



Personal Watercraft Accidents



2014 Personal Watercraft Accidents

Cover Photos: (Courtesy of FWC)

On the evening of May 4 2014, a 25 foot Hydrasport and a PWC were involved in a boating accident near Monument Island in Miami.

The Hydrasport was traveling north from the MacArthur Causeway Bridge toward the East Venetian Bridge. The operator advised he was traveling on plane, and he noticed multiple PWC maneuvering on the west side of the island. The operator described one of the PWC making a sharp U-turn toward the bow of his vessel which resulted in the Hydrasport striking the PWC and its operator on the starboard side. The PWC operator was ejected from the impact and landed in the water. The operator held onto a piece of the seat that had broken off during the impact. The PWC continued under power, circled around the stern of Hydrasport and struck it on the port side. Several other PWC from the area came to his aid and transported him to the island. The operator of the PWC was taken to a local hospital for treatment of non-life threatening injuries.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

2014 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION AND ACCIDENTS BY COUNTY									
County	Pleasure	Rental	Total	PWC Accidents	PWC Fatalities	PWC Injuries	Property Damage	Rank	Accident Rate*
Alachua	687	1	688	0	0	0	\$0	25	0
Baker	198	0	1,980	0	0	0	\$0	26	0
Bay	2,011	275	2,286	4	1	3	\$7,800	6	1:572
Bradford	234	0	234	0	0	0	\$0	27	0
Brevard	3,392	11	3,403	1	0	1	\$0	24	1:3,403
Broward	7,786	63	7,939	2	0	0	\$8,500	13	1:3,970
Calhoun	50	0	50	0	0	0	\$0	28	0
Charlotte	1,422	45	1,467	3	0	3	\$1,400	11	1:489
Citrus	856	0	856	1	1	0	\$400	21	0
Clay	1,575	7	1,582	0	0	0	\$0	29	0
Collier	2,969	239	3,208	0	0	0	\$0	30	0
Columbia	253	0	253	0	0	0	\$0	31	0
Desoto	161	1	162	0	0	0	\$0	32	0
Dixie	55	0	55	0	0	0	\$0	33	0
Duval	3,675	10	3,685	0	0	0	\$0	34	0
Escambia	1,629	36	1,665	1	0	1	\$0	23	1:1,665
Flagler	634	3	637	0	0	0	\$0	35	0
Franklin	156	1	157	0	0	0	\$0	36	0
Gadsden	77	1	78	0	0	0	\$0	37	0
Gilchrist	87	0	87	0	0	0	\$0	38	0
Glades	27	1	28	0	0	0	\$0	39	0
Gulf	126	2	128	0	0	0	\$0	40	0
Hamilton	36	0	36	0	0	0	\$0	41	0
Hardee	105	1	106	0	0	0	\$0	42	0
Hendry	180	0	180	0	0	0	\$0	43	0
Hernando	943	1	944	0	0	0	\$0	44	0
Highlands	1,063	3	1,069	1	0	1	\$2,200	18	1:1,069
Hillsborough	5,985	45	6,030	3	0	4	\$10,150	9	1:2,010
Holmes	80	2	82	0	0	0	\$0	45	0
Indian River	719	1	720	0	0	0	\$0	46	0
Jackson	238	3	241	0	0	0	\$0	47	0
Jefferson	104	2	106	0	0	0	\$0	48	0
Lafayette	50	0	50	0	0	0	\$0	49	0
Lake	2,199	8	2,207	1	0	3	\$3,100	17	1:2,207
Lee	4,409	168	4,577	2	0	4	\$250	14	1:2,289
Leon	1,084	1	1,085	0	0	0	\$0	50	0
Levy	176	0	176	0	0	0	\$0	51	0

