

New York State Snowmobile Accident Report Summary 2007 – 2008 Season



New York State Office of Parks, Recreation,
&
Historic Preservation
Snowmobile Unit

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2007 – 2008 Snowmobile Accident Summary Report

Introduction:

In New York State, the operator of any snowmobile involved in an accident resulting in injuries to or death of any person, or in which property damage in the estimated amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or more is sustained, is required to report such accident to an appropriate law enforcement agency. That law enforcement agency will in turn submit to New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) their original snowmobile accident report (OPS-208). These requirements allow OPRHP to compile the accident reports into this yearly statistical report. Each operator is also required to submit his or her own report using a form (OPS-209) to our office. Copies of OPS-209 are available on our website.

This summary reports accident statistics for the 2007-2008 snowmobile season. The snowmobile season coincides with the State's Fiscal Year. Therefore, this report includes all accidents that occurred 4/1/2007 through 3/31/2008.

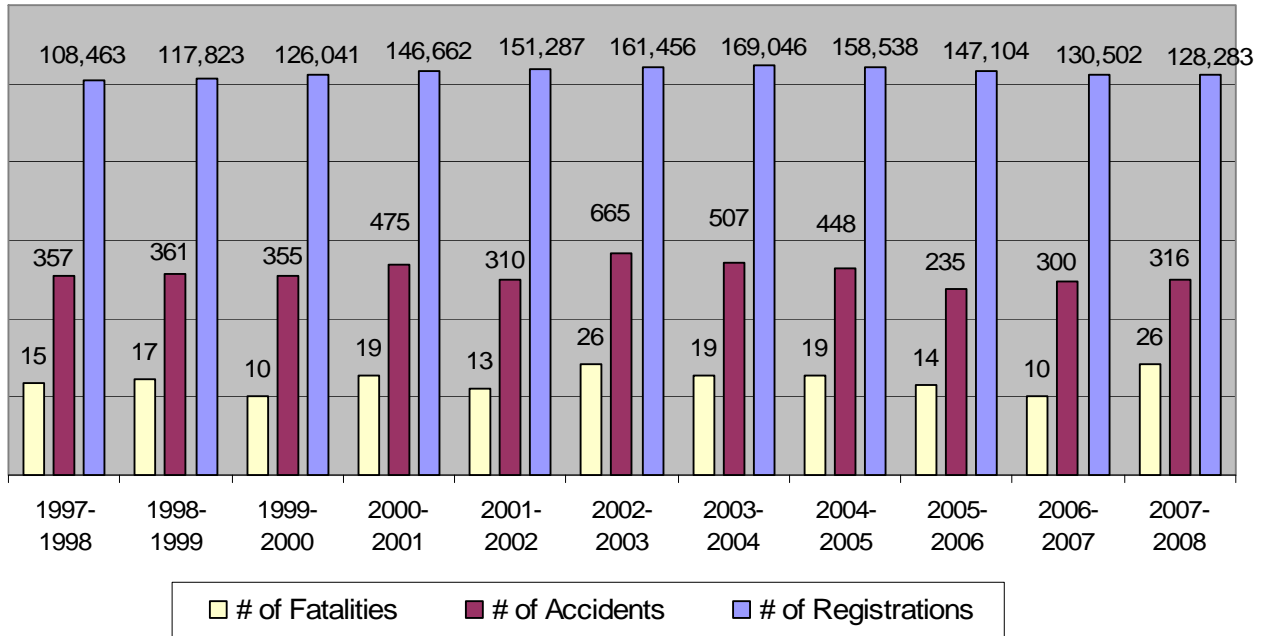
This snowmobile season encountered 316 accidents; 24 of these accidents were fatal. These accidents involved 356 snowmobile operators, resulted in 263 injuries, and 26 fatalities. Detailed information for one of these fatalities remains largely unknown due to the circumstances surrounding the accident and since it has not been confirmed by the local law enforcement agency.

Unsafe speed was listed as the primary cause of the majority of snowmobile accidents for the 2007-08 season. This is not necessarily speeding but operators who are riding too fast for the weather and trail conditions. Most accidents continue to be collisions with fixed objects, such as trees after the operator lost control and left the trail surface.

While we believe that all accidents are reported, it is likely that some accidents go unreported.

The tables and graphs that follow provide detailed information on accidents involving snowmobiles. These are based on the tabulation of the data collected from the completed reports.

Accidents & Fatalities vs. Registrations 1997-2008



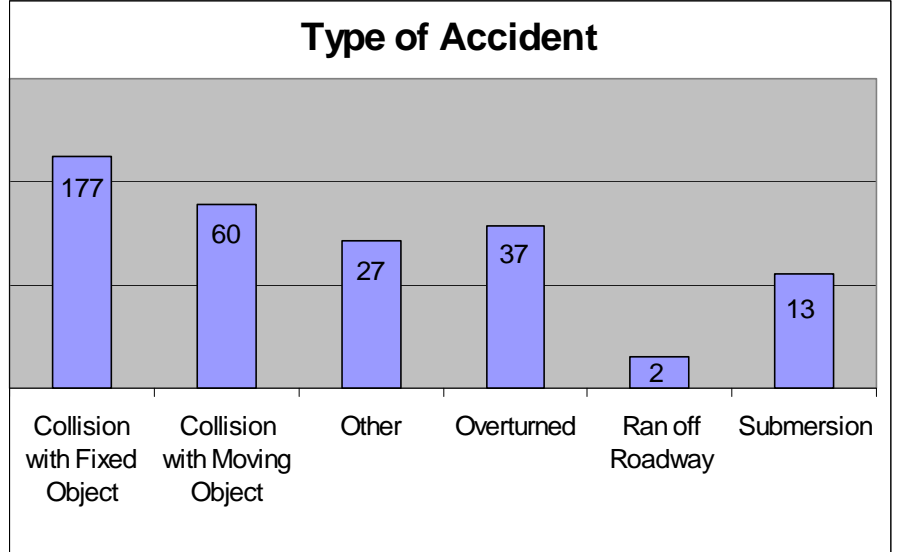
Snowmobile registrations for the 2007-2008 season totaled 128,283. This is a slight reduction from the 2006-2007 season of 130,502 registrations.

Snowmobiles in NYS are required to be registered and insured annually if operated on lands other than owned by the operator.

One of the factors affecting the overall number of accidents in a season are the number of available riding days in each season. Most areas require a minimum of three inches of snow on the ground before allowing snowmobiles to operate. The 2007-2008 season was marked by sporadic amounts of snow throughout the state and many freeze/thaw cycles. This caused some areas to experience lots of ice on the trail surfaces.

