

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 2012 All-Terrain Vehicle Enforcement and Safety Report



Table to Contents

Cover photo courtesy of Wisconsin ATV Association.....	Cover
1. Introduction.....	3
2. Historical Data.....	4
a. History of ATV Fatalities.....	4
b. History of Wisconsin Resident ATV Registrations.....	4
c. History of ATV Trail Passes Sold.....	5
d. History of ATV Fatalities per 100,000 ATV Registrations.....	5
e. History of Newly Recruited ATV Instructors.....	6
f. History of Active ATV Instructors.....	6
g. History of Certified ATV Students.....	6
h. 10-year Trends.....	7
3. ATV 2012 Fatality Data.....	8
a. ATV Citations Issued.....	8
a. Alcohol Involvement in ATV Fatalities.....	9
b. Amount of Alcohol (BAC) Detected in the Victim.....	9
c. Number of Fatal Incidents by Speed.....	10
d. Helmet Use.....	10
e. Number of Fatal Incidents by Type.....	11
f. Number of Fatal Incidents by Location.....	11
g. Victim/Operator ATV Safety Training Certificate.....	12
h. Operator Experience.....	12
i. Age of Fatality Victims.....	12
j. Number of Fatal Incidents by Day of Week.....	13
k. Number of Fatal Incidents by Time of Day.....	13
l. Summary of ATV Fatalities.....	14-15

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Introduction

2012 Yearly Summary

Wisconsin had fifteen ATV fatalities, one less than the previous year. In April 2012, new laws were enacted requiring Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTVs) to be registered. Registrations totaled 293,146 and of those, 10,608 were UTVs. Registrations include public use, private use and municipal use. There were 6,879 students certified in ATV safety; of those, 2,403 students were certified by 587 active instructors in 180 classes and the remaining 4,476 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, 93% were not wearing a helmet and not safety certified, an increasing and prominent trend over the past several years.

Wisconsin requires that all ATV operators at least age 12 and all UTV operators at least age 16 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 six of the fifteen crashes (blood test results were not available for two victims and were unknown for 3 others). 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. Fifty-five operators were arrested for operating an ATV while intoxicated, up nineteen from 2011's thirty-six arrests.

Most fatal crashes occurred on roads not designated as ATV routes and private lands and involved rolling over or colliding with a fixed object. The number of roads opened up to ATV/UTV use by local municipalities continues to increase as ATV/UTV owners pressure local governments for places to ride. This is an unsafe trend as ATVs/UTVs have a high center of gravity and are equipped with soft, low pressure tires which make 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.*

