

**New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic
Preservation**

Snowmobile Unit

**Snowmobile
Accident Report
Summary
2005-2006**



2005 – 2006 Recreational Snowmobile Accident Summary Report

This summary reports accident statistics for the 2005-2006 Snowmobile season. The Snowmobile season coincides with the State's Fiscal Year. Therefore this report includes all accidents that occurred 4/1/2005 through 3/31/2006.

This snowmobile season experienced 235 accidents with 14 fatalities. Unsafe speed was the primary cause of snowmobile accidents for the 2005-06 season. Most accidents continue to be collisions with fixed objects such as trees.

The tables and graphs that follow provide more detailed information on accidents involving snowmobiles. Certain totals may appear inconsistent because in some cases the required information was not reported or otherwise unknown. This is especially true among hit-and-run accidents, where the sled type, operator experience and other data remain unknown. Below is a brief description of each table and graph.

Type of Accident – This table shows the types of accidents that occurred in the 2005-06 season. Collisions with fixed objects are the most common type of accident.

Collisions With – Collisions are the most common type of accident. This table looks at what is being hit. Trees and other snowmobiles are most often the objects struck with snow embankments close behind.

Cause of Accident – This table shows the primary causes of the accidents in the 2005-06 season. Unsafe speed is by far the primary factor.

Alcohol Involvement – Incidences of alcohol use in snowmobile accidents. While a factor in 10% of all snowmobile accidents, it was a factor in less than a third of all fatal accidents.

Operator Age – The pie chart represents the age groups among all accidents. The table shows injuries and fatalities for each age group.

Operator Experience – Experience is broken down into three categories plus unknowns. Collecting data on “level of experience” needs to be improved as shown by the high number of unknowns.

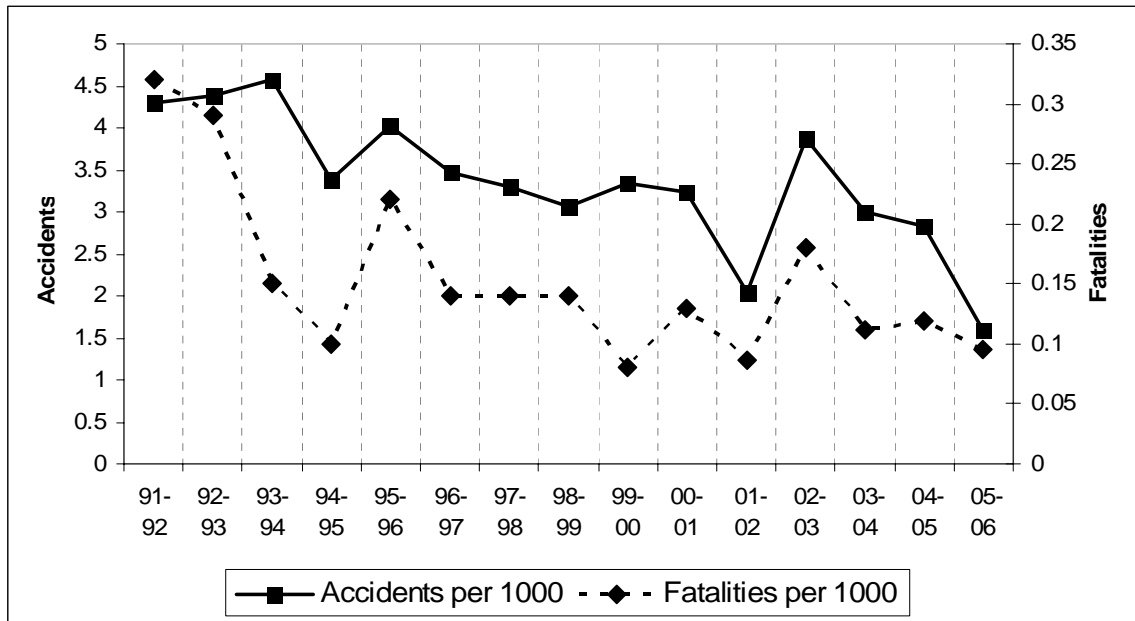
Injuries – The most common types of injuries are complaints of pain. Head injuries remain very low most likely due to helmet requirements.

