

**Wisconsin
Department of Natural Resources
All-Terrain Vehicle
Enforcement & Safety Report**

2003



**PO Box 7921
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Wisconsin DNR - 2003
ATV Annual Program
Report

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**State of Wisconsin
Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Law Enforcement
2003 ATV Report
Summary**

The 2003 ATV report is compiled from the nine-teen fatal investigations and other data collected during the calendar year. The report is based on the growing number of ATVs used and the Department's commitment to promote safe riding by observing trends and providing solutions in areas of concern.

Conservation wardens investigate all fatal ATV incidents and as such, Wisconsin Law requires that a conservation warden or law enforcement officer be notified immediately of any ATV incident that results in a fatality or an injury requiring medical treatment by a physician. In addition, the operator(s) involved in these reportable incidents must file a written report with the Department of Natural Resources within 10 days of the incident, insofar as they are capable of doing so.

FATAL INCIDENT CAUSES

The ATV striking a fixed object and the ATV rolling over were the leading cause of death, both categories containing (5). The second factor causing the fatal incident was divided between ejection of the operator and collision with a vehicle, both categories containing three fatalities. Data shows that alcohol as a contributing factor is higher this reporting period (56%) than it was the previous reporting period (46%).

The law expressly states a person operating an ATV is under the influence of alcohol once blood alcohol levels reach 0.08. Of the fourteen toxicology reports, ten showed those victims had consumed some alcohol. Looking closer at the five victims who had consumed alcohol, three had blood-alcohol readings of higher than 0.20. Although the fatal incident data is not statistically large, the information indicates that "alcohol as a factor" has continued to increase for the past several years.

WHO WAS INVOLVED

All but two of the fatal accident victims involved were male. The ages of the fatal victims ranged from 9-83 years, with the average age listed at 41. All but one of the nineteen victims were Wisconsin residents. The largest percentage of the victims killed was evenly distributed for all ages above 12. Two children under the age of 12 were killed during this reporting period (9 & 10 years old). None of the victims had received formal ATV Safety Training from the Department of Natural Resources. Of the nineteen victims, three were positively known to have been wearing a helmet.

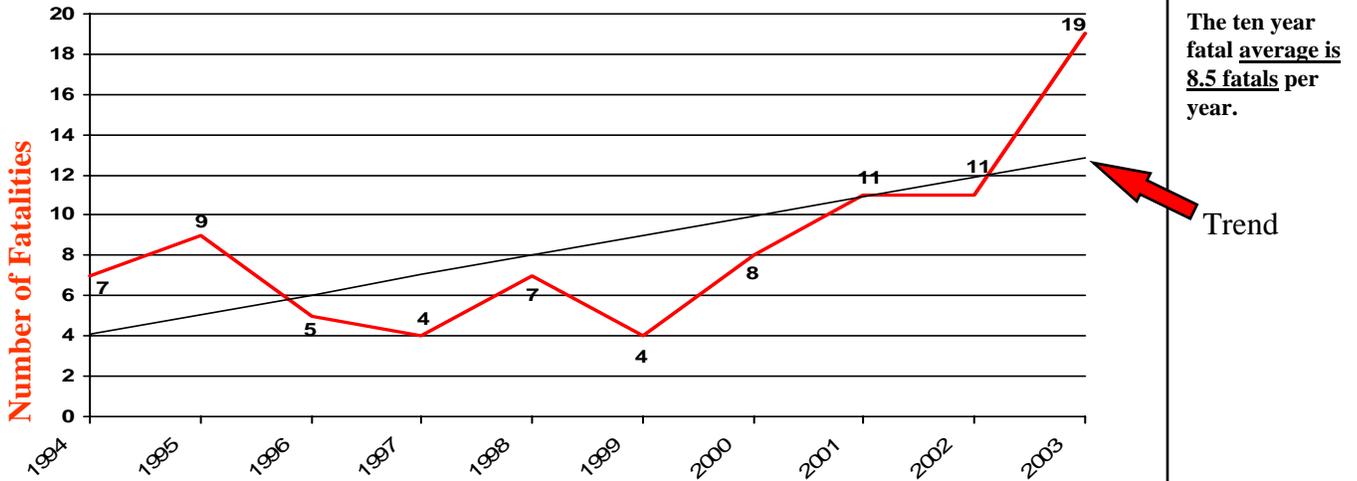
WHEN DO THE INCIDENTS OCCUR

The highest percentage of fatalities occurred on a Sunday with 7 victims, Saturday with 5, and Wednesday with 4, followed by Thursday with 2. The time of day/night that most of the fatal crashes occurred between 12pm - 10pm with one near 2am.

