	0	54	0	0	0	\$0	48	0
Lake	2,223	13	2,236	1	0	1	\$1,000	23	1:2,236
Lee	4,344	180	4,524	5	0	5	\$18,800	8	1:905
Leon	1,396	2	1,398	0	0	0	\$0	49	0
Levy	162	0	162	0	0	0	\$0	50	0

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

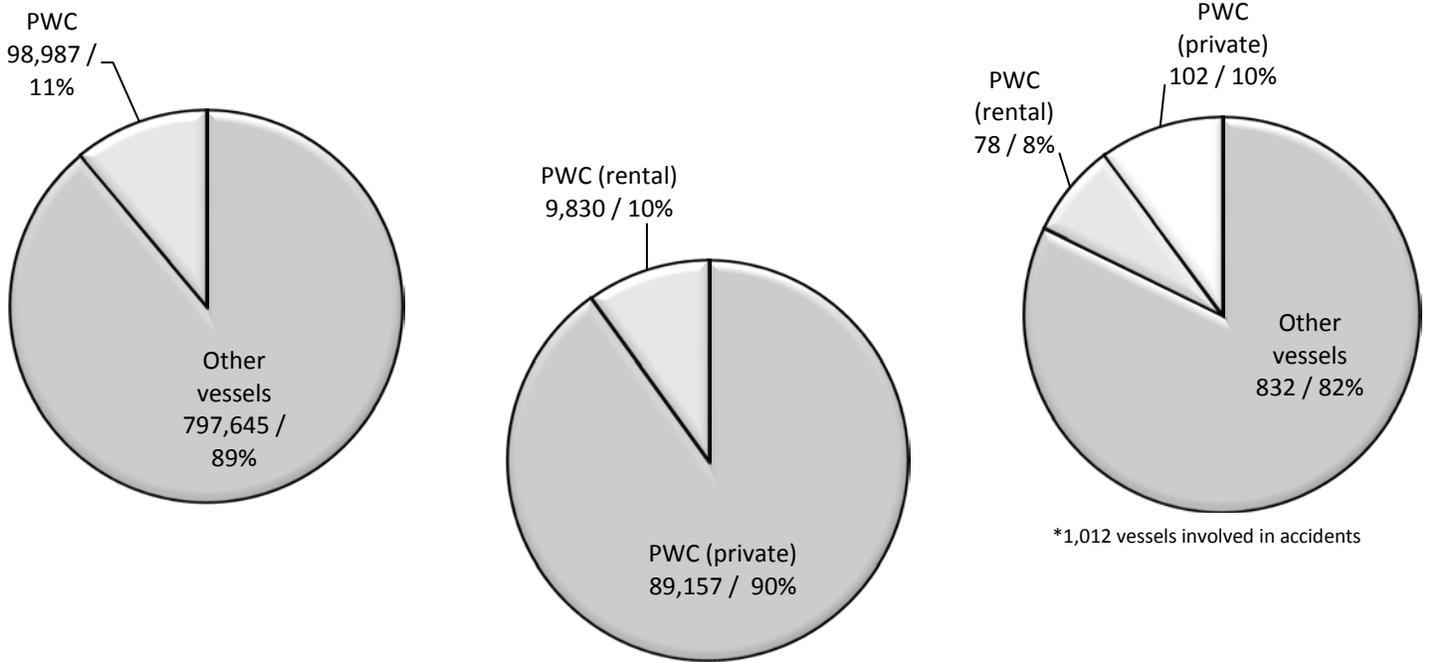
2013 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION AND ACCIDENTS BY COUNTY									
County	Pleasure	Rental	Total	PWC Accidents	PWC Fatalities	PWC Injuries	Property Damage	Rank	Accident Rate*
Liberty	34	0	34	0	0	0	\$0	51	0
Madison	29	0	29	0	0	0	\$0	52	0
Manatee	2,010	47	2,057	4	0	3	\$3,700	11	1:514
Marion	1,645	5	1,650	1	0	2	\$3,000	21	1:1,650
Martin	1,385	17	1,402	0	0	0	\$0	53	0
Miami-Dade	10,830	404	10,830	28	1	20	\$84,3777	1	1:387
Monroe	1,581	362	1,943	26	0	30	\$29,630	2	1:75
Nassau	589	11	600	0	0	0	\$0	54	0
Okaloosa	2,767	288	3,055	10	1	9	\$30,800	4	1:306
Okeechobee	209	0	209	0	0	0	\$0	55	0
Orange	6,170	44	6,214	2	0	2	\$4,000	16	1:3,107
Osceola	1,692	15	1,707	0	0	0	\$0	56	0
Palm Beach	6,048	74	6,122	8	0	6	\$17,300	5	1:765
Pasco	3,099	22	3,121	1	0	1	\$4,500	25	1:3,121
Pinellas	6,953	170	7,123	12	3	8	\$29,600	3	1:594
Polk	2,657	13	2,670	1	1	2	\$0	24	1:2,670
Putnam	532	2	534	0	0	0	\$0	57	0
Santa Rosa	1,790	91	1,881	0	0	0	\$0	58	0
Sarasota	2,287	82	2,369	3	0	3	\$0	13	1:790
Seminole	2,949	4	2,953	0	0	0	\$0	59	0
St. Johns	1,772	7	1,779	2	0	2	\$3,501	17	1:890
St. Lucie	1,320	6	1,326	0	0	0	\$0	60	0
Sumter	215	0	215	0	0	0	\$0	61	0
Suwannee	176	0	176	0	0	0	\$0	62	0
Taylor	97	0	97	0	0	0	\$0	63	0
Union	61	0	61	0	0	0	\$0	64	0
Volusia	2,484	49	2,533	5	0	5	\$400	9	1:507
Wakulla	152	0	152	0	0	0	\$0	65	0
Walton	514	23	537	0	0	0	\$0	66	0
Washington	124	1	125	0	0	0	\$0	67	0
DHSMV	138	0	138						
TOTAL	110,954	2,841	108,113	137	8	125	\$301,958		