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

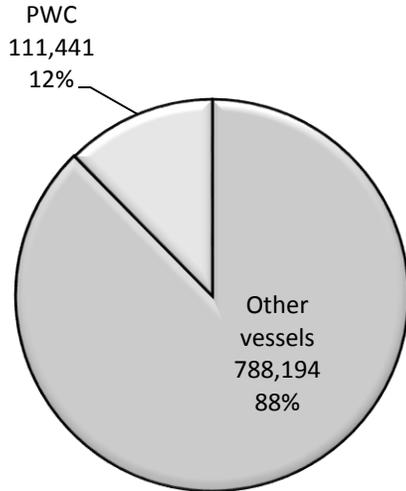
2014 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION AND ACCIDENTS BY COUNTY									
County	Pleasure	Rental	Total	PWC Accidents	PWC Fatalities	PWC Injuries	Property Damage	Rank	Accident Rate*
Liberty	31	0	31	0	0	0	\$0	52	0
Madison	32	0	32	0	0	0	\$0	53	0
Manatee	2,071	47	2,108	0	0	0	\$0	54	0
Marion	1,598	3	1,601	0	0	0	\$0	55	0
Martin	1,453	16	1,469	1	0	0	\$5,029	15	1:1,469
Miami-Dade	11,548	483	12,031	11	0	14	\$27,500	4	1:1,094
Monroe	1,580	372	1,952	17	1	15	\$29,750	2	1:122
Nassau	604	3	607	0	0	0	\$0	56	0
Okaloosa	2,772	245	3,017	7	0	6	\$11,005	5	1:431
Okeechobee	217	0	217	0	0	0	\$0	57	0
Orange	6,161	39	6,200	3	0	4	\$1,200	12	1:2,067
Osceola	1,796	20	1,816	0	0	0	\$0	58	0
Palm Beach	5,995	29	6,024	12	1	9	\$44,000	3	1:502
Pasco	3,160	14	3,174	1	0	2	\$5,000	16	1:3,174
Pinellas	7,171	159	7,330	19	0	11	\$46,650	1	1:386
Polk	2,633	10	2,643	0	0	0	\$0	59	0
Putnam	495	4	499	1	0	1	\$0	22	1:499
Santa Rosa	1,757	63	1,820	1	0	1	\$1,000	20	1:1,820
Sarasota	2,169	76	2,245	3	1	6	\$5,200	10	1:748
Seminole	2,940	3	2,943	1	0	2	\$2,000	19	1:2,943
St. Johns	1,758	6	1,764	4	0	4	\$2,300	8	1:441
St. Lucie	1,261	3	1,264	0	0	0	\$0	60	0
Sumter	240	0	240	0	0	0	\$0	61	0
Suwannee	167	0	167	0	0	0	\$0	62	0
Taylor	82	0	82	0	0	0	\$0	63	0
Union	65	0	65	0	0	0	\$0	64	0
Volusia	2,370	38	2,408	4	0	3	\$3,000	7	1:602
Wakulla	150	0	150	0	0	0	\$0	65	0
Walton	524	22	546	0	0	0	\$0	66	0
Washington	129	2	131	0	0	0	\$0	67	0
DHSMV	401	2	403						
TOTAL	108,851	2,590	111,441	104	5	98	\$217,434		1:1,072

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

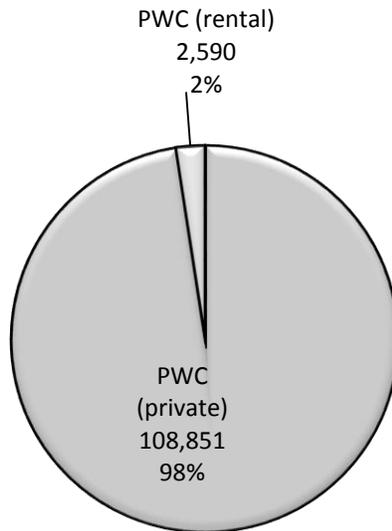
Those Counties in bold print represent the top twelve counties for PWC boating accidents in 2014.
DHSMV numbers represent registrations issued at the main office instead of at county level.

