

New York State Snowmobile Accident Report Summary 2008 – 2009 Season



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

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2008 – 2009 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 to our office using the OPS-209 form. Copies of OPS-209 are available on our website.

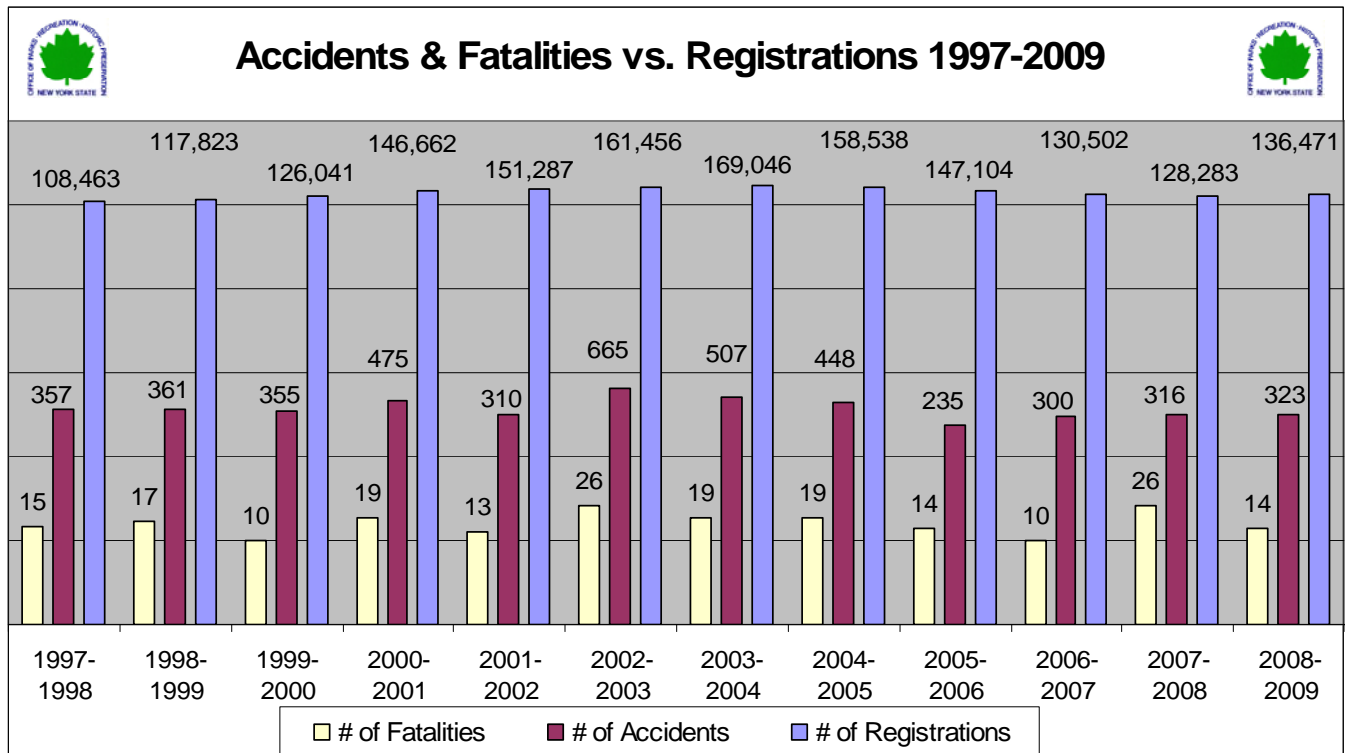
This summary reports accident statistics for the 2008-2009 snowmobile season. The snowmobile season coincides with the State's Fiscal Year. Therefore, this report includes all accidents that occurred 4/1/2008 through 3/31/2009.

This snowmobile season encountered 323 reported accidents. These accidents involved 380 snowmobile operators, resulted in 276 injuries, and 14 fatalities.

Unsafe speed was listed as the primary cause of the majority of snowmobile accidents for the 2008-09 season. This is not necessarily speeding but operators who are riding too fast for the weather and/or trail conditions. Most accidents continue to be collisions with fixed objects, such as trees after the operator lost control and left the trail right of way.

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

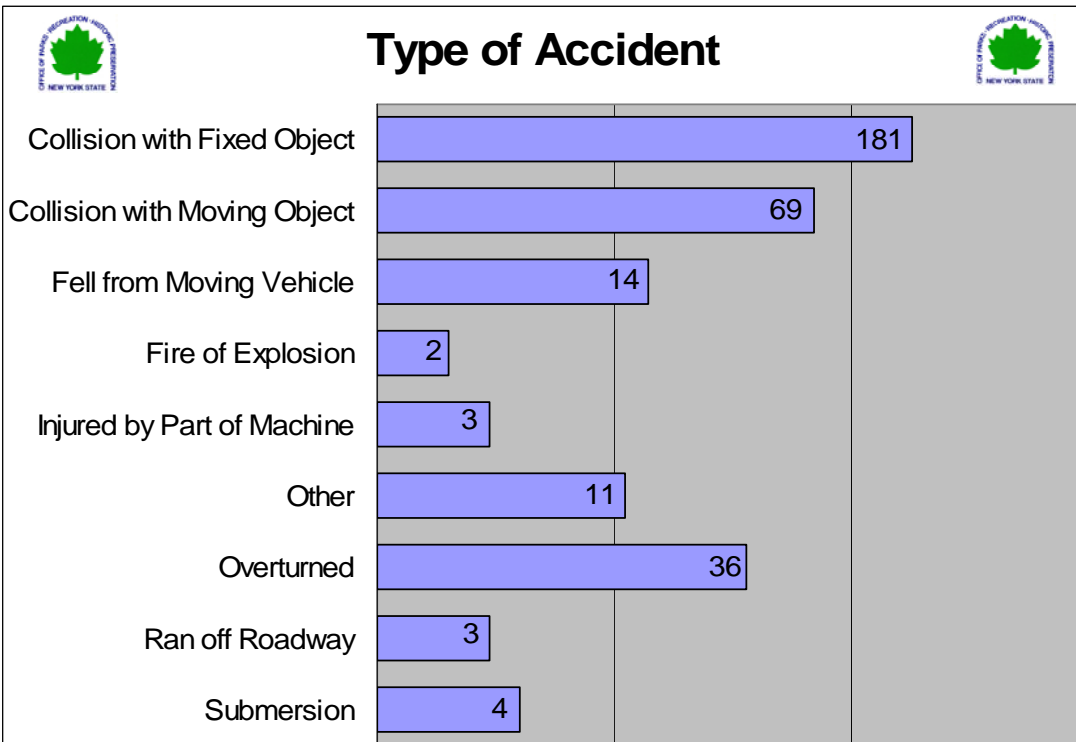
The tables and graphs that follow provide detailed information on accidents involving snowmobiles. These are based on the tabulation of the data collected from the completed reports.



Snowmobile registrations for the 2008-2009 season totaled 136,471. This is an increase from the 2007-2008 season of 128,283 registrations.

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

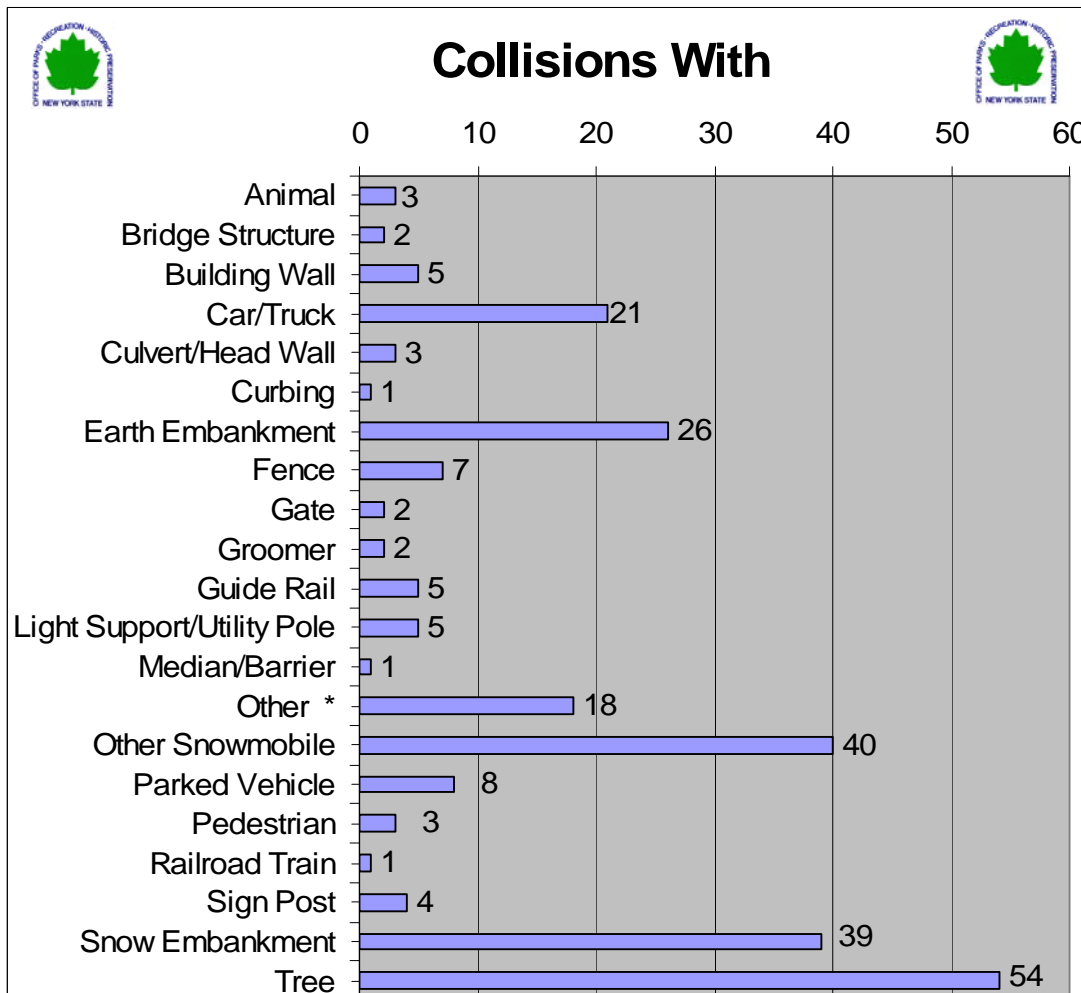
Type of Accidents



Type of Accident –
 These tables shows the types of accidents that occurred in the 2008-09 season.