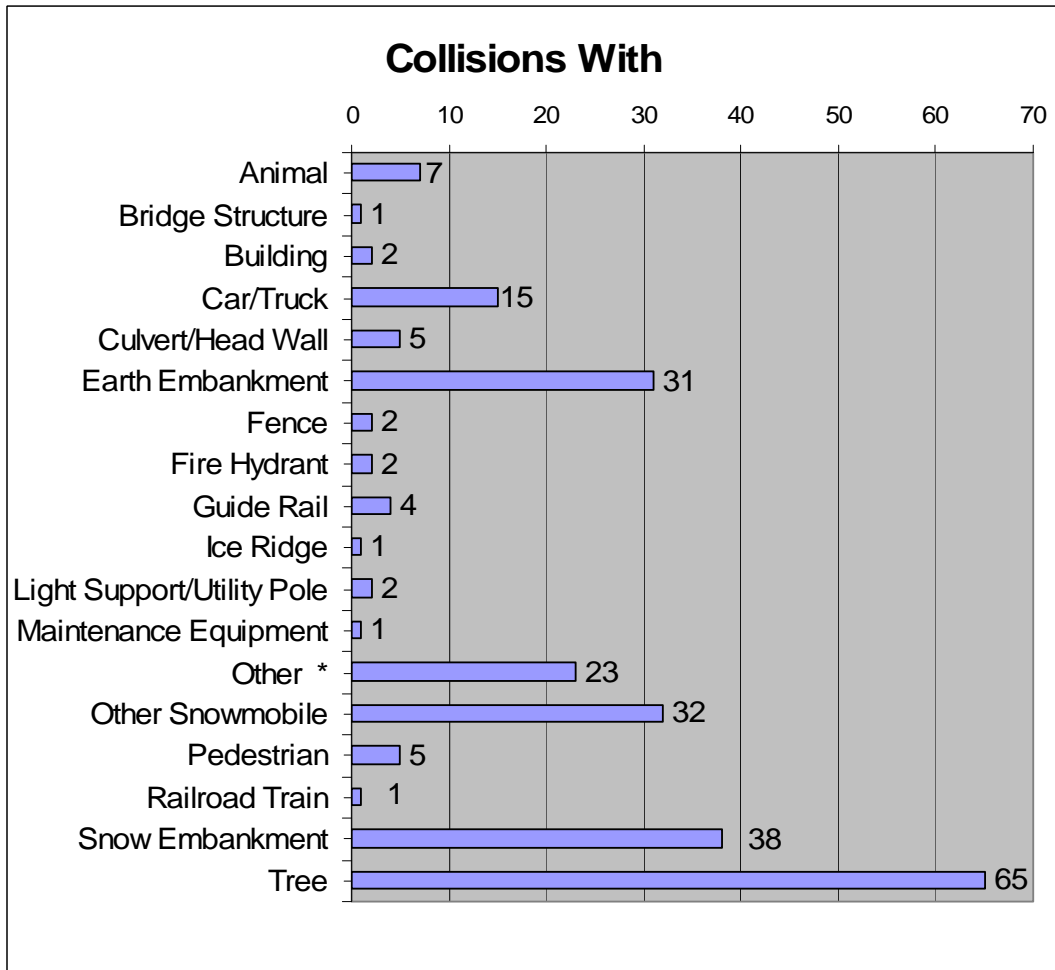
Type of Accidents

Type of Accidents	# of Accidents
Collision with Fixed Object	177
Collision with Moving Object	60
Other	27
Overtaken	37
Ran off Roadway	2
Submersion	13
Total	316



Type of Accident – These tables shows the types of accidents that occurred in the 2007-08 season. Collisions with fixed objects are the most common type of accident.

Collisions With...



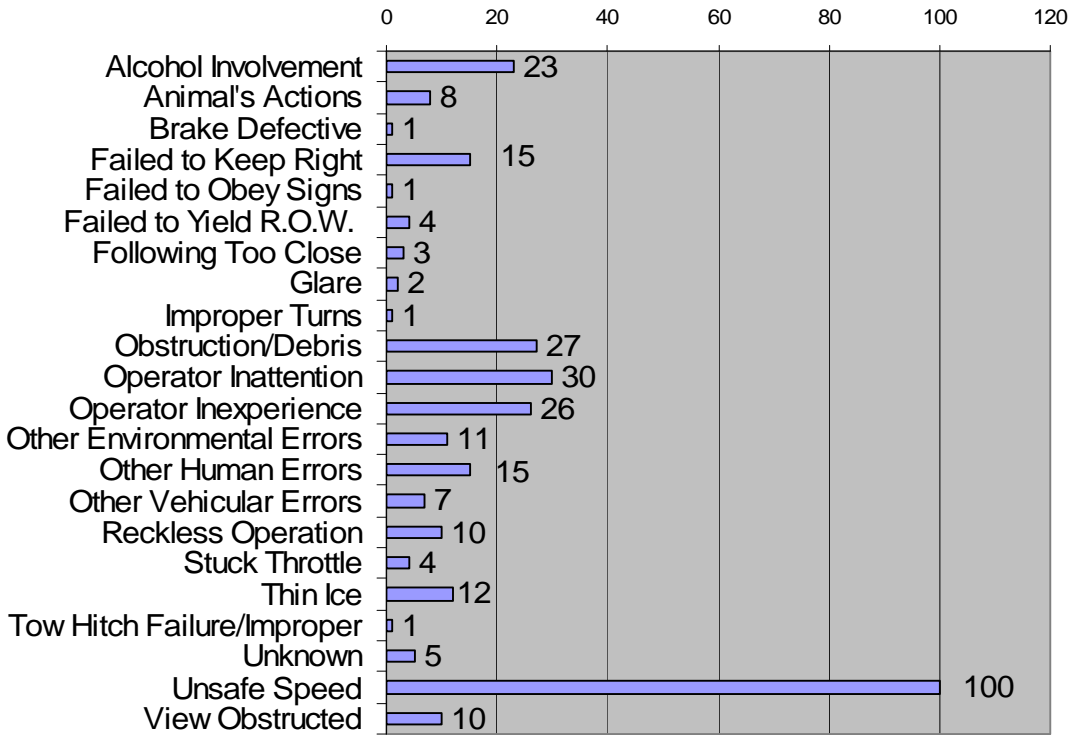
Collisions With – Collisions are the most common type of accident. This table looks at what is being hit.

Trees and snow embankments were the objects most often struck with other snowmobiles close behind.

* Other includes rocks, mailboxes, wood or concrete fixtures, and rough ice/ice ridges.

Causes of Accidents

Primary Causes of Accidents

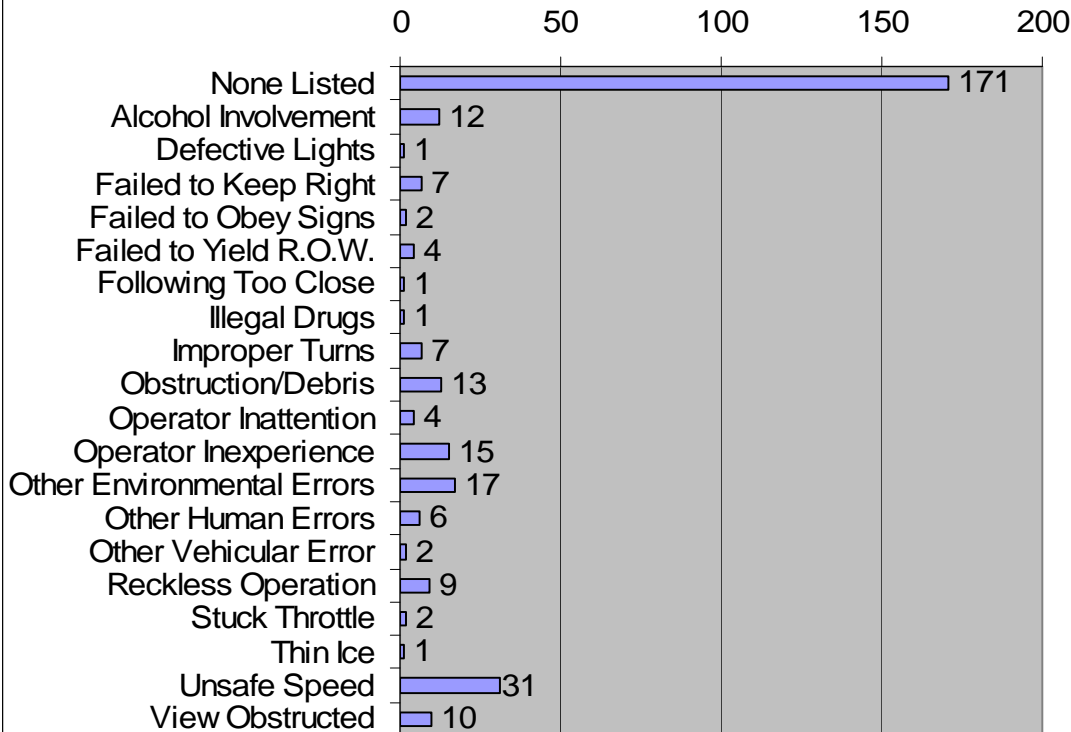


Primary Causes of Accidents –

This table shows the primary causes of the accidents in the 2007-08 season.

Unsafe speed is by far the primary factor.

Secondary Causes



Secondary Causes –

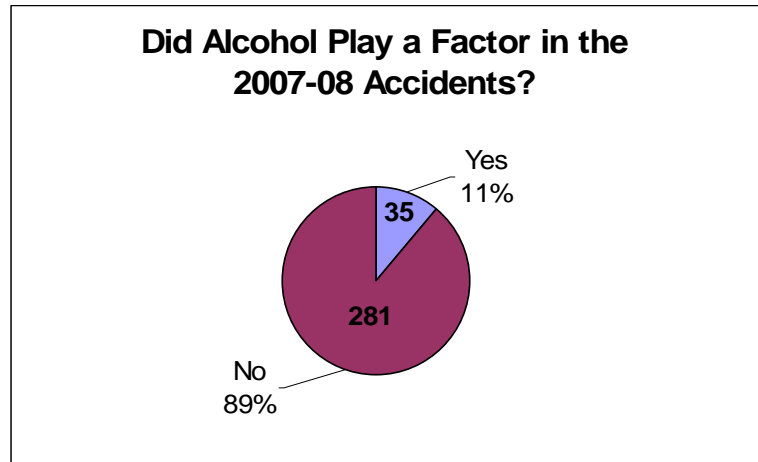
This table counts all instances in which a secondary cause was noted.

More than half of the 2007-2008 accidents reports did not attribute a secondary cause. The remaining 46%, however, did identify one of the various factors listed.