*Accident Rate = # of Registered Vessels
of Accidents

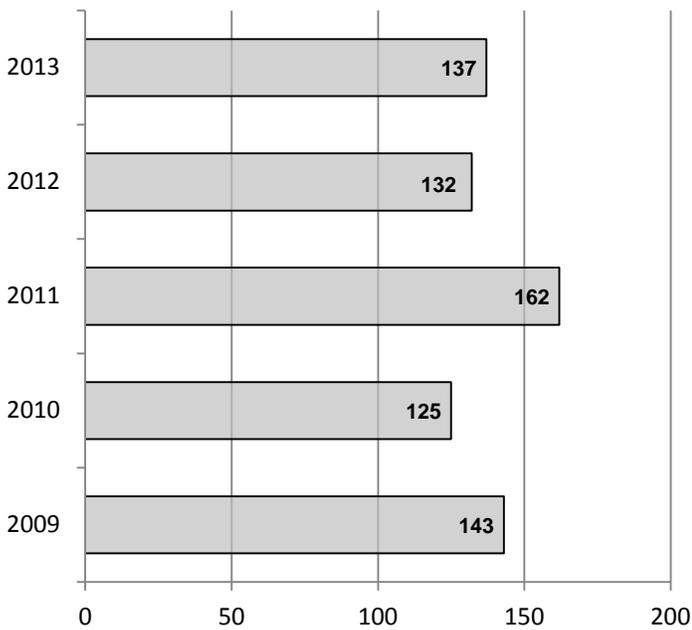
Those counties in bold print represent the top eleven counties for PWC boating accidents in 2013. DHSMV numbers represent registrations issued at the main office instead of at county level.

