

**Wisconsin
Department of Natural Resources
All-Terrain Vehicle
Enforcement & Safety Report - 2009**



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Randall Stark, Chief Warden
Bureau of Law Enforcement
Department of Natural Resources

Todd Schaller, Director
Recreation Enforcement & Education
Bureau of Law Enforcement
Department of Natural Resources

Gary Eddy, ATV/Snowmobile Administrator
Recreation Enforcement & Education
Bureau of Law Enforcement

Julie Fitzgerald, Operations Assoc.
Recreation Enforcement & Education
Bureau of Law Enforcement

Department of Natural Resources Recreation Enforcement and Education Section

In 2009, Wisconsin unfortunately had 18 fatalities, up 6 from the 12 in 2008. Speed was listed as a contributing factor in 13 of the crashes. Wisconsin also registered 218,539 ATVs in 2009, down from 272,202 in 2008. Registrations include Public Use, Private Use and Municipal Use. A total of 228 ATV Safety Courses were taught by 1,298 active volunteer instructors, which certified 7,079 students, 3,145 of those students were certified via the internet. This adds to the grand total of 75,355 students certified in ATV Safety since the program began in 1986. The Department continues to work with the Department of Tourism, The Off-Road Vehicle Council and the Wisconsin ATV Association to promote safe and ethical ATV operation throughout the state.

Factors

Nine of the eighteen fatal crashes were listed as alcohol involved, however blood test results were unavailable for 2 of the victims. Crashes are listed as alcohol involved if any detectable amount of alcohol is found in the victim's body or witnesses verified that the victim had been consuming alcohol. 37 operators were arrested for operating an ATV while intoxicated, down from the 57 arrested in 2007. Once again, the vast majority of the fatal crash victims fail to protect themselves through use of a helmet. Over the last five years, an average of 78% of the victims were not wearing a helmet. The top location for fatal ATV crashes in 2009 was on Private Land. Five were on roads not open to legal ATV Traffic and one was on a road that was legally open (ATV Route) to ATV traffic. The Department of Natural Resources is becoming more concerned with roadway use of ATVs in Wisconsin. The number of roadways opened up to ATVs by local municipalities continues to increase as ATV owners pressure local governments for places to ride. This is a very unsafe trend, as ATVs are not designed for on-road use. ATVs are equipped with soft, low pressure tires and have a high center of gravity that makes them unstable on roadways and prone to rollover. For the past several years, the most frequent ATV citation issued by law enforcement officers is for illegal operation on or near a highway. A majority of the fatality victims had not completed a Wisconsin ATV Safety Course. Wisconsin requires all ATV operators at least age 12 and born after December 31, 1988 to complete a state or provincial certified ATV safety course to operate in public areas. This age group typically makes up the smallest portion of the fatality victims each year.