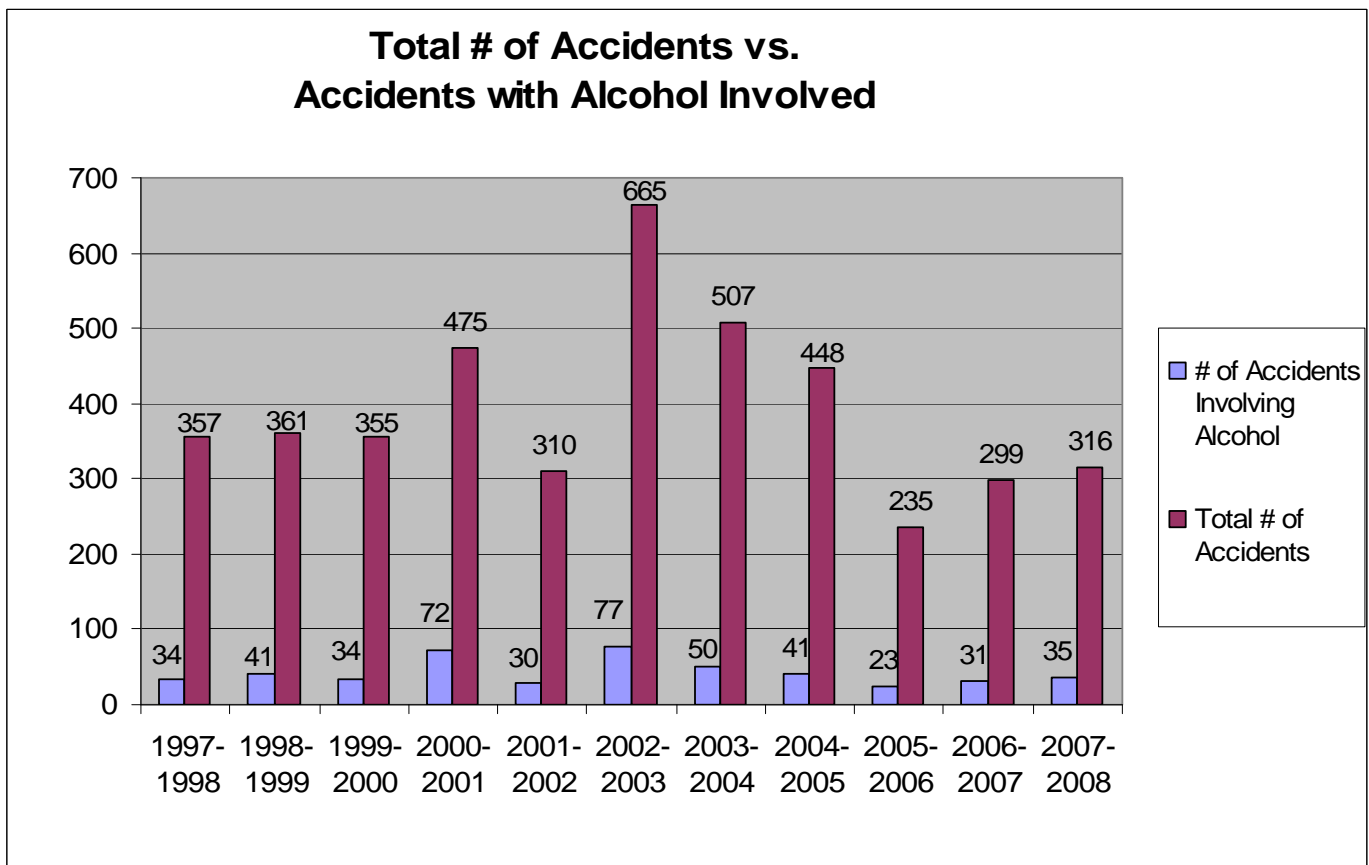
Alcohol Involvement: Past & Present

2007-08 Season

Alcohol Involved	Occurrences
Yes	35
No	281
Total	316



Alcohol Involvement 1997-2008

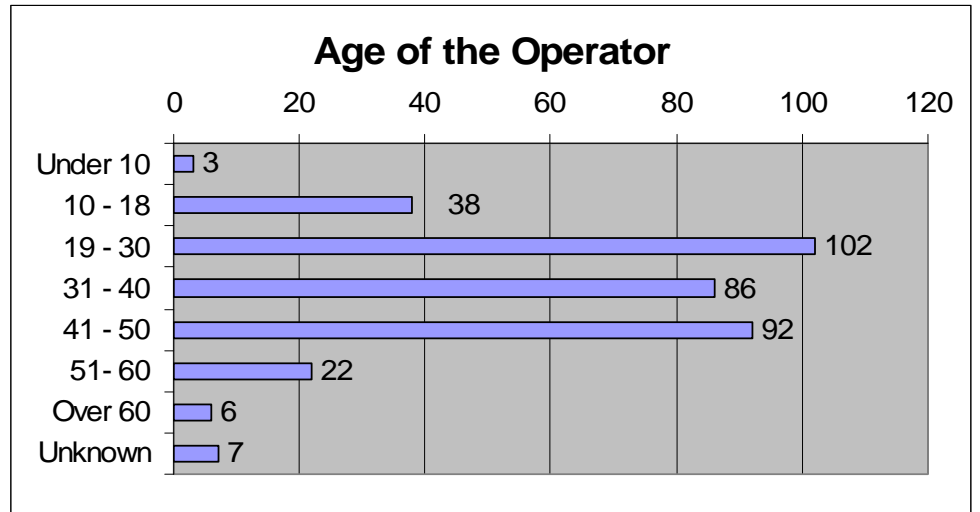


While there is a slight rise in the number of accidents and those involving alcohol since 2005, some of this can be explained by a sharp increase in the number of riding days. During the 2005-2006 season, the first major snowfall across the state was in mid February.

Who was Operating at the Time of the Accident?

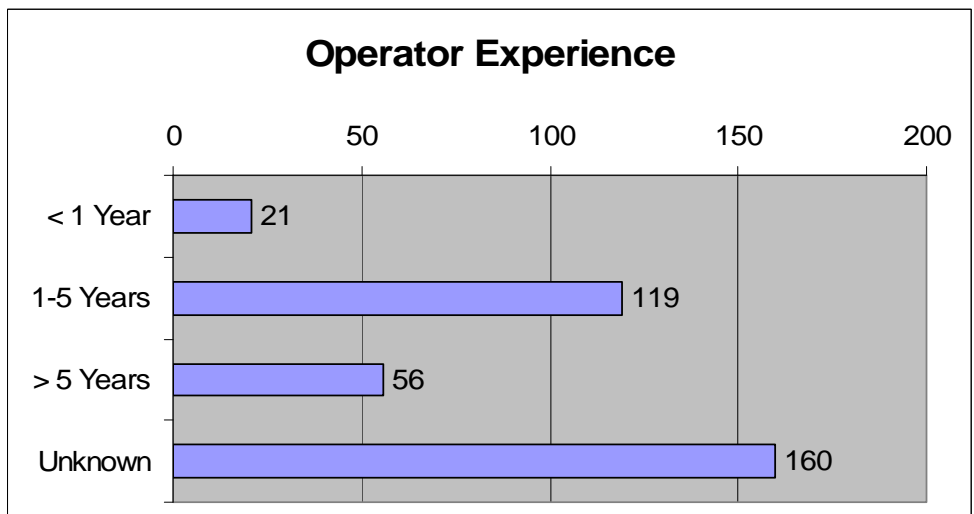
Age

Age Group	Operators
Under 10	3
10 - 18	38
19 - 30	102
31 - 40	86
41 - 50	92
51 - 60	22
Over 60	6
Unknown	7
Total	356



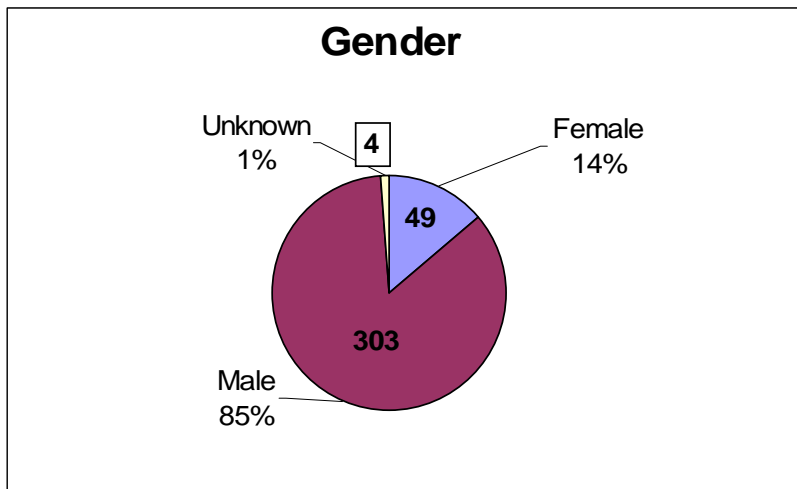
Operator Experience

Experience	Operators
< 1 Year	21
1-5 Years	119
> 5 Years	56
Unknown	160
Total	356