Fatalities – Of the 14 fatalities that occurred during the 2005-06 snowmobile season, unsafe speed was the primary cause of 36% of the accidents and the remaining 64% had a variety of causal factors. None of this season's fatal accidents cited alcohol as the primary causal factor. Collisions were 79% of the fatal accidents and 93% of deaths were a result of trauma. Helmets were worn in all of the accidents; however, one fatality was a bystander not on a snowmobile, therefore 100% of snowmobilers were wearing helmets.

Snowmobile Registrations vs. Accidents

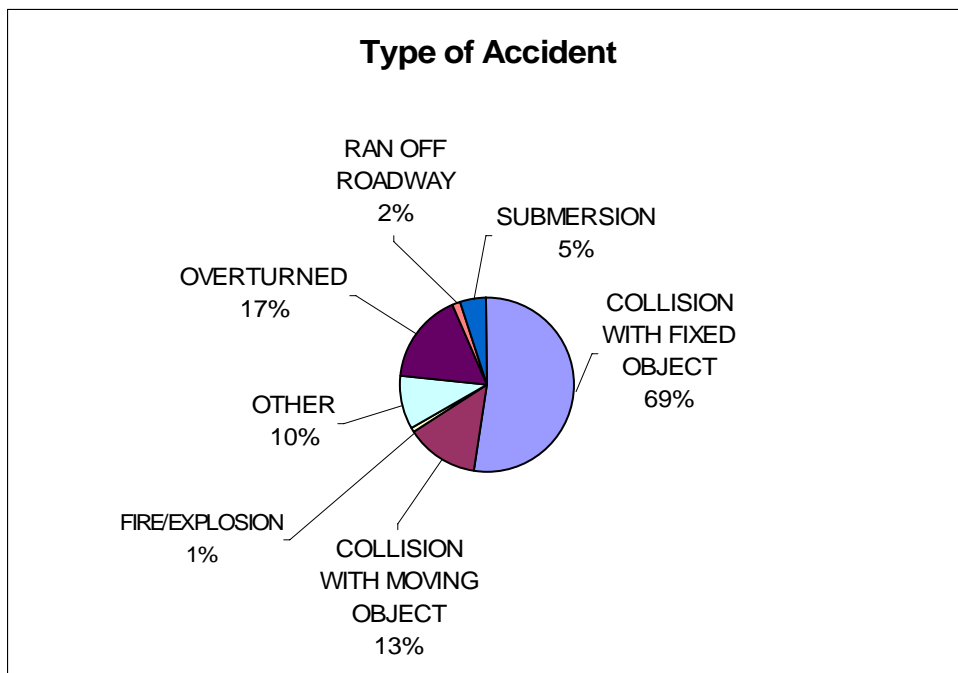
Year	Registration	Accidents	Accidents per 1000	Fatalities	Fatalities per 1000
91-92	49,436	212	4.29	16	0.32
92-93	65,307	286	4.38	19	0.29
93-94	65,214	299	4.58	10	0.15
94-95	81,046	275	3.39	8	0.1
95-96	96,363	388	4.03	21	0.22
96-97	101,933	353	3.46	14	0.14
97-98	108,463	357	3.29	15	0.14
98-99	117,823	361	3.06	17	0.14
99-00	126,041	420	3.33	10	0.08
00-01	146,662	475	3.24	19	0.13
01-02	151,287	310	2.05	13	0.09
02-03	172,164	667	3.87	31	0.18
03-04	169,046	507	3.00	19	0.11
04-05	158,538	448	2.83	19	0.12
05-06	147,104	235	1.60	14	0.10

* **2005 - 2006** registration information as reported from DMV as of April 1, 2006, season information as reported to OPRHP.