2013 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

PWC REGISTRATION

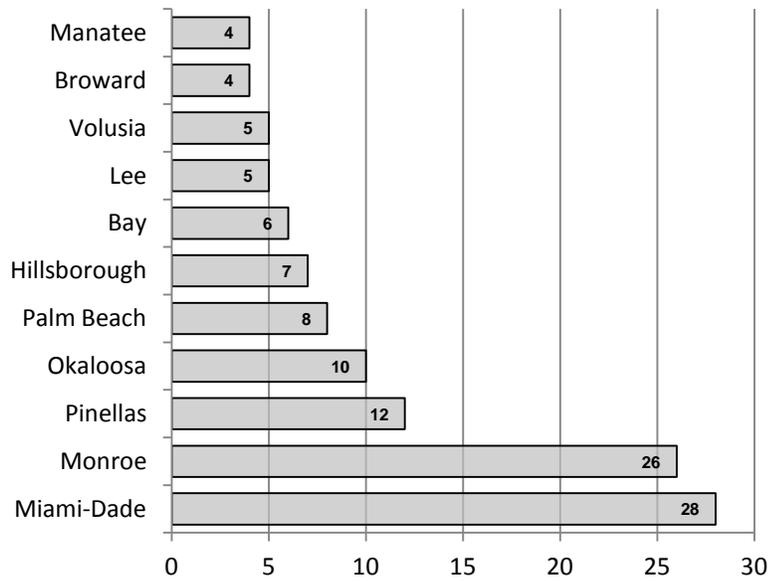


PWC ACCIDENTS 2009-2013



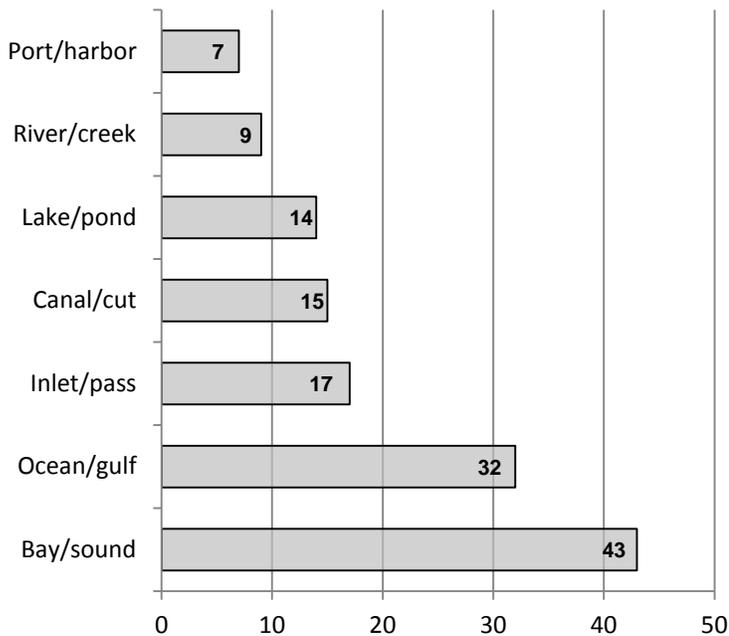
*137 total PWC accidents.