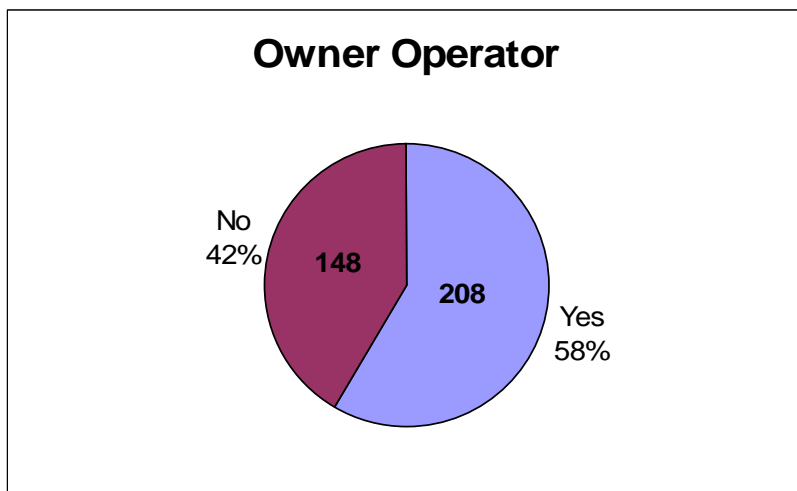
Gender

Gender	Operators
Female	49
Male	303
Unknown	4
Total	356



Owner Operator

Owner Operator	Occurrences
Yes	208
No	148
Total	356



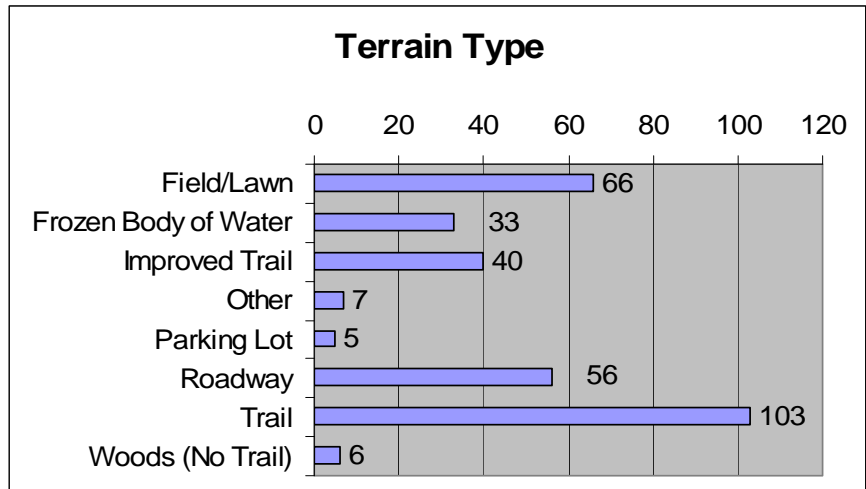
Owner Operator – This table and pie chart examine how many accidents occur by those who own and are more familiar with the vehicle.

Where did the Accidents Occur?

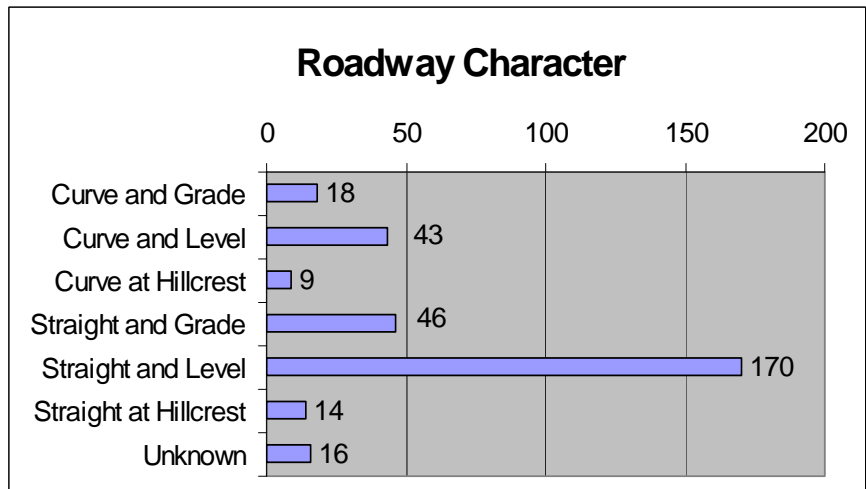
County

County of Incident	# of Accidents	# of Fatalities	# of Injured
Albany	2	0	1
Allegany	4	0	5
Cattaraugus	4	2	3
Cayuga	4	0	4
Chautauqua	11	1	9
Clinton	5	1	3
Columbia	3	0	3
Cortland	1	0	1
Delaware	3	1	2
Erie	10	0	9
Essex	6	1	3
Franklin	15	2	14
Fulton	10	1	9
Genesee	2	1	1
Hamilton	17	0	14
Herkimer	24	2	18
Jefferson	12	0	12
Lewis	37	1	35
Madison	3	1	2
Monroe	3	0	2
Niagara	4	0	3
Oneida	29	5	24
Onondaga	3	0	3
Orleans	1	0	1
Oswego	24	2	19
Otsego	5	0	5
Rensselaer	1	0	1
Saratoga	6	1	5
Schuyler	1	0	1
St. Lawrence	33	2	23
Steuben	5	0	4
Sullivan	1	0	1
Tompkins	2	0	2
Ulster	1	0	0
Warren	9	1	7
Washington	1	0	0
Wayne	7	1	4
Wyoming	7	0	10
Total	316	26	263

Terrain Type



Roadway Character



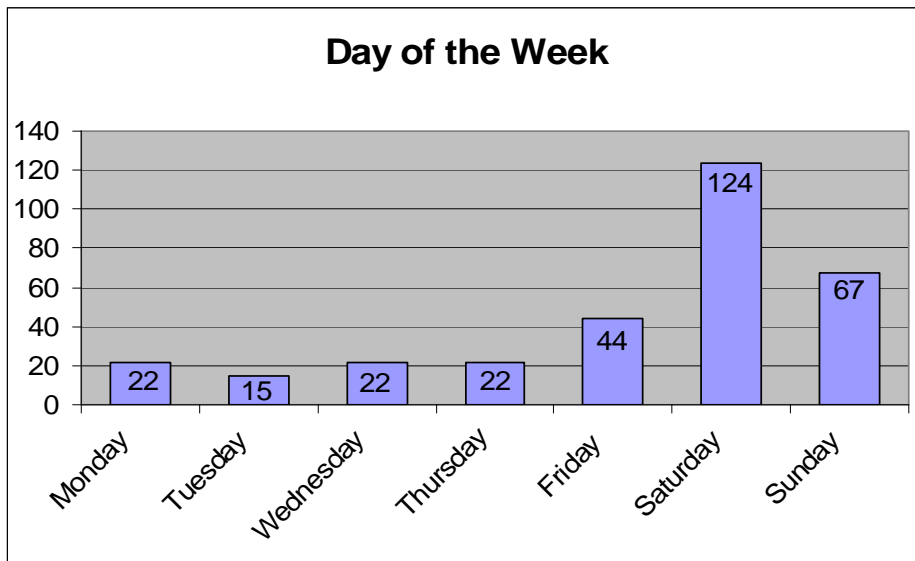
The roadway character applies to any area at which an accident occurred, not only the roadway. It is designed to indicate the physical condition of the terrain at the accident scene.

When did the Accidents Occur?

Day of the Week

Day of the Week	# of Accidents
Monday	22
Tuesday	15
Wednesday	22
Thursday	22
Friday	44
Saturday	124
Sunday	67
Total	316

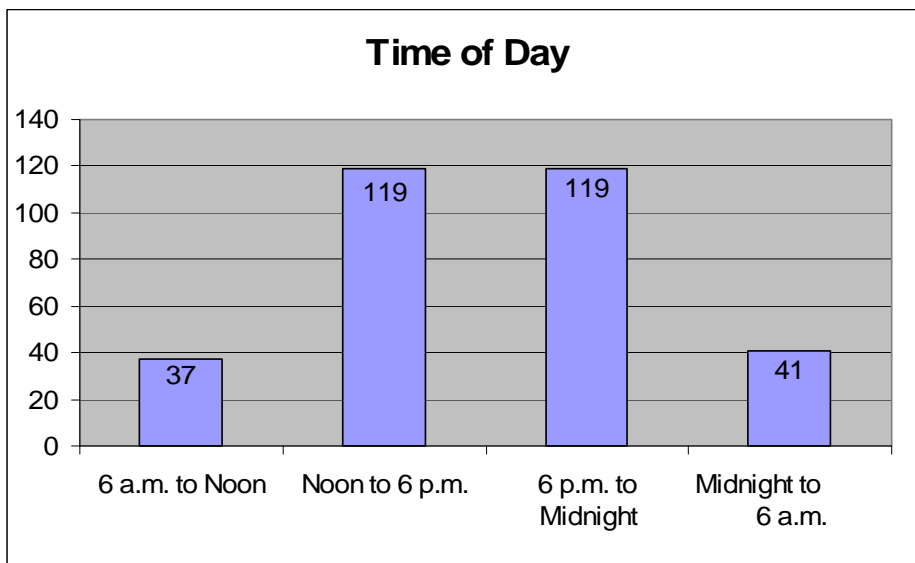
Day of the Week – This table and graph plot the days of the week on which most accidents occur. Saturday remains the day in which the majority of accidents take place.