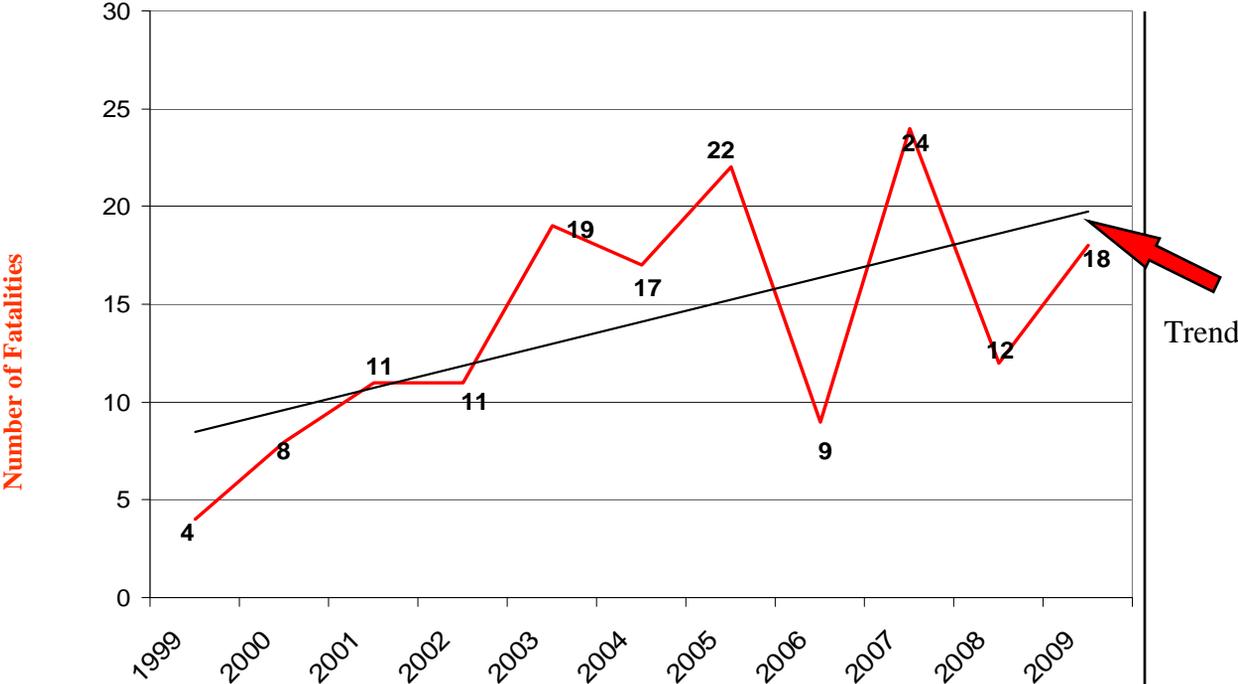
Safety Tips

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

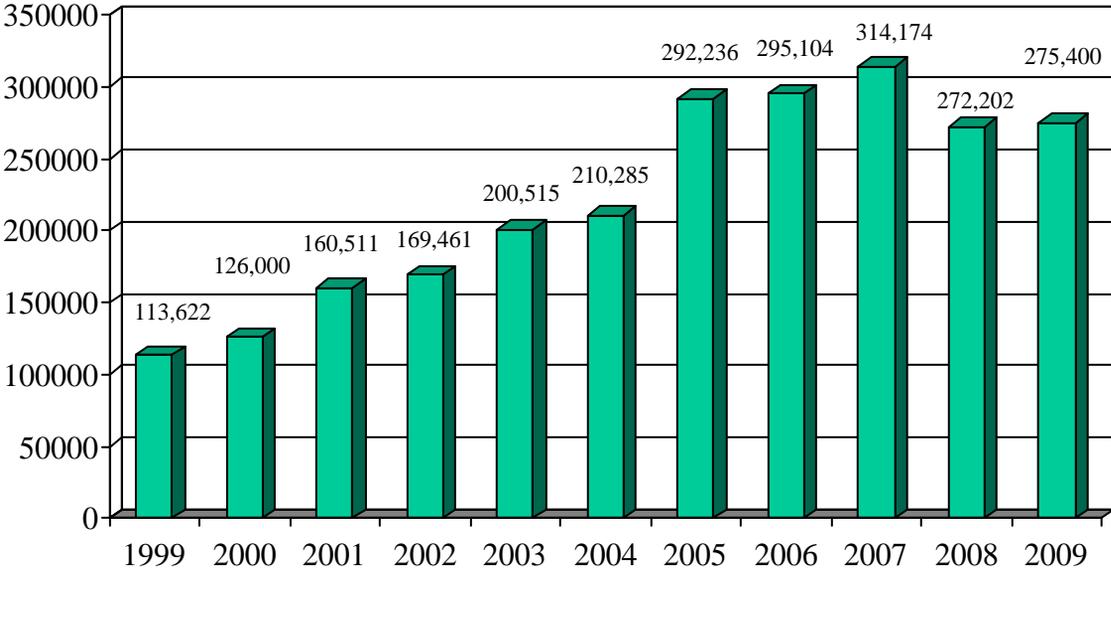
- Complete an ATV safety course. These courses establish a safety mindset and provide basic knowledge in the safe, legal and ethical operation of ATVs.
- Always wear an approved helmet. Adults need to set a good example for younger riders.
- Limit your travel on roads and use a high degree of caution if you feel it is absolutely necessary to operate on a road when legal.
- Use a higher degree of caution on private lands. Private lands tend to contain trails that are not maintained and 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. Keep speeds 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. Higher speeds also increase the amount of distance needed to stop or avoid a hazard.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240