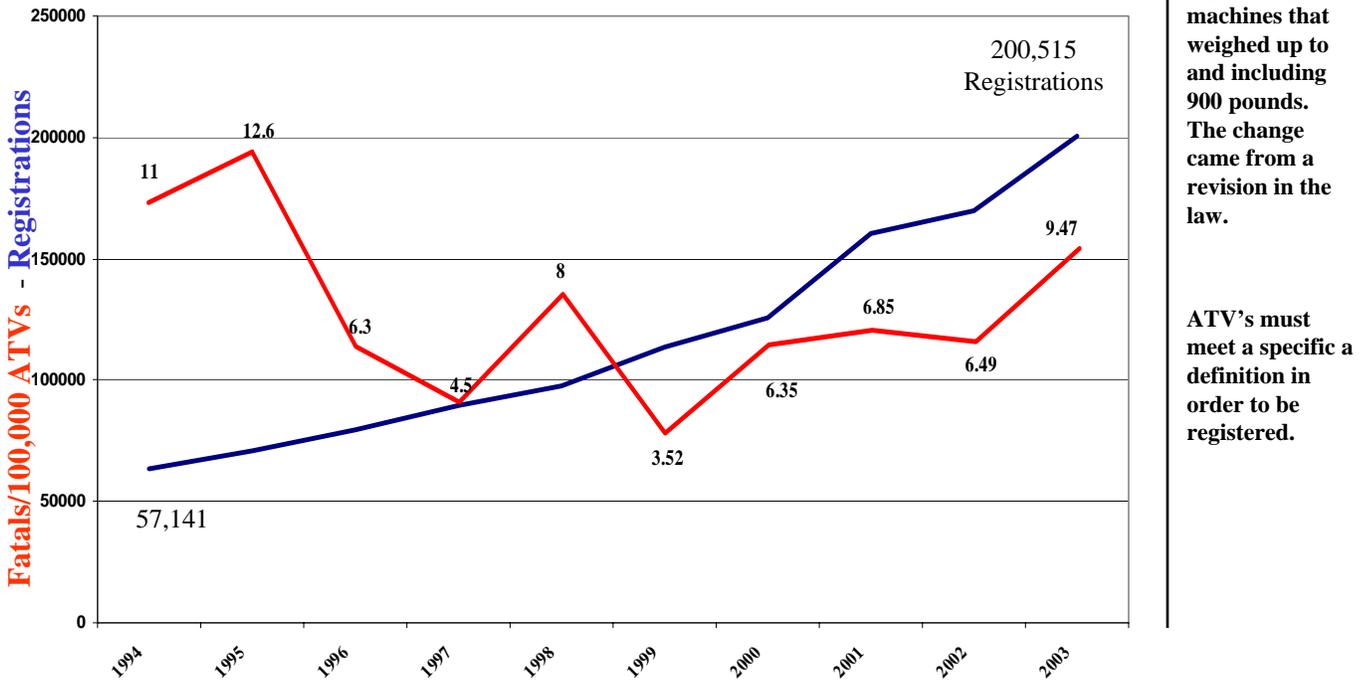
FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED

New ATV purchases continued to result in significant increases in registered ATV's and users.