Time of Day

Time of Day	# of Accidents
6 a.m. to Noon	37
Noon to 6 p.m.	119
6 p.m. to Midnight	119
Midnight to 6 a.m.	41
Total	316

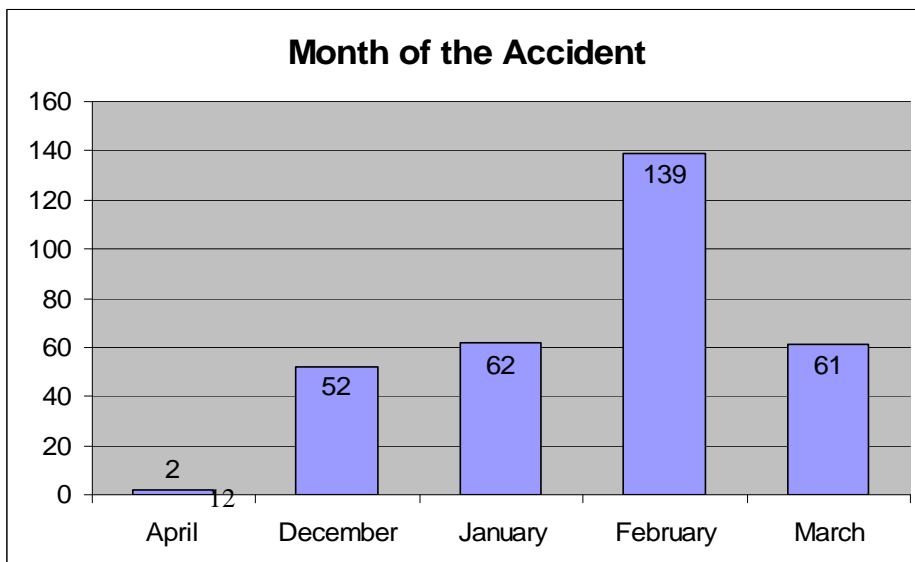
Time of Day – The table and graph indicate when the accidents happened. It is broken down into four sections: 6 a.m. to Noon, Noon to 6 p.m., 6 p.m. to Midnight, and Midnight to 6 a.m.



Month

Month	# of Accidents
April	2
December	52
January	62
February	139
March	61
Total	316

Month of the Accident



Other Possible Factors

Weather Conditions

Weather	# of Accidents
Clear	142
Cloudy	101
Rain	3
Sleet/Hail/Freezing Rain	3
Snow	64
Unknown	3
Total	316

Weather Conditions – The table and pie chart illustrate that over 75% of the accidents took place when the operator was experiencing clear or only cloudy conditions rather than snow, sleet/hail/freezing rain.

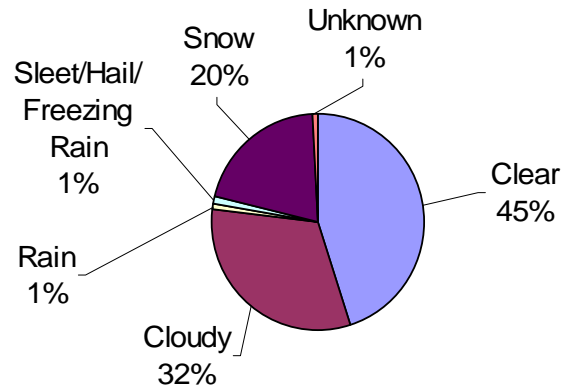
Light Conditions

Light Conditions	# of Accidents
Dark - Area Lit	12
Dark - Area Unlit	149
Dawn	1
Daylight	143
Dusk	9
Unknown	2
Total	316

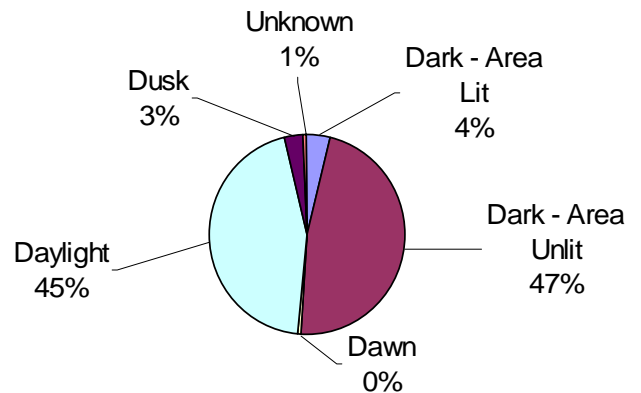
Engine Size

Engine Size	Occurrences
0-249	1
250-499	18
500-749	208
750-899	44
900+	23
Unknown	62
Total	356