PWC ACCIDENTS-TOP ELEVEN COUNTIES FOR 2013

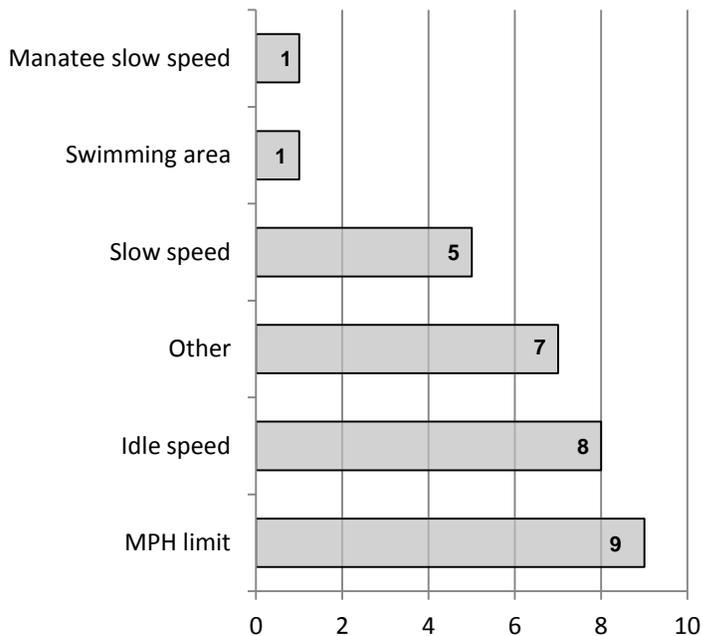


2013 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

ACCIDENT SITE LOCATION

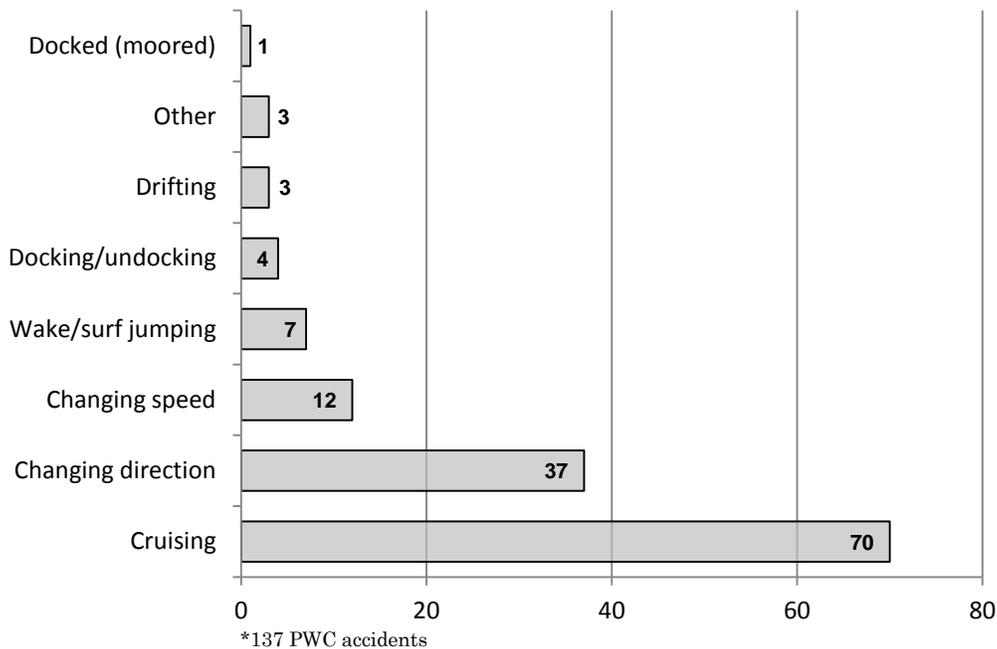


RESTRICTED AREA ACCIDENTS



*31 PWC accidents occurred within a restricted area

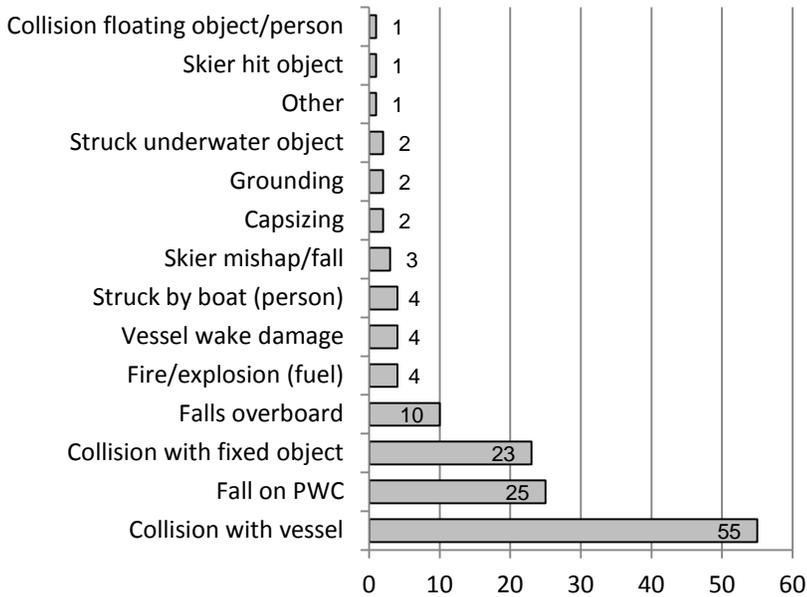
OPERATION AT TIME OF ACCIDENT



*137 PWC accidents

2013 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

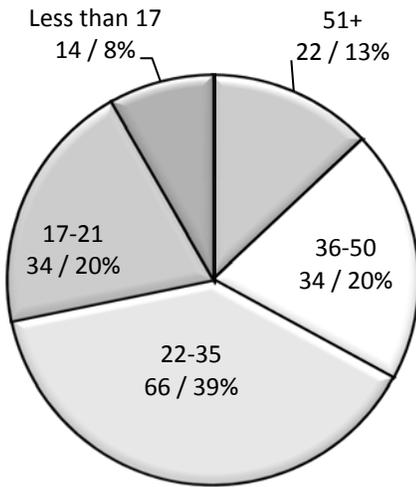
PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT



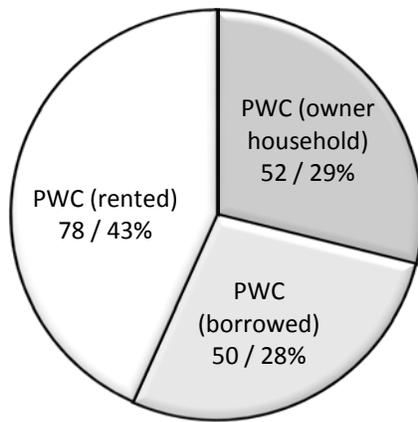
*137 PWC accidents
(Based on first harmful event as determined by the state reviewing authority.)

A rental PWC was traveling south in the Clearwater causeway channel near marker 7 in Pinellas County. A large tour boat was traveling north in the