

# *Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 2010 All-Terrain Vehicle Enforcement and Safety Report*



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# Introduction

## *2010 Yearly Summary*

Wisconsin had fourteen ATV fatalities, a decrease of four from the eighteen fatalities that occurred in 2009. ATV registrations totaled 287,163, an increase from last year's 218,539. Registrations include public use, private use and municipal use. 216 ATV Safety Classes were taught this year by 1,045 active volunteer instructors, certifying 7,025 students. Of the 7,025 students, 3,365 were certified via an internet course. Since the ATV Education Program began in 1986 there has been a steady increase of certified ATV students reaching 87,302 at the end of 2010. 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 speed and alcohol, found to be involved in eleven of the fourteen crashes (blood test results were not available for three victims). 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. Thirty-nine operators were arrested for operating an ATV while intoxicated, up two from 2009's thirty-seven arrests. This year only half of the fatal crash victims were not wearing a helmet, an improvement from the past five years where an average of 78% of crash victims were not wearing a helmet.

Wisconsin requires that all ATV operators at least age 12 and born after January 1, 1988 complete a state or provincial Certified ATV Safety Course to operate in public areas. Seventy-nine percent of the victims had not been certified, a prominent trend over the past several years.

Most fatal crashes occurred on trails or roads designated as ATV routes. The number of roads opened up to ATV use by local municipalities continues to increase as ATV owners pressure local governments for places to ride. This is an unsafe trend as ATVs have a high center of gravity and are equipped with soft, low pressure tires which makes 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.*

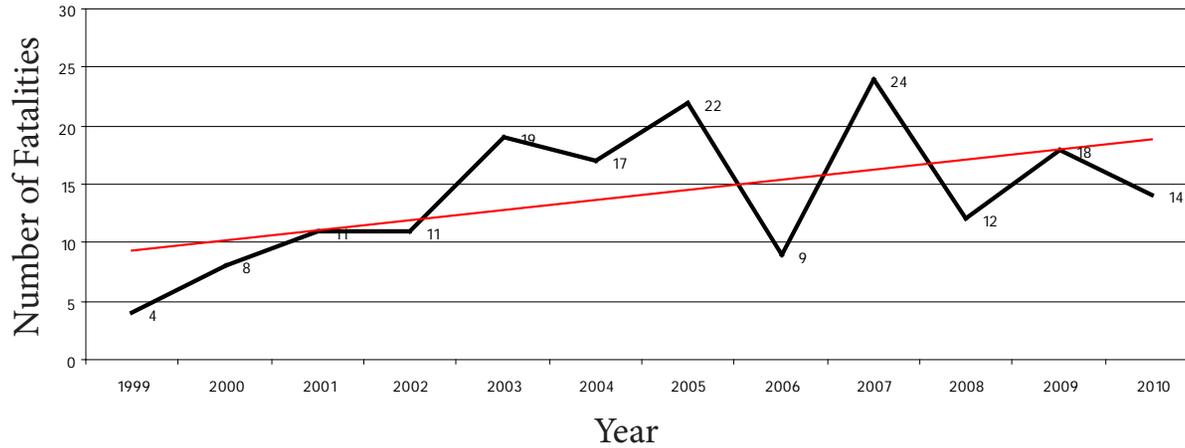
## *ATV Safety Tips*

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.