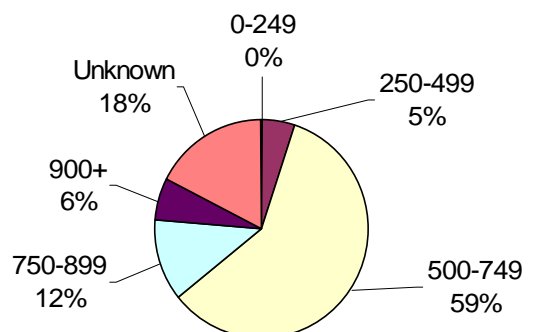
Weather Conditions



Light Conditions



Engine Size of All Accidents

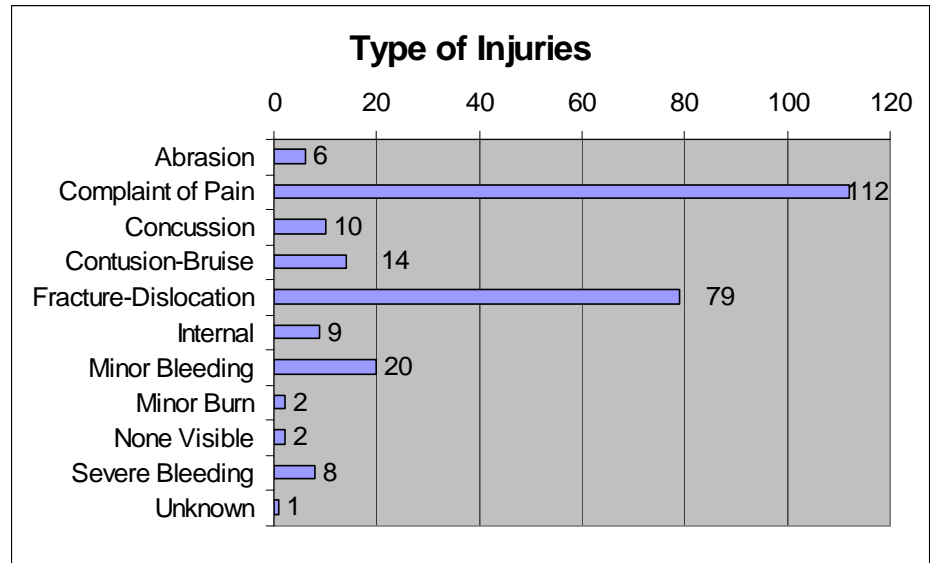


Injuries

Type of Injuries

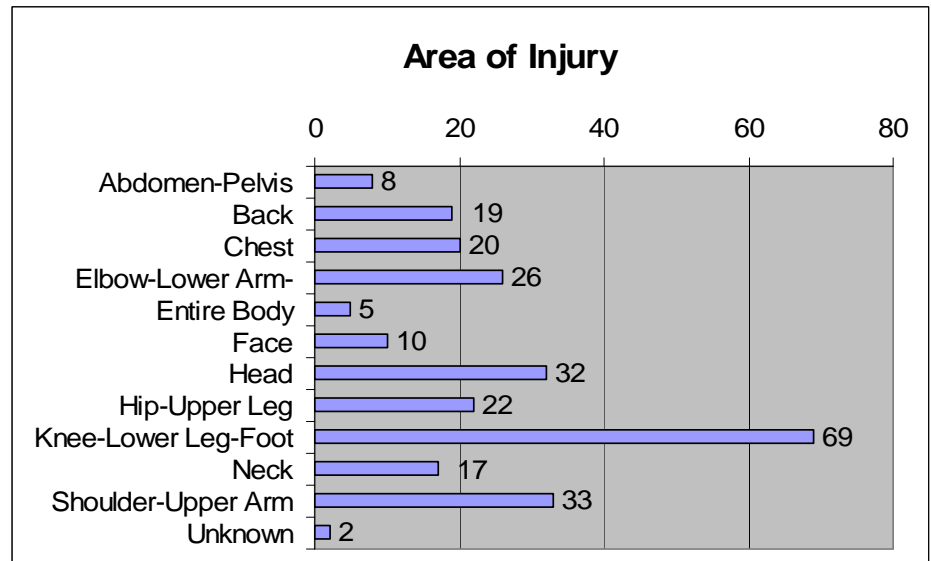
Injury Type	Occurrences
Abrasion	6
Complaint of Pain	112
Concussion	10
Contusion-Bruise	14
Fracture-Dislocation	79
Internal	9
Minor Bleeding	20
Minor Burn	2
None Visible	2
Severe Bleeding	8
Unknown	1
Total	263

Type of Injuries – The most common injury remains a complaint of pain.



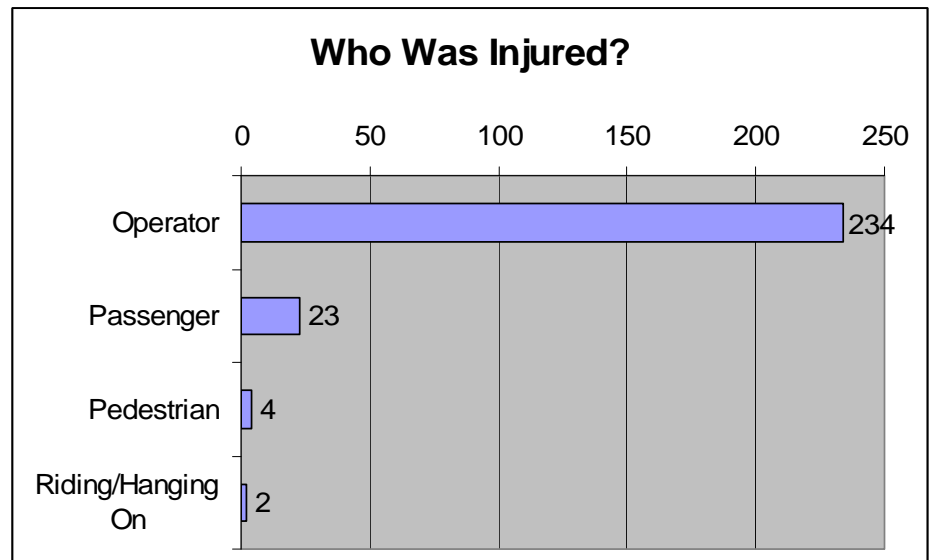
Area of Injury

Area of Injury	Occurrences
Abdomen-Pelvis	8
Back	19
Chest	20
Elbow-Lower Arm-Hand	26
Entire Body	5
Face	10
Head	32
Hip-Upper Leg	22
Knee-Lower Leg-Foot	69
Neck	17
Shoulder-Upper Arm	33
Unknown	2
Total	263



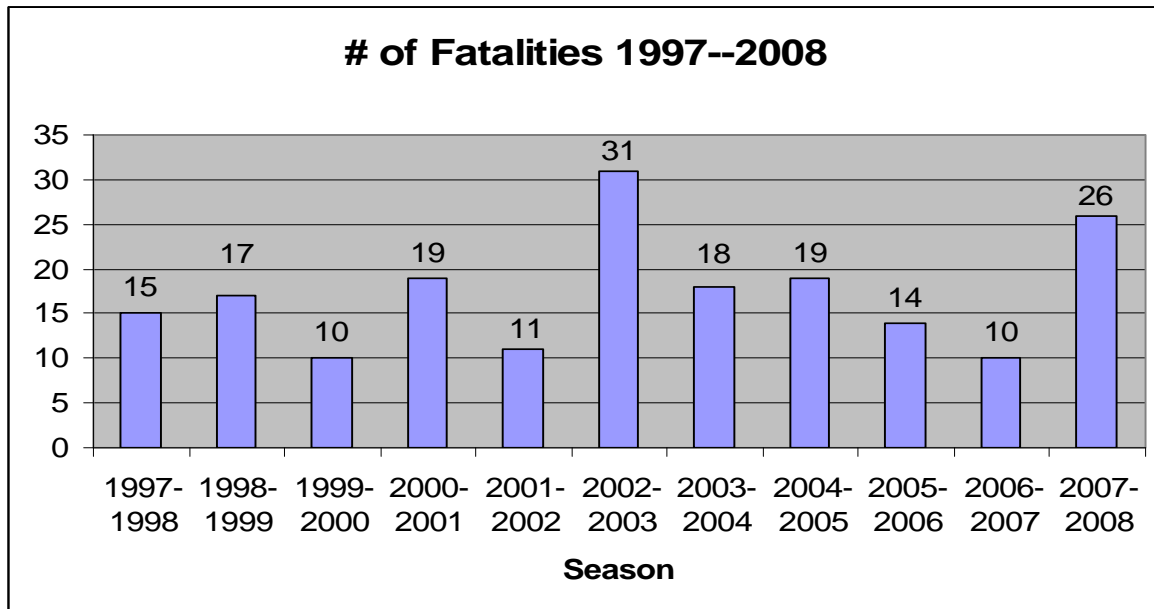
Who Was Injured?

Who Was Injured?	Occurrences
Operator	234
Passenger	23
Pedestrian	4
Riding/Hanging On	2
Total	263



Fatalities

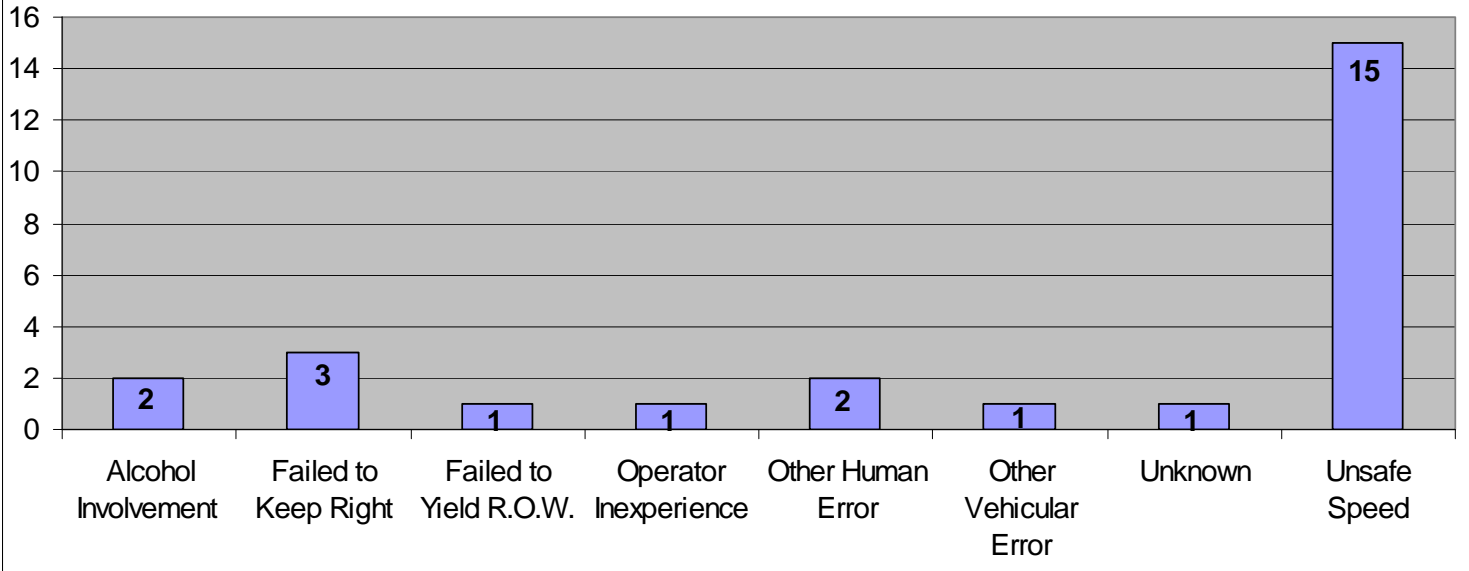
Of the 24 fatal accidents that occurred during the 2007-08 snowmobile season, unsafe speed was the primary cause of 57% of the accidents. Alcohol involvement was identified as the primary factor in 27% of this season's fatal accidents. Helmets were worn in all but one of this season's fatal accidents.