same channel. The Captain of the tour boat noticed that the PWC was operating nearby off of the port bow, and he was unsure of the PWC operator's intentions. The Captain of the tour boat then put the vessel in neutral to slacken its speed. The PWC accelerated quickly towards the bow without changing course and impacted the bow of tour boat near the center of catamaran hull. An employee of the tour boat responded quickly and retrieved both occupants of the PWC from the water. The crew of tour boat then started CPR until the Coast Guard arrived. Both occupants were pronounced deceased by Clearwater EMS. The operator of the PWC had less than 10 hours of experience operating a PWC.

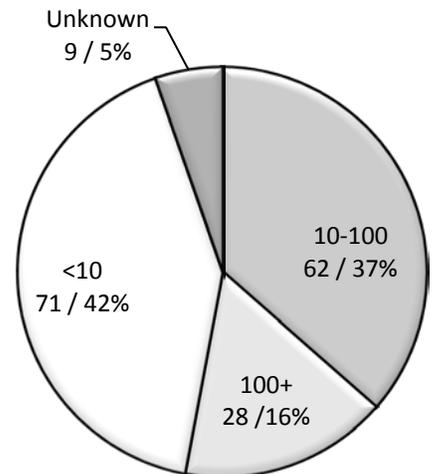
PWC OPERATOR AGE



PWC OWNERSHIP



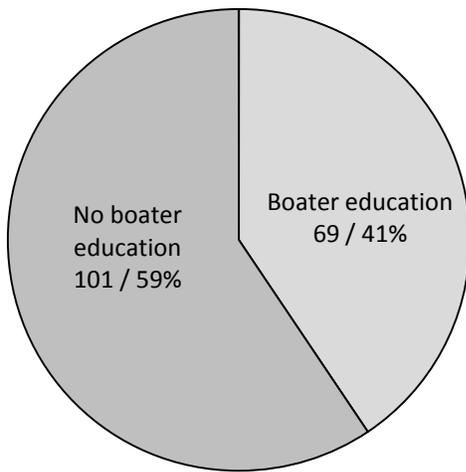
PWC OPERATOR EXPERIENCE (HOURS)



