

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 2011 All-Terrain Vehicle Enforcement and Safety Report



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Introduction

2011 Yearly Summary

Wisconsin had sixteen ATV fatalities, a slight increase of two from the fourteen fatalities that occurred in 2010. ATV registrations totaled 284,043, a decrease from last year's 287,163. Registrations include public use, private use and municipal use. There were 6,235 total students certified in 2011. Of those, 2,792 students were certified by 487 active instructors in 190 classes and the remaining 3,443 students were certified through internet courses. Since the ATV Education Program began in 1986 there has been a steady increase of certified ATV students reaching 93,537 at the end of 2011. The Department of Natural Resources continues to work with the Department of Tourism, The Off-road Vehicle Council and the Wisconsin ATV Association throughout the state in order to promote safe and ethical ATV operation.

Contributing Factors to Fatal ATV Accidents

The greatest contributing factors to ATV fatalities were not wearing a helmet and not being ATV safety education certified. Of the victims, 87% were not wearing a helmet and not safety certified, prominent trends over the past several years.

Wisconsin requires that all ATV operators at least age 12 and born after January 1, 1988 complete a state or provincial Certified ATV Safety Course to operate in public areas.

Alcohol, was found to be involved in seven of the sixteen crashes (blood test results were not available for an additional two victims). Crashes are listed as alcohol involved if any detectable amount of alcohol is found in the victim's body or witnesses verify that the victim was consuming alcohol. Thirty-six operators were arrested for operating an ATV while intoxicated, down three from 2010's thirty-nine arrests.

Most fatal crashes occurred on roads not designated as ATV routes and private lands. The number of roads opened up to ATV use by local municipalities continues to increase as ATV owners pressure local governments for places to ride. This is an unsafe trend as ATVs have a high center of gravity and are equipped with soft, low pressure tires which makes them unstable on roadways. *For the past several years, the most frequent ATV citation issued by law enforcement officers is for illegal operation on or near a highway.*

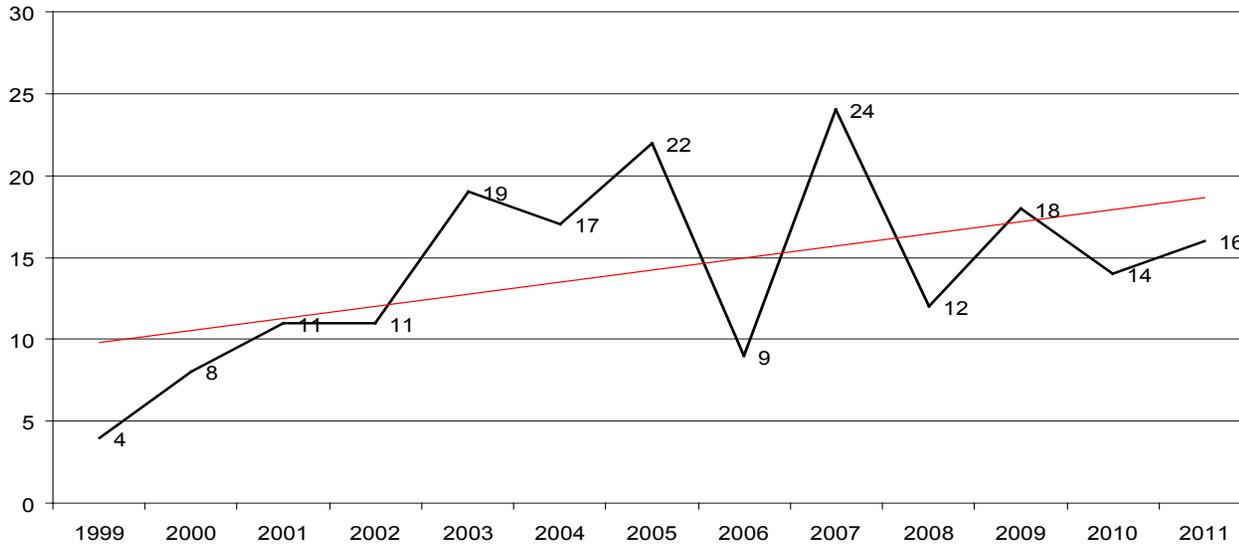
ATV Safety Tips

To ensure safe, enjoyable and ethical ATV use in Wisconsin the Department recommends the following safety tips:

- Complete an ATV safety course. These courses establish a safety mind set and provide basic knowledge in the safe, legal and ethical operation of ATVs.
- Always wear an approved helmet. Adults need to set a good example for younger riders.
- Limit your travel and use caution when operating on roads. ATVs have a high center of gravity and are equipped with soft, low pressure tires which make them unstable on roadways.
- Use a higher degree of caution on private lands. Private lands tend to have trails that are not maintained and contain additional hazards such as uneven terrain, rocks, ditches, machinery and buildings.
- Don't drink and ride. Even a small amount of alcohol will affect a person's reaction time. Wait until you're done riding for the day before consuming alcoholic beverages.
- Slow down, especially when in close proximity to other people and ATV operators. ATVs typically operate on off-road terrain and higher speeds could cause operators to easily lose control. Speed also increases the amount of distance needed to stop or avoid a hazard.