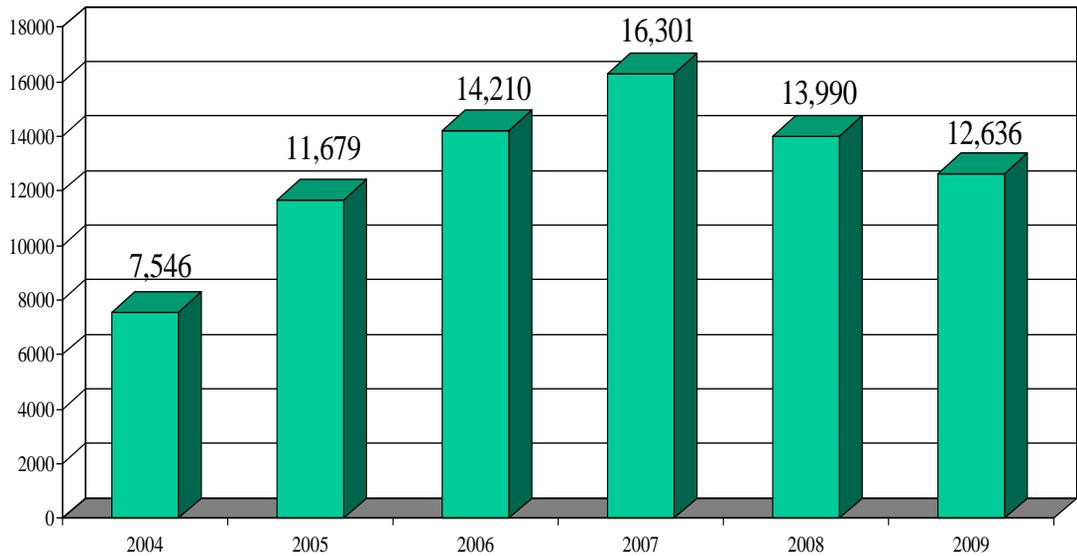
History of ATV Fatalities



Wisconsin Resident ATV Registrations

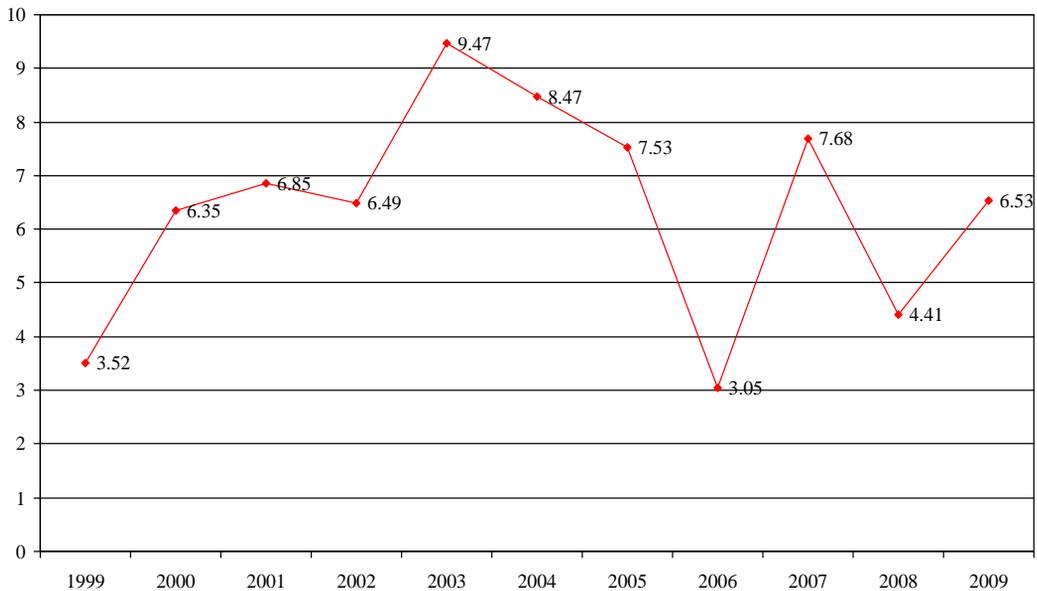


Number of ATV Trail Passes Sold



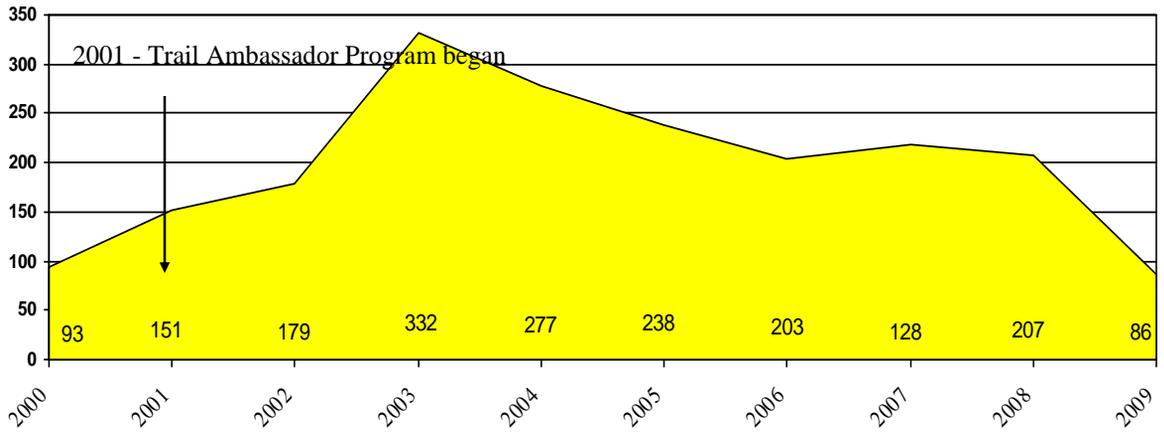
On April 28, 2004 the law changed requiring non-resident ATV trail passes on all out of state ATVs not registered in Wisconsin.

ATV FATALS / 100,000



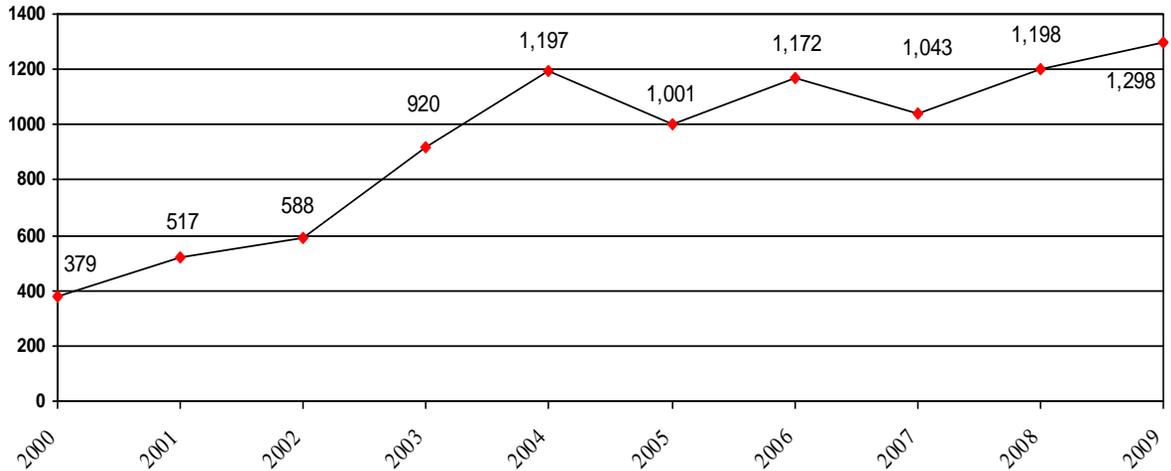
History of Newly Recruited ATV Instructors

There were 228 ATV safety training courses held during 2009.



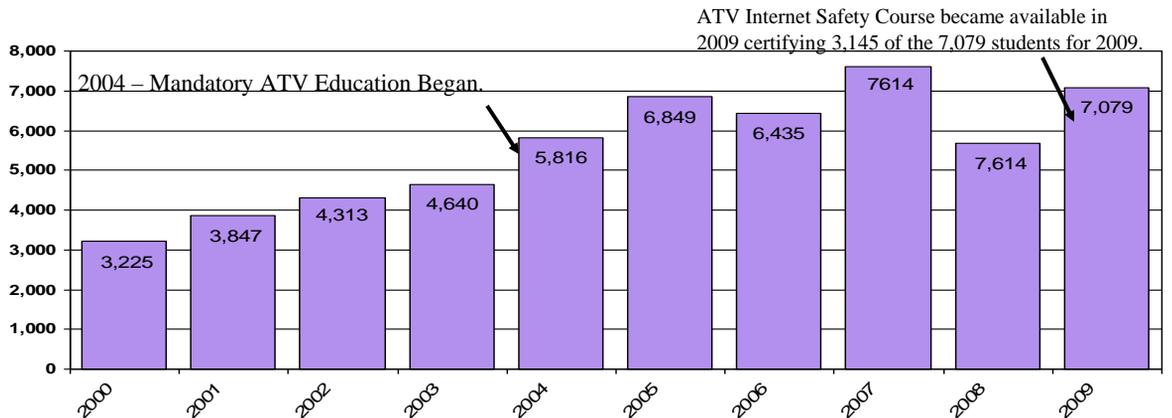
History of Active ATV Instructors

The ATV Safety Education program began in 1986.