*137 PWC accidents involving 180 PWC and 170 operators

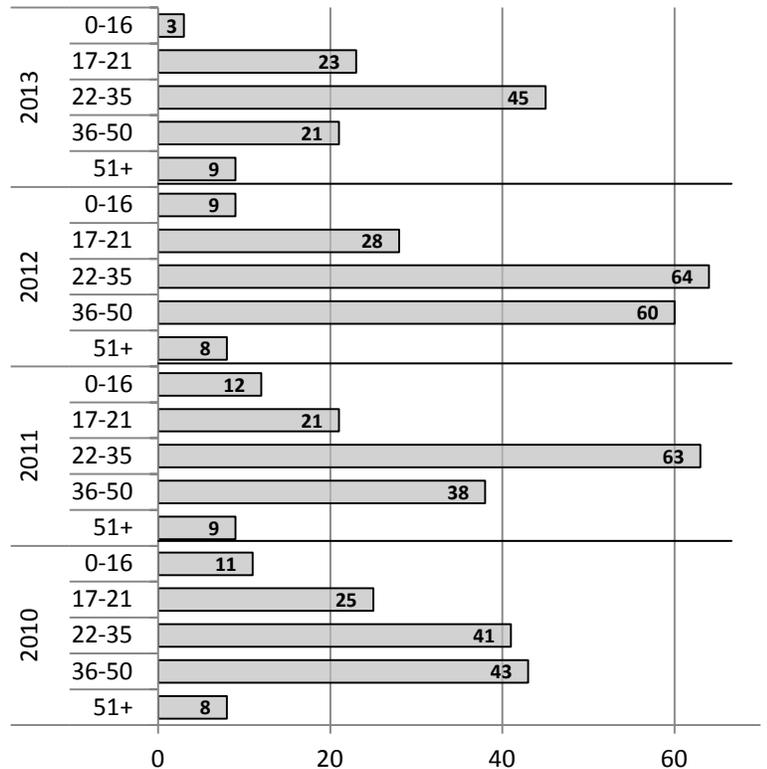
2013 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

PWC OPERATOR EDUCATION



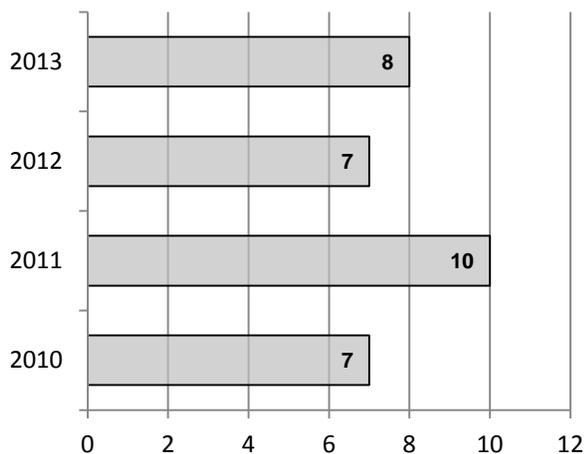
*170 operators

PWC OPERATORS BY AGE WITHOUT BOATER EDUCATION



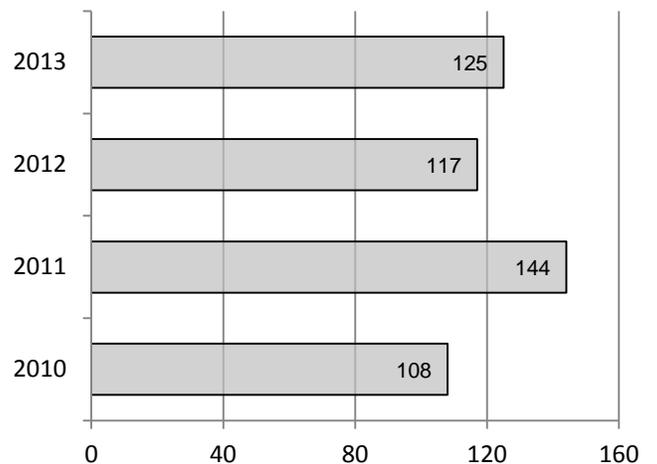
*137 accidents involving 101 operators with no formal education