Historical Data

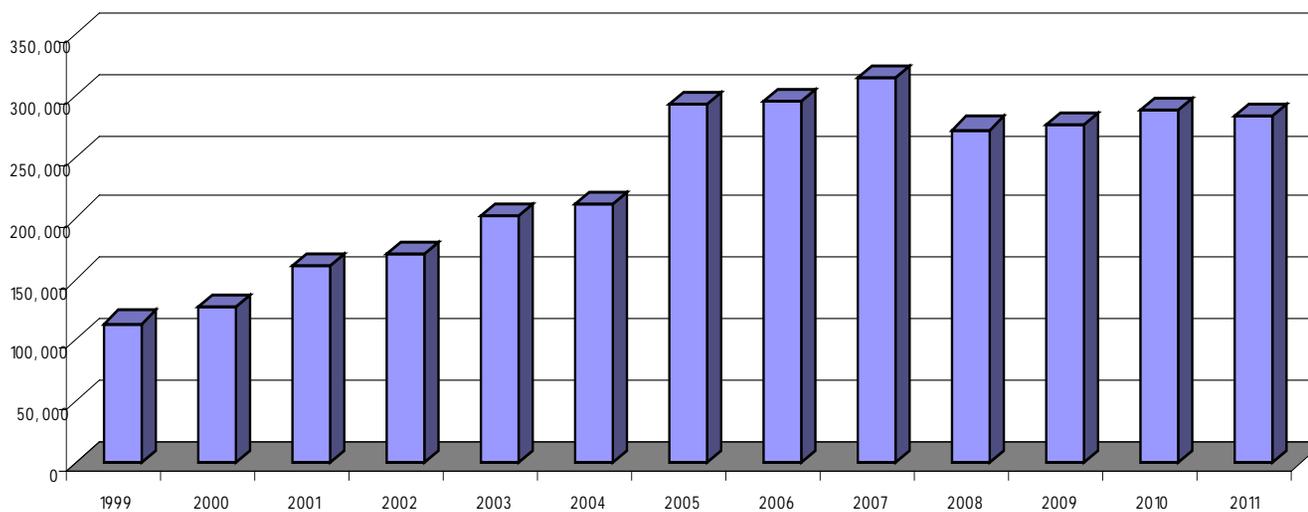
History of ATV Fatalities



Since 1999, we have seen an increasing trend in fatalities while operating an ATV. The majority of the victims were not wearing helmets and had not taken a DNR ATV Safety Education Course. Two easy ways to reduce the risk of having a potentially fatal ATV incident are:

1. taking a safety certification course
2. wearing a helmet

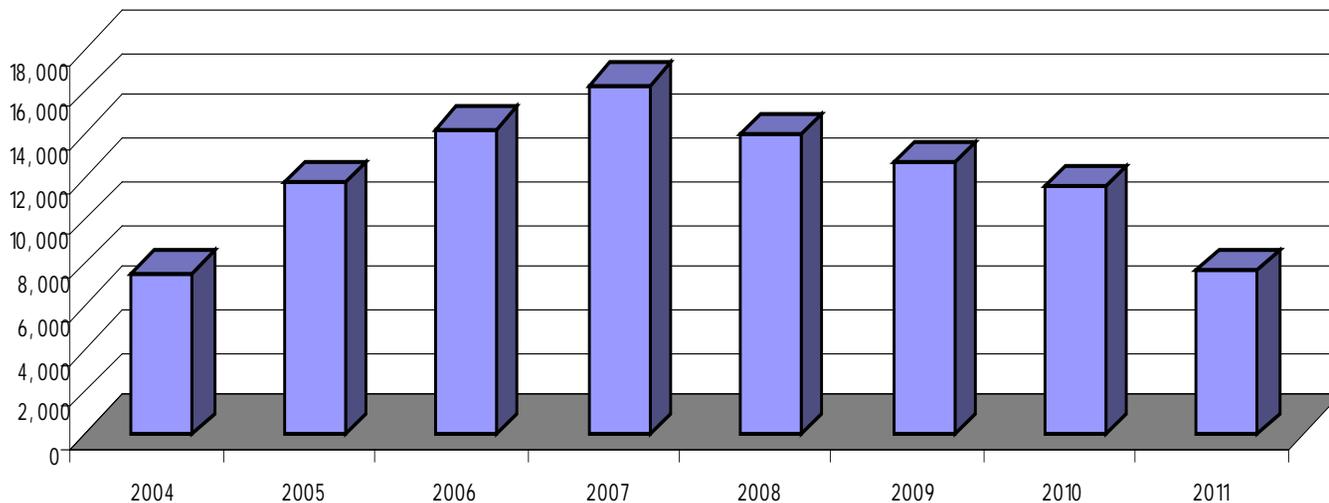
History of Wisconsin Resident ATV Registrations



Historical Data

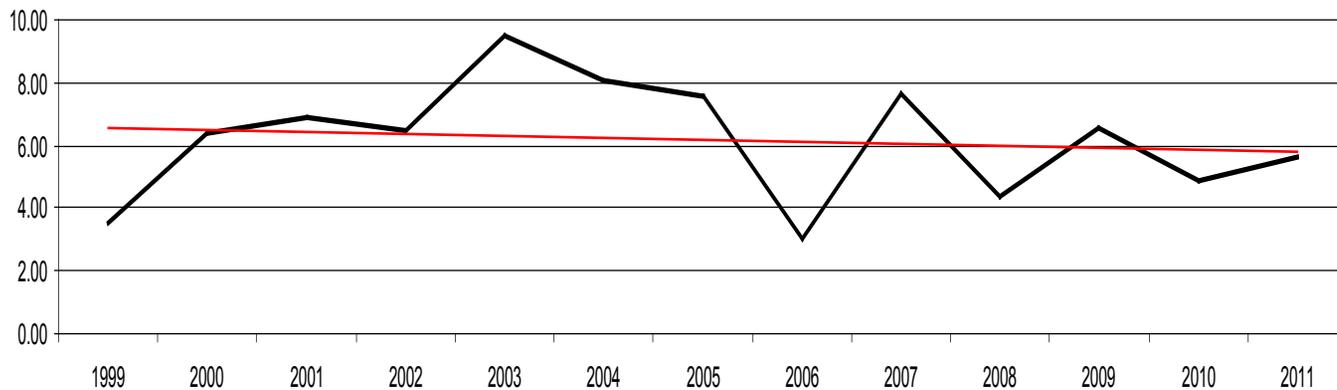
History of ATV Trail Passes Sold

On April 28, 2004 the law changed, requiring non-residential ATV trail passes on all out of state ATVs that were not registered in Wisconsin