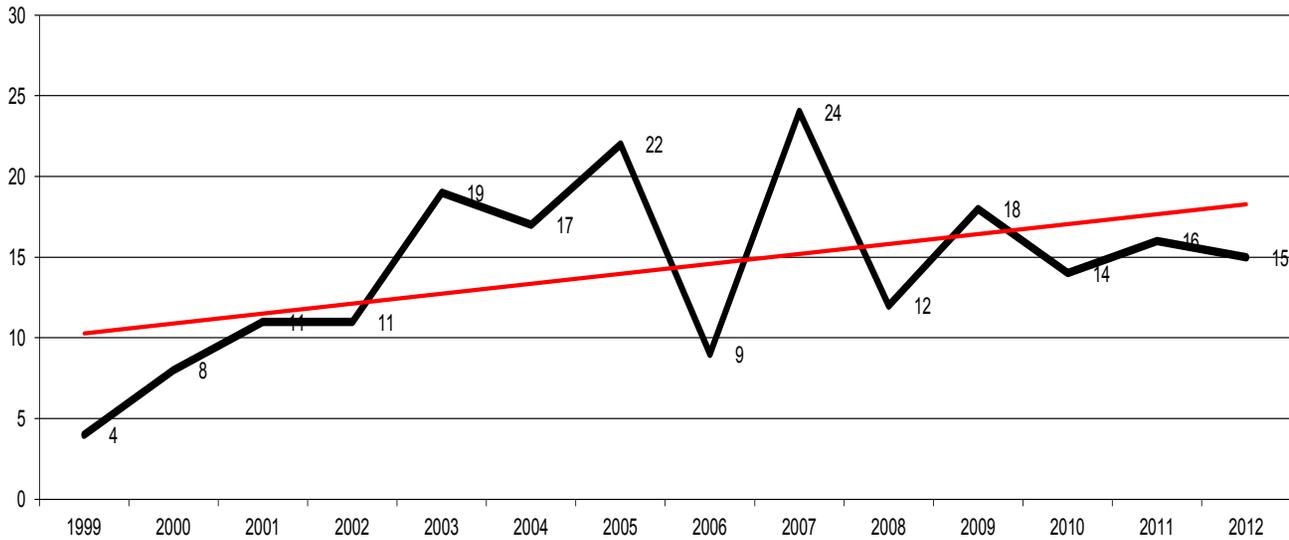
ATV Safety Tips

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

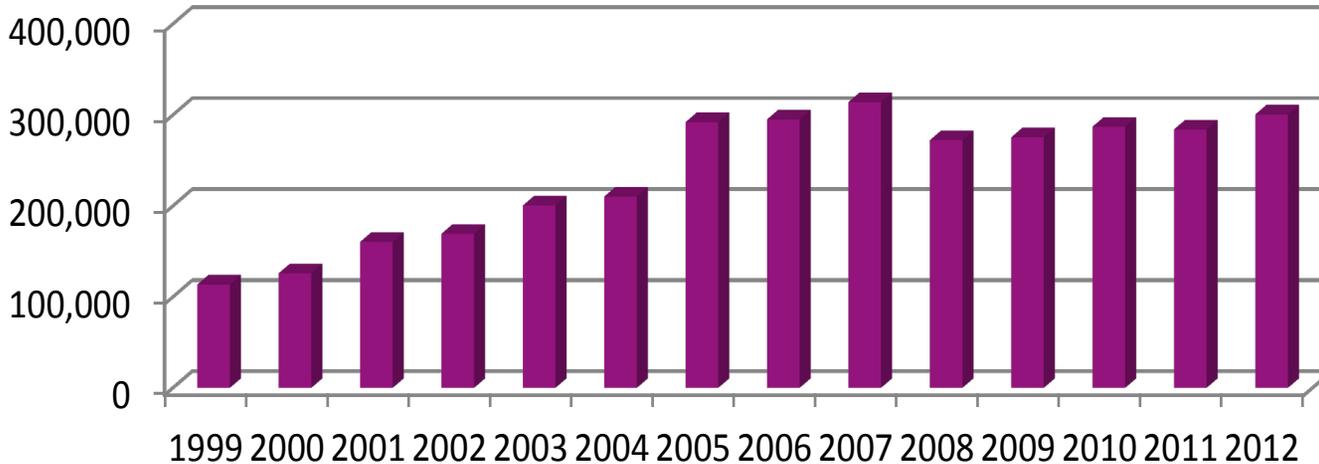
History of ATV Fatalities



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/UTV Registrations



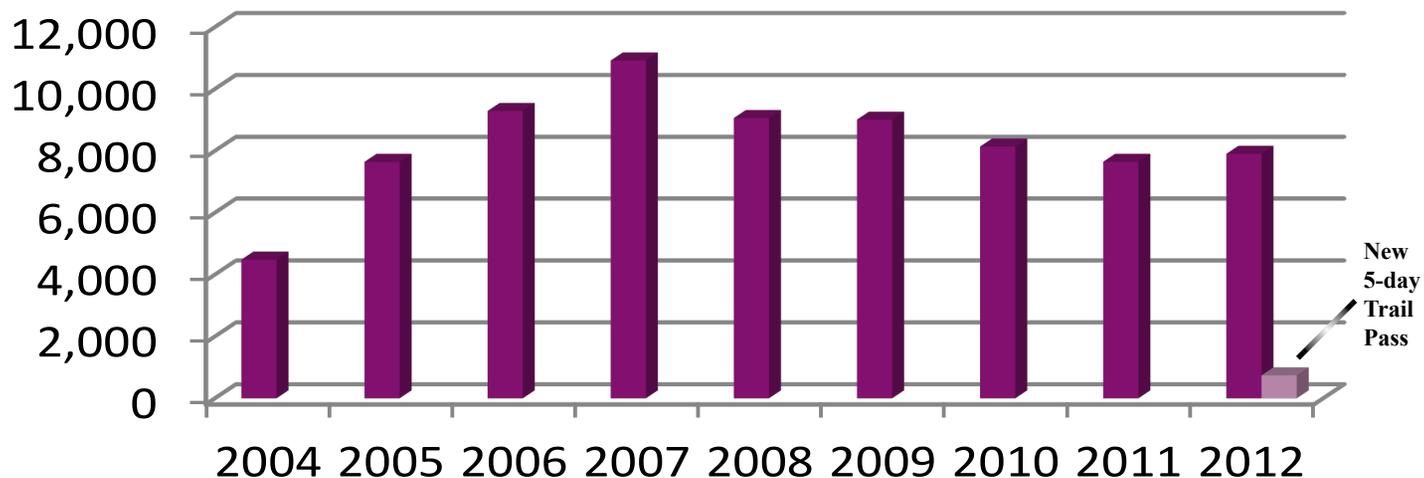
In 2012, UTV's became mandatory to register. Of the total 293,146 registrations, 10,608 of those were UTV's.

Registration cycle change: A public-use registration certificate for an ATV or UTV is valid beginning on April 2 or the date of issuance or renewal and ending March 31 of the 2nd year following the date of issuance or renewal. There is a late fee of \$5 for renewal if registration has expired.

Registration cycle previously was July 1 to June 30th of the 2nd year following the date of issuance or renewal.

Historical Data

History of ATV Trail Passes Sold

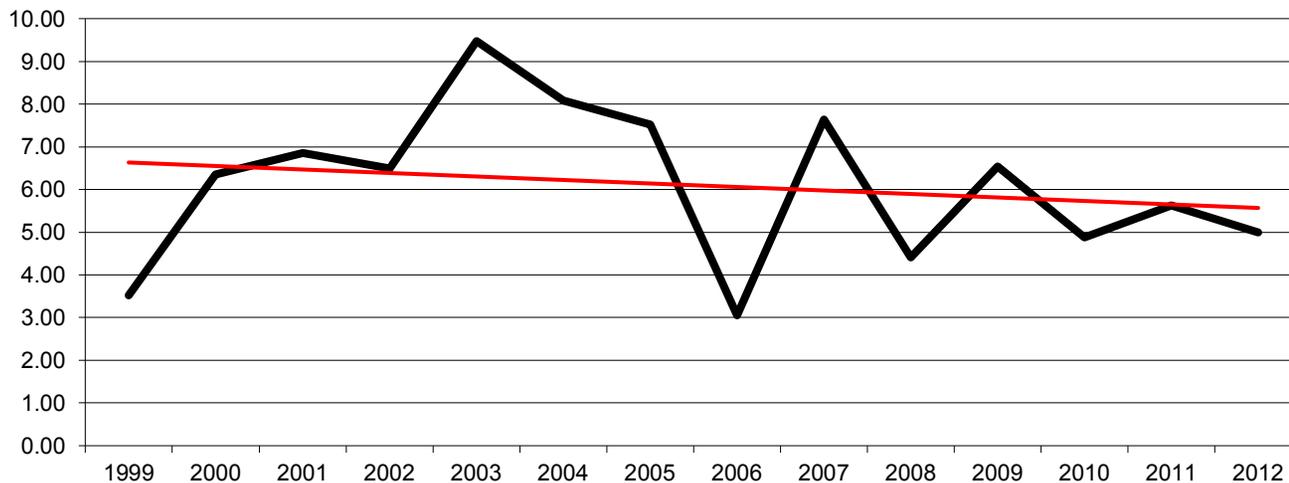


ATV trail passes are required on all out of state ATV/UTV's that were not registered in Wisconsin

As of July 1, 2012, a new 5-day trail pass was made available.