2014 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

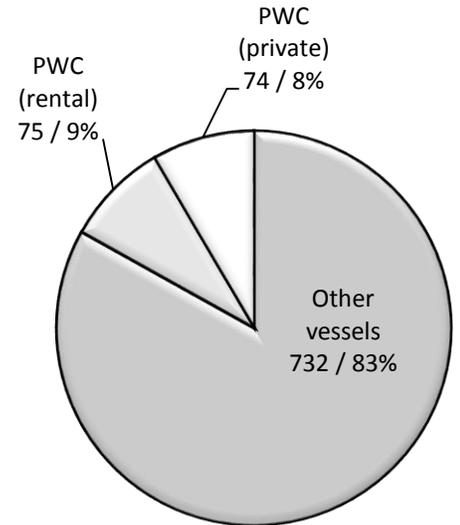
TOTAL REGISTERED PWC



PWC OWNERSHIP BY REGISTRATION

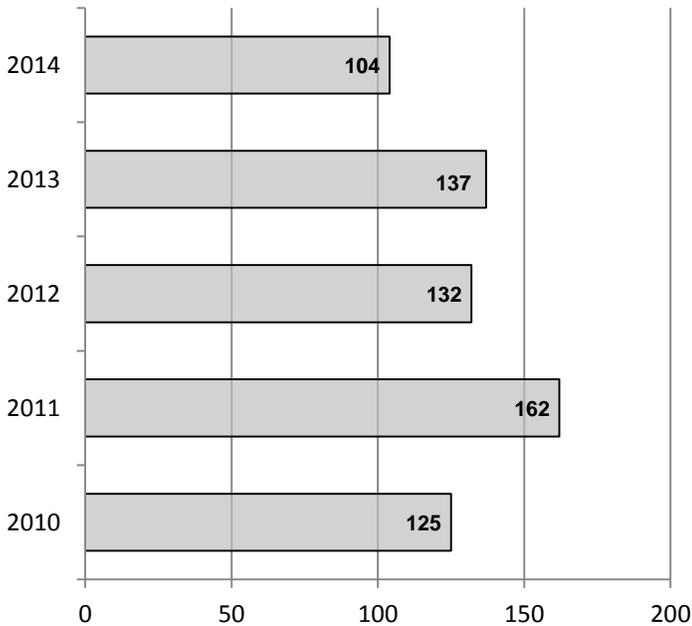


COMPARISON OF PWC TO VESSELS INVOLVED IN ACCIDENTS



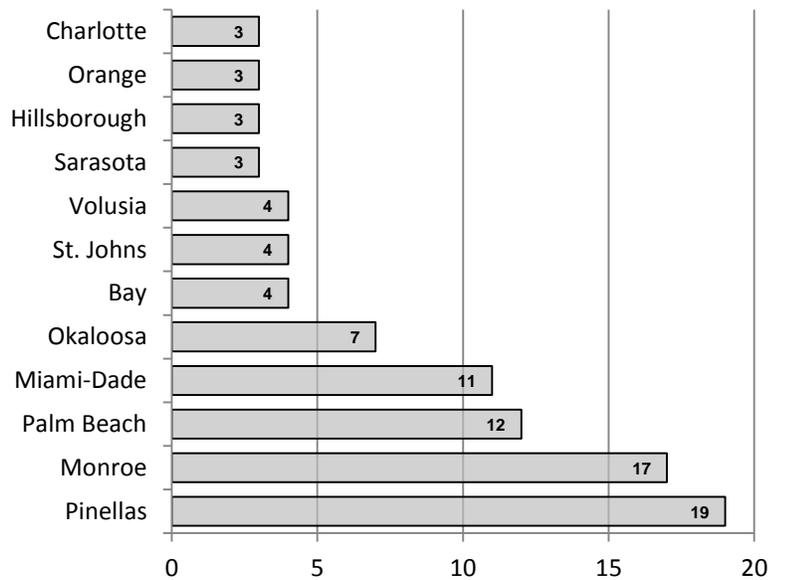
*881 vessels involved in accidents

PWC ACCIDENTS 2010-2014



*104 total PWC accidents.