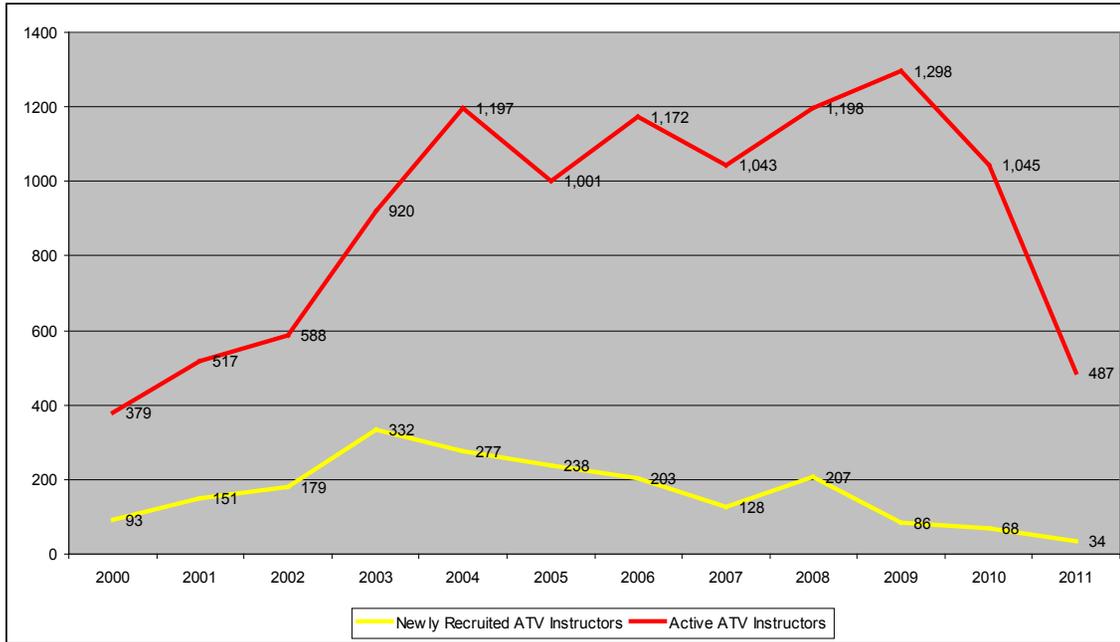
History of ATV Fatalities per 100,000 Wisconsin ATV Registrations

Over the past 12 years there has been a slightly decreasing trend in the number of fatalities per 100,000 registered ATVs (does not include ATV trail passes).



Instructors and Students

History of ATV Instructors



In 2001 the Trail Patrol Ambassador Program was started, which is a group of dedicated and trained volunteers who give their time to patrol Wisconsin's ATV trails.

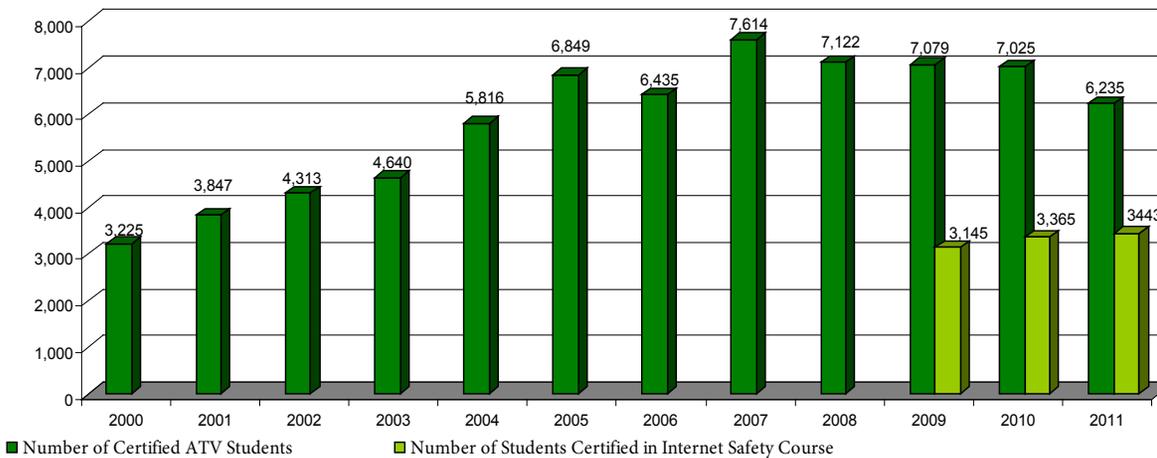
Some of their tasks include:

- Educating the riders on the rules and regulations as well as ethical riding practices.
- Teach Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources ATV certification class.
- Patrol the trails while watching for riders in distress or riders who are violating the law.
- Trail clean up.
- Sign posting.

The ATV Safety Education Program began in 1986 and up until 2011 included over 1000 Volunteer ATV Education Instructors.

*Disclaimer: As of the start of 2011 our DNR Instructor database changed to only include those instructors who had taught during the last 2 years and are up to date on their recertification.

History of Certified ATV Students



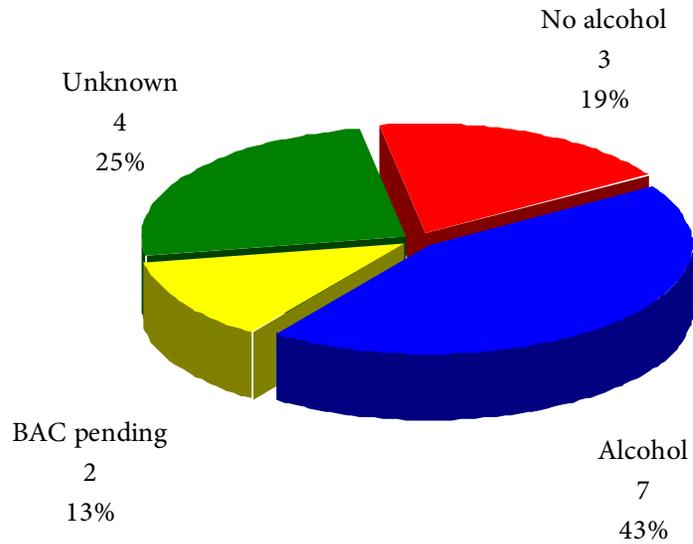
On April 28, 2004 the law changed, requiring mandatory ATV education for operators at least 12 years of age and born after January 1, 1988.