Collisions with fixed objects are the most common type of accident.

Collisions With...

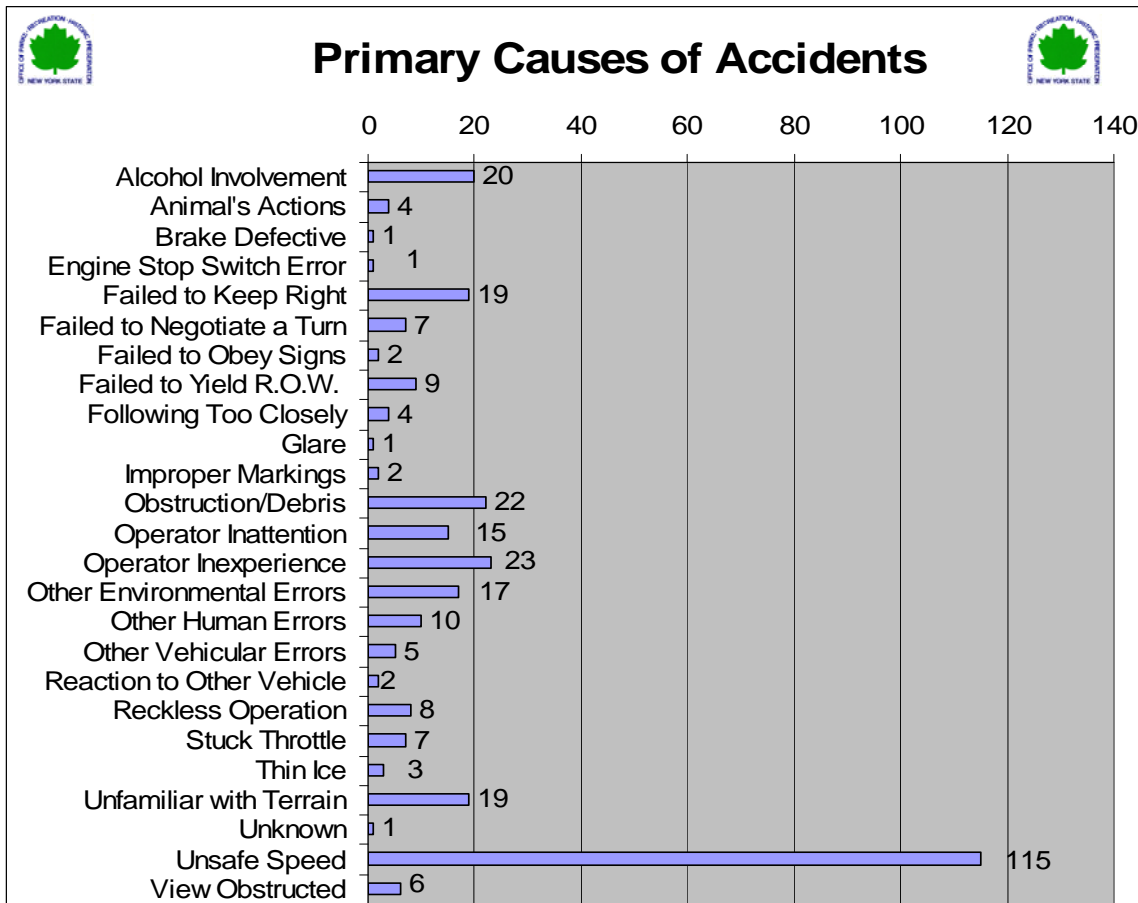


Collisions With –
 Collisions are the most common type of accident. This table looks at what is being hit.

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

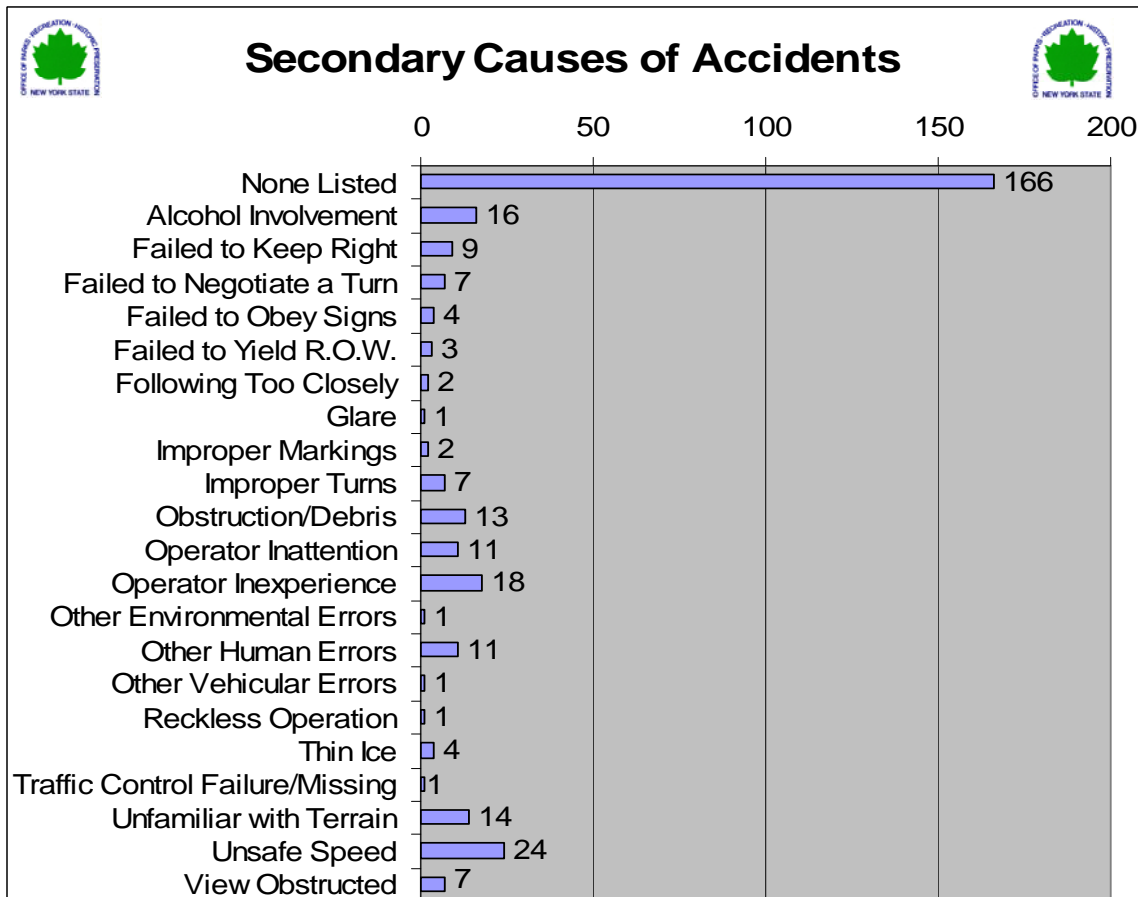
* Other includes rocks, railroad tracks, rough ice/ice ridges, and boat docks.

Causes of Accidents



Primary Causes of Accidents –
 This table shows the primary causes of the accidents in the 2008-09 season.

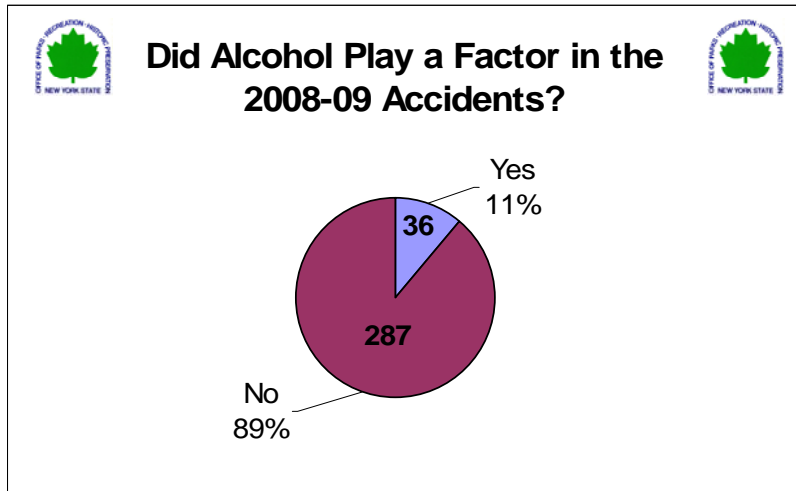
Unsafe speed is by far the primary factor. This is not necessarily speeding but operators who are riding too fast for the weather and trail conditions.