History of ATV Fatalities By Calendar Year



ATV Fatality Rate Per 100,000 Registered ATVs

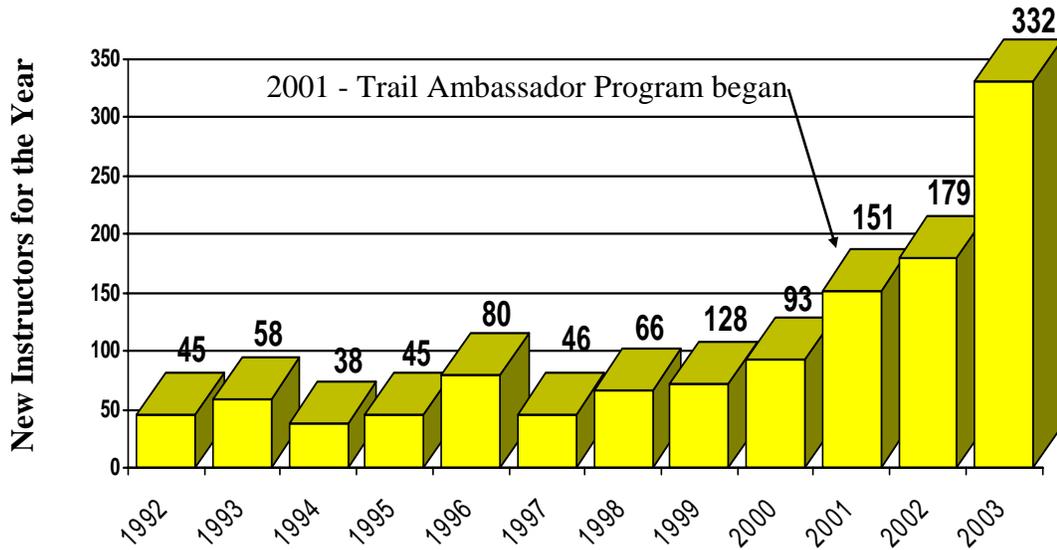


History of New ATV Education Instructors Certified

There were a total of 920 active instructors for the year 2003.

There were 232 ATV safety training courses held during 2003.

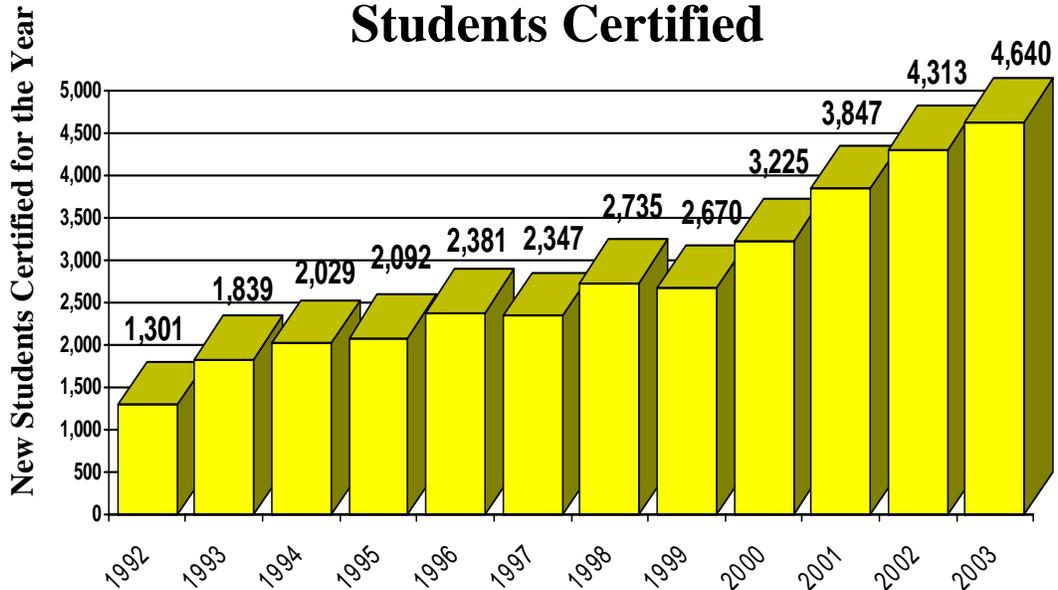
Historical results have shown the majority of the fatal victims have not been WI ATV safety graduates.



The ATV Safety Education program began in 1986.