In 2011, 3,443 of the 6,235 total students were certified through an Internet Safety Course.

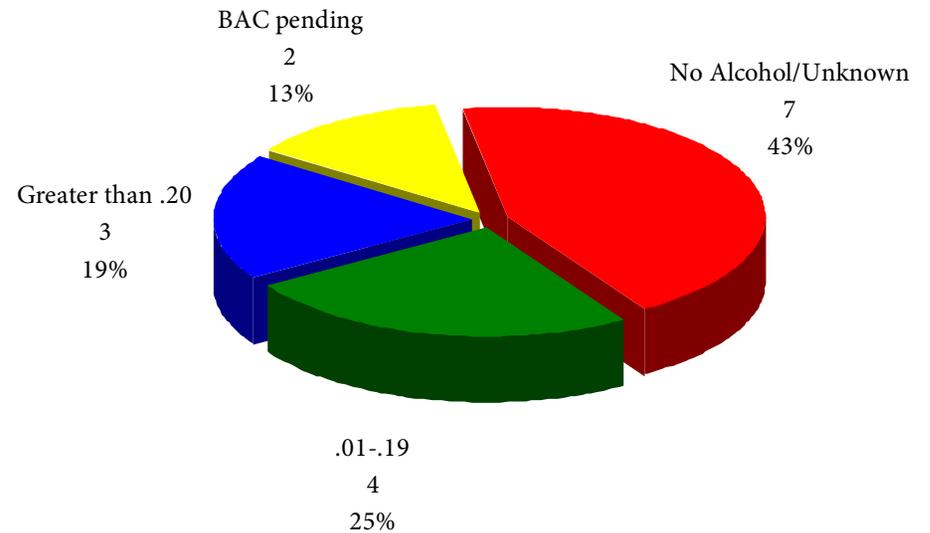
*WI DNR offers ATV Safety Certification Courses online at dnr.wi.gov, Keyword "ATV Safety."

Alcohol Involvement

Alcohol as a Contributing Factor



Amount of Alcohol (BAC) Detected in the Victim at the Time of the Accident



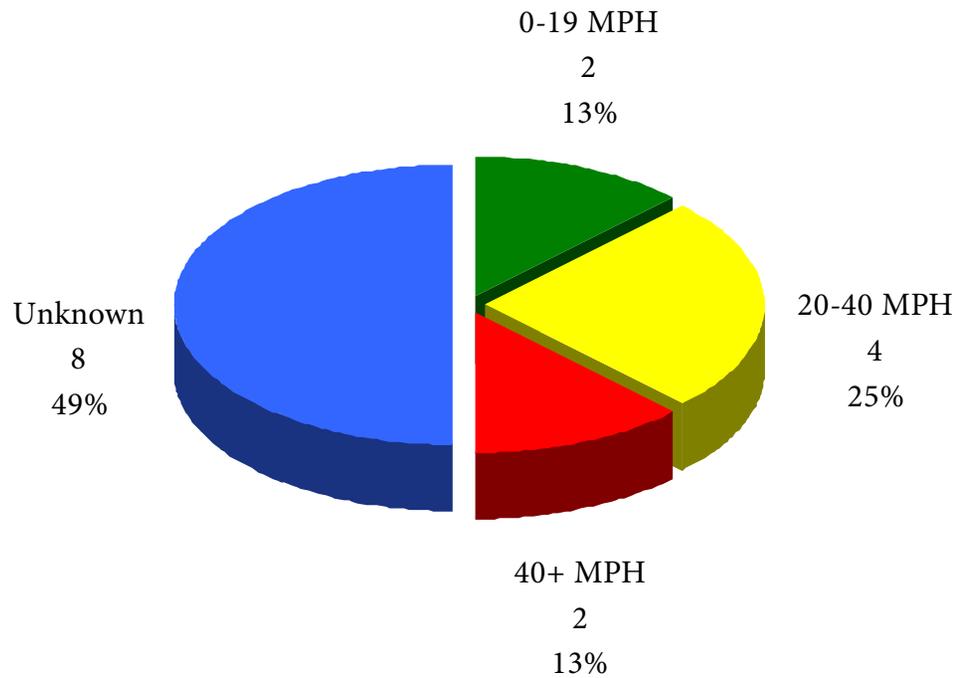
*Alcohol was detected in forty-three percent of the victims. A decrease of fourteen percent from 2010 (57%).

*Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) is in grams/milliliter (g/ml)

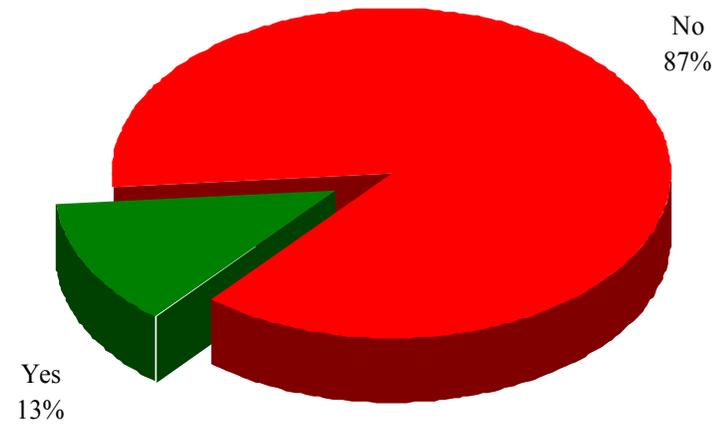
*All Data is representative of a percentage of the data from the 16 fatal accident victims from 2011.