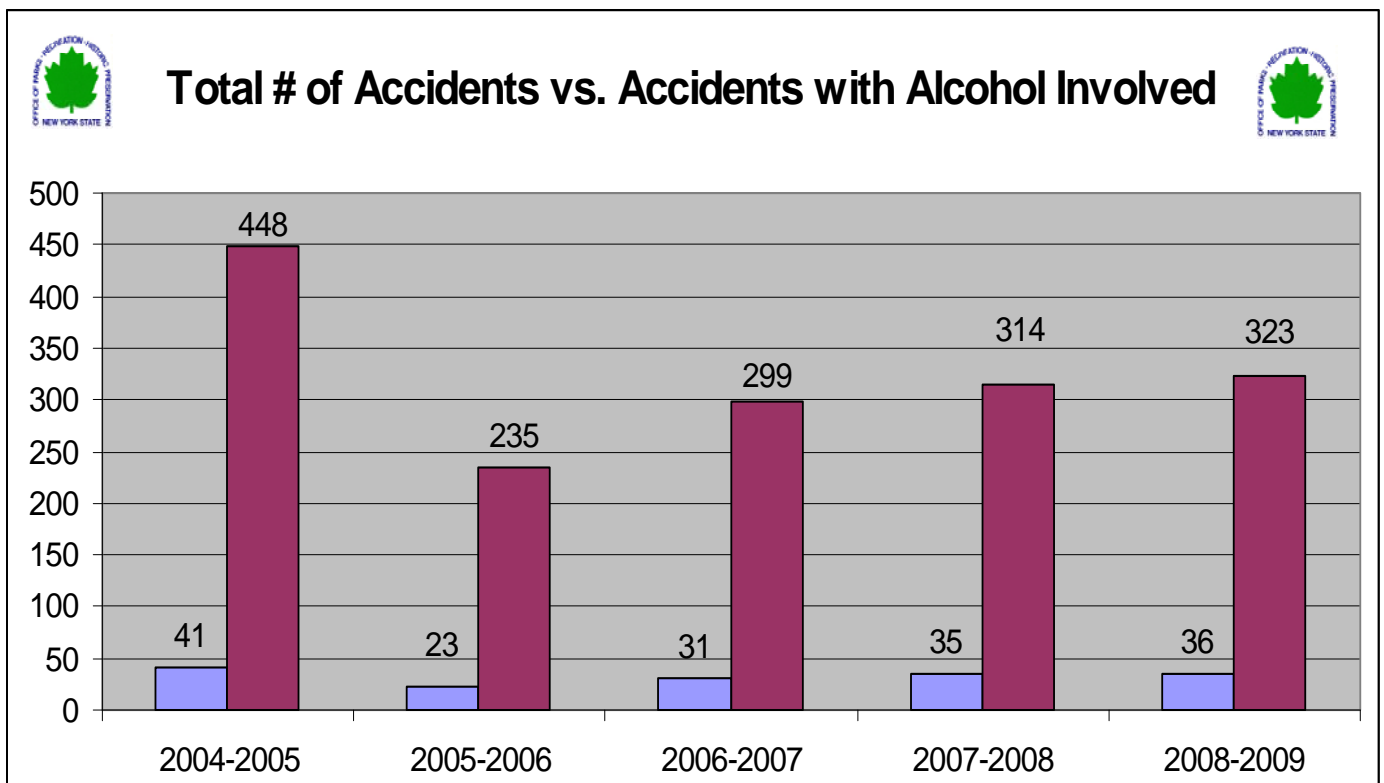
Secondary Causes –
 This table counts all instances in which a secondary cause was noted.

More than half of the 2008-2009 accidents reports did not attribute a secondary cause. The remaining 49%, however, did identify one of the various factors listed.

2008-09 Season

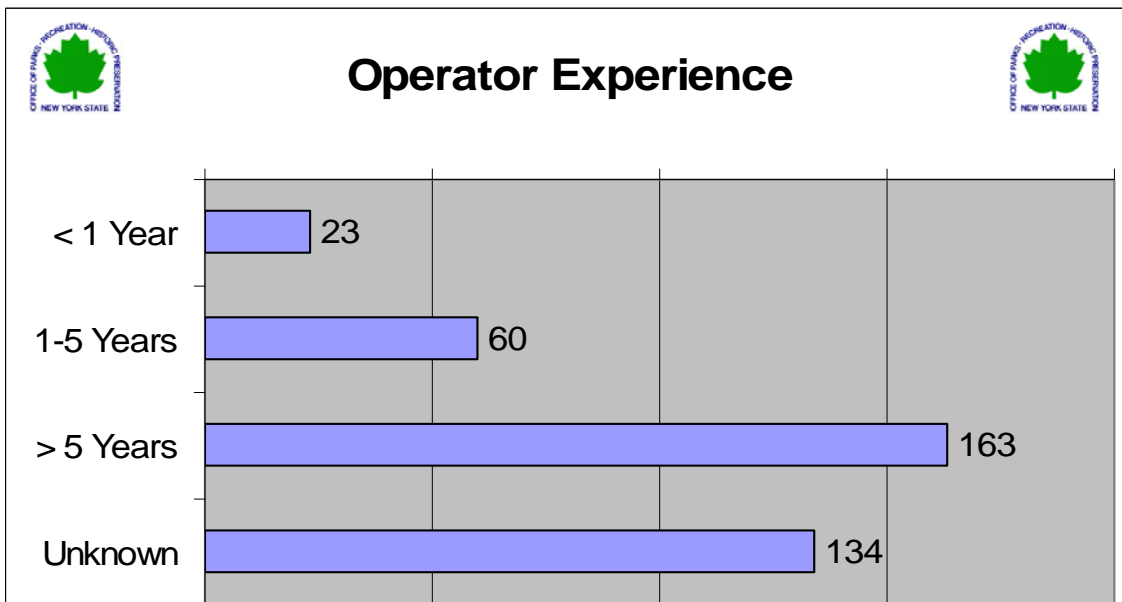
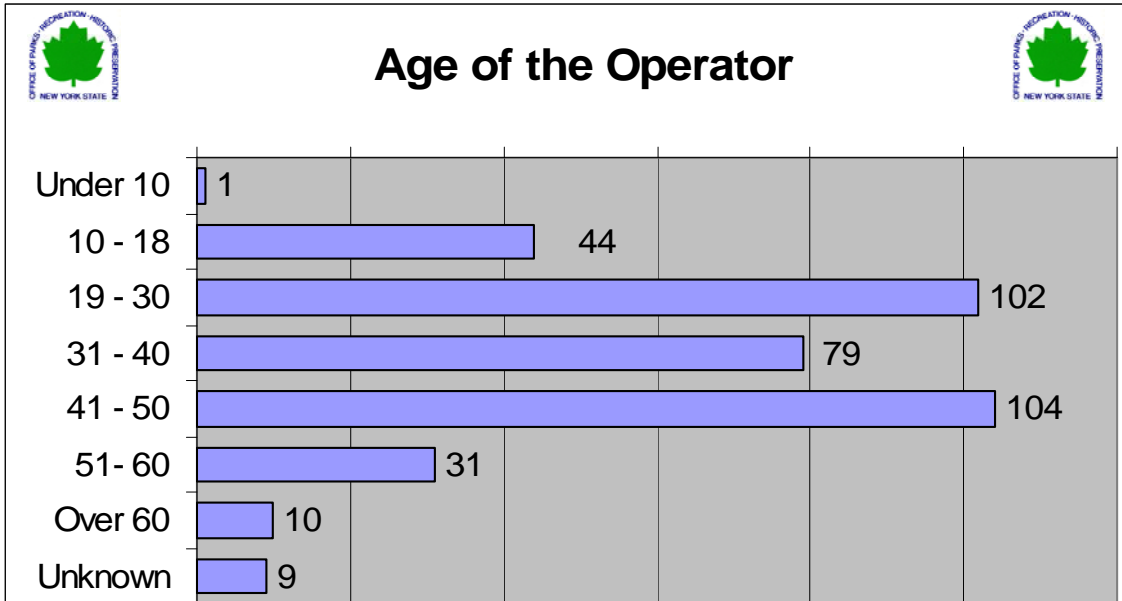