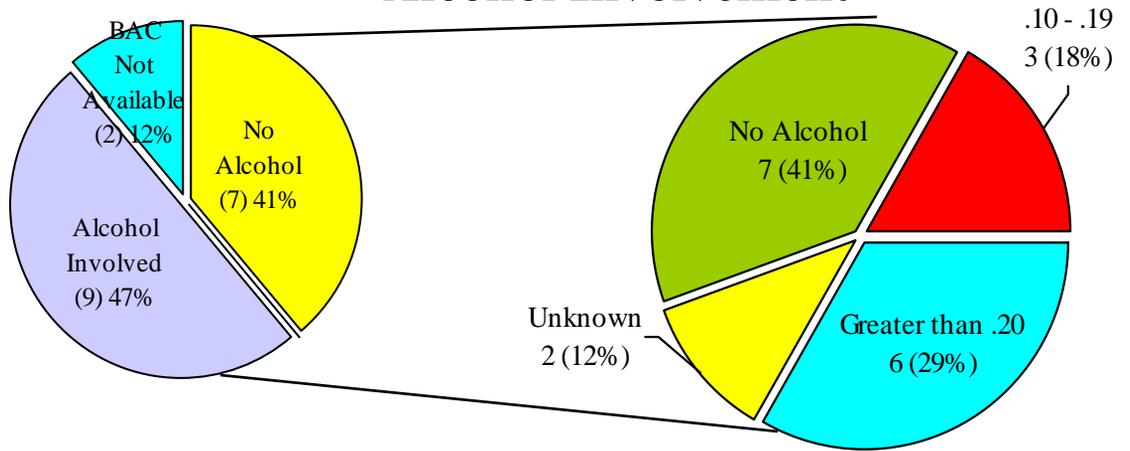


History of Certified ATV Students

On April 28, 2004 the law changed requiring mandatory ATV education for operators at least 12 and born after December 31, 1988.



2009 ATV Fatalities Alcohol Involvement



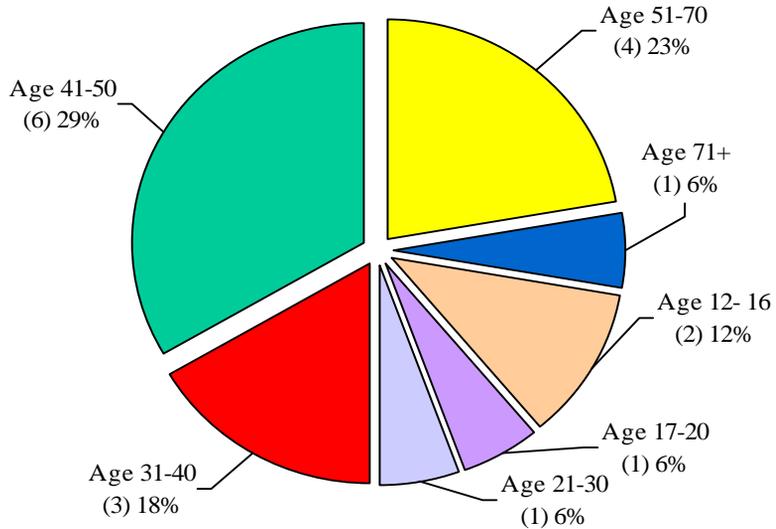
Alcohol was detected in 47% of the victims for 2009.

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

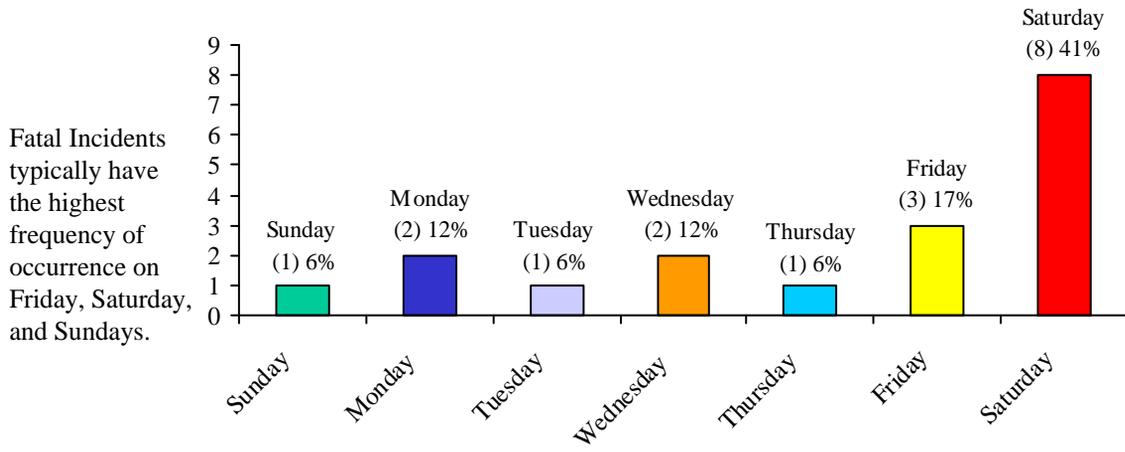
2009 ATV Fatalities Age of Victims

The average age of the fatality victim was 42 years old an decrease from the previous year (44).