PWC FATALITIES 2010-2013



*137 accidents involving 10 fatalities

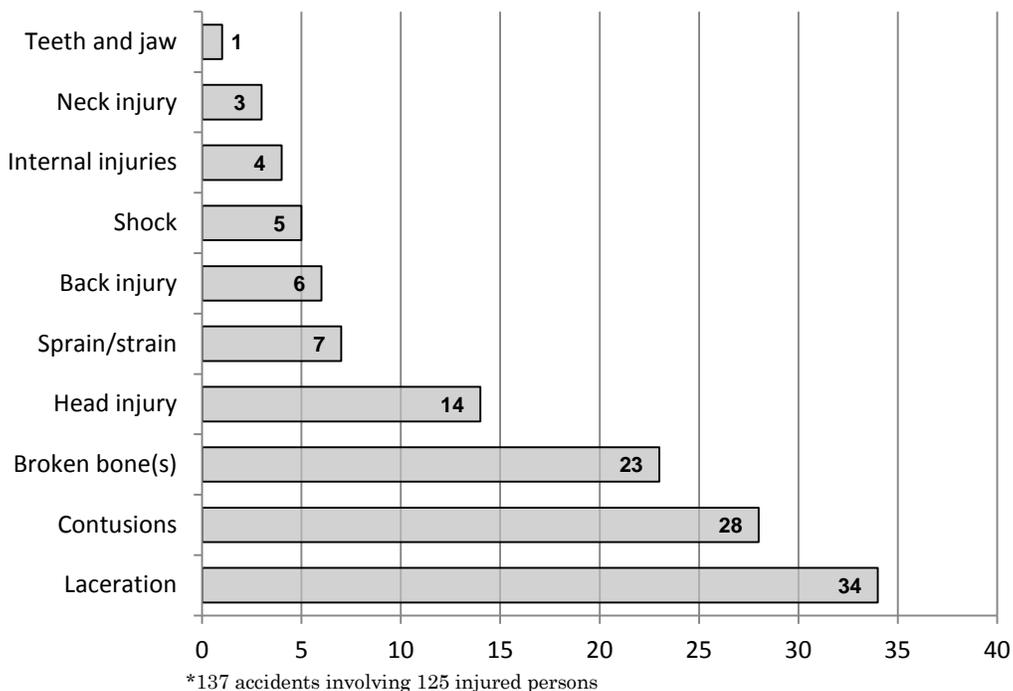
PWC INJURIES 2010-2013



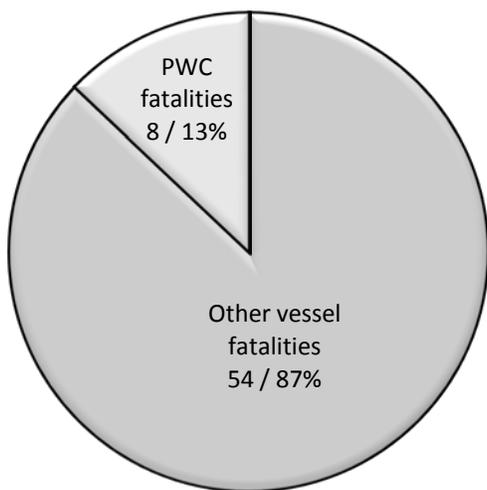
*125 injuries

2013 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

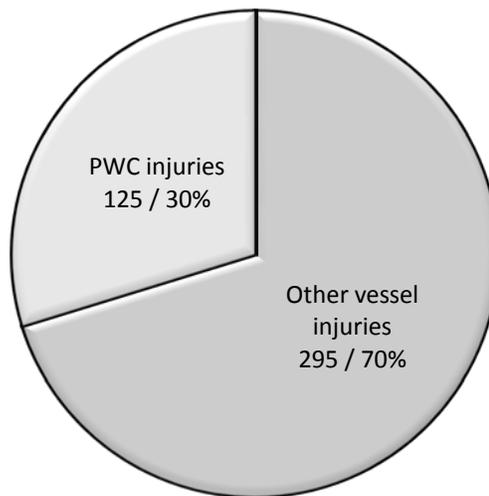
PRIMARY INJURY TYPES