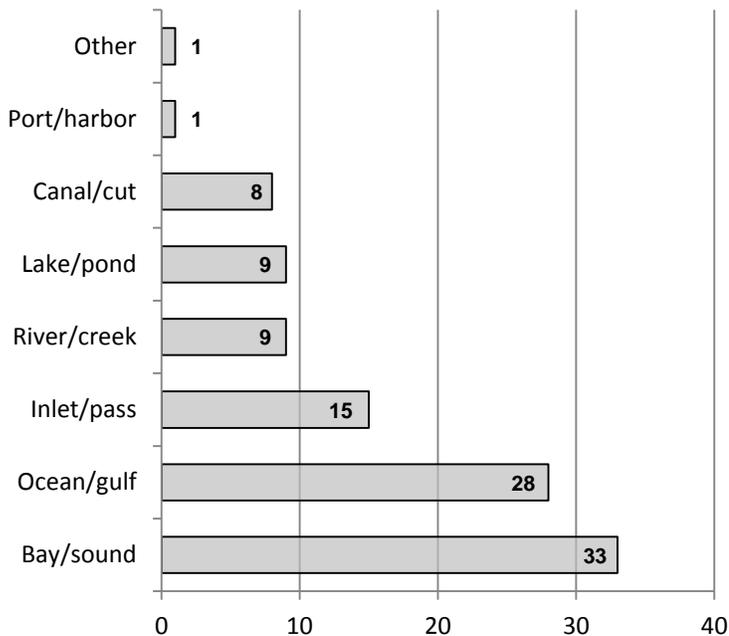
PWC ACCIDENTS TOP TWELVE COUNTIES



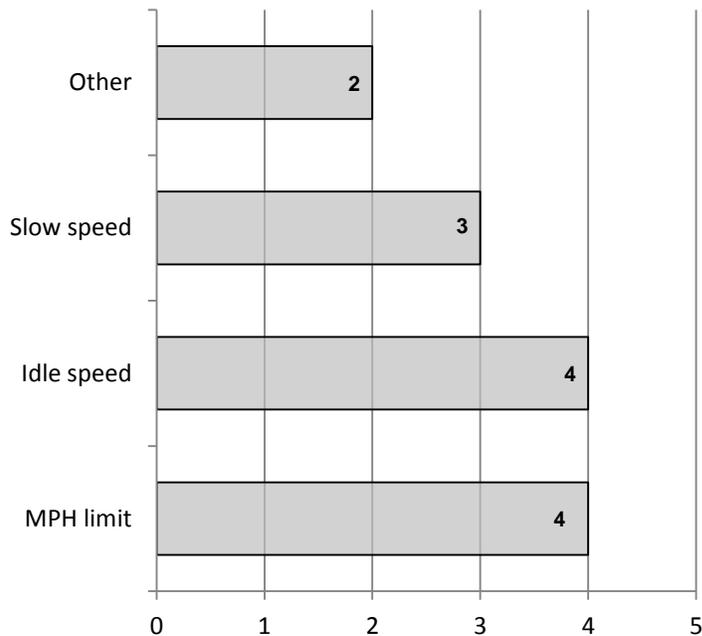
*Twelve counties due to ties.