Miscellaneous Factors

Estimated Speed at Time of Accident



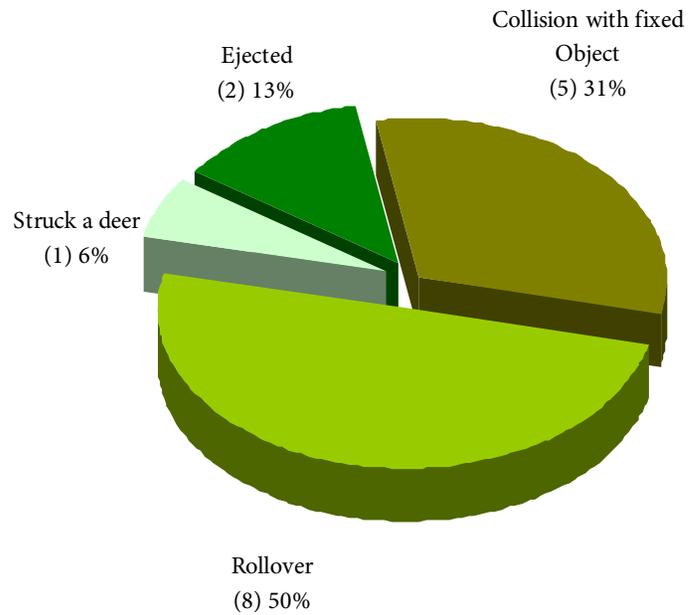
Presence of Helmet During Accident (Yes or No)



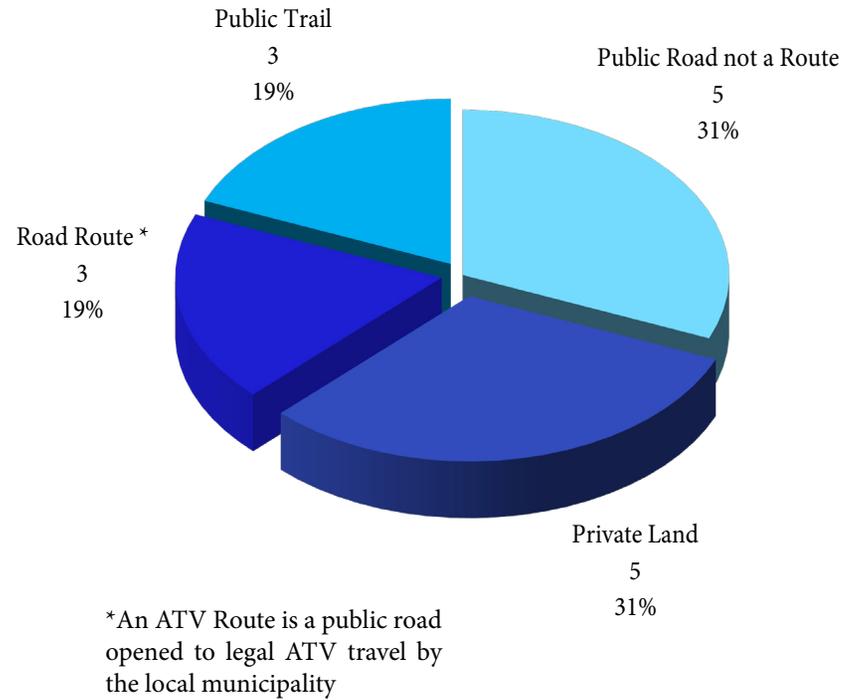
*Past data shows that, on average, it is more likely that an ATV operator wearing a helmet, that has taken an ATV Safety Course will not be involved in a fatal incident.