*Numbers are based off the calendar year sales as confirmed by the WI DNR Customer Service Business Report.

History of ATV Fatalities per 100,000 Wisconsin ATV Registrations

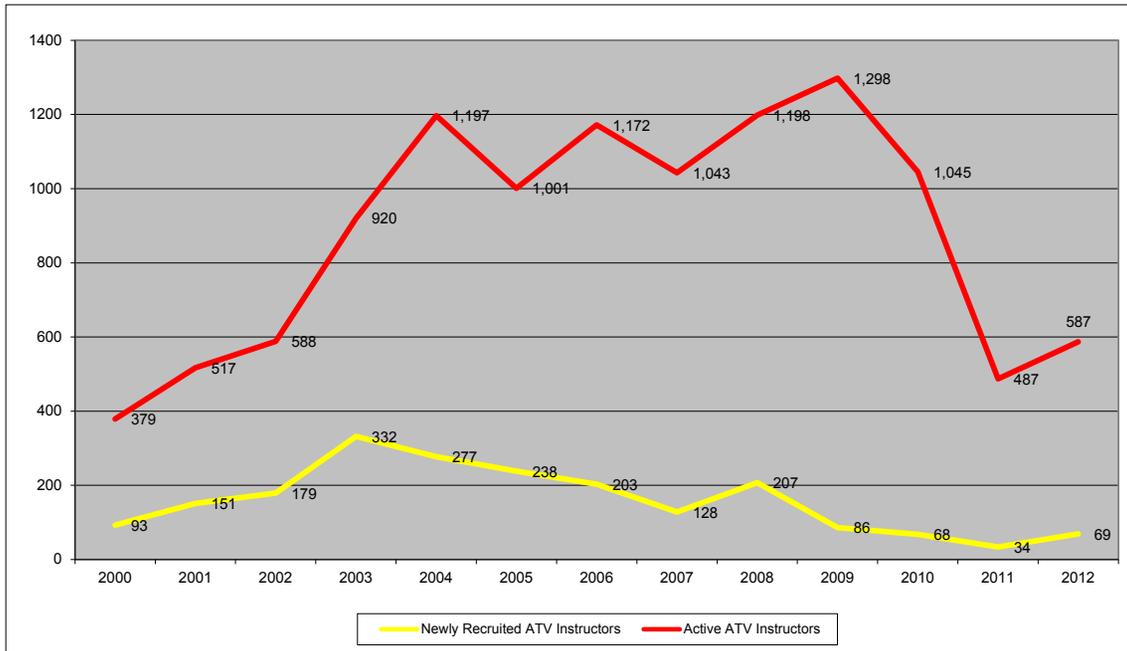


Over the past 12 years there has been a slightly decreasing trend in the number of fatalities per 100,000 registered ATVs (does not include ATV trail passes).

This trend is based on the increasing number of registered ATV/UTV's.

Instructors and Students

History of ATV Instructors



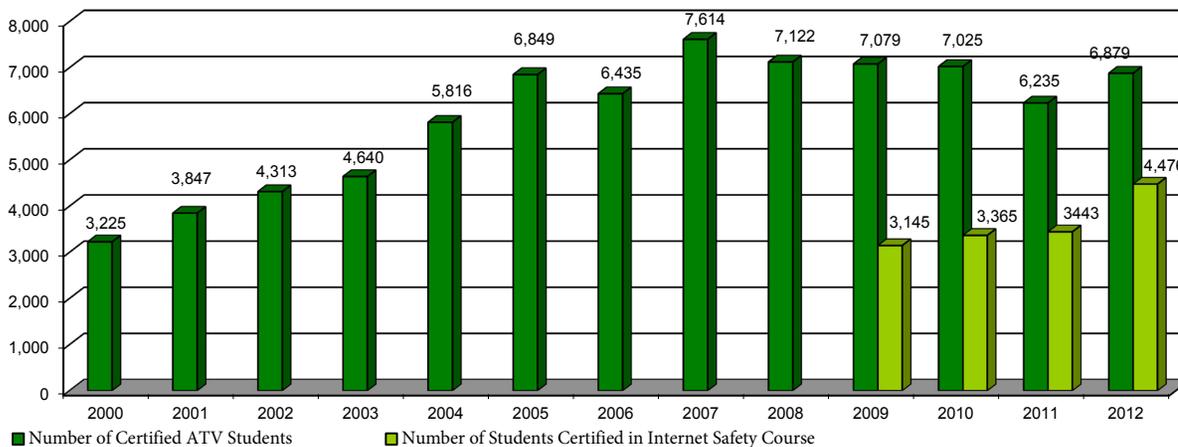
In 2001 the Trail Patrol Ambassador Program was started, which is a group of dedicated and trained volunteers who give their time to patrol Wisconsin's ATV trails.

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.