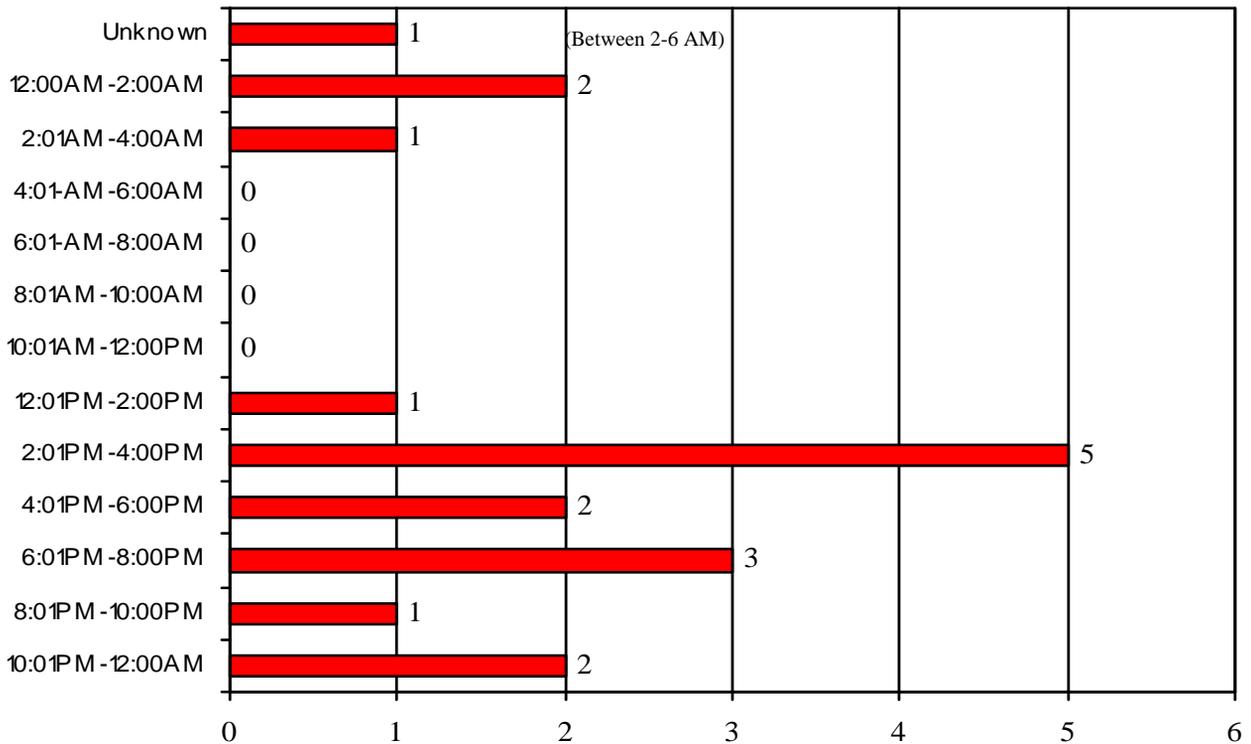
The largest percentage of the victims killed was 41 - 50 years of age.