Miscellaneous Factors

Type of ATV Incident

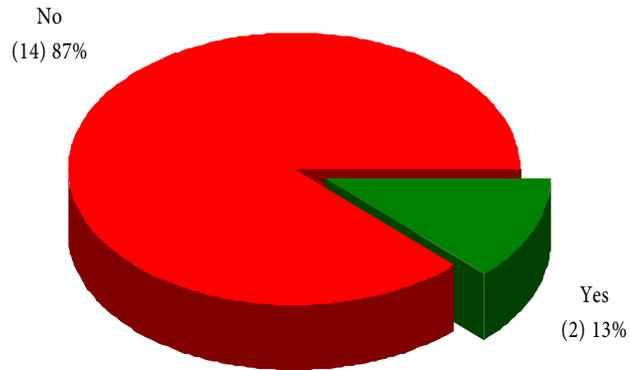


Location of Incident

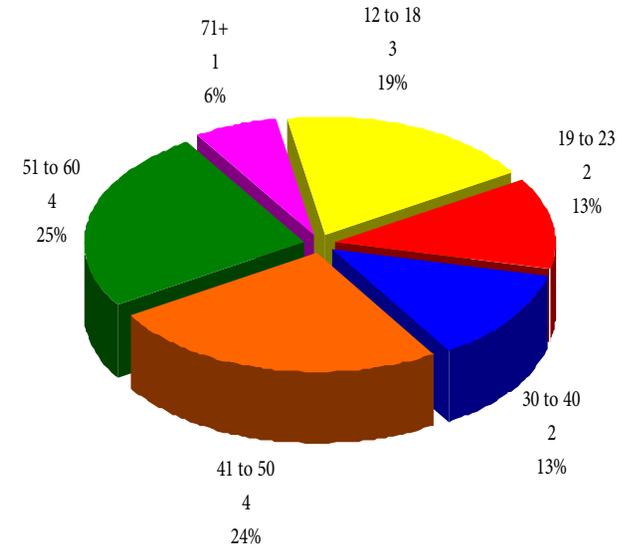


Victim Characteristics

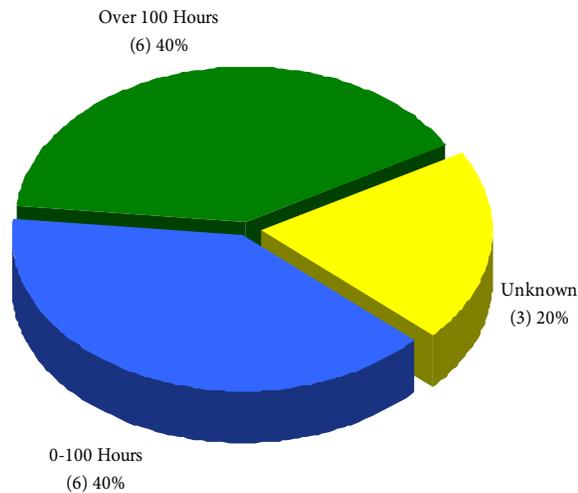
Operator was ATV Safety Certified



Age of Victims



Operator Experience Level

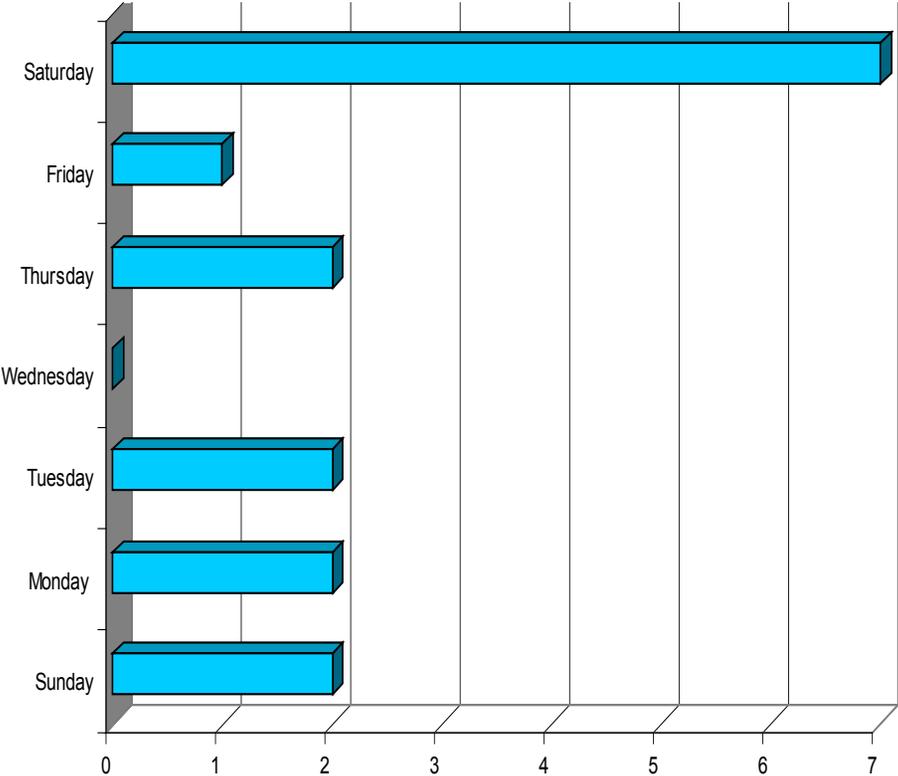


*Operators of at least age twelve and born on or after January 1, 1988 are required by law to complete a Wisconsin ATV Safety Certification Course or another state/province equivalent.

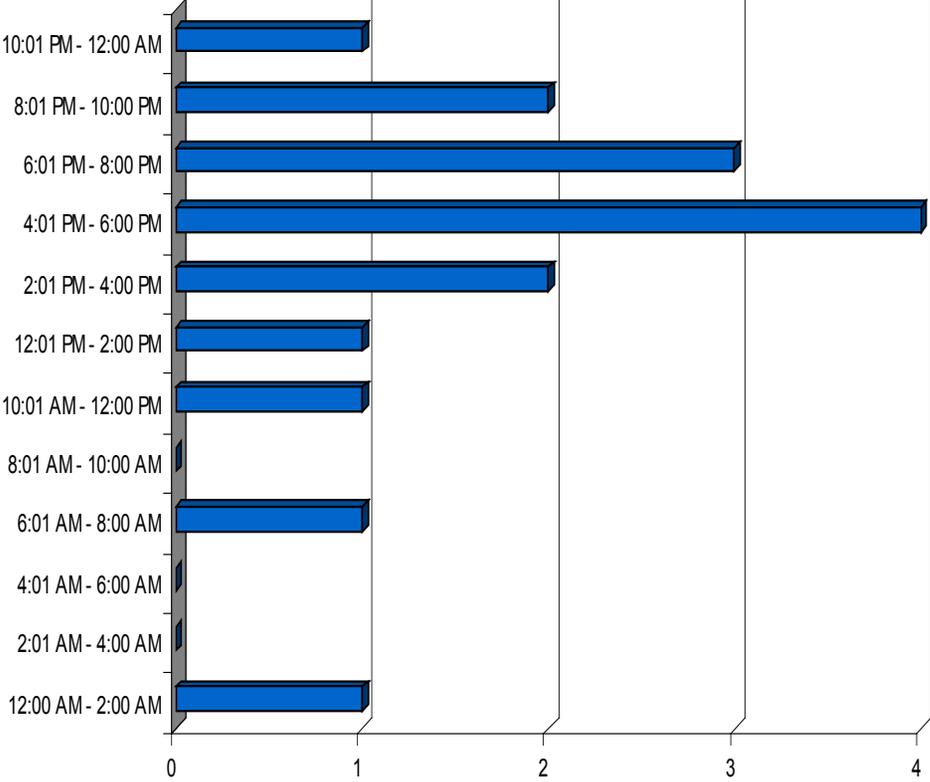
*The Average Age of fatality victims in 2011 was 40 years old, with fifty percent of victims being above 60 years of age.