*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



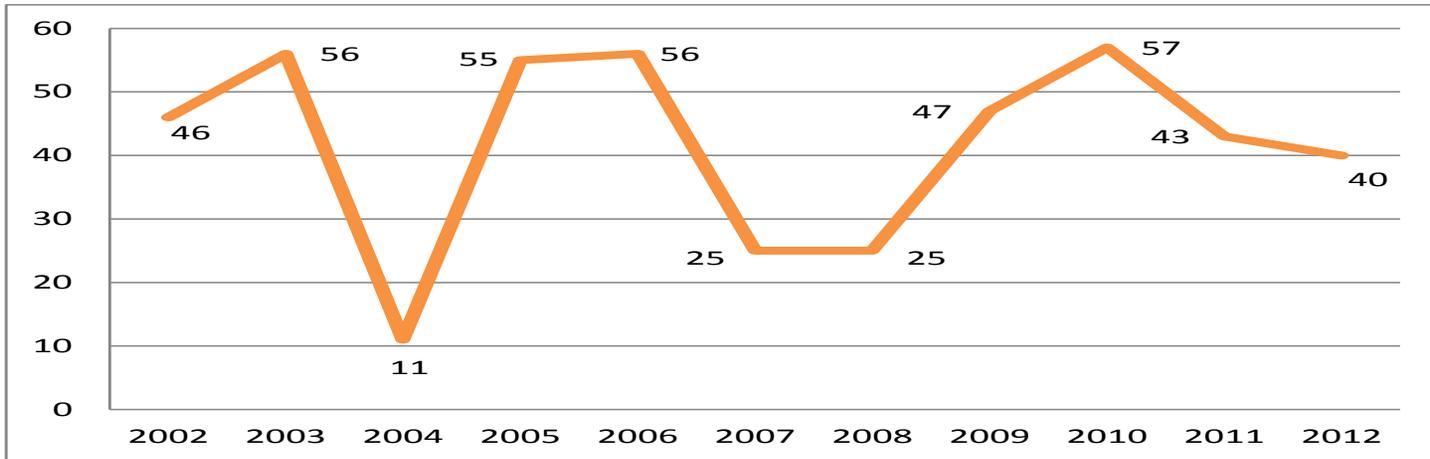
On April 28, 2004 the law changed, requiring mandatory ATV education for operators at least 12 years of age and born after January 1, 1988.

In 2012, 4,476 of the 6,879 total students were certified through an Internet Safety Course. The trend of the number of people being certified by the Internet Safety Course vs. a traditional class room course is increasing.

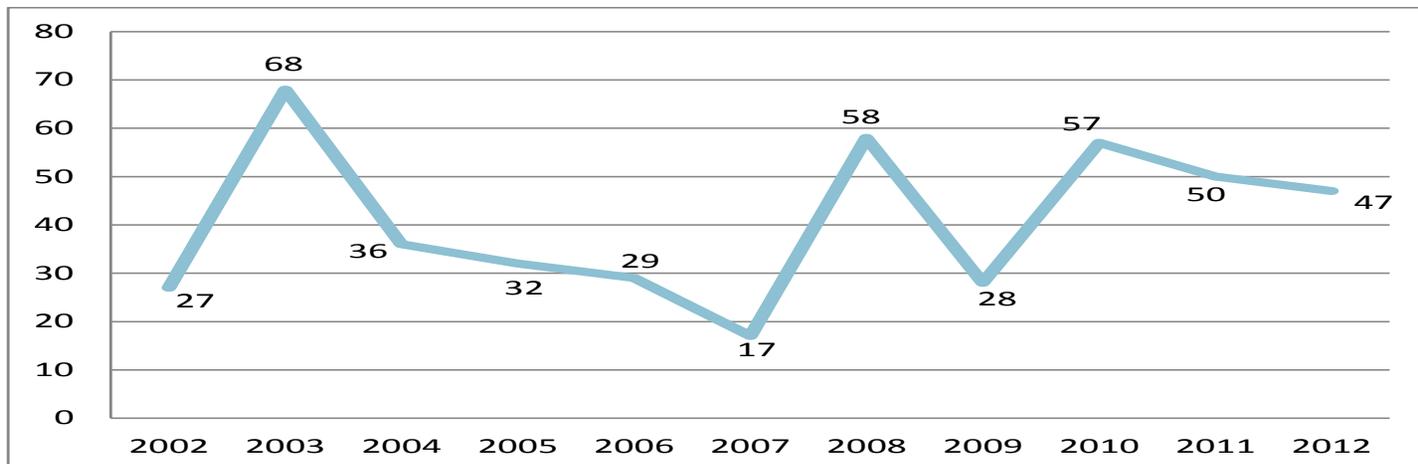
*WI DNR offers ATV Safety Certification Courses online at dnr.wi.gov, Keyword "ATV Safety."

10-Year Trends

Percent of Alcohol Involved Fatalities



Percent of Fatalities Occuring on Roadways



Citations Issued for ATV Violations in 2012

Registration/ Trail Pass Violations

Operate ATV without Registration (V-1).....	148
Give Permission to Operate ATV without Valid Registration (V-2).....	26
Fail to transfer ATV Registration (V-15).....	7
Fail to Display or Improper Display of Registration Decals on ATV (V-16).....	19
Operate ATV on ATV Trail without an ATV Trail Pass (V-30).....	8
Fail to Display or Improper Display of Non-Resident Trail Pass on ATV (V-35).....	0

Alcohol/ Drug Related

Operate ATV While Intoxicated (V-4).....	55
Owner Permitting Operation by a Person Under Age, Physically or Mentally Disabled or Under Influence of Alcohol or Drug (V-22).....	47
Operate with Alcohol Concentration Above 0.08% (V-23).....	29
Refuse to Take Intoxicated ATV Test (V-24).....	10
Absolute Sobriety Under Age 19 (V-25).....	2
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).....	4
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).....	5
Operate at a Speed that is Unreasonable or Improper (V-20).....	7
Operate in Excess of 10 MPH when Traveling within 100 Feet of a Person Not on an ATV, Snowmobile or Motorcycle (V-21).....	4

Equipment Violations

ATV Equipment Violations (V-12).....	38
Operate/ride ATV without Headgear (V-28).....	105
Operate, Sell, Rent or Manufacture an ATV Exceeding the 96 Decibel Noise Limit (V-33).....	31
Operate, Sell, Rent or Manufacture ATV that Emits Noise Greater than 96 Decibels (V-34).....	6