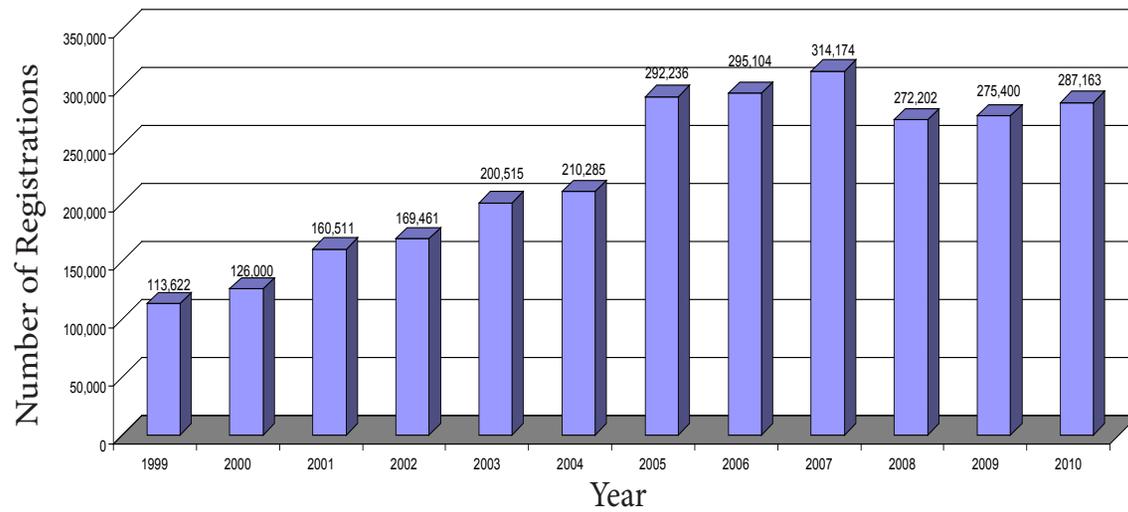
# Historical Data

## History of ATV Fatalities



Since 1999, we have seen an increasing trend in deaths while operating an ATV. The majority of the victims were not wearing helmets and had not taken a DNR ATV Safety Education Course.

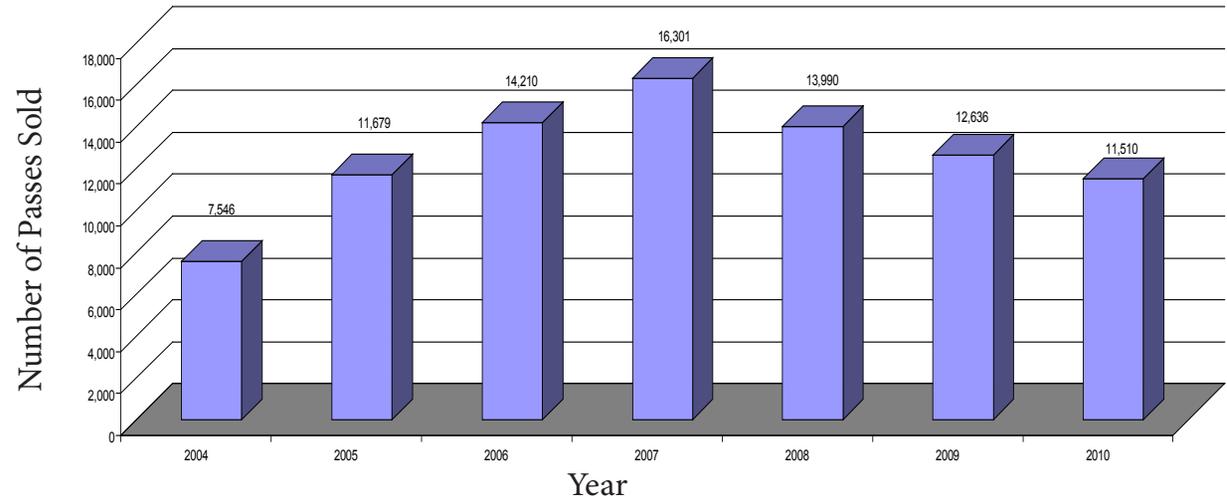
## History of Wisconsin Resident ATV Registrations