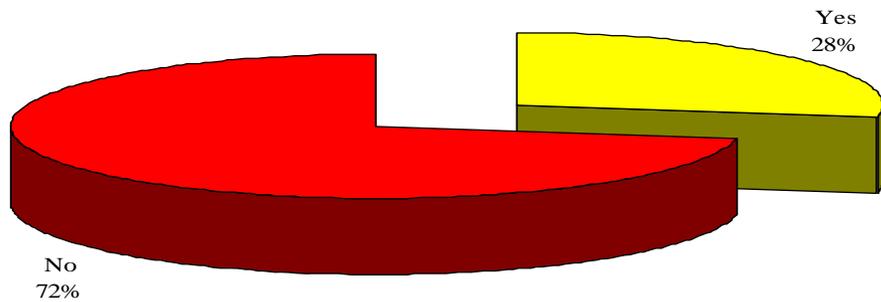
2009 ATV Fatal Incidents by Day of Week



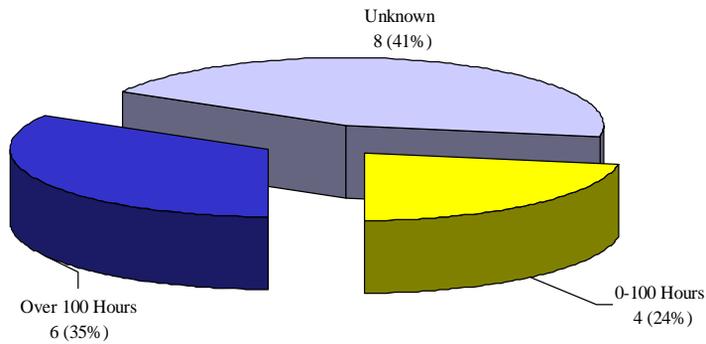
2009 ATV Fatal Incident by Time of Day



2009 Fatal Incident ATV Helmet Use

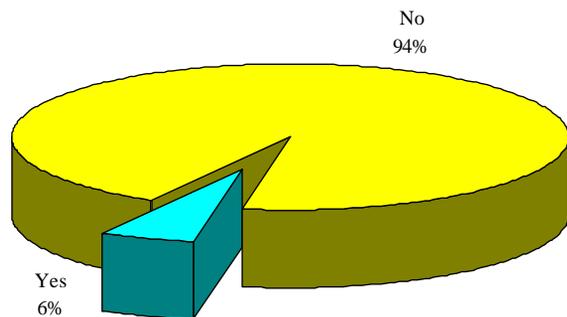


2009 Fatal Incident ATV Operator Experience

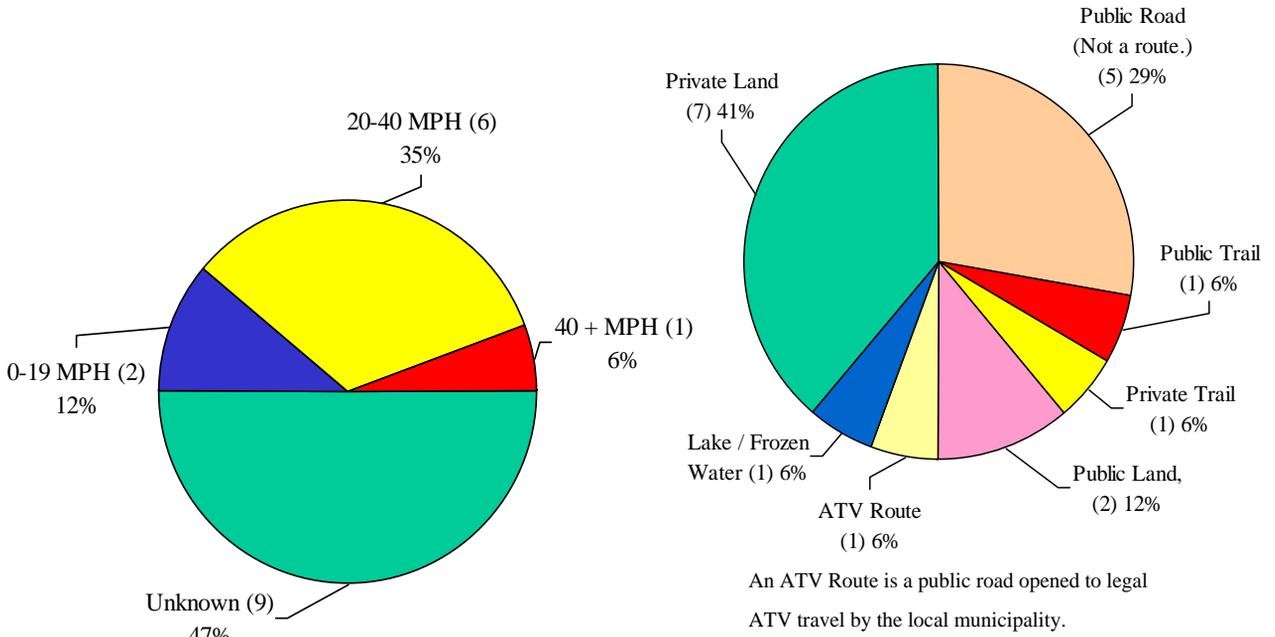


2009 Operator ATV Safety Training Certification

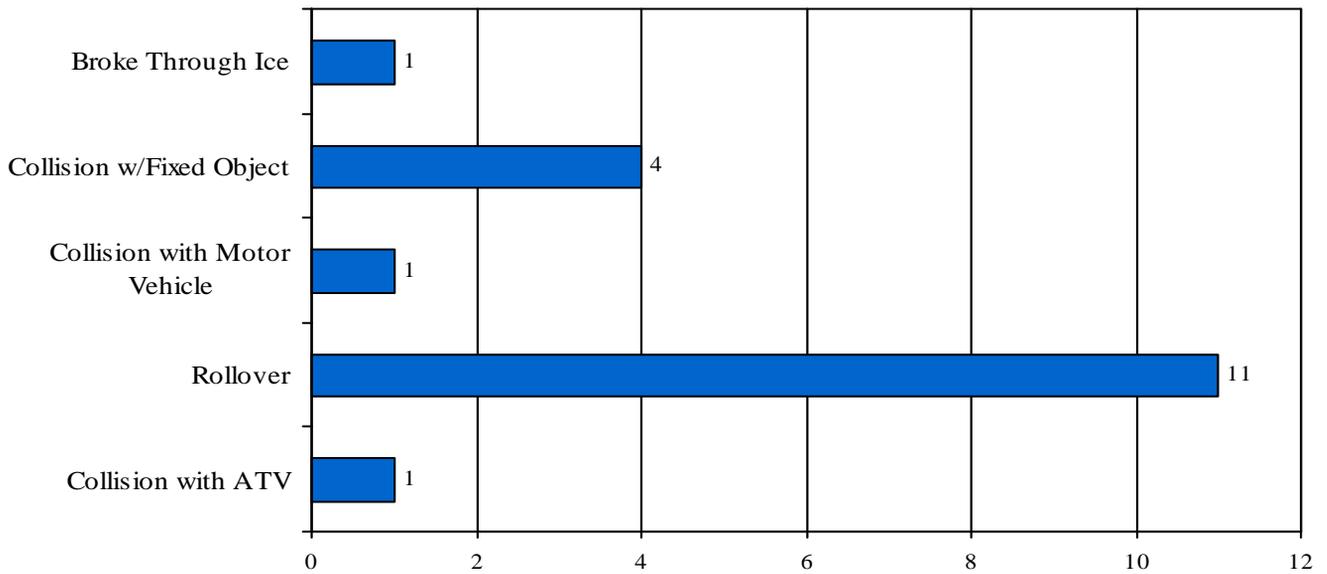
Operators at least age 12 and born after December 31, 1988 are required by law to complete Wisconsin ATV Safety certification or other state equivalent.



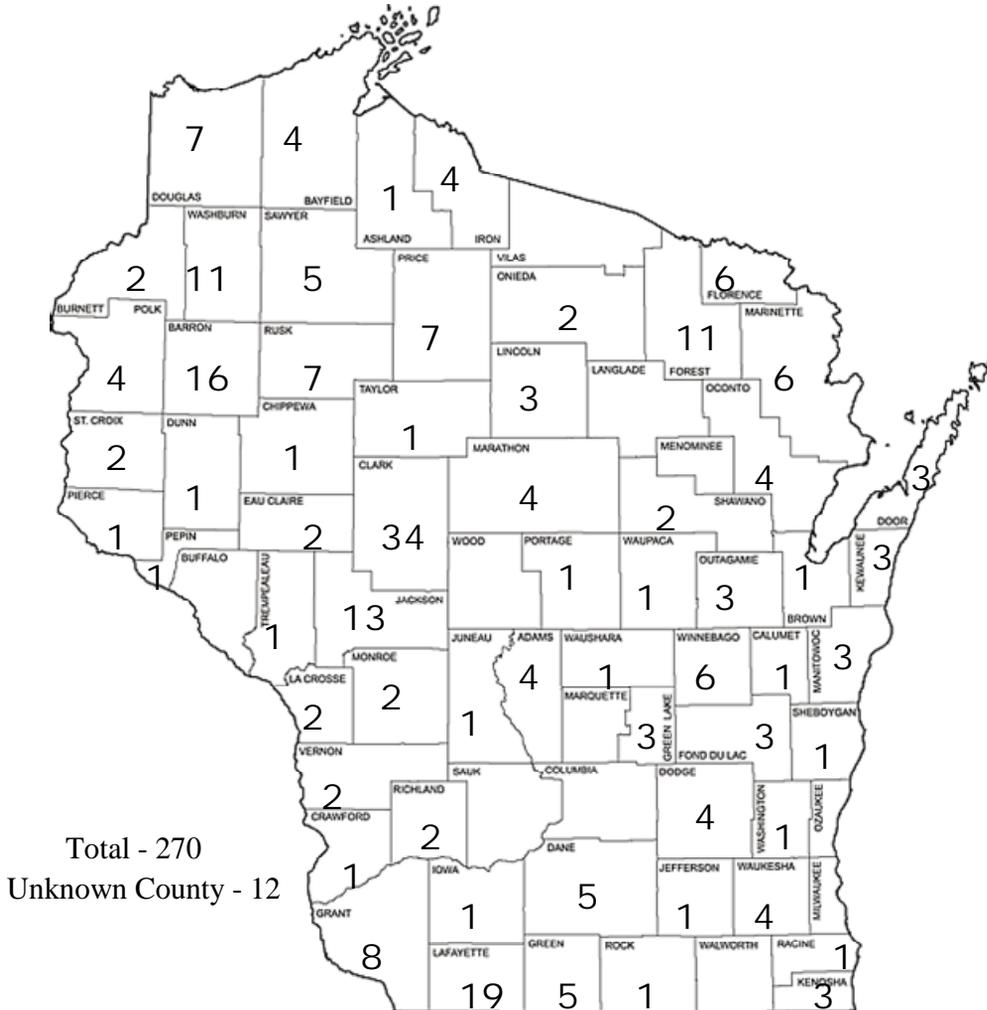
2009 Fatal ATV Incidents Speed & Location at Time of Incident