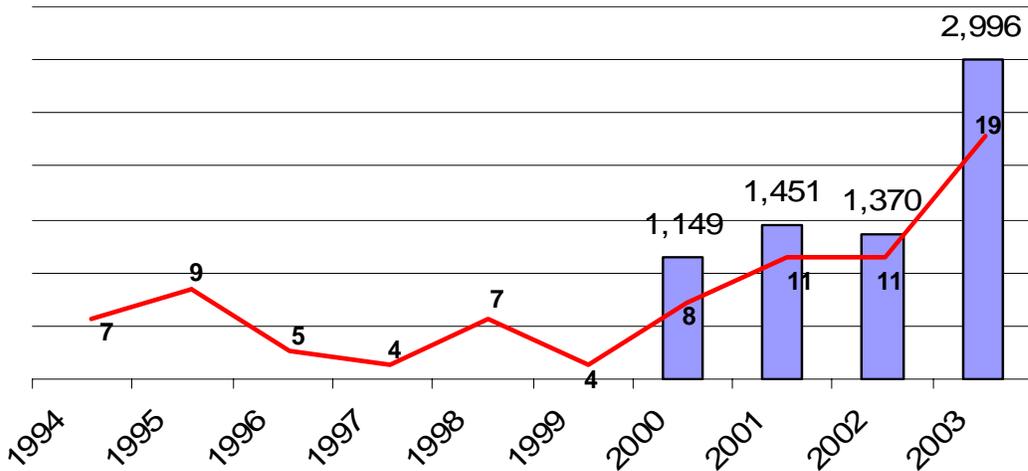
The total number of students certified for the entire history of the ATV program at the end of 2003 is 39,219.

History of ATV Education Students Certified



Fatals to Warden Enforcement Hours

2003 ATV Fatality Rate To Warden Enforcement Hours



Enforcement hours were added to the charts in year 2000.

The Budget Bill which passed October 2001 added 2 positions to the ATV program.

The addition resulted in 4-FTE dedicated to the program.

Citations include all sheriff patrols and all Wardens.

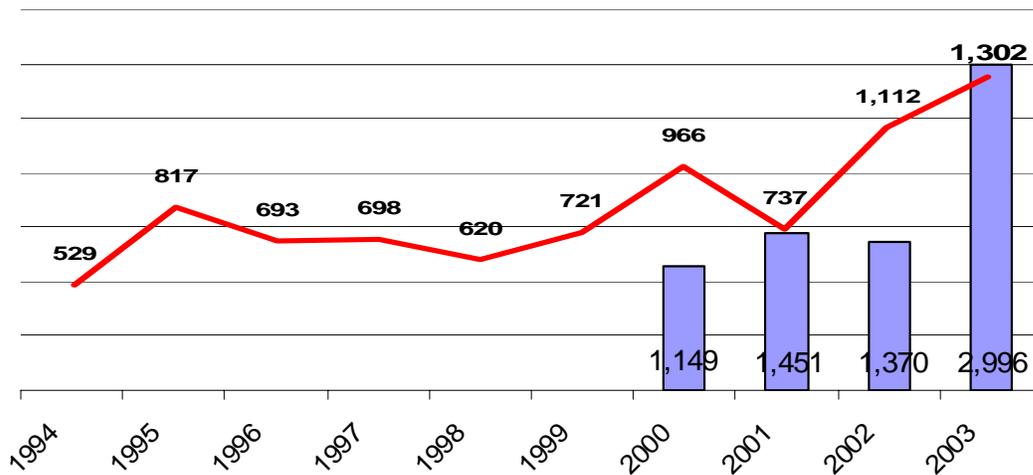
Hours include only Warden enforcement hours.

There were nineteen counties that participated in the ATV enforcement and reimbursement program for 2003.

Citation numbers are affected by hours of ATV use by the public. During low snow years, ATV use is higher and therefore violations are expected to be higher.

Total Citations to Warden Enforcement Hours

2003 ATV Warden and Sheriff Citations To Warden Enforcement Hours



Alcohol was detected in 56% of the victims for 2003 .