2014 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

ACCIDENT SITE LOCATION

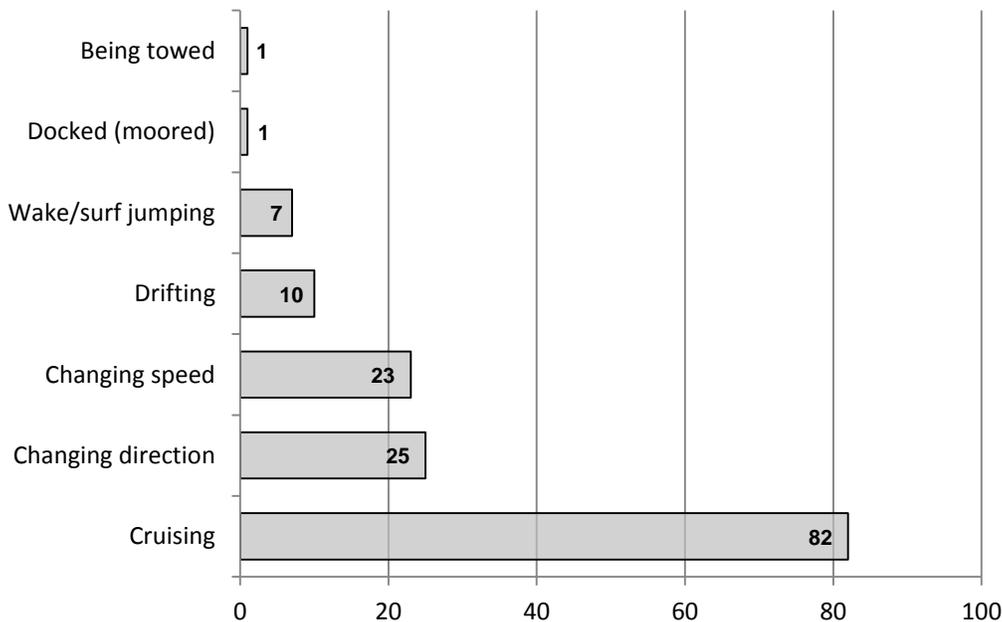


RESTRICTED AREA ACCIDENTS



*13 PWC accidents occurred within a restricted area

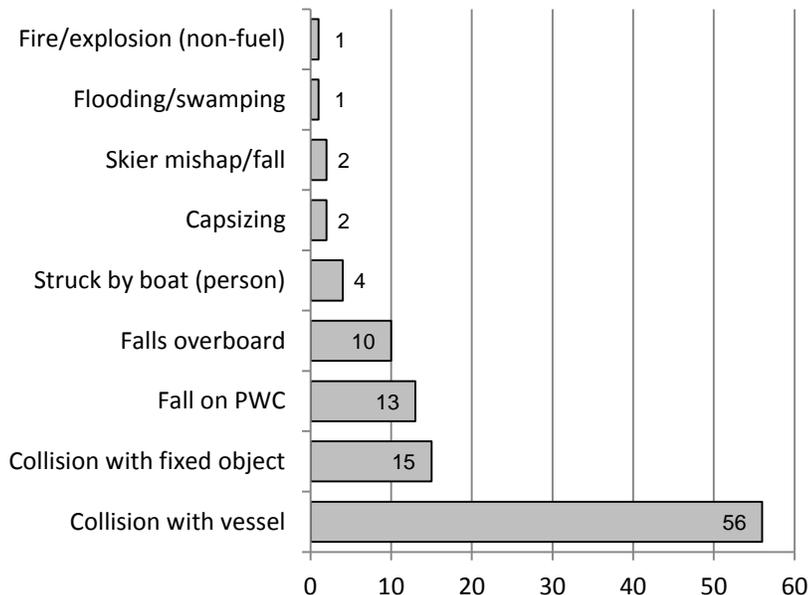
OPERATION AT TIME OF ACCIDENT



*149 PWC involved in accidents.

2014 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

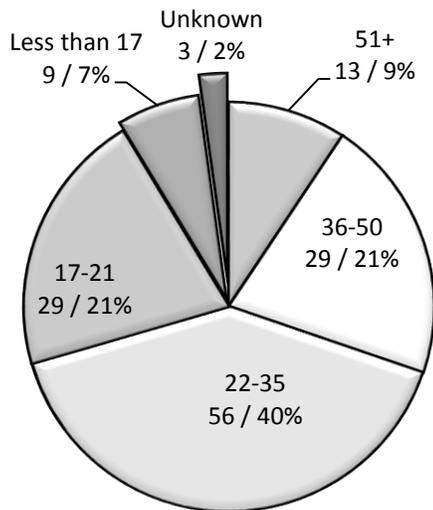
PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT



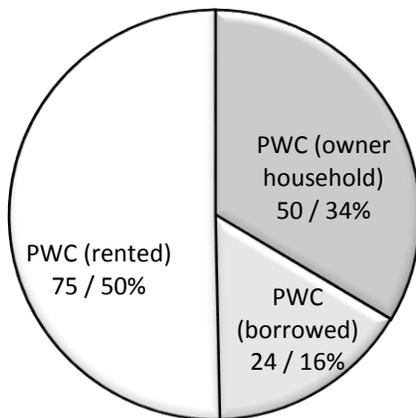
*104 PWC accidents
(Based on first harmful event as determined by the state reviewing authority.)

On May 7th, 2014 a 73-year-old male and a 21-year-old female were operating their PWC on the Salt River in Citrus County. They were turning tight circles and zig zag patterns very close to one another. When the female straightened out of a turn she struck the other PWC and the male operator. He was airlifted to Ocala Regional Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries later that night.