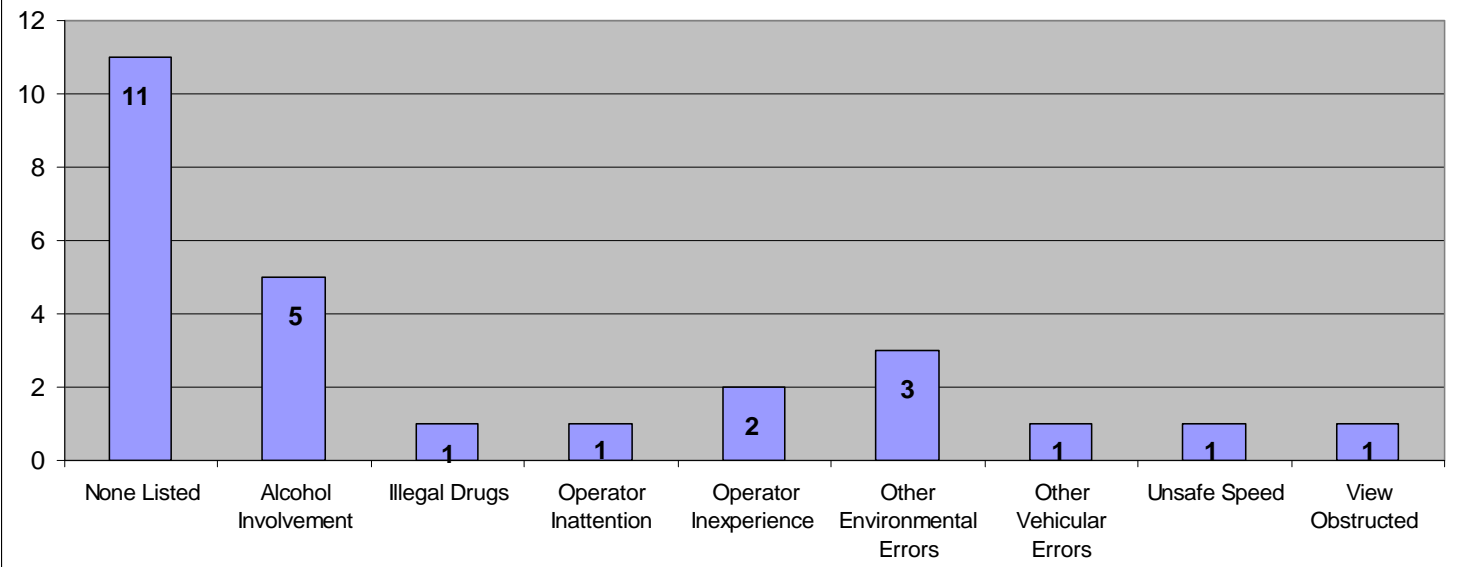
Type of Accident	Fatalities
Collision with Fixed Object	20
Collision with Moving Object	5
Other	1
Total	26

Collision With	Fatalities
Car/Truck	3
Culvert/Head Wall	1
Ice Ridge	1
Other	1
Other Snowmobile	1
Pedestrian	1
Snow Embankment	2
Tree	15
Total	25