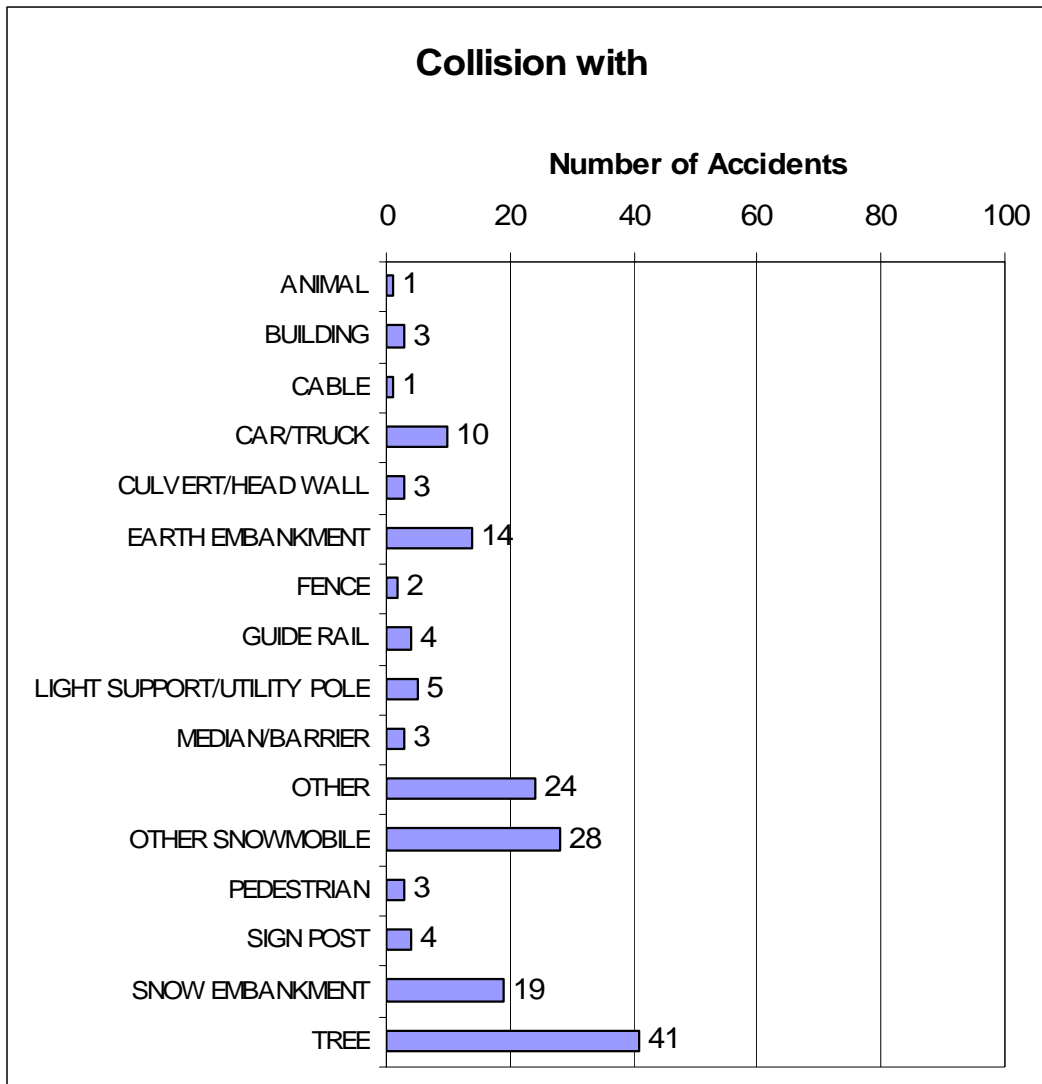


Type of Accidents

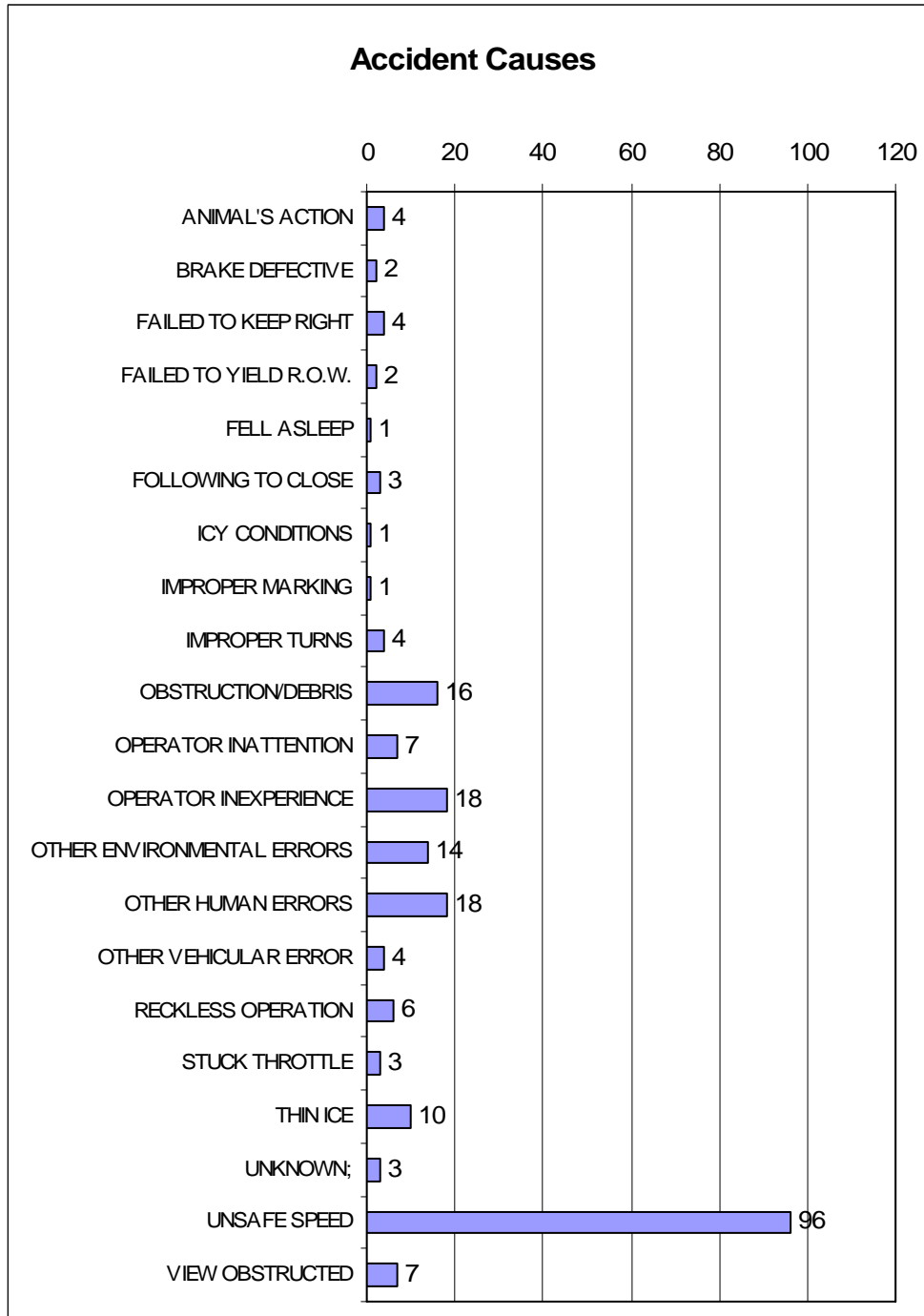
TYPE OF ACCIDENT	# of Accidents
COLLISION WITH FIXED OBJECT	123
COLLISION WITH MOVING OBJECT	31
FIRE/EXPLOSION	2
OTHER	24
OVERTURNED	40
RAN OFF ROADWAY	4
SUBMERSION	11
Total	235