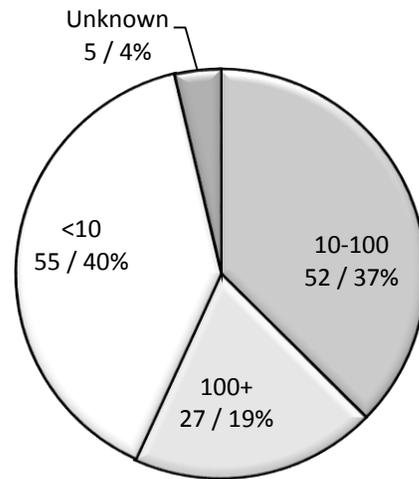
PWC OPERATOR AGE



PWC OWNERSHIP



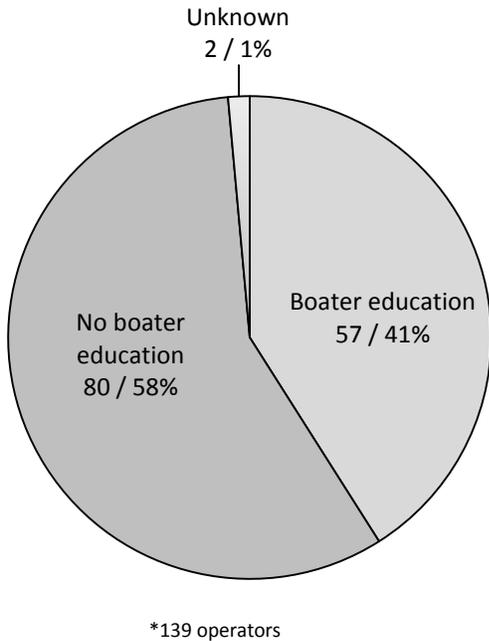
PWC OPERATOR EXPERIENCE (HOURS)



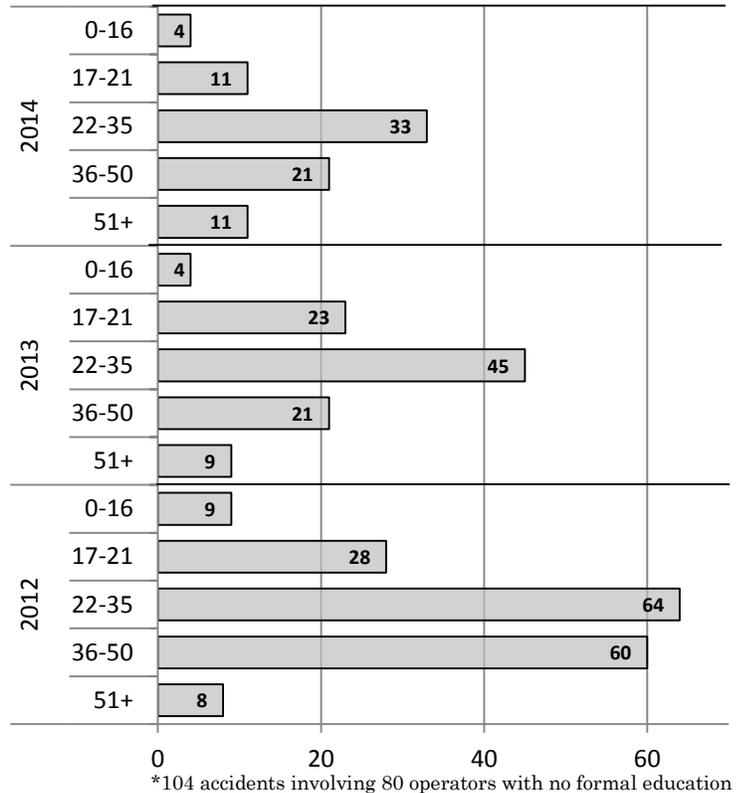
*104 PWC accidents involving 149 PWC and 139 operators
Operator information for two accidents is unknown due to hit and run accidents.