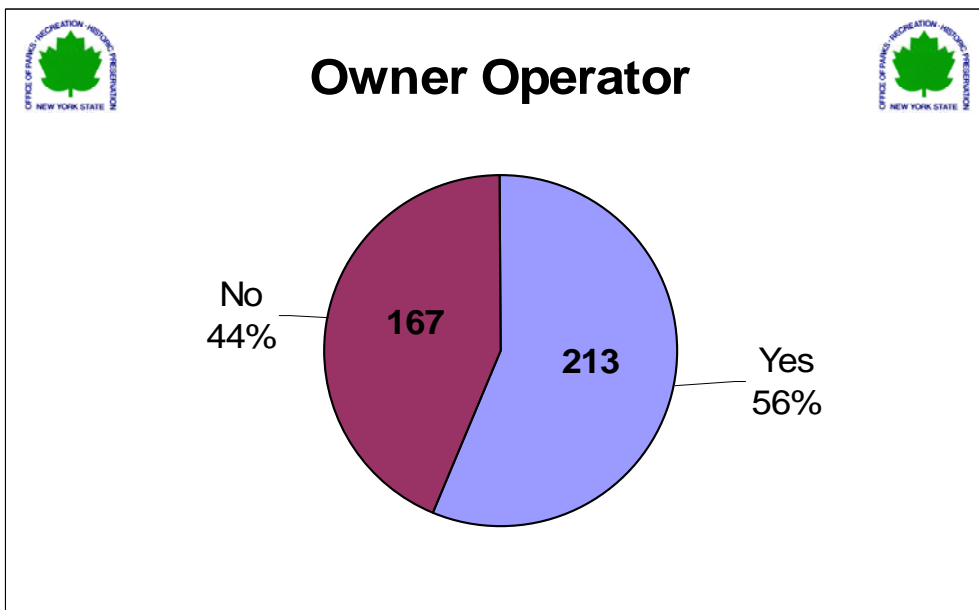
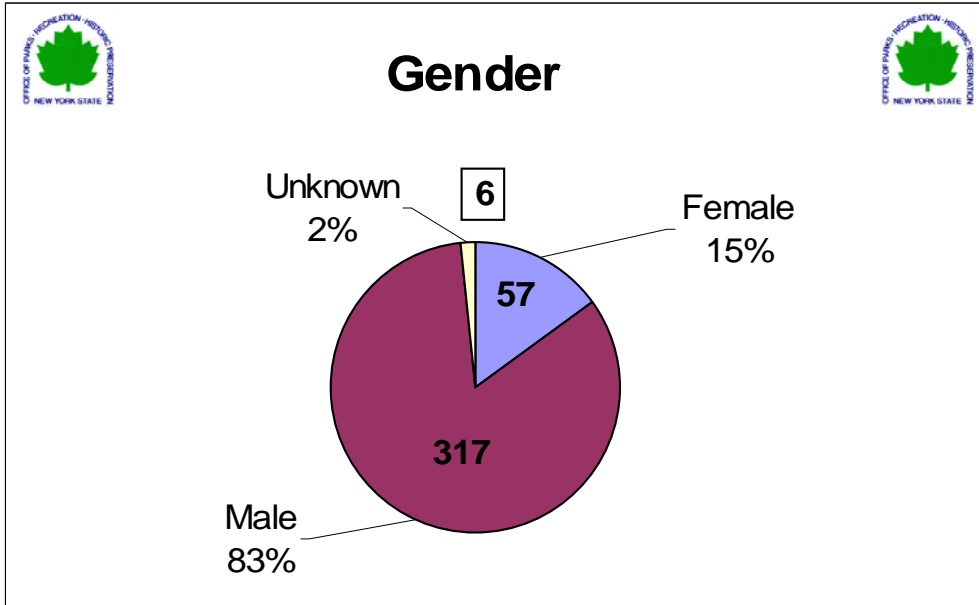
Alcohol Involvement 2004-2009



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?





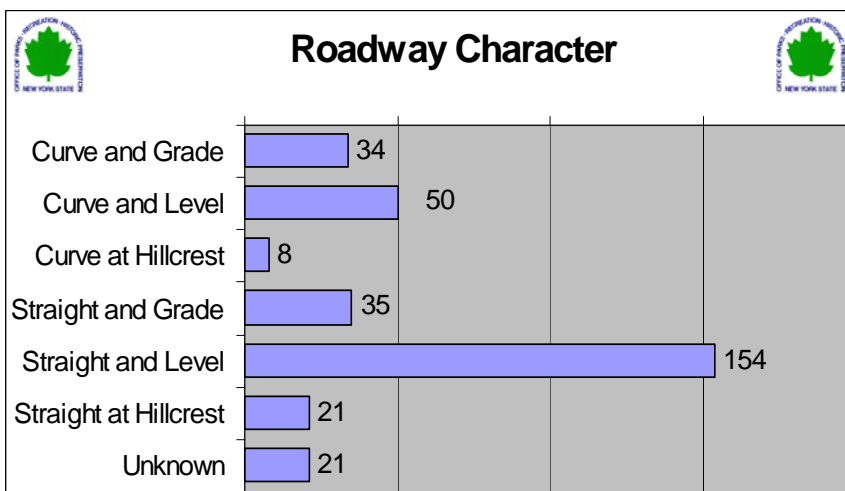
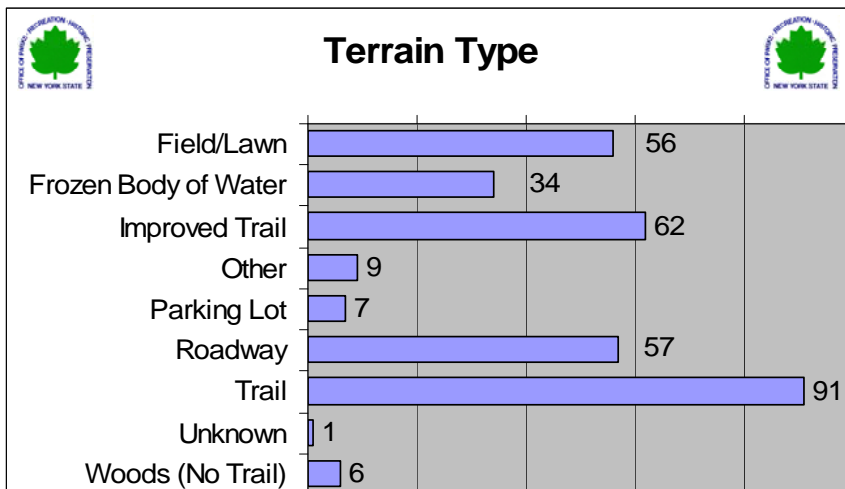
Owner Operator – This table and pie chart examine how many accidents occur by those who own and are more familiar with the vehicle.

Where did the Accidents Occur?

County

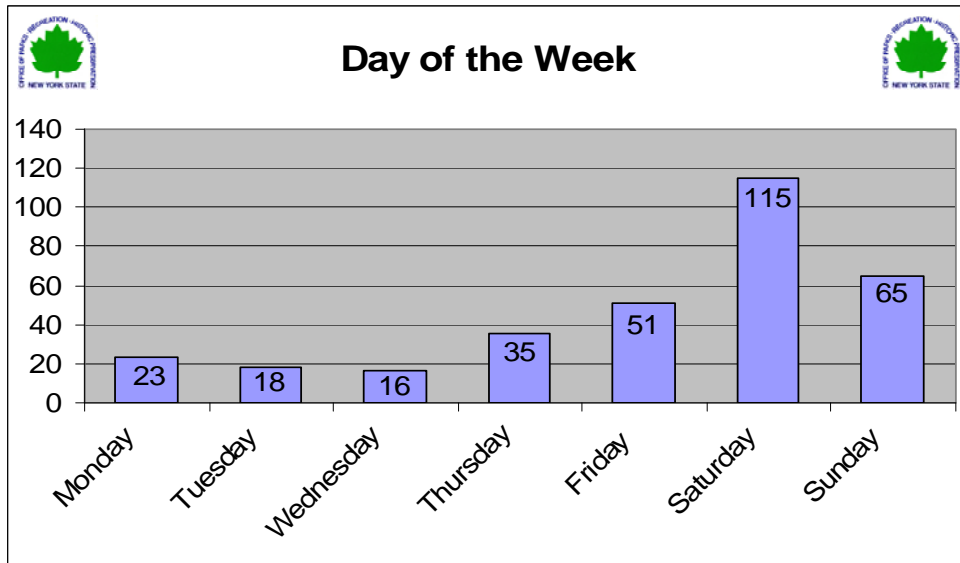


County of Incident	# of Accidents	# of Fatalities	# of Injured
Albany	1	0	0
Allegany	5	0	3
Broome	2	0	2
Cattaraugus	2	1	2
Cayuga	6	0	6
Chautauqua	18	0	13
Chenango	3	0	3
Clinton	4	0	4
Cortland	5	0	3
Delaware	6	0	5
Dutchess	2	0	2
Erie	5	1	5
Essex	1	0	1
Franklin	8	1	3
Fulton	15	0	14
Genesee	9	0	7
Greene	2	0	2
Hamilton	22	1	19
Herkimer	31	3	21
Jefferson	9	0	9
Lewis	37	2	35
Livingston	3	1	1
Madison	7	0	5
Monroe	8	0	9
Montgomery	5	0	6
Niagara	5	1	4
Oneida	22	1	20
Onondaga	6	0	4
Ontario	3	0	3
Orleans	1	0	1
Oswego	20	1	15
Otsego	2	0	1
Saratoga	4	0	4
Schoharie	1	0	0
Schuyler	2	0	2
St. Lawrence	10	0	12
Steuben	1	0	1
Suffolk	1	0	1
Sullivan	2	0	2
Warren	8	0	8
Washington	2	0	1
Wayne	6	1	4
Wyoming	10	0	12
Yates	1	0	1
Total	323	14	276

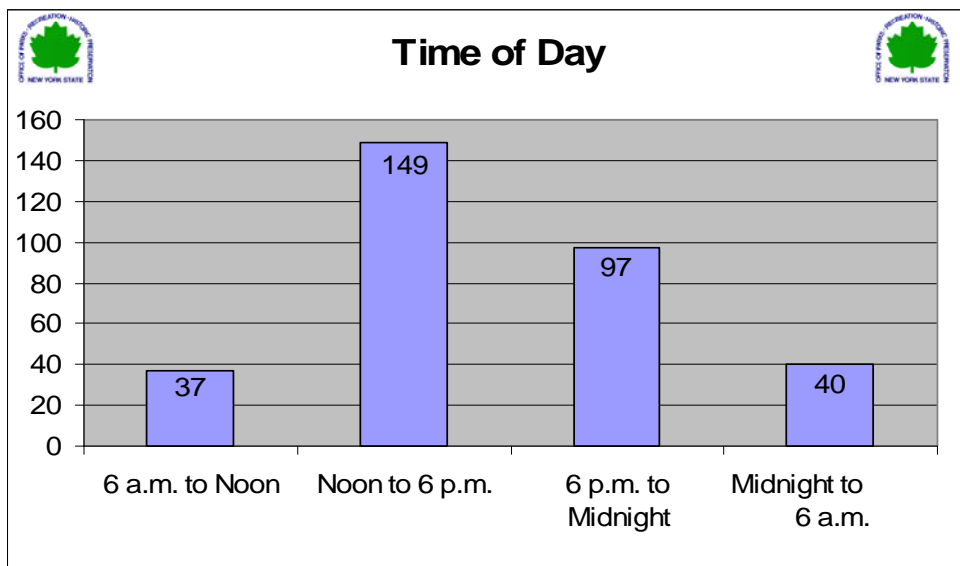


Roadway Character - The roadway character applies to any area at which an accident occurred, not only the roadway. It is designed to indicate the physical condition of the terrain at the accident scene.