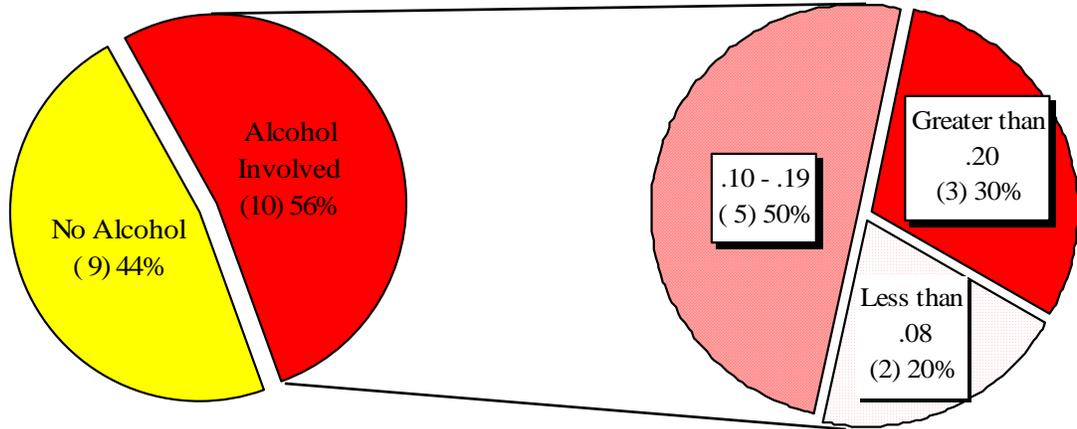
Alcohol was detected in 46% of the victims for 2002 .

Alcohol was detected in 27% of the victims for 2001.

Alcohol was detected 38% of the victims for 2000.

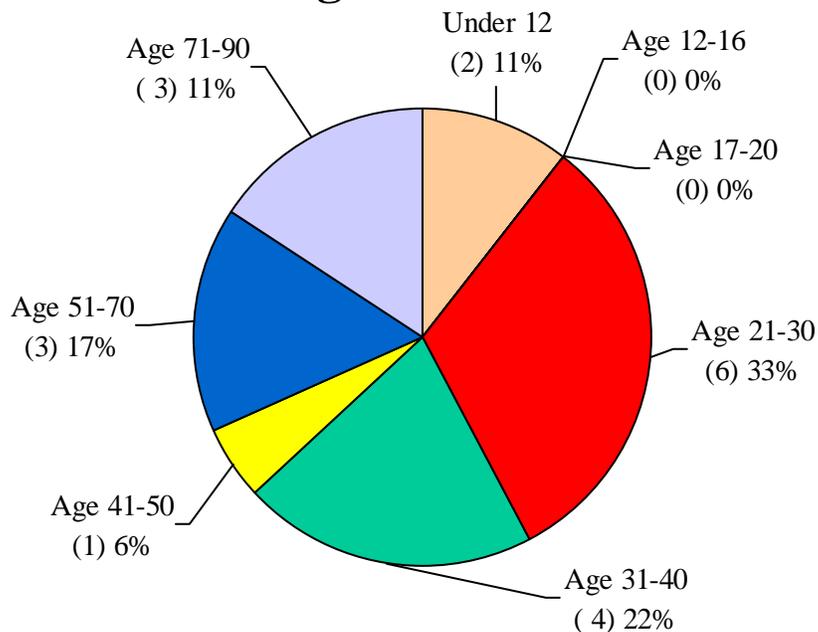
Three of the 2003 victims had blood alcohol levels above 0.2.

2003 ATV Fatalities Alcohol Involvement



- Numbers in () represents number of victims.
- Blood alcohol content = grams/ml.

2003 ATV Fatalities Age of Victims



The average age of the fatality victim was 41 years old a increase from the previous year (25.9).

The largest percentage of the victims killed was between the ages of 21-30.

2003 Citations Issued for ATV Violations

Total Citations (including wardens and sheriff patrols).....	1,302
Operate ATV w/o Registration (V-1)	175
Permit ATV Operation w/o Registration (V-2)	68
Operate ATV in a Careless Manner (V-3)	23
Operate ATV While Intoxicated (V-4)	35
Operate ATV on Private Property w/o Permission (V-5).....	106
Operate ATV on Native American Lands w/o Permission (V-6).....	0
Transport Loaded or Uncased Firearm, or Bow on ATV (V-7)	9
Drive or pursue Wild Animal with ATV (V-8)	1
Operate ATV within 150' of Dwelling over 10-MPH (V-9).....	8
Operate ATV over 10-MPH on Ice within 100' of Persons or Shanty (V-10, V-21) ..	16
Illegal Operating of ATV on or Near Highways (V-11).....	437
ATV Equipment Violations (V-12)	34
Fail to Report ATV Accident (V-13).....	2
Fail to Stop ATV for Officer (V-14).....	15
Fail to Transfer Registration of ATV (V-15).....	8
Fail to Display or Improper Display of Registration (V-16)	43
Fail to Notify DNR with Change of Address (V-17).....	1
Dealer Fail to Collect Fee and Submit Registration Application (V-18).....	3
Operate on a Cemetery, Burial Ground, School, Church w/o Permission (V-19).....	3
Operate at Speed that is Unreasonable or Improper (V-20)	16
Owner Permitting Operation by Person Under Age, or Disabled (V-22).....	117
Operate with Alcohol Concentration Above 0.1% (V-23)	26
Refuse to Take Intoxicated ATV Test (V-24)	6
Absolute Sobriety for Person under 19 (V-25).....	1
Cause Injury by Intoxicated Operation (V-26)	0
Miscellaneous (V-27).....	2
Operate/Ride ATV w/o Head Gear (V-28).....	136
Interference with Signs and Standards (V-29).....	0