Other Violations

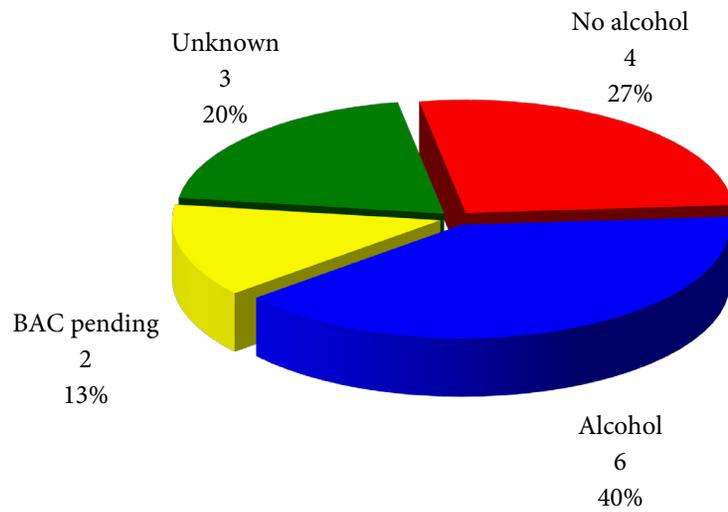
Operate ATV in a Careless Manner (V-3).....	49
Transport Loaded or Uncased Firearm or a Strung or Uncased Bow on ATV (V-7).....	8
Drive or Pursue Any Animal with ATV (V-8).....	0
Fail to Report ATV Accident (V-13).....	5
Refuse to Stop After Being Requested or Signaled to do so By a Law Enforcement Officer (V-14).....	9
Operate ATV on Public or Private Property of Another without Consent (V-5).....	109
Operate ATV on Indian Lands Without Consent (V-6).....	2
Illegal Operation of ATVs On or In the Vicinity of Highways (V-11).....	202
Interfere with ATV Route or Trail Signs & Standards (V-29).....	3
Operate ATV without a Valid Safety Certificate or Fail to Carry Certificate on ATV and Display Upon Request (V-32).....	156

The Total Number of Citations (including warden and sheriff patrols) in 2012 was 1,094

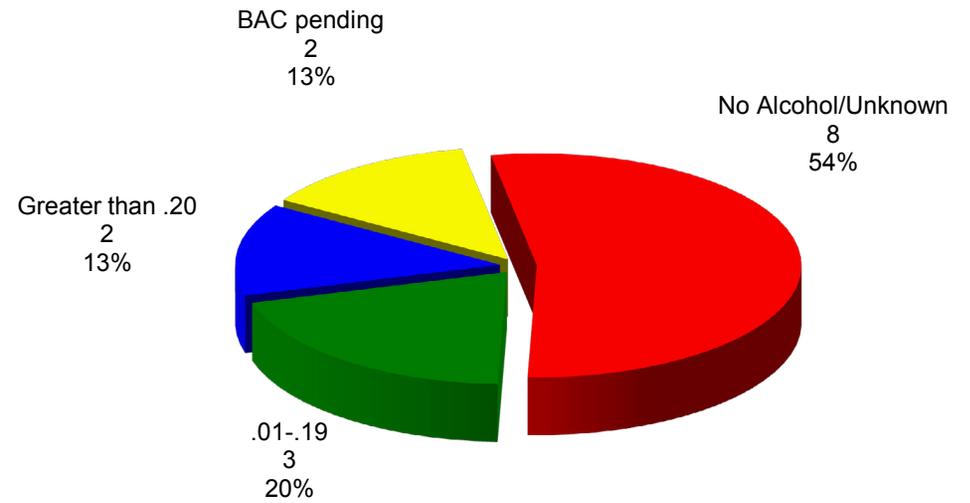
*These numbers reflect the citations issued and processed through the court system and returned to the Department and entered into the DNR citations database.

Alcohol Involvement

Alcohol as a Contributing Factor



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

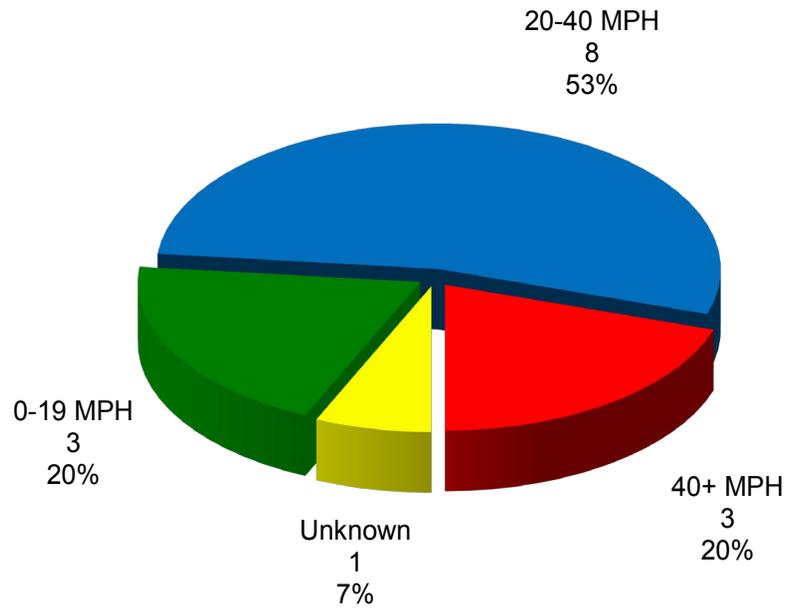


*Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) is in grams/milliliter (g/ml)