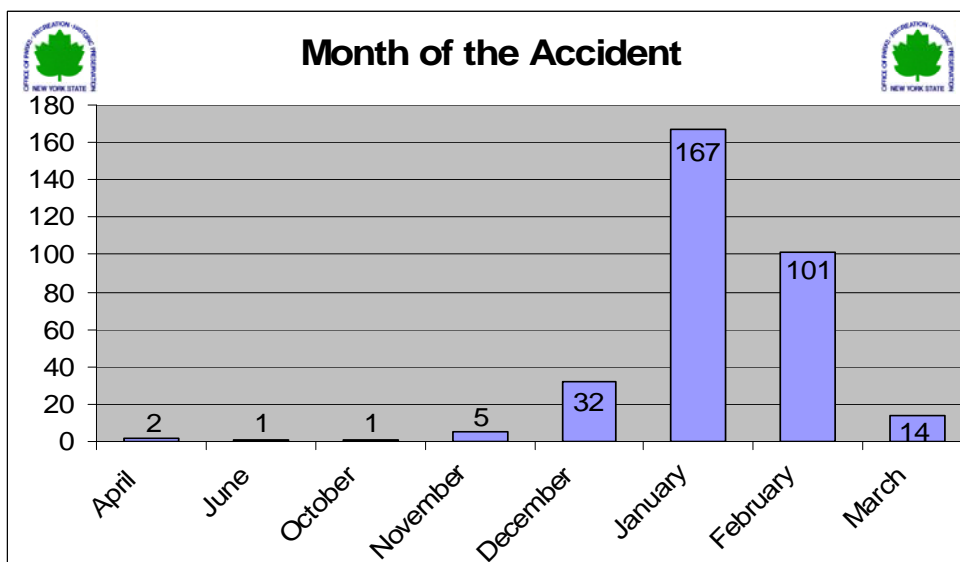
When did the Accidents Occur?



Day of the Week – 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 – 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.

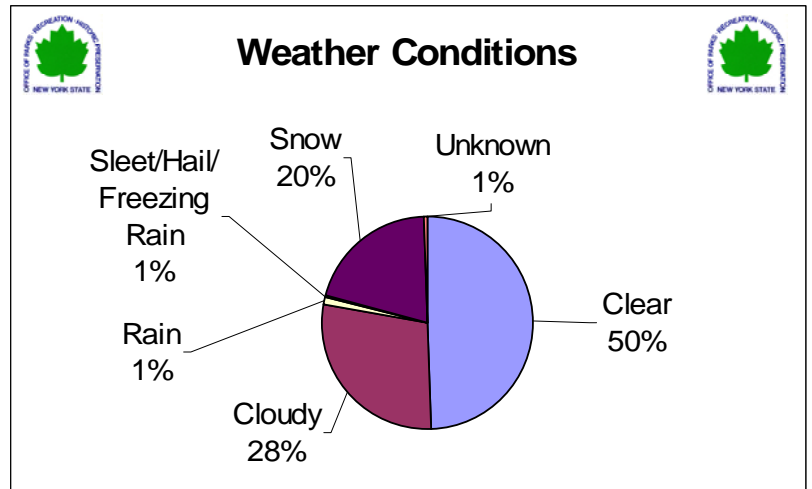


Other Possible Factors

Weather Conditions

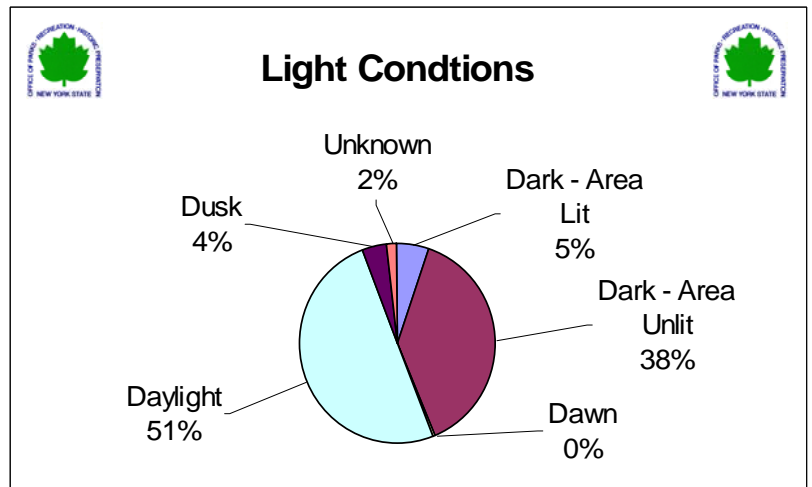
Weather	# of Accidents
Clear	160
Cloudy	91
Rain	4
Sleet/Hail/Freezing Rain	1
Snow	65
Unknown	2
Total	323

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.



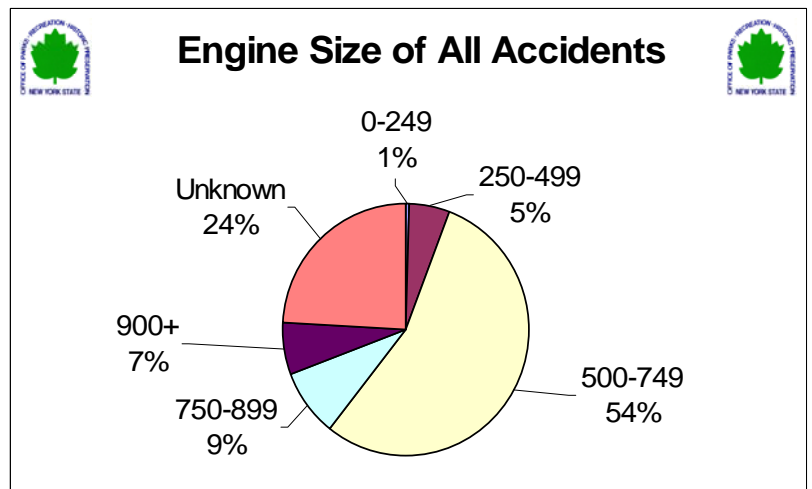
Light Conditions

Light Conditions	# of Accidents
Dark - Area Lit	17
Dark - Area Unlit	124
Dawn	1
Daylight	162
Dusk	14
Unknown	5
Total	323