2009 Fatal ATV Incident Type



Total ATV Injury Incidents Reported to Law Enforcement - 2009



Wisconsin law requires each ATV operator involved in an ATV accident (that results in the death of any person or the injury of any person requiring medical treatment) to immediately notify a law enforcement officer, complete a DNR accident report and file that report with the DNR within 10 days after the accident.

2009 Citations Issued for ATV Violations

Total Citations (including wardens and sheriff patrols).....	1,256
Operate ATV w/o Registration (V-1)	164
Permit ATV Operation w/o Registration (V-2)	37
Operate ATV in a Careless Manner (V-3).....	55
Operate ATV While Intoxicated (V-4)	47
Operate ATV on Private Property w/o Permission (V-5).....	34
Operate ATV on Native American Lands w/out Permission (V-6).....	1
Transport Loaded or Uncased Firearm, or Bow on ATV (V-7)	6
Drive or pursue Wild Animal with ATV (V-8)	1
Operate ATV within 150' of Dwelling over 10-MPH (V-9)	5
Operate ATV over 10-MPH on Ice within 100' of Persons or Shanty (V-10, V-21)	4
Illegal Operating of ATV on or Near Highways (V-11).....	290
ATV Equipment Violations (V-12)	25
Fail to Report ATV Accident (V-13).....	3
Fail to Stop ATV for Officer (V-14).....	3
Fail to Transfer Registration of ATV (V-15).....	15
Fail to Display or Improper Display of Registration (V-16)	44
Fail to Notify DNR with Change of Address (V-17).....	1
Operate on a Cemetery, Burial Ground, School, Church w/o Permission (V-19).....	2
Operate at Speed that is Unreasonable or Improper (V-20)	26
Owner Permitting Operation by Person Under Age, or Disabled (V-22).....	62
Operate with Alcohol Concentration Above 0.1% (V-23)	32
Refuse to Take Intoxicated ATV Test (V-24)	5
Miscellaneous (V-27).....	6
Operate/Ride ATV w/o Head Gear (V-28).....	124
Operate ATV on ATV trail without an ATV Trail Pass (V-30).....	42
Operate ATV with detectable amount of controlled substance – first offense (V-31) ..	4
Operate ATV without a valid safety certificate or fail to carry certificate on ATV and display upon request (V-32).....	123
Operate, sell, rent, or manufacture ATV exceeding 96 decibel noise limit (V-33).....	76
Fail to Transfer Registration of ATV (V-34).....	15
Fail to display or improper display of non-resident trail pass on ATV (V-35)	4

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

Wisconsin ATV Fatality Summary – Year 2009

#	Date	Location & County	Type & Cause of Incident/Fatality	Age & Sex	BAC & State	Helmet & WI Safety Certified
1.	01/09/09	Town of Bradley	Collision with Fixed Object	41	.263	Yes
	2-6AM	Lincoln Co. (Public Trail)	Alcohol / Speed / Head Injuries	M	WI	No
The victim was operating at a high rate of speed over a snowmobile bridge, lost control of his ATV and struck a tree.						
2.	04/11/09	Town of Albion	Rollover	62	.000	No
	2:30PM	Trempealeau Co. (Private Land)	Attempting to negotiate steep terrain / Chest Injuries	M	WI	No
It's believed that the victim was attempting to climb a steep hill and was stuck. He attached a cable to a tree in an attempt to winch the ATV and himself up the hill. The ATV went backwards down the hill with the victim still upon it and the ATV overturned on him.						
3.	04/24/09	Village of Wales	Rollover	35	.164	No
	11:30PM	Waukesha Co. (Public Land)	Alcohol / Speed / Head Injuries	M	WI	No
The victim was operating illegally in a village park when he drove through a ditch. The victim drove through the ditch with an approx. 3 foot elevation change causing the ATV to overturn ejecting the victim.						
4.	04/25/09	Town of Plymouth	Rollover	47	.138	No
	2:37PM	Sheboygan Co. (Public Road)	Alcohol / Speed / Wet Pavement / Head Injuries	M	WI	No
Based on evidence found at the scene the victim drove his ATV down a grassy hill onto a asphalt parking lot that is not open to ATV use. He started to skid in the parking lot and rolled the ATV.						