COMPARISONS OF PWC FATALITIES

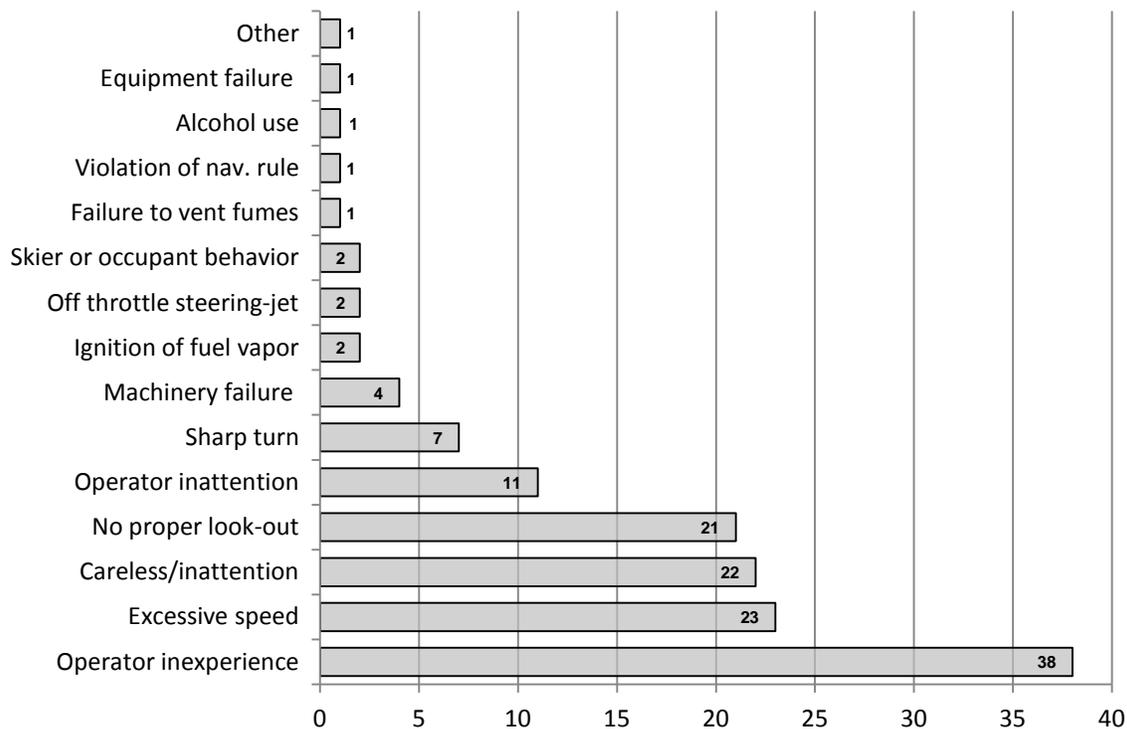


COMPARISONS OF PWC INJURIES

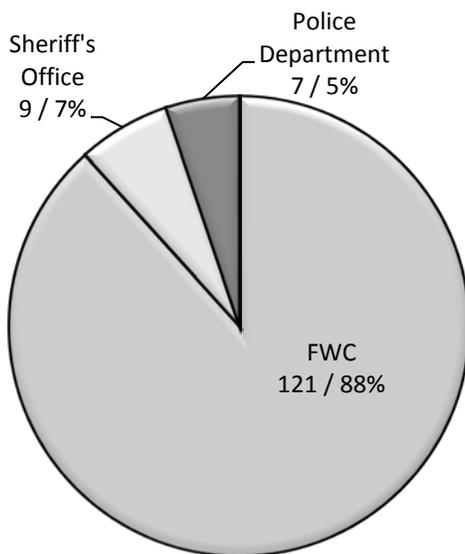


2013 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

PRIMARY CAUSE ASSESSED BY REVIEWING AUTHORITY



INVESTIGATING AGENCY



*137 PWC accidents