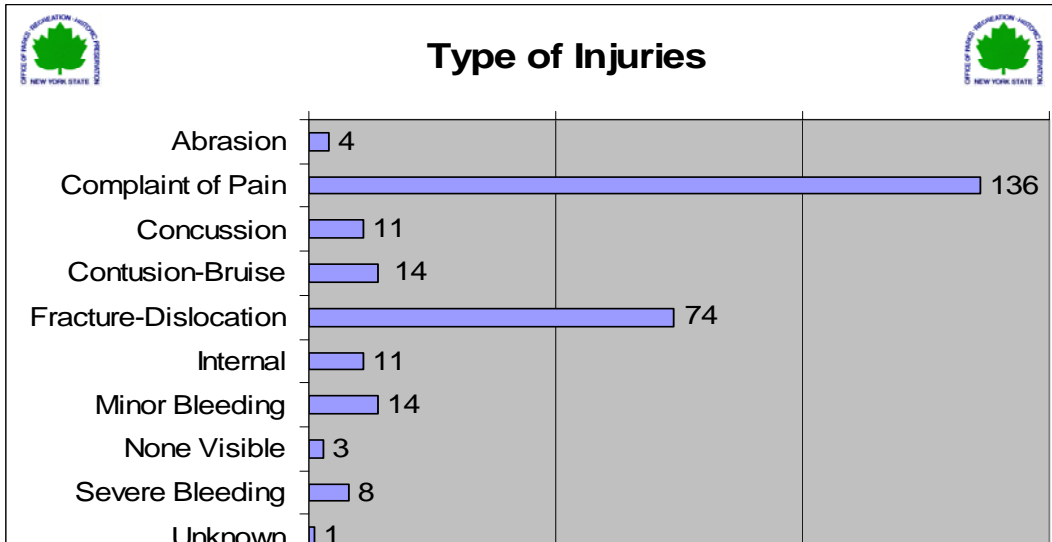


Engine Size

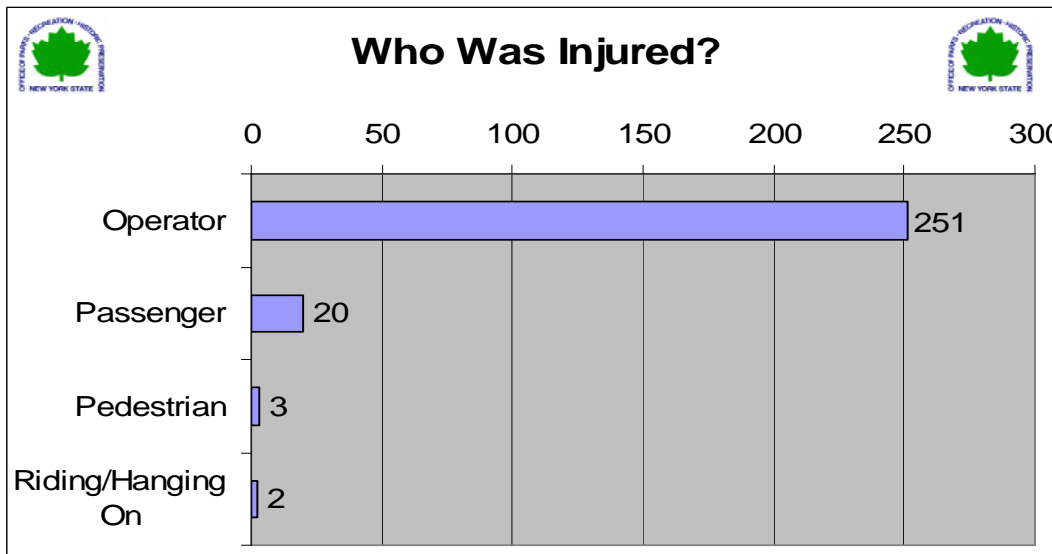
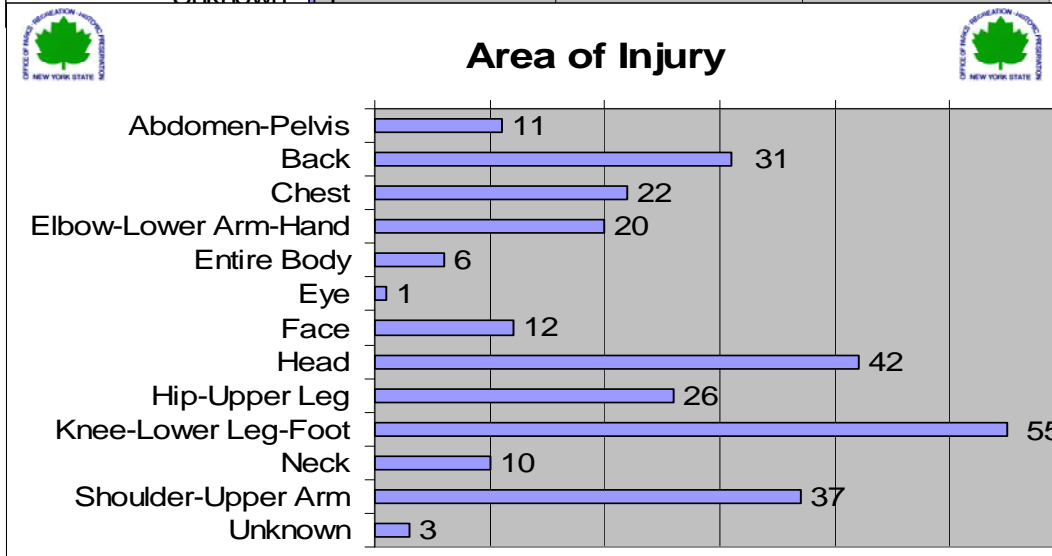
Engine Size	Occurrences
0-249	2
250-499	20
500-749	207
750-899	34
900+	25
Unknown	92
Total	380



Injuries

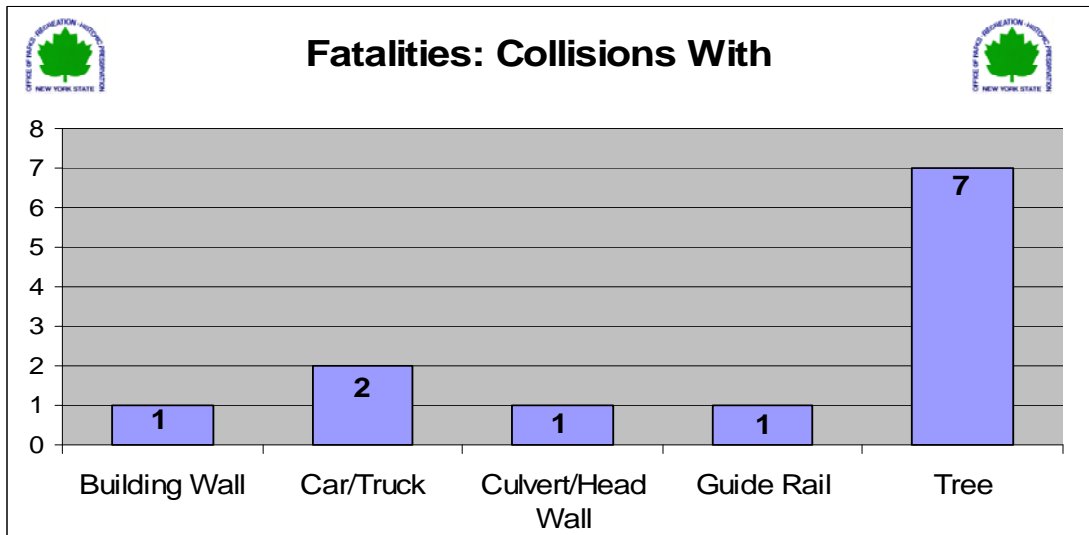
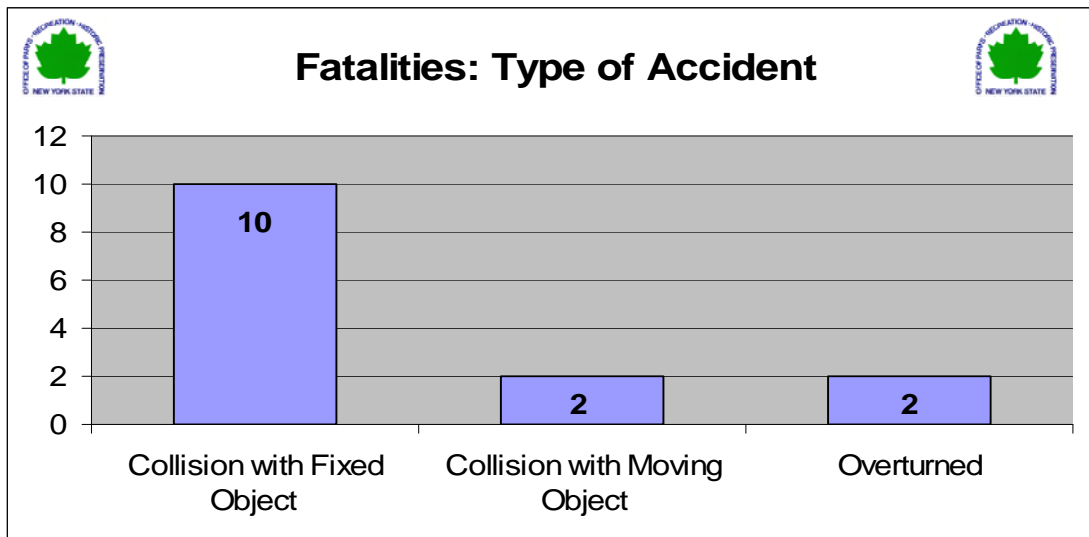
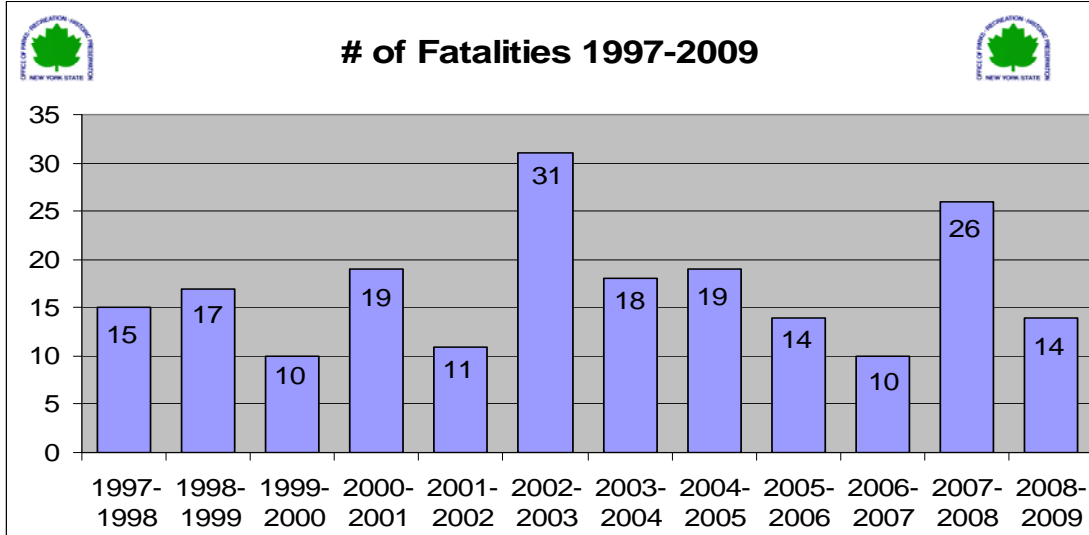