Time of Fatal Occurrence

Fatal ATV Accidents Versus the Day of the Week



Fatal ATV Accidents versus the Time of Day



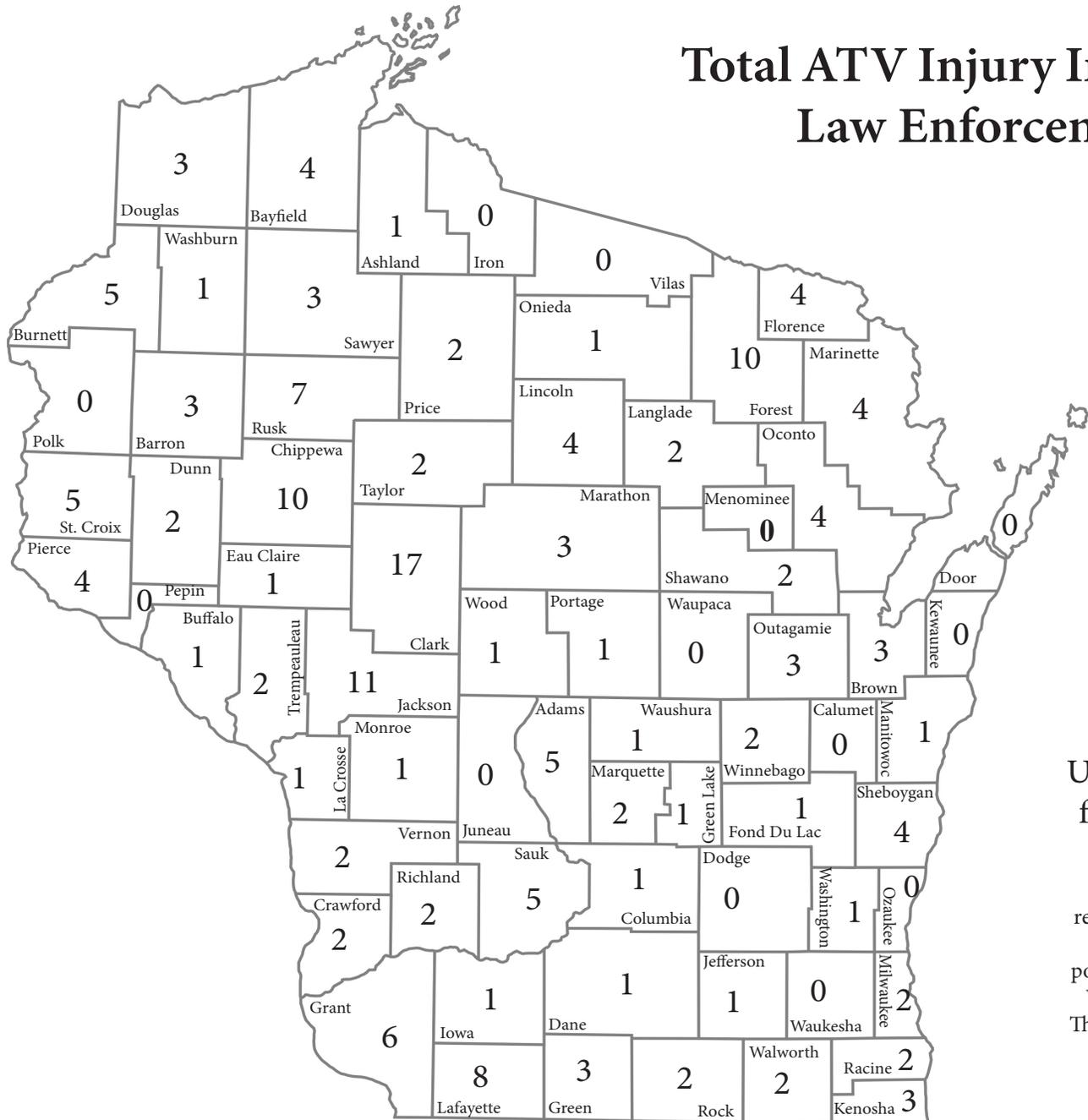
Wisconsin ATV Fatality Summary for 2011

#	Date/Time	Location	Type & Cause of Incident / Fatality	Age / Sex	BAC / Residency	WI Safety Certified / Helmet
1	05/14/2011	Adams Co	Rollover	47	.246	No
	9:50PM	Town of Rome (road/not a route)	Alcohol/Speed	M	WI	No
The victim was traveling on a paved road that is not a route and lost control and rolled his ATV.						
2	06/07/2011	Town of Genesee (road/not a route)	Collision with fixed object	46	0.183	No
	6:02AM	Waukesha Co	Alcohol/Speed/Operating in a Closed Area	M	WI	No
The victim was traveling on a road under construction, drove around a "Road Closed to Thru Traffic" sign, bridge was under construction/missing. Victim then drove off the bank impacting the other side.						
3	06/18/2011	Town of Townsend (road/route)	Rollover	55	.213	No
	1:03AM	Oconto Co	Alcohol/Speed	M	WI	No
The victim had been drinking all day and operating his ATV at speeds in excess of 30MPH when he lost control of the ATV and rolled it.						
04	06/26/2011	Town of Akan (road/not a route)	Ejected	22	NA/Pending	No
	6:40PM	Richland Co	Speed/Inexperience/Pending	M	WI	No
The victim left the roadway and off the shoulder. The ATV went into the air striking a tree ejecting the victim into the trees.						
05	07/05/2011	Town of Eau Galle (private property)	Rollover	56	.085	No
	3:30PM	St Croix Co	Alcohol/Speed	M	WI	No
The victim had been reported missing and was found the next day. It appears the victim was traveling at a high rate of speed and attempting to turn left to avoid the treeline and rolled the ATV.						
06	07/11/2011	Town of Brule (road/route)	Rollover	60	NA	No
	2:34PM	Douglas Co	Alcohol/Speed	M	WI	No
The victim lost control of his ATV causing the ATV to overturn on the roadway.						
07	07/22/2011	Town of Homestead (road/route)	Collision with a Fixed Object	15	NA	No
	2:55PM	Florence Co	Speed/Inexperience	F	MO	No
The victim left the side of the road and struck a tree.						
08	08/06/2011	Town of Barksdale (trail)	Collision with fixed object	31	.138	No
	5:20PM	Bayfield Co	Alcohol/Speed	M	WI	No
The victim failed to negotiate a corner and struck a tree.						