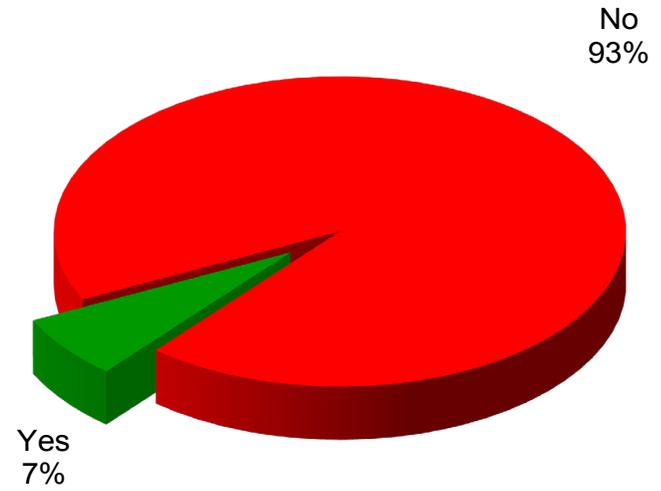
*All Data is representative of a percentage of the data from the 15 fatal accident victims from 2012.

Miscellaneous Factors

**Estimated
Speed at Time of Accident**

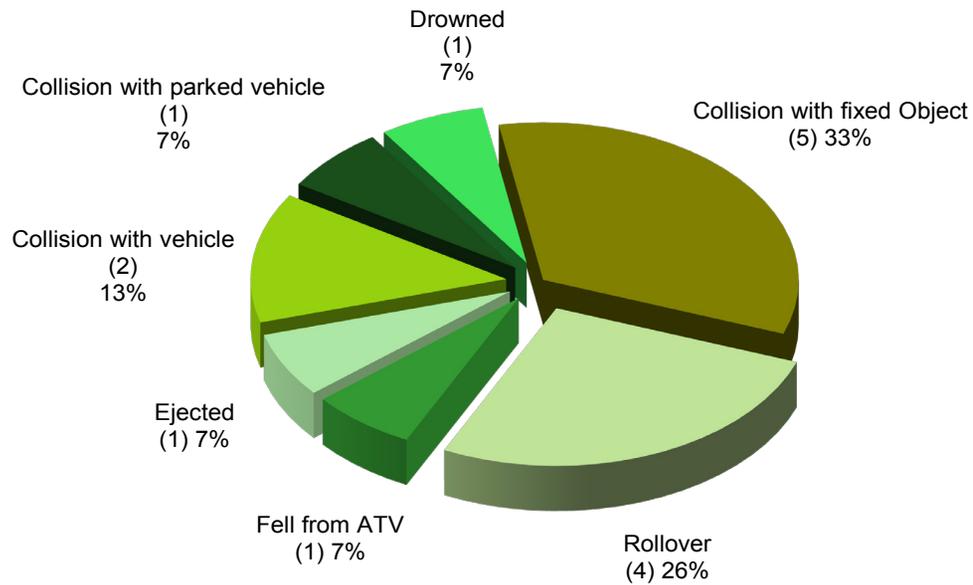


**Presence of Helmet During Accident
(Yes or No)**

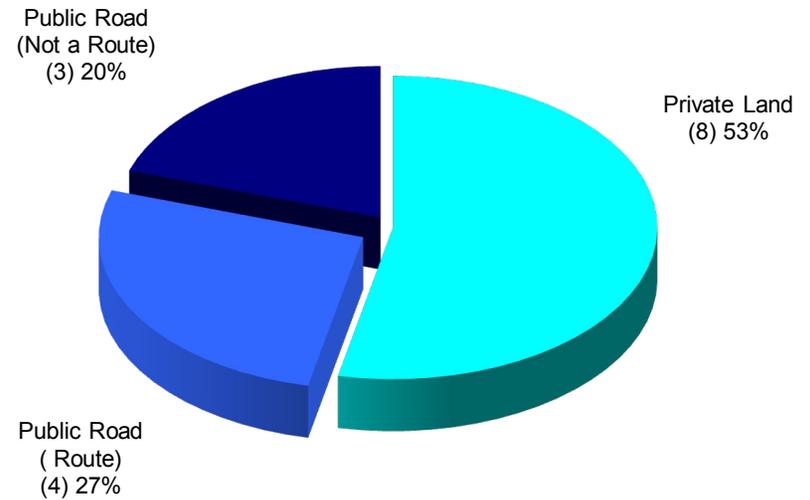


Miscellaneous Factors

Type of ATV Incident



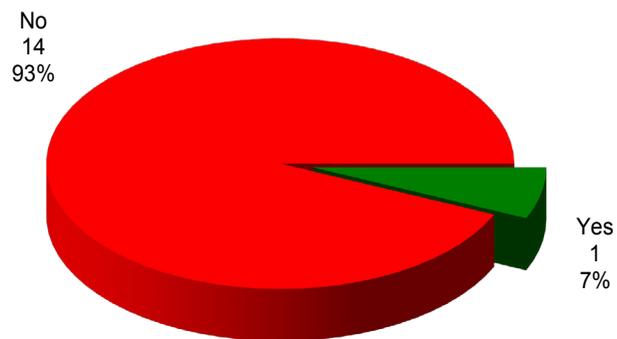
Location of Incident



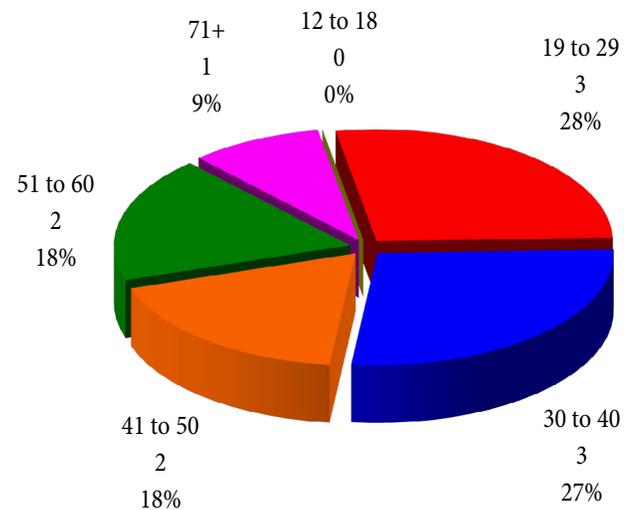
*A Route is a public road opened to legal ATV/UTV travel by the local municipality