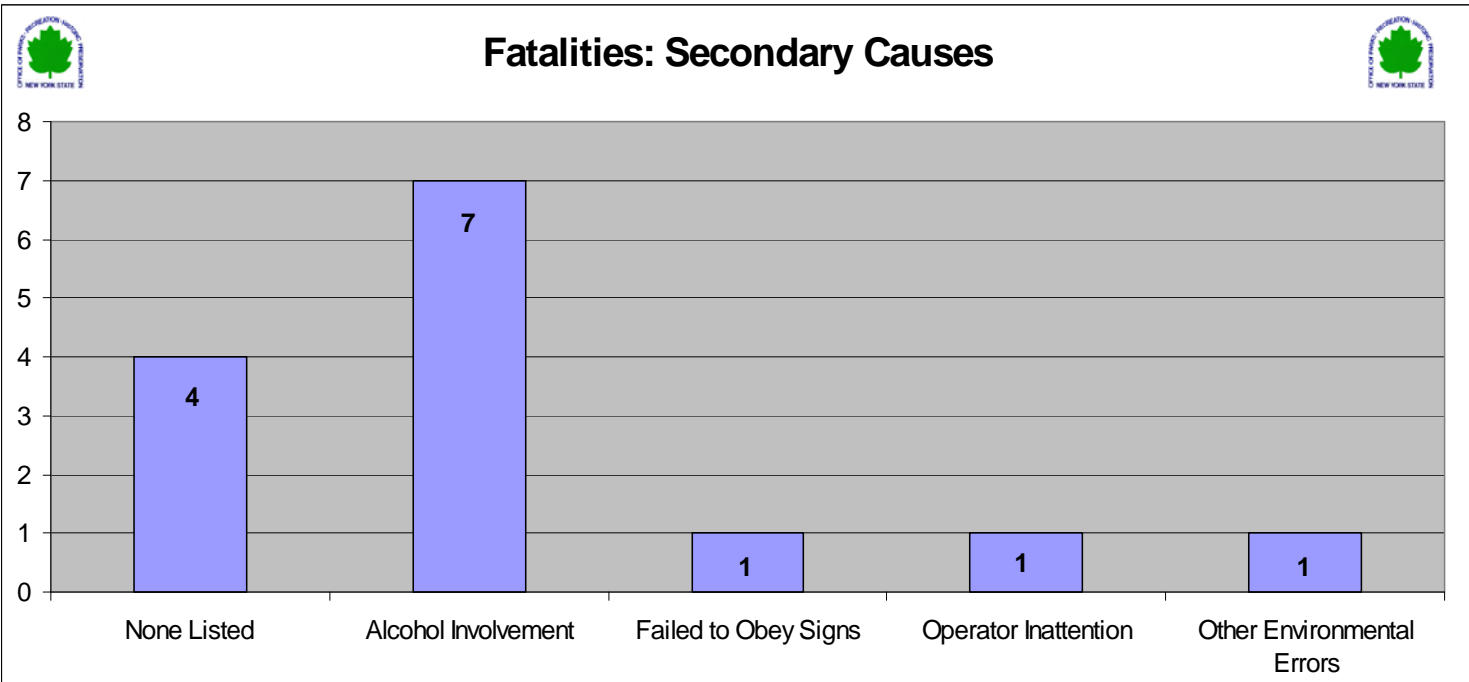
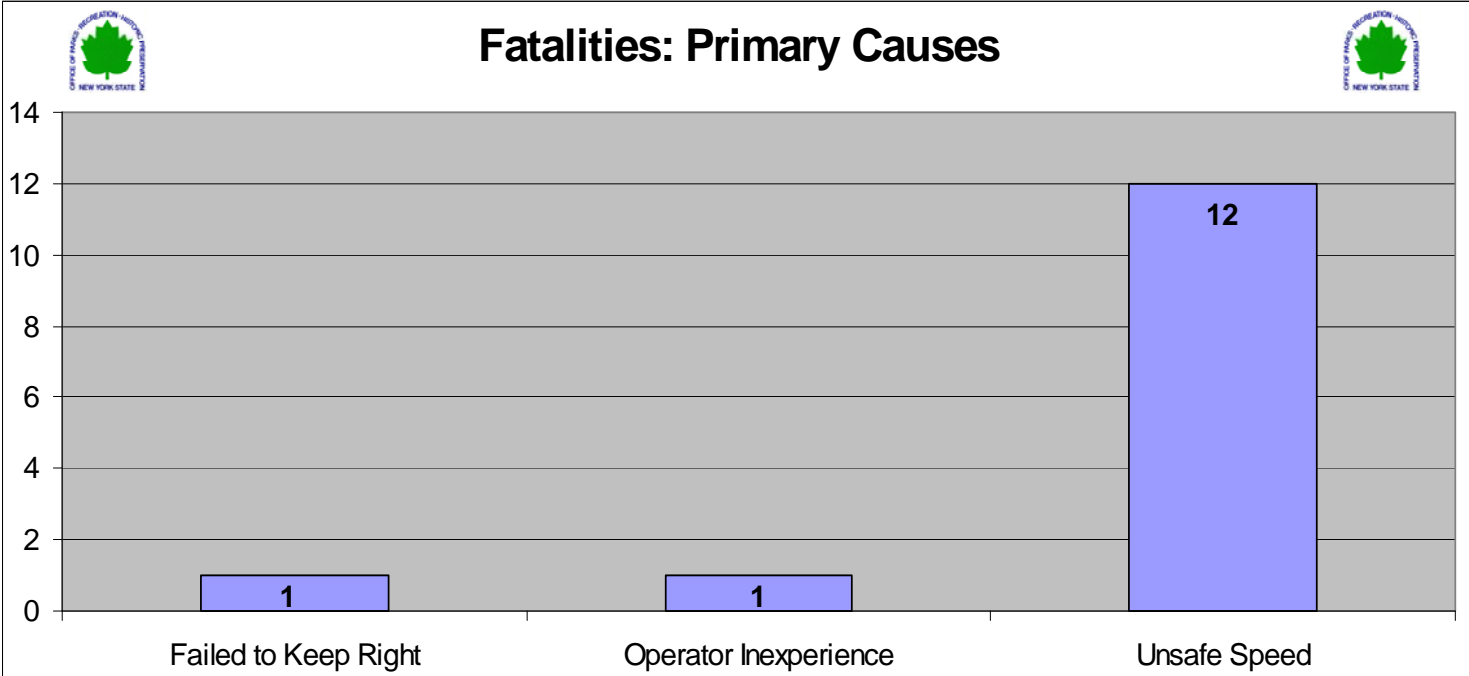
Type of Injuries –
The most common injury remains a complaint of pain.



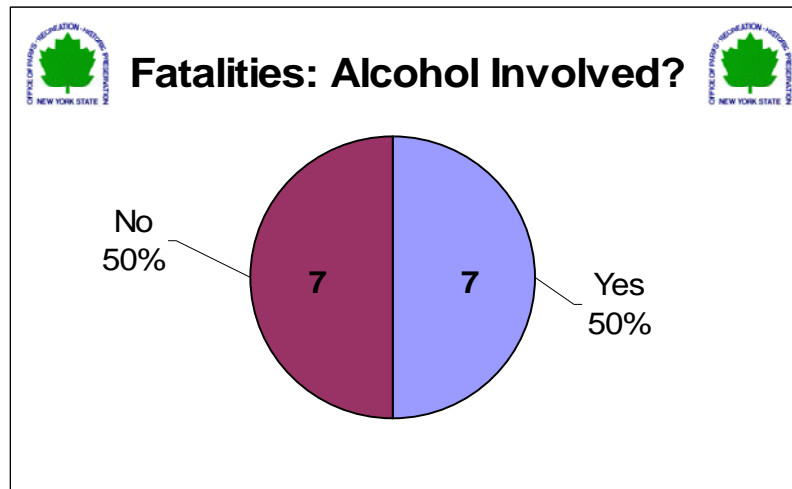
Fatalities

Of the 14 fatal accidents that occurred during the 2008-09 snowmobile season, unsafe speed was the primary cause of 86% of the accidents. Alcohol involvement was identified as a factor in 50% of this season's fatal accidents. Helmets were worn in all of this season's fatal accidents. All fatal victims were the operators of their own snowmobile.