Wisconsin ATV Fatality Summary - Year 2003

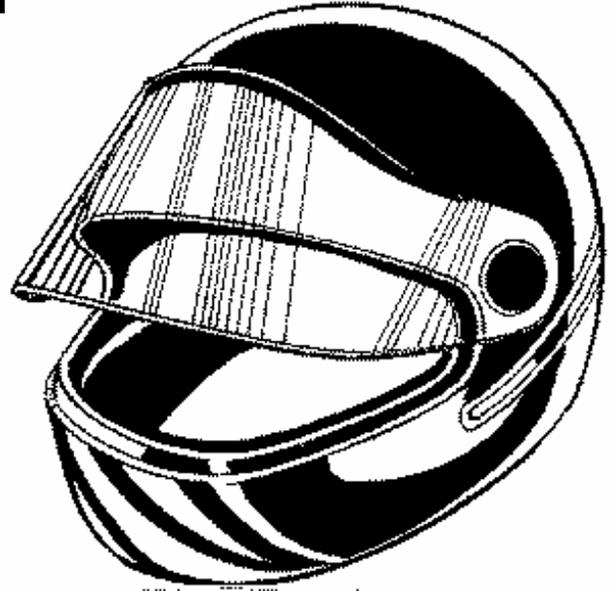
#	Date	Location & County	Type & Cause	Age & Sex	BAC & State	Helmet
1.	4-27-03 17:43	Town of Bristol Kenosha County (roadway)	Struck pole Alcohol/speed/inexperience/multiple traumatic injuries	30 Male	.058 WI	No
The victim was traveling 30-40 MPH when he lost control of the ATV. It appears the ATV hit the fence that was on the victims' left side and continued its path striking a telephone pole. Through reports from friends the victim had no experience riding an ATV, but did ride motocross.						
2.	5-1-03 21:30	Town of Loyal Clark County (road)	Struck a dog. Head injuries/alcohol	34 Male	.110 WI	No
The victim was driving his ATV on a road when he struck a dog and lost control of his ATV. The ATV came to rest near a telephone pole in the ditch with the victim lying near by.						
3.	6-3-03 Between 16:15 / 01:45	Town of Leola Adams Co. (trail)	Struck a tree Chest & abdomen injuries/alcohol	40 Female	.181 WI	No
The victim was operating an ATV near her residence when she struck a tree. The ATV then rolled and pinned the victim underneath.						
4.	6-5-03 11:00	Town of Browntown Green Co. (road)	Struck by semi Trauma/impact injury	73 Female	.000 WI	Yes
The victim was trying to stop for an on coming semi but hit the throttle instead of the brake, causing her ATV to serge forward, and then stop in the path of an on coming semi.						
5.	6-11-03 17:30	City of Oak Creek Milwaukee Co. (road)	Collision with a fixed object Speed/trauma to chest/drowning	25 Male	.000 WI	Yes
The victim approached and failed to negotiate a curve in the road, then entered a wooded portion of the ditch colliding with multiple trees which propelled the four wheeler into the river.						
6.	6-21-03 19:23	Town of Little Rice Oneida Co. (road)	Thrown form the ATV Speed/alcohol/head injuries.	23 Male	.224 WI	No
The victim was number 3 or 4 in a line of ATV's as they approached a small hill in the road prior to an intersection. The ATV's in front of the victim slowed down to make the turn onto the ATV trail. The victim came over the hill and struck another ATV causing him to lose control.						
7.	7-6-03 12:52	Town of Ainsworth Langlade County (trail)	Collided with a dirt bike. Internal injures/Pneumonia	81 Male	.000 WI	No
The victim was operating an ATV on a snowmobile trail and collided with another person operating a dirt bike. He was treated and released but re-admitted on a later date. The victim passed away on 7/21/03 due to complications from injuries sustained in the ATV incident.						
8.	8-2-03 16:25	Township of Albion Trempealeau County (trail)	Ejected from machine Head injuries/alcohol/speed	47 Male	.20 WI	No
The victim's ATV left the trail he was riding and it traveled about 30 feet before the victim was ejected. The victim collided with a large tree.						
9.	8-2-03 11:25	Town of Gurney Iron County (woods road)	Rollover Head & neck injuries	39 Male	.000 MI	No
The victim was traveling on a woods road and started to go down a hill. The victim hit a washout in the road causing the ATV to flip over, landing on the victim.						