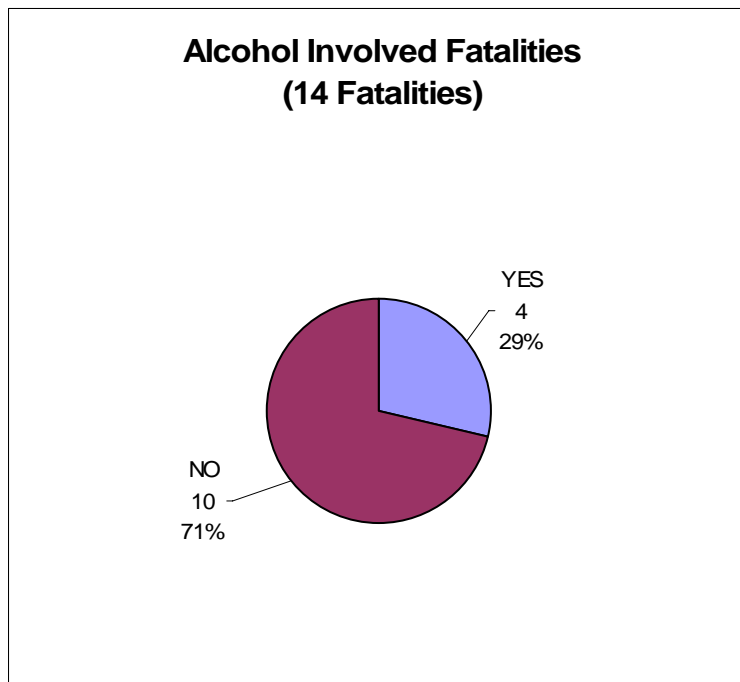
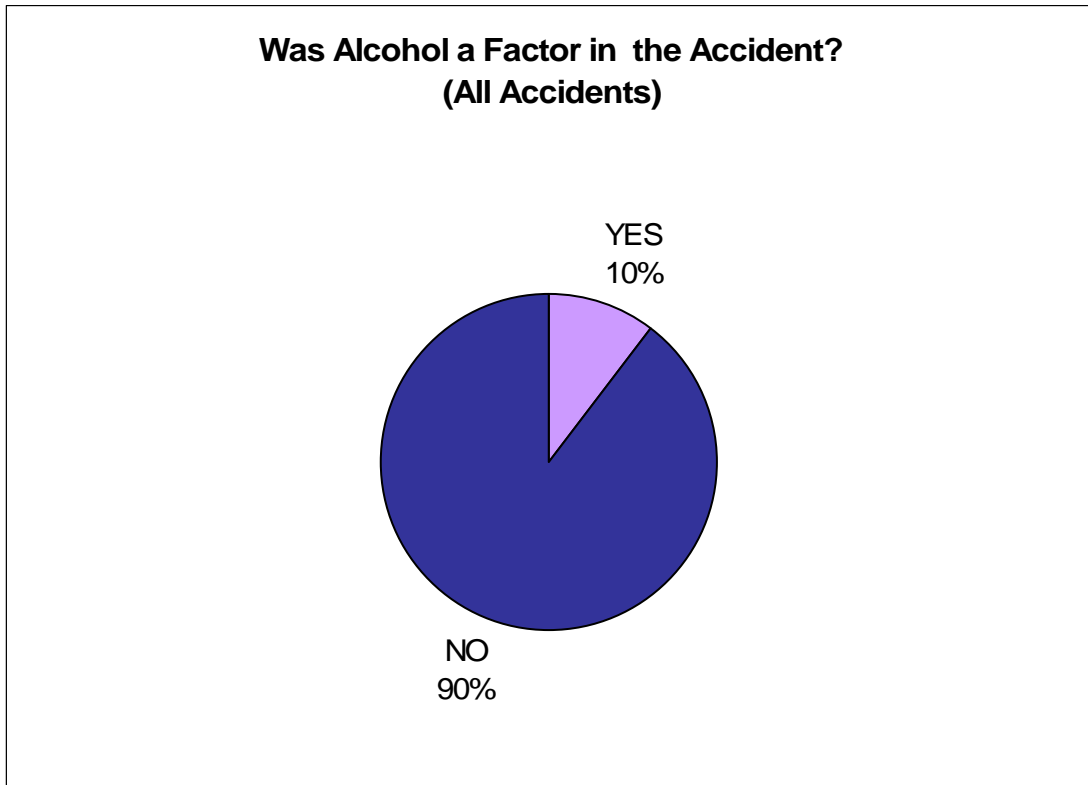
Collisions With...