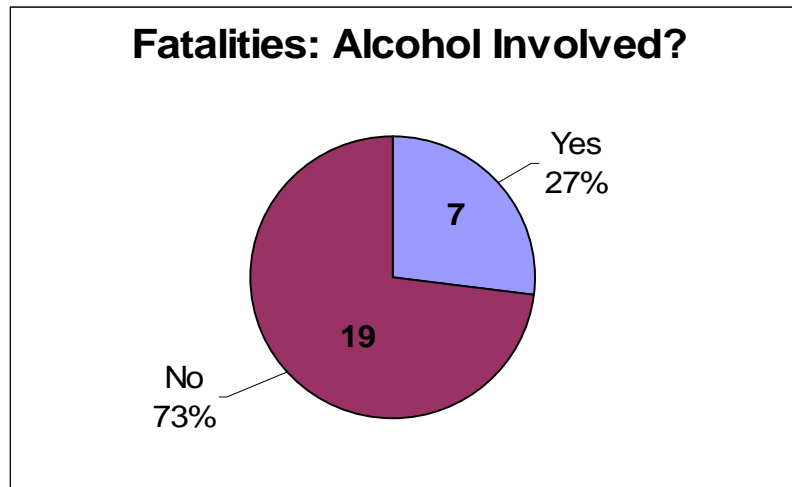
Fatalities: Primary Causes



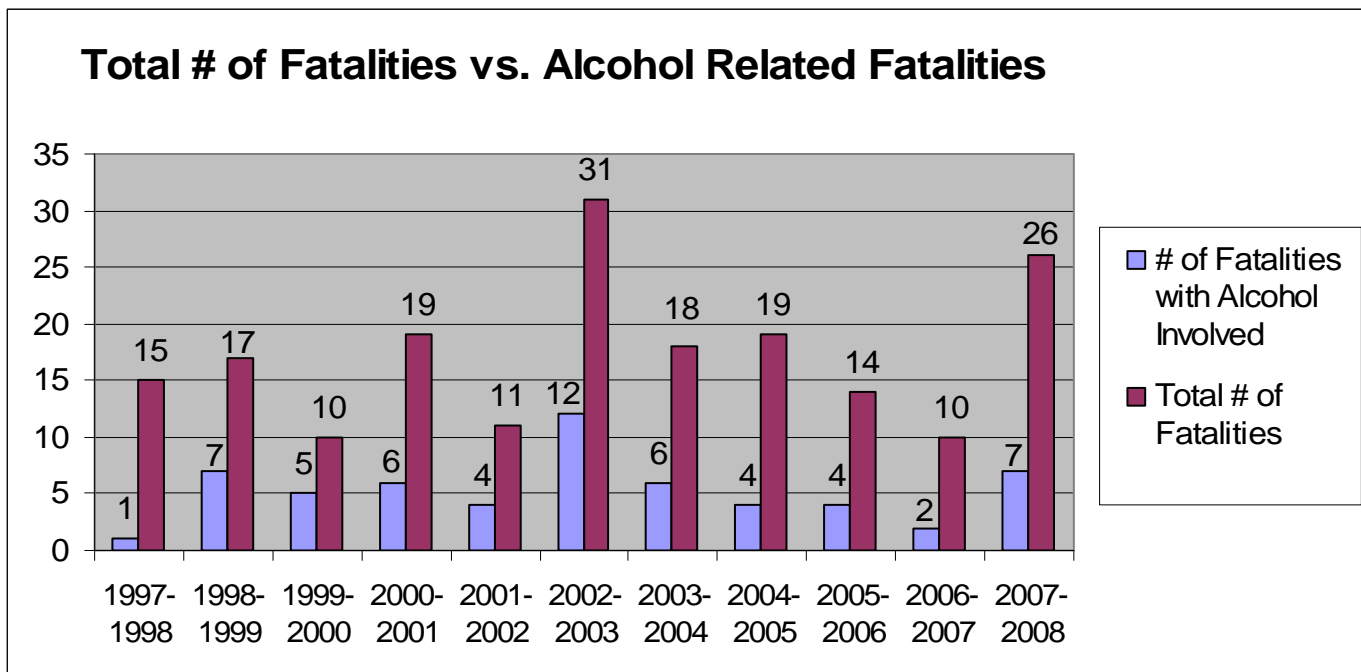
Fatalities: Secondary Causes



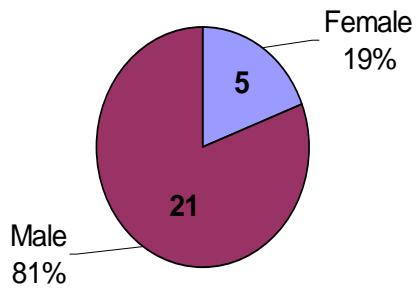
2007-2008 Season



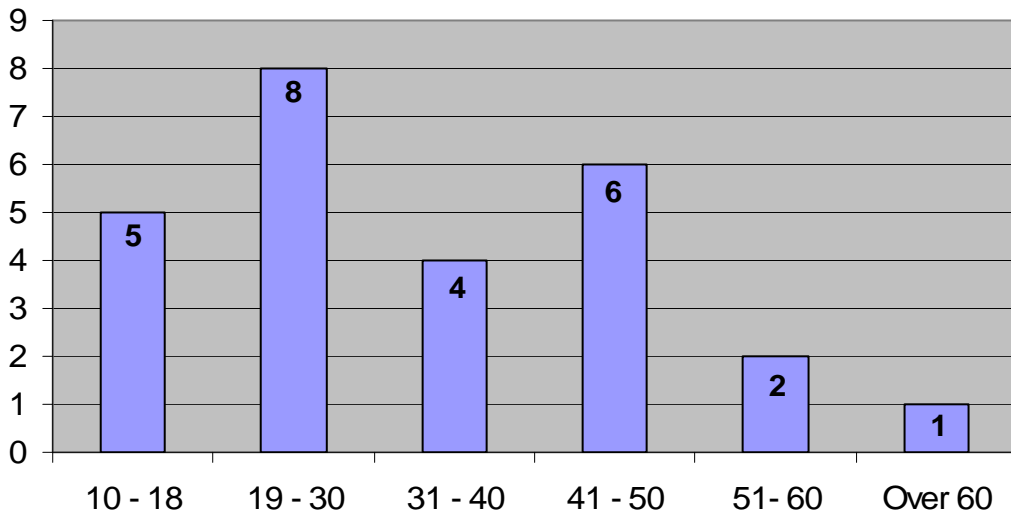
Alcohol Related Fatalities 1997-2008



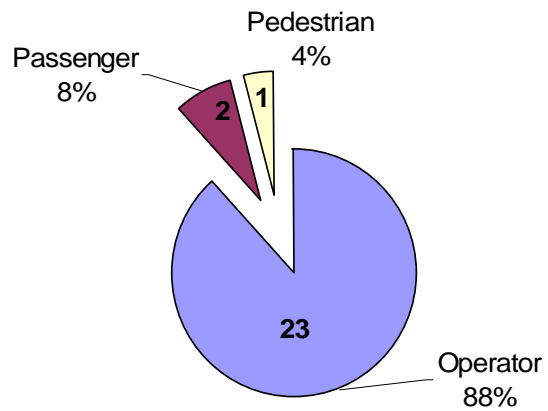
Fatalities: Gender of the Victim



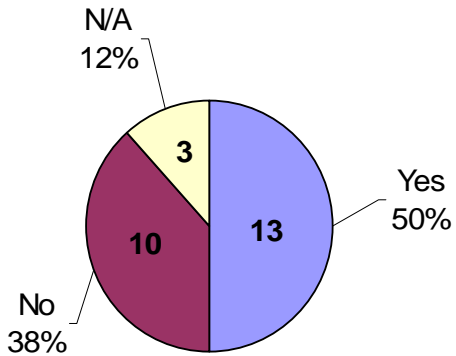
Fatalities: Age of the Victim



Fatalities: Position On or Off the Sled



Fatalities: Owner Operator?

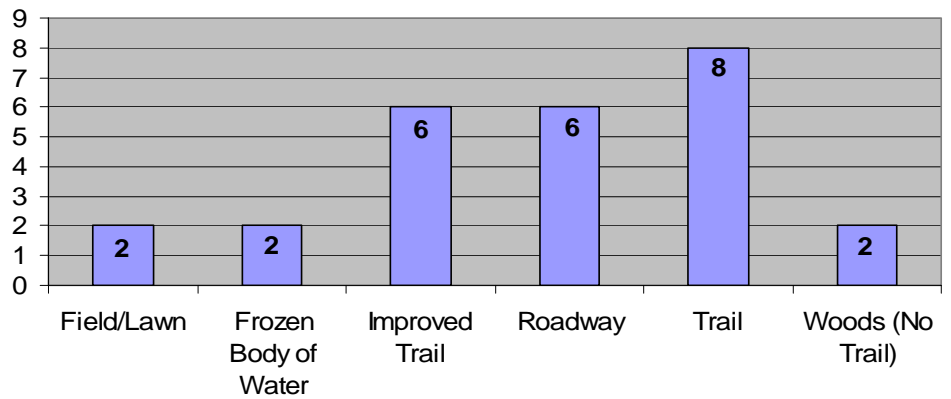


Helmet	Fatalities
Yes	25
No	1
Total	26

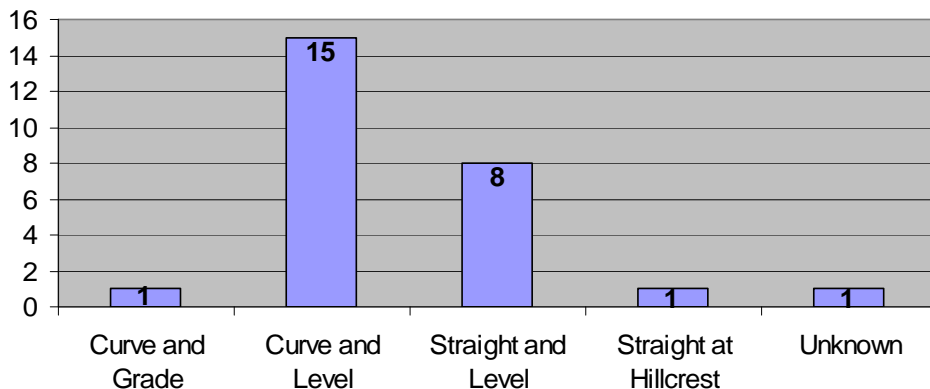
Ejected	Fatalities
Yes	24
No	1
N/A	1
Total	26

County	Fatalities
Cattaraugus	2
Chautauqua	1
Clinton	1
Delaware	1
Essex	1
Franklin	2
Fulton	1
Genesee	1
Herkimer	2
Lewis	1
Madison	1
Oneida	5
Oswego	2
Saratoga	1
St. Lawrence	2
Warren	1
Wayne	1
Total	26

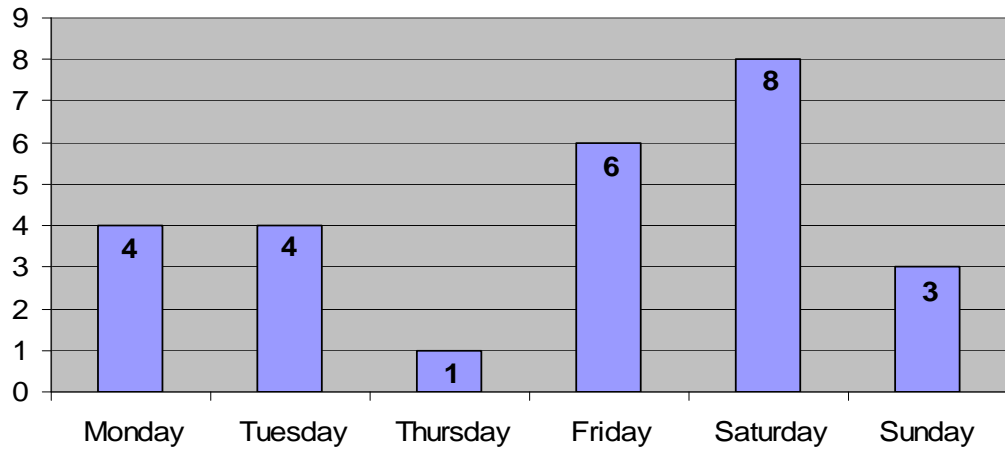
Fatalities: Terrain Type



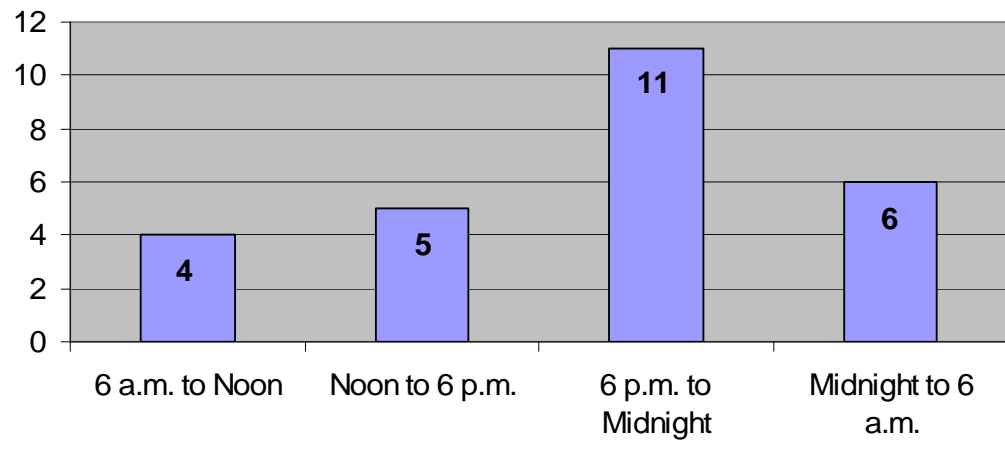
Fatalities: Roadway Character



Fatalities: Day of the Week



Fatalities: Time of Day



Fatalities: Month of the Accident