Wisconsin ATV Fatality Summary – Year 2009

#	Date	Location & County	Type & Cause of Incident/Fatality	Age & Sex	BAC & State	Helmet & WI Safety Certified
5.	05/22/09	Town of Alma	Roll Over	21	.125	No
	9:12PM	Jackson County (Public Land)	Alcohol / Neck & Internal Injuries	M	WI	No
The victim was attempting to climb a steep embankment (dirt hill) at an ATV Park when the ATV rolled over backwards.						
6.	05/30/09	Town of Gordon	Roll Over	49	.265	No
	7:48PM	Douglas Co. (Route)	Alcohol / Speed / Head Injuries	F	WI	No
While traveling on a blacktop road/route at an estimated speed of 40 mph the victim approached an intersection, over corrected her ATV causing the front tire to rollover and hitting the rim on the pavement flipping the ATV.						
7.	07/01/09	Town of Preston	Roll Over	52	.000	No
	1:47PM	Trempealeau Co. (Private Land)	Speed / Loss of Control / Positional Asphyxia	M	WI	No
The victim was backing the ATV while moving sideways across a sidehill slope and backed into a fencepost with the rear left corner of the ATV. He lost control and the ATV rolled over downhill ejecting the victim with the ATV landing on top of him.						
8.	07/01/09	Town of Brockway	Collision with another ATV	50	NA	Yes
	2:38PM	Jackson Co. (Public Trail)	Speed / Internal Injuries / Pending	M	WI	No
Victim was westbound on a trail negotiating a slight curve and collided with an eastbound ATV.						

Wisconsin ATV Fatality Summary – Year 2009

#	Date	Location & County	Type & Cause	Age & Sex	BAC & State	Helmet & WI Safety Certified
9.	07/11/09	Town of Dewhurst	Rollover	35	.000	No
	5:15PM	Clark Co. (Public Trail)	Speed / Inexperience / Head & Neck Injuries	M	MN	No
Passenger on the ATV said they were operating at a high speed when the ATV suddenly rolled.						
10.	08/01/09	Town of Shanagolden	Collision with Tree	15	.000	Yes
	6:00PM	Ashland Co. (Public Road)	Speed / Inexperience / Inattentive Driving / Head & Neck Injuries	F	WI	Yes
The victim was traveling illegally on a public gravel road and failed to negotiate a 90 degree corner, left the road and struck a tree.						
11.	08/01/09	Town of Lakewood	Collision with Tree	18	.000	Yes
	7:56PM	Oconto Co. (Public Road)	Speed / Internal Injuries	M	WI	No
The victim was traveling down a road when he turned his body to look over his shoulder and then veered off the road striking a tree on the opposite side of the road.						
12.	08/09/09	Town of Holland	Roll Over	54	.234	No
	12:15AM	LaCrosse Co. (Private Land)	Alcohol / Speed / Internal Injuries	M	MN	No
The victim and a passenger were riding on private property when the victim lost control of the ATV, rolling it and ejecting both occupants. The ATV came to rest on top of the victim. The injured passenger was unable to remove the ATV from the victim.						

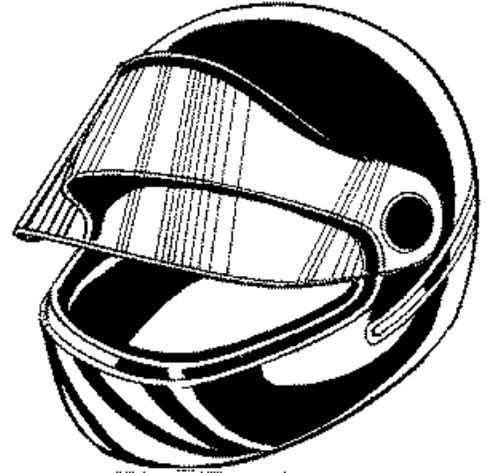
Wisconsin ATV Fatality Summary – Year 2009

#	Date	Location & County	Type & Cause	Age & Sex	BAC & State	Helmet & WI Safety Certified
13.	08/17/09	Town of Amberg	Collision with Semi Truck Trailer	35	.246	No
	10:13PM	Marinette Co. (Public Road)	Alcohol / Speed / Trauma / Impact Injury	M	IL	No
<p>The victim was traveling illegally on a state highway in the wrong lane. The ATV collided with an oncoming semi tractor-trailer unit which went into the ditch attempting to avoid the ATV. The victim had been observed visiting bars and operating recklessly earlier in the night.</p>						
14.	09/15/09	Town of Grant	Roll Over	83	NA	No
	3:46PM	Clark Co. (Public Road)	Speed / Head Injuries	M	WI	No
<p>The victim was operating his ATV on a road that is a route when he crested a hill at approx. 40 mph, lost control and rolled the ATV. Victim passed from his injuries on 9/27/2009</p>						
15.	09/28/09	Town of Bloomfield	Roll Over	54	.317	No
	12:26AM	Walworth Co. (Private Land)	Alcohol / Uneven Terrain / Head Injuries	M	WI	No
<p>The victim was attempting to drive his ATV home after drinking throughout the day. The victim decided travel via a farm field, tried to merge onto a gravel road from the edge of a farm field and lost control rolling the ATV onto the gravel road.</p>						
16.	10/08/09	Town of Freeman	Roll Over	49	.000	No
	3:00PM	Crawford Co. (Private Land)	Steep Terrain / Asphyxiation	M	WI	No
<p>The victim was pulling a six foot drag for tilling soil on steep terrain with an approx 60 – 70 degree uphill slope. She was driving along the side of the hill and due to the steep terrain the ATV overturned.</p>						

17.	10/17/09	Town of Franklin	Roll Over	14	.000	No
	3:24PM	Manitowoc Co. (Private Land)	Speed / Inexperience / Head Injury	M	WI	No
The victim was operating a three-wheeled ATV for the first time off and on throughout the day. He entered the yard and was going to fast when he lost control of the front of the ATV and the ATV flipped forward.						
18.	12/19/09	City of Muskego	Broke through ice	49	.270	Yes
	6:30PM	Waukesha County (Lake)	Poor Ice Conditions / Alcohol	M	WI	No
The victim was traveling across a frozen lake when his ATV broke through the ice; the victim was then thrown into the water and drowned.						

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>



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