Causes of Accidents

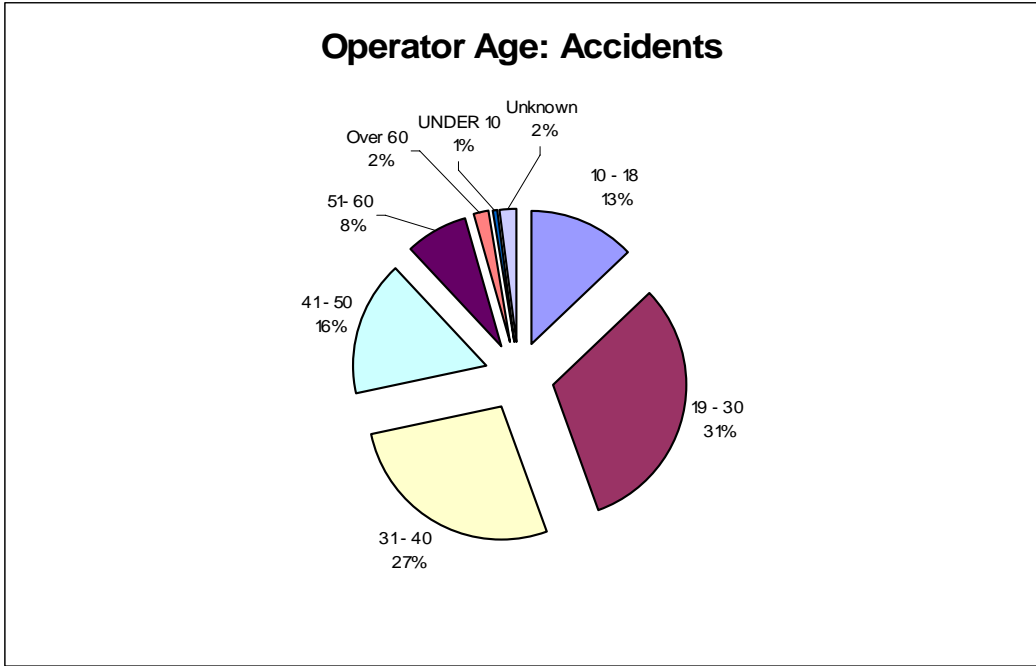


Alcohol Involvement in Snowmobile Accidents



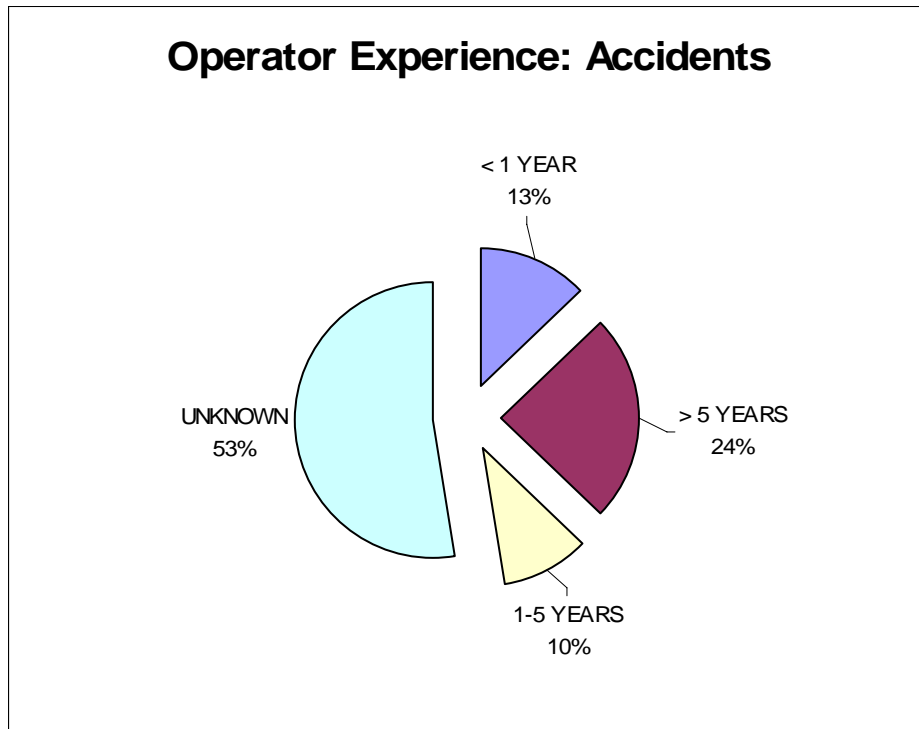
Operator Age

AGE GROUP	Operators	Injuries	Fatalities
10 - 18	35	23	2
19 - 30	87	65	3
31 - 40	74	56	4
41 - 50	45	32	3
51 - 60	21	15	2
Over 60	5	3	0
UNDER 10	2	2	0
Unknown	5	1	0