Wisconsin ATV Fatality Summary for 2011

#	Date/Time	Location	Type & Cause of Incident / Fatality	Age / Sex	BAC / Residency	WI Safety Certified / Helmet
09	08/11/2011	Town of Union (road/not a route)	Ejected	53	NA	No
	8:45PM	Vernon Co	Speed/Inexperience	M	WI	No
The victim passed on Aug 16th from injuries he received from an ATV incident on Aug 11th where he lost control of his ATV overturning it in the road and was thrown from the ATV.						
10	08/25/2011	Village of Poplar (road/not a route)	Collision with fixed object	14	.000	Yes
	6:30PM	Douglas Co	Speed/Inexperience/Pending	M	WI	Yes
The victim was looking over his right shoulder and involuntarily steered the ATV to the right leaving the roadway and striking two trees.						
11	09/10/2011	Town of Silver Cliff (trail)	Rollover	19	.000	Yes
	5:00PM	Marinette Co	Speed/Trail Conditions	F	WI	Yes
The victim was on a downward slope, hit a large rock in the trail causing the ATV to flip over.						
12	09/17/2011	Town of Wilson (trail)	Struck Deer	40	.016	No
	7:45PM	Rusk Co	Alcohol/Speed	F	WI	No
The victim was a passenger on the ATV when a deer ran out in front of the ATV causing both the driver and passenger to be thrown from the ATV.						
13	09/26/2011	Town of Rusk (private property)	Rollover	47	NA/Pending	No
	4:10PM	Rusk Co	Steep Hill/Pending	M	WI	No
The victim was pulling a log on a steep hill and tried to turn after he crested a knoll, due to the angle of the hill the ATV rolled over.						
14	11/12/2011	Town of Christiana (private property)	Rollover	12	.000	No
	12:54PM	Vernon Co	Inexperience/Trail Conditions	M	MN	No
The operator of the ATV was traveling down hill on a wooded trail, stopped to put the ATV in reverse to back up the hill. The operator then began to accelerate the ATV forgetting it was in reverse and due to the slant of the hill the ATV went over. The victim was a passenger on the ATV.						
15	11/13/2011	Town of Seneca (private property)	Collision with a Fixed Object	89	NA	No
	11:40AM	Crawford Co	Speed/Pending	F	WI	No
The operator of the ATV was accelerating rapidly while making a U-turn and collided with a fence. The victim passed away 4 days after the incident.						
16	12/31/2011	Town of Farminton (private property)	Rollover	41	.216	No
	10:42PM	Jefferson Co	Alcohol/Speed/Pending	F	WI	No
It appears the victim drove down a hill turning off of grass onto a gravel driveway and the ATV rolled.						

Total ATV Injury Incidents Reported to Law Enforcement by County



Total Incidents = 199

Unknown County accounts for 14 of the total incidents

A report must be filed for any crash that results in an injury requiring treatment by a physician or a fatal incident must be reported as soon as possible to a Conservation Warden or other law enforcement officer. The operator must file a written report of the incident within 10 days to the DNR.

*Topographic map created by the Department of Geography and Geology, University of Wisconsin Colleges

Citations Issued for ATV Violations in 2011

Registration/ Trail Pass Violations

- Operate ATV without Registration (V-1).....141
- Give Permission to Operate ATV without Valid Registration (V-2).....23
- Fail to transfer ATV Registration (V-15).....11
- Fail to Display or Improper Display of Registration Decals on
ATV (V-16).....27
- Operate ATV on ATV Trail without an ATV Trail Pass (V-30).....19
- Fail to Display or Improper Display of Non-Resident Trail Pass on
ATV (V-35).....2

Alcohol/ Drug Related

- Operate ATV While Intoxicated (V-4).....35
- Owner Permitting Operation by a Person Under Age, Physically or
Mentally Disabled or Under Influence of Alcohol or Drug (V-22).....65
- Operate with Alcohol Concentration Above 0.08% (V-23).....21
- Refuse to Take Intoxicated ATV Test (V-24).....6
- Absolute Sobriety Under Age 19 (V-25).....0
- Operate ATV with detectable amount of controlled substance -
first offense (V-31).....0

Speed Related

- Operate ATV within 150 Feet of a Dwelling at a Speed Exceeding 10
MPH (V-9).....8
- Operate ATV on Frozen Surface of Public Waters within 100 Feet of a
Person or Fishing Shanty at a Speed Exceeding 10 MPH (V-10).....2
- Operate at a Speed that is Unreasonable or Improper (V-20).....20
- Operate in Excess of 10 MPH when Traveling within 100 Feet of a
Person Not on an ATV, Snowmobile or Motorcycle (V-21).....3

Equipment Violations

- ATV Equipment Violations (V-12).....25
- Operate/ride ATV without Headgear (V-28).....126
- Operate, Sell, Rent or Manufacture an ATV Exceeding the 96 Decibel
Noise Limit (V-33).....89
- Operate, Sell, Rent or Manufacture ATV that Emits Noise Greater than
96 Decibels (V-34).....20

Other Violations

- Operate ATV in a Careless Manner (V-3).....51
- Transport Loaded or Uncased Firearm or a Strung or Uncased Bow on
ATV (V-7).....9
- Drive or Pursue Any Animal with ATV (V-8).....0
- Fail to Report ATV Accident (V-13).....3
- Refuse to Stop After Being Requested or Signaled to do so By a Law
Enforcement Officer (V-14).....7
- Operate ATV on Public or Private Property of Another without
Consent (V-5).....51
- Operate ATV on Indian Lands Without Consent (V-6)..... 2
- Illegal Operation of ATVs On or In the Vicinity of
Highways (V-11).....243
- Interfere with ATV Route or Trail Signs & Standards (V-29).....0
- Operate ATV without a Valid Safety Certificate or Fail to Carry
Certificate on ATV and Display Upon Request (V-32).....160

**The Total Number of Citations (including warden and
sheriff patrols) in 2011 was 1,171**

*These numbers reflect the citations issued and processed through the court system and returned to the Department and entered into the DNR citations database.

Wear Your *HELMET*
While You *RIDE*
RESPONSIBLY...
UNDER CONTROL...
and
SOBER
and You Will
RIDE FOR LIFE

Learn more information about WI ATV by visiting us at:
<http://dnr.wi.gov>, Search Keyword "ATV"