2014 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

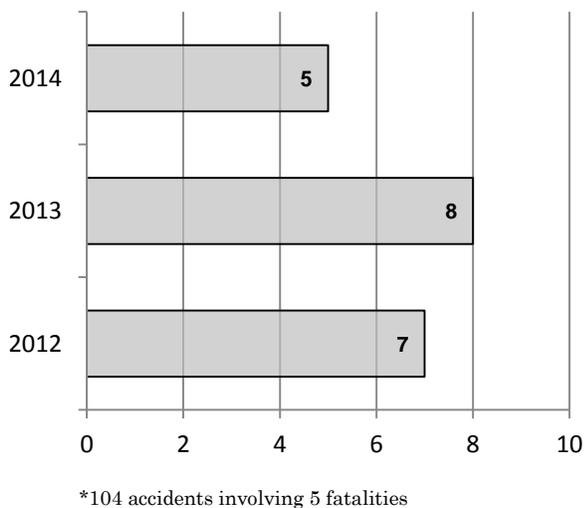
PWC OPERATOR EDUCATION



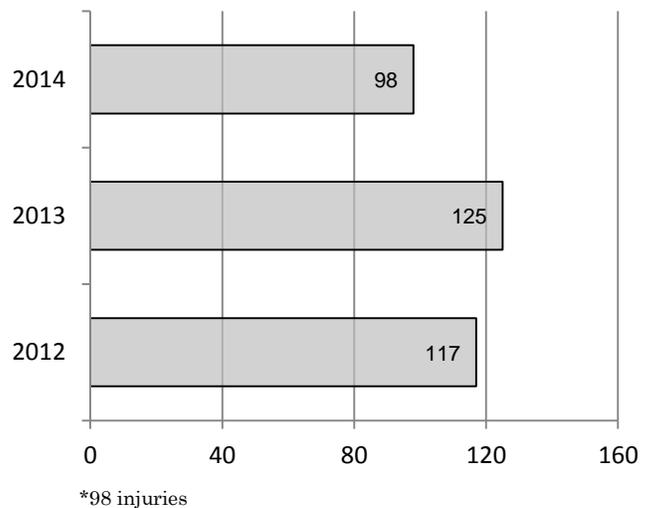
PWC OPERATORS BY AGE WITHOUT BOATER EDUCATION