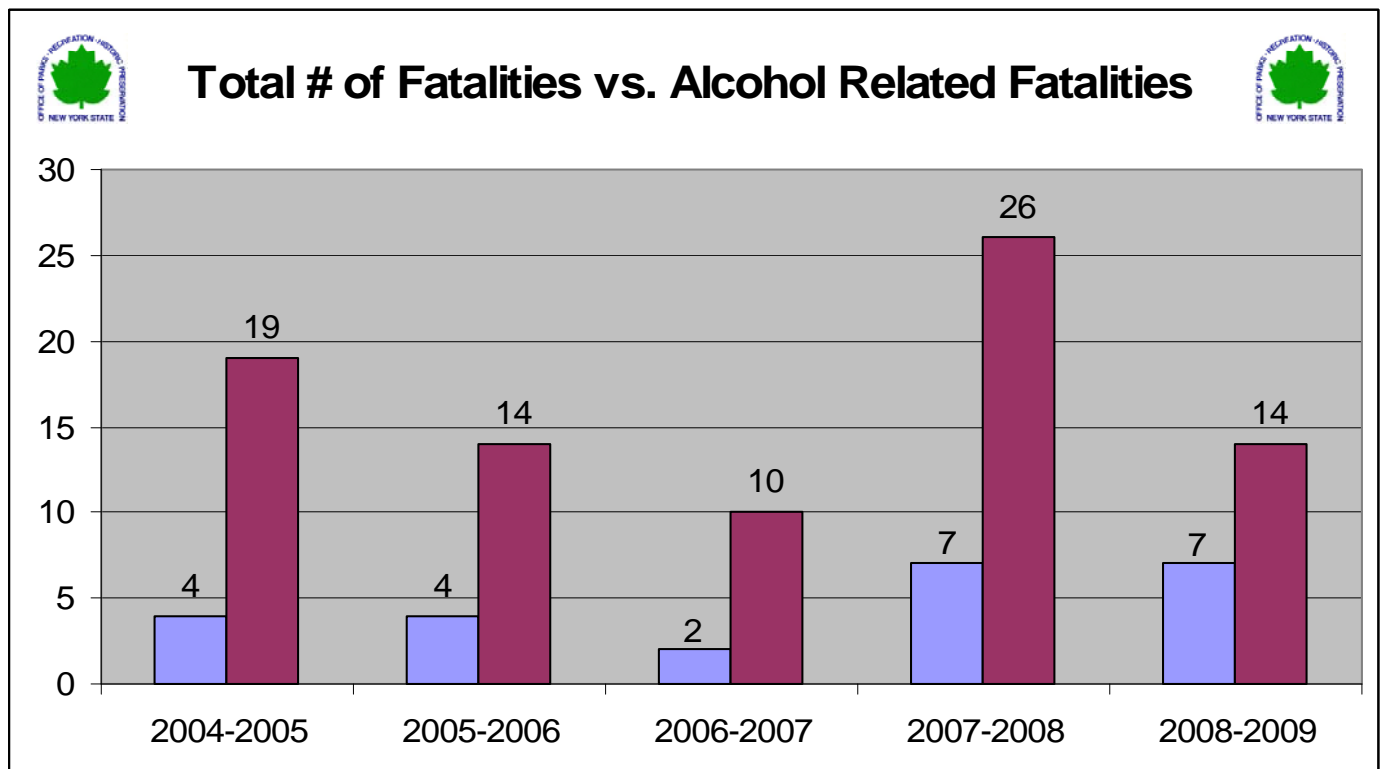


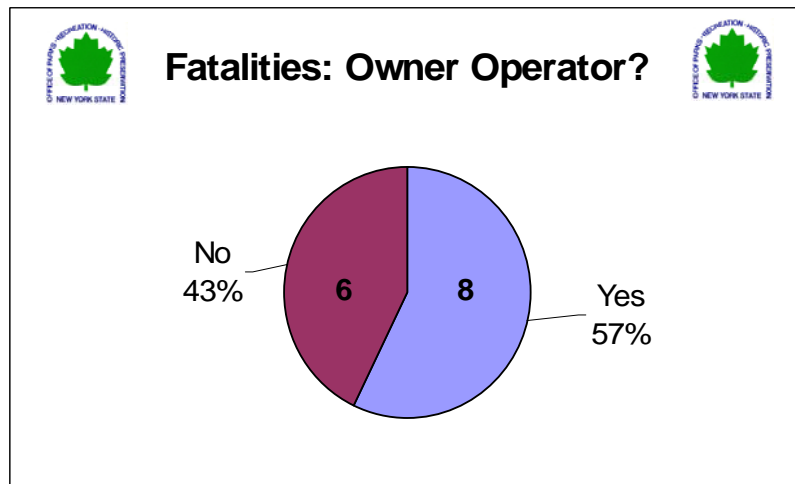
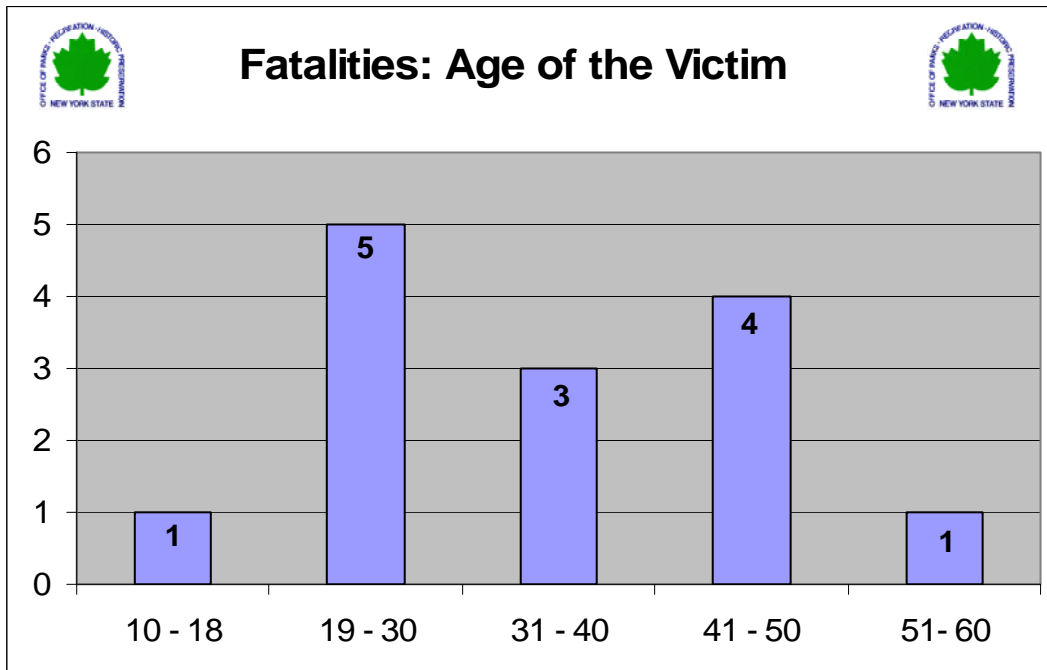
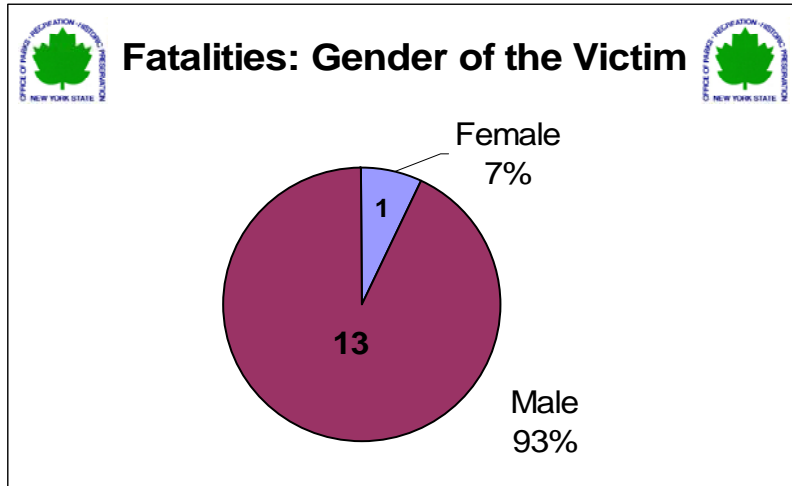


2008-2009 Season



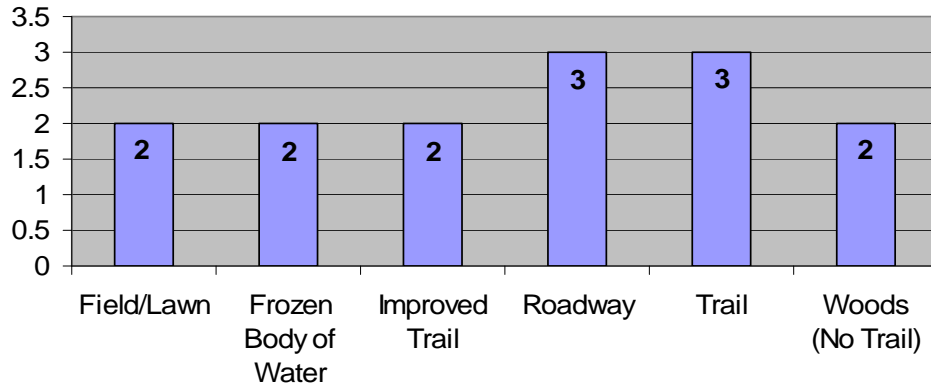
Alcohol Related Fatalities 2004-2009



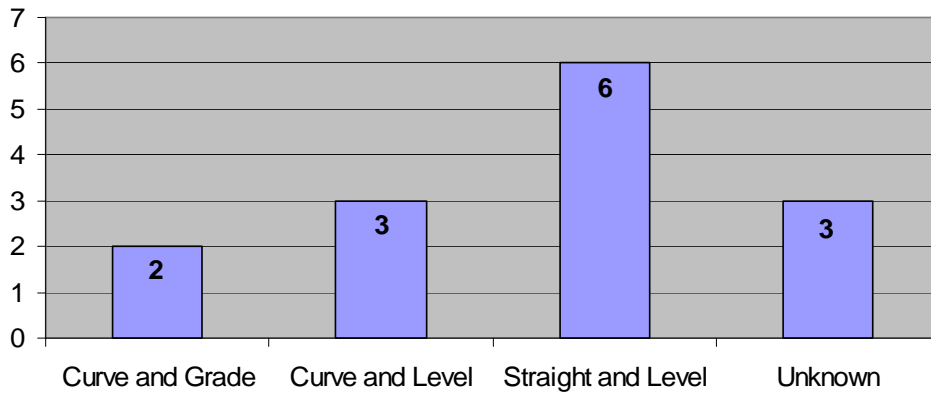




Fatalities: Terrain Type



Fatalities: Roadway Character



County	Fatalities
Cattaraugus	1
Erie	1
Franklin	1
Hamilton	1
Herkimer	3
Lewis	2
Livingston	1
Niagara	1
Oneida	1
Oswego	1
Wayne	1
Total	14