Victim Characteristics

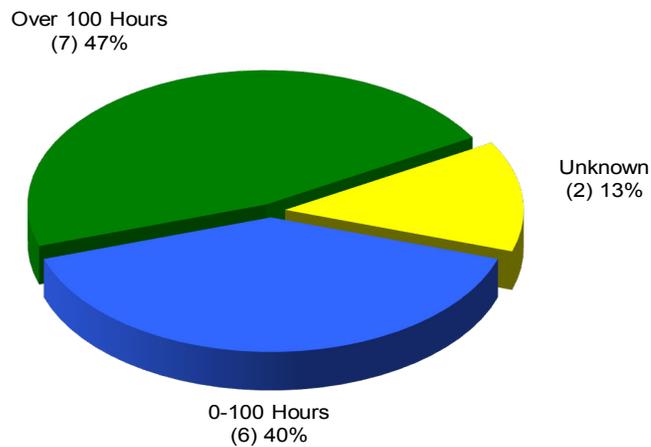
Operator was ATV Safety Certified



Age of Victims

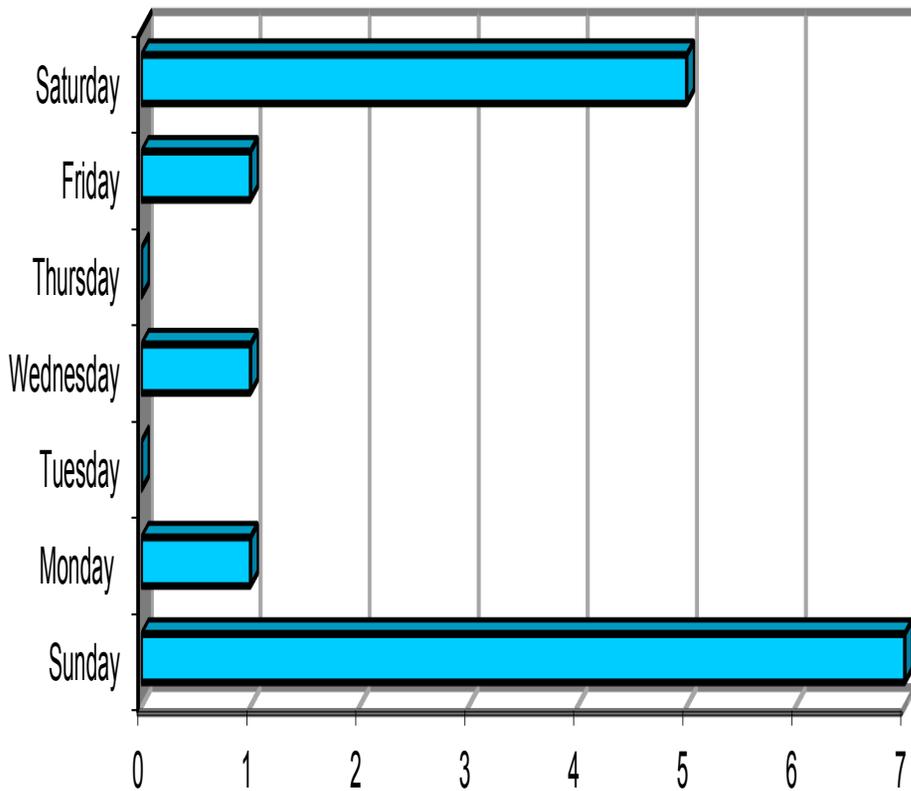


Operator Experience Level

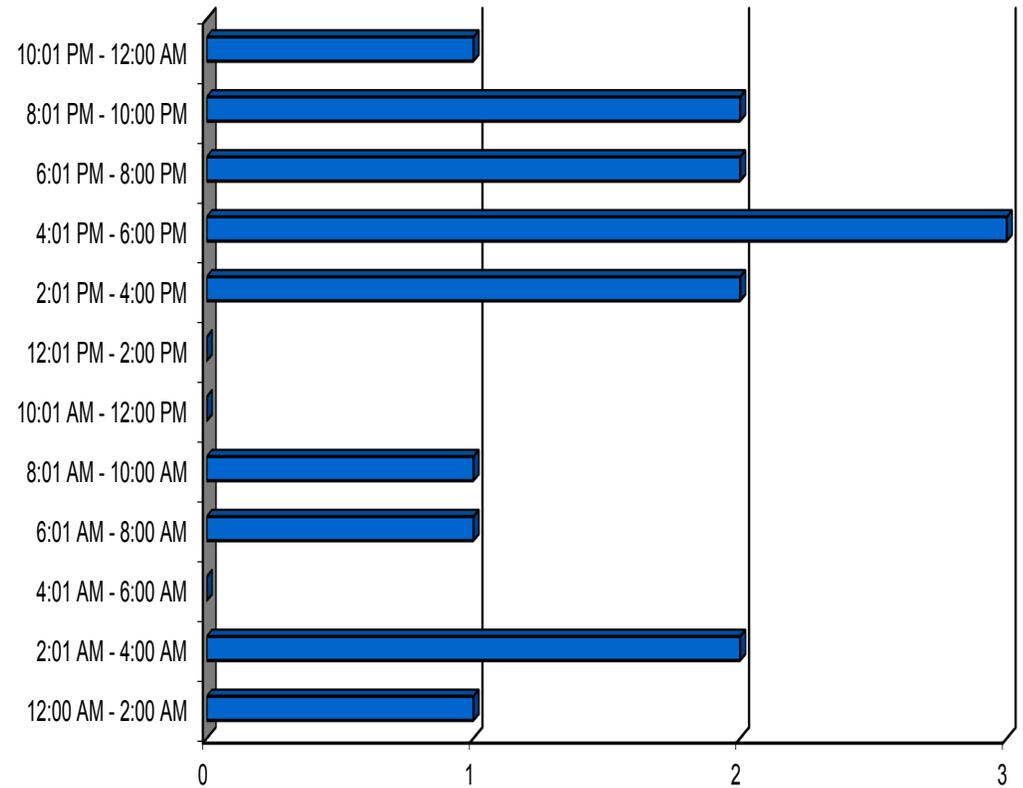


Time of Fatal Occurrence

Fatal ATV Accidents Versus the Day of the Week



Fatal ATV Accidents versus the Time of Day



Wisconsin ATV Fatality Summary for 2012

#	Date/Time	Location	Type & Cause of Incident / Fatality	Age / Sex	BAC / Residency	WI Safety Certified / Helmet
01	04/08/2012	Town of Harrison - Calumet Co.	Fell from ATV	48	NA	No
	5:13pm	Private Property	Alcohol/Speed	M	WI	No
The victim was traveling on the front rack of the ATV when the operator approached the edge of the blacktop driveway. A basketball that the operator had in his lap became wedge between hi leg/arm and the throttle causing the ATV to rapidly accelerate. The operator removed the basketball and braked causing the victim to fall off the ATV.						
02	04/09/2012	Town of Lamont Lafayette County	Roll over	9	NA	No
	8:12pm	Private Property	Inexperience/uneven terrain	M	WI	Unknown
The victim was attempting to back down a pile of dirt and the ATV rolled over						
03	05/05/2012	Village of Richfield Washington Co.	Collision with fixed object	24	.324	No
	9:30pm	Road (Not a Route)	Speed/alcohol	M	WI	No
The victim was driving at a high rate of speed, veered off the roadway and struck two rocks. The victim sustained head injuries and passed on 10/07/2012.						
04	05/12/2012	City of Ft. Atkinson Jefferson Co.	Collision with fixed object	30	0.00	No
	4:16pm	Private Property	Speed	M	WI	No
The victim was riding a wheelie on private property when he lost control and struck multiple trees, ejecting the victim into a tree. The victim was flown to a medical facility where he was pronounced dead the following day.						
05	06/17/2012	Town of Kildare - Juneau Co.	Collision with a fixed object	33	.275	No
	1:30am	Road	Speed/Alcohol	M	IL	No
It appears as though he victim failed to negotiate a corner and went into the woods hitting the trees, coming to rest under the ATV.						
06	07/14/2012	Town of Minong - Washburn Co.	Collision with fixed object	50	.174	No
	3:55am	Road/Route	Speed/Alcohol/Drugs	M	WI	No
Victim traveling at a high speed failed to negotiate a curve and struck trees.						
07	07/22/2012	Town of Amnicon - Douglas Co.	Collision with vehicle	23	.122	No
	3:18pm	Road/route	Not riding on far side of road	M	WI	Yes