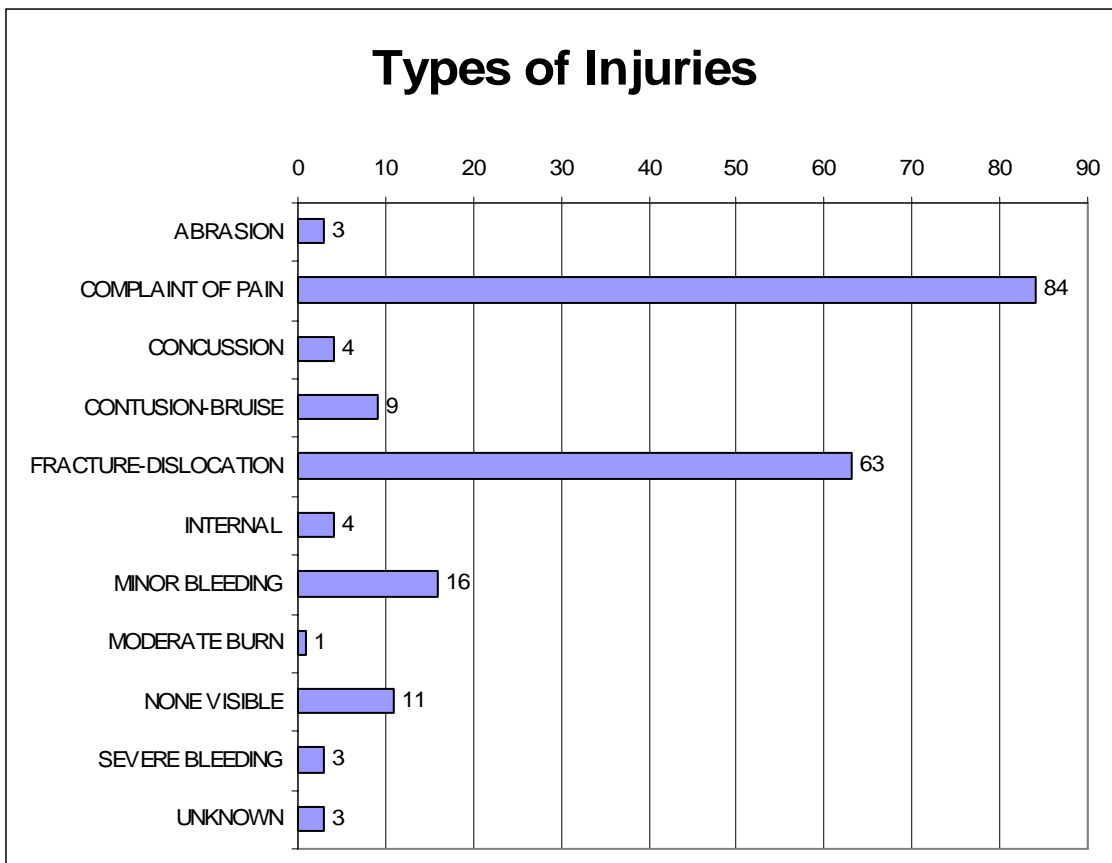
Operator Experience

EXPERIENCE	# of Accidents	# of Injuries	# of Fatalities
< 1 YEAR	35	29	2
> 5 YEARS	67	53	2
1-5 YEARS	28	19	0
UNKNOWN	144	96	10



Types of Injuries

INJURY TYPE	Occurrences
ABRASION	3
COMPLAINT OF PAIN	84
CONCUSSION	4
CONTUSION-BRUISE	9
FRACTURE-DISLOCATION	63
INTERNAL	4
MINOR BLEEDING	16
MODERATE BURN	1
NONE VISIBLE	11
SEVERE BLEEDING	3
UNKNOWN	3



Fatalities

COUNTY	Fatalities
ERIE	2
FRANKLIN	2
HAMILTON	1
HERKIMER	2
JEFFERSON	2
LEWIS	2
ST. LAWRENCE	2
ULSTER	1
Total	14

TERRAIN TYPE	Fatalities
FIELD/LAWN	2
FROZEN BODY OF WATER	3
IMPROVED TRAIL	1
ROADWAY	4
TRAIL	3
WOODS (NO TRAIL)	1

TYPE OF ACCIDENT	Fatalities
COLLISION WITH FIXED OBJECT	7
COLLISION WITH MOVING OBJECT	4
OTHER	2
SUBMERSION	1

PRIMARY FACTOR	Fatalities
FAILED TO YIELD R.O.W.	1
OBSTRUCTION/DEBRIS	1
OPERATOR INATTENTION	1
OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ERRORS	1
OTHER HUMAN ERRORS	1
OTHER VEHICULAR ERROR	1
UNKNOWN;	2
UNSAFE SPEED	5
VIEW OBSTRUCTED	1

CAUSE OF DEATH	Fatalities
DROWNING	1
TRAUMA	13

HELMET	Fatalities
YES	13
NO	1

Accidents by County Summary 2005-06

COUNTY	Accidents	Fatalities	Injured
ALBANY	1	0	1
CATTARAUGUS	1	0	0
CAYUGA	2	0	0
CHAUTAUQUA	3	0	3
CLINTON	4	0	4
CORTLAND	2	0	2
DELAWARE	1	0	1
DUTCHESS	1	0	1
ERIE	7	2	7
ESSEX	3	0	2
FRANKLIN	15	2	11
FULTON	6	0	5
GENESEE	1	0	1
GREENE	2	0	3
HAMILTON	18	1	13
HERKIMER	21	2	18
JEFFERSON	7	2	5
LEWIS	48	2	44
LIVINGSTON	1	0	1
MADISON	5	0	6
MONROE	1	0	0
MONTGOMERY	1	0	0
NIAGARA	1	0	1
ONEIDA	18	0	14
ONONDAGA	2	0	2
ORANGE	1	0	1
OSWEGO	18	0	14
SARATOGA	2	0	2
SCHOHARIE	3	0	4
ST. LAWRENCE	22	2	19
STEUBEN	4	0	4
SULLIVAN	1	0	1
ULSTER	1	1	0
WARREN	2	0	2
WAYNE	4	0	4
WYOMING	3	0	3
YATES	1	0	1
UNCODED	1	0	1
Totals	235	14	201