PWC FATALITIES 2012-2014

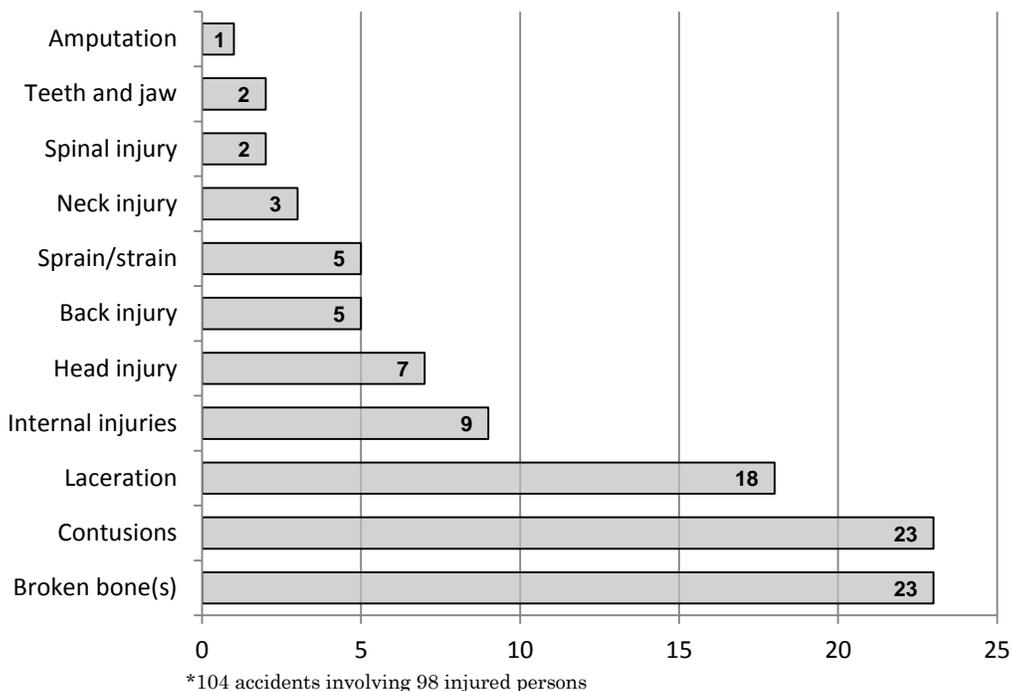


PWC INJURIES 2012-2014

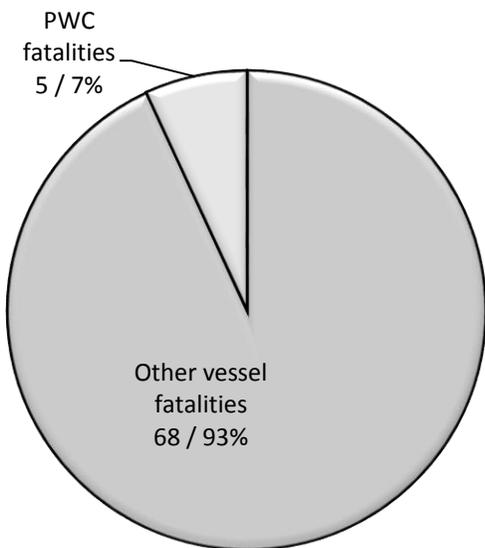


2014 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

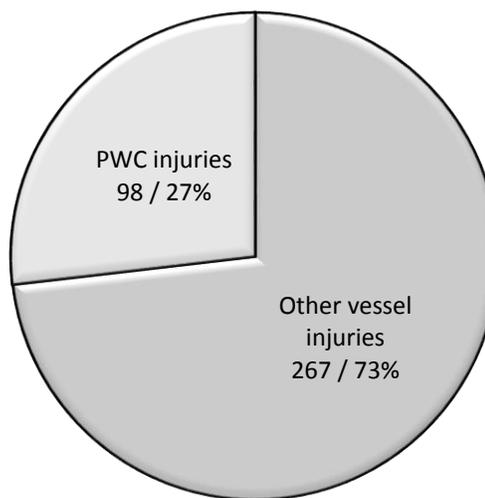
PRIMARY INJURY TYPES



COMPARISONS OF PWC FATALITIES

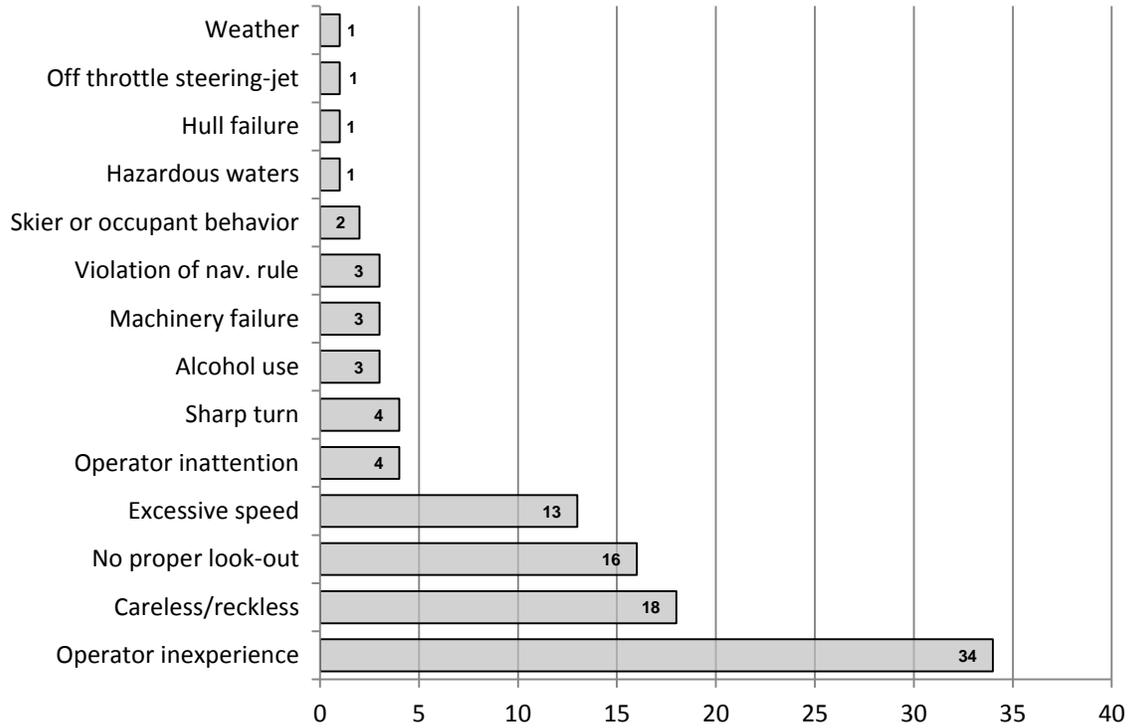


COMPARISONS OF PWC INJURIES

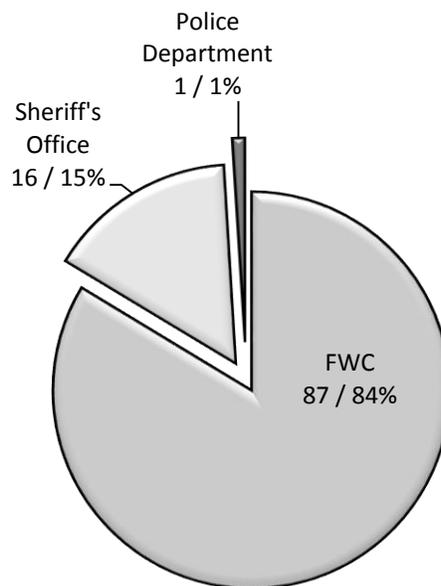


2014 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

PRIMARY CAUSE ASSESSED BY REVIEWING AUTHORITY



INVESTIGATING AGENCY



*104 PWC accidents