Victim traveling down the center of the road into a blind hill crest. ATV and vehicle met at the top of the hill. ATV swerved to extreme right going into the woods.						
08	08/18/2012	Town of Montrose - Dane Co.	Roll over	30	.051	No
	7:00pm	Private Land	Inexperience/speed/alcohol	M	WI	Yes

Wisconsin ATV Fatality Summary for 2012

#	Date/Time	Location	Type & Cause of Incident / Fatality	Age / Sex	BAC / Residency	WI Safety Certified / Helmet
09	08/25/2012	Town of Cedarburg Ozaukee Co.	Collision with parked motor vehicle	26	NA	No
	2:44pm	Private land	Speed	F	MI	No
Victim passed on Aug. 31, 2012 after incident on Aug. 25, 2012. Deputies determined that the victim struck two vehicles, started to yaw to the left traveling sideways and was attempting to turn and brake at the same time ejecting the victim.						
10	09/02/2012	Town of Middle Inlet Marinette Co.	Collision with vehicle	10	No	Yes
	9:52am	Road/Route	Failure to yield/speed/inexperience	M	WI	No
Victim traveling at a high rate of speed failed to stop for a stop sign and struck a vehicle.						
11	09/02/2012	Town of Komensky Jackson Co.	Ejected	62	.000	No
	6:45pm	Road/Not a route	Inexperience	F	WI	No
Victim veered off the roadway accelerated through a yard hitting an incline. ATV went airborne onto paved driveway, victim locked up the breaks, front tire caught the grass and victim was ejected.						
12	09/30/2012	Town of Waumandee Buffalo County	Roll over	57	Pending	No
	11:56pm	Private property	Operator error/terrain/equipment failure	M	WI	No
Victim was attempting to navigate a steep slope in reverse when the ATV flipped						
13	10/07/2012	Town of Polar - Langlade Co.	Collision with fixed object	5	NA	No
	4:30pm	Private property	Passenger riding on lap of operator/ no seatbelt	F	WI	No
Victim was attempting to get into the passenger side of the UTV when she depressed the gas pedal causing the UTV to take off out of control.						
14	11/23/2012	Town of Franklin - Jackson Co.	Roll over	54	Pending	No
	6:53am	Road (not a route)	Trail conditions/ operator inexperience	M	WI	No
Victim was riding up a steep incline with passenger on back, ATV flipped over backwards.						
15	12/26/2012	Town of Black Creek Outagamie Co.	Drowned	89	.000	No
	Afternoon	Private land	Thin ice	M	WI	No
Victim was using his ATV to plow snow on a private pond when he broke through the ice and drowned.						

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"