#	Date	Location & County	Type & Cause	Age & Sex	BAC & State	Helmet
10.	8/9/03 12:30	Town of Spooner Washburn County (Private Land)	Rollover Internal Injuries / Trauma	83 M	.000 WI	No
The victim was out riding his ATV and had a roll-over accident and was found several hours later. He was admitted to the hospital and passed away from injuries within 24 hours.						
11.	08/17/03 09:00	Town of Jefferson Vernon County (private land)	Rollover Trauma to chest & other injuries	66 Male	.000 WI	?
The victim was checking fences on his property when his ATV rolled causing him to fall off a ledge approximately 20-25 feet. The victim was recovering at the hospital until 9/1/03 when he passed away.						
12.	09/05/03 16:30	Town of Skanawan Lincoln County (road)	Struck by truck. Head trauma/alcohol	29 Male	.192 WI	No
The victim was operating on a road in the same direction as a truck, which was quite a distance back. The truck crested a small hill and struck the victim while the victim was in the process of making a U turn in the middle of the road.						
13.	9/6/03 23:25	Town of Norway Racine County (road)	Fell off ATV Head trauma/alcohol	33 Male	.231 WI	No
The victim was a passenger on the back of an ATV and fell off the machine and had sustained head injuries. Victim was injured and hospitalized for a time prior to passing away.						
14.	09/13/03 22:00	Town of Cylon St Croix (private property)	Drove off edge of a gravel pit. Head injury/trauma/alcohol	23 Male	.119 WI	No
Upon leaving a bachelor party, the victim drove his ATV off of the edge of a nearby gravel pit falling 21 feet with the ATV landing on top of him.						
15.	10/11/03 15:20	Town of Oconto Oconto County (private road)	Struck trees Trauma/impact injury	22 Male	.005 WI	No
The victim was following another ATV that had stopped just beyond a trail crossing. The victim failed to stop in time so he swerved to go around the other ATV and in doing so rolled over.						
16.	10/11/03 15:20	Town of Oconto Oconto County (private road)	Struck trees Head injury/trauma	22 Male	.000 WI	No
The victim and passenger were operating an ATV down a private road at high rate of speed when the ATV struck a large rut and a log in the road. Both subjects were ejected from the ATV.						
17.	10/12/03 14:00	Town of Athelstane Marinette County (private road)	Struck trees Speed/alcohol/neck fracture	60 Male	.012 WI	No
The victim left a friend's house on an ATV to run home and intended to return shortly. When the victim did not return, they looked for him and found he had missed a curve and drove into the trees.						
18.	12/10/03 17:50	Village of Lake Hallie Chippewa County (roadway)	Roll Over Asphyxiation	9 Male	.000 WI	Yes
The victim had taken ATV onto the street and was attempting to make a left turn when the ATV rolled over trapping him under it.						
19.	12/21/03 13:30	Town of Maple Grove Manitowoc County (roadway)	Roll Over Head injury/operator error	10 Male	.000 WI	No
The victim was a passenger on the ATV sitting in front of his father. They were traveling down a steep incline when the ATV rolled over.						

WEAR YOUR HELMET

While you **Ride**
Responsibly...
Under control...
&
SOBER

and you will....



Ride for life



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<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/es/enforcement/safety/atvsaf.htm>