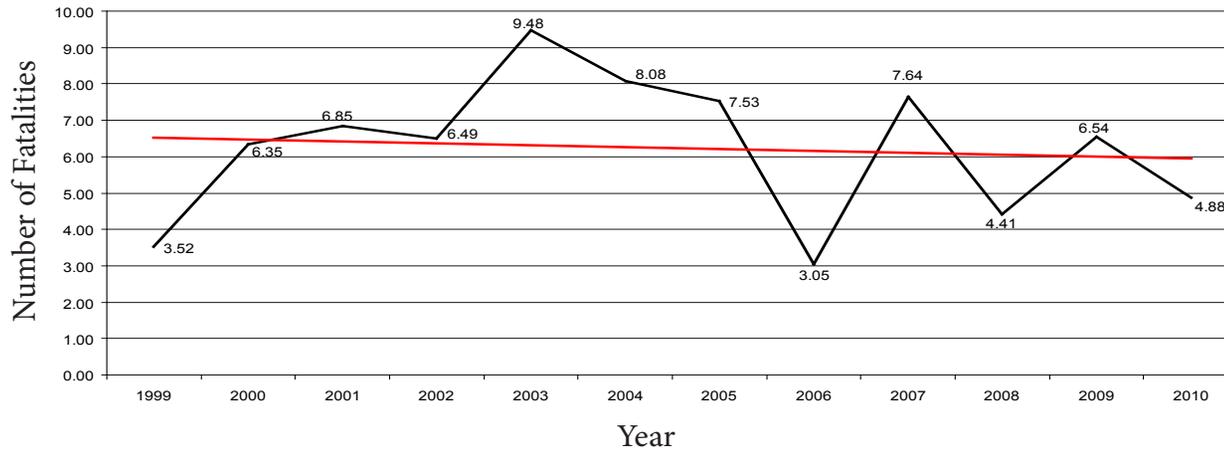
# Historical Data

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

### History of Number of ATV Passes Sold



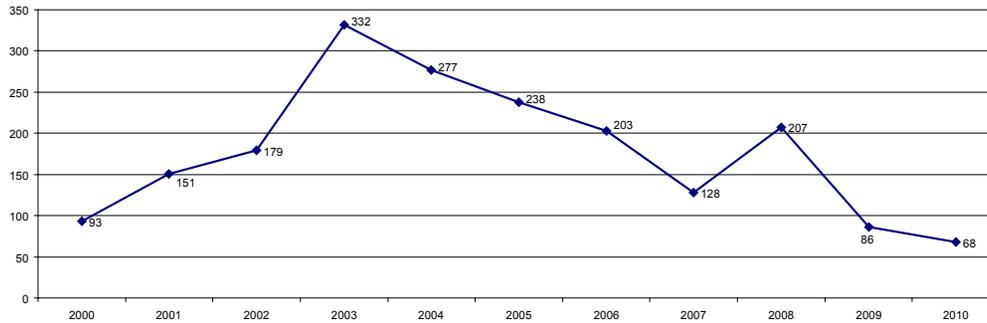
### History of ATV Fatalities per 100,000 Wisconsin ATV Registrations



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 passes).

# Historical Data

## History of Newly Recruited ATV Instructors

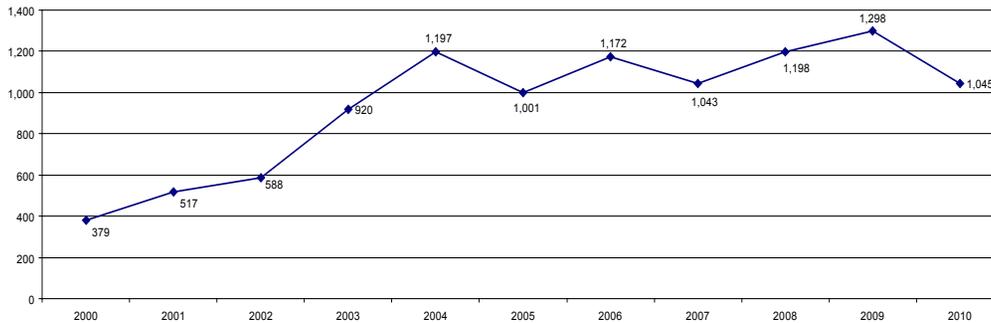


In 2001 the Trail Patrol Ambassador Program was started, which is a group of dedicated and trained volunteers who give their time to patrol Wisconsin's ATV trails.

Some of their tasks include:

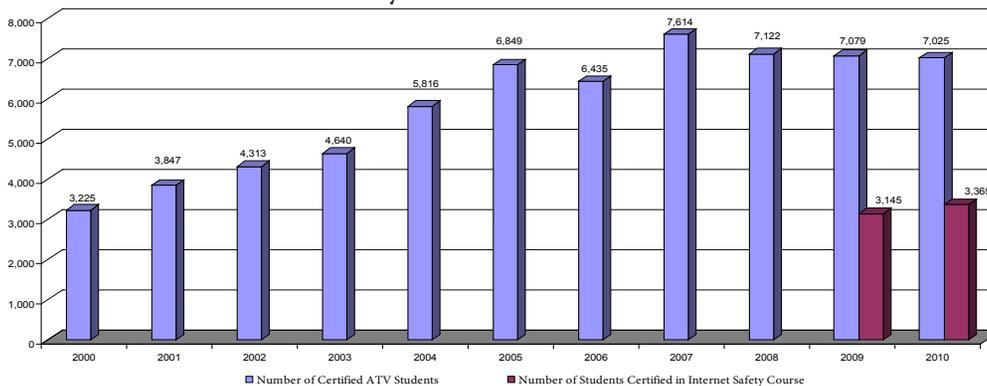
- Educating the riders on the rules and regulations as well as ethical riding practices.
- Teach Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources ATV certification class.
- Patrol the trails while watching for riders in distress or riders who are violating the law.
- Trail clean up.
- Sign posting.

## History of Active ATV Instructors



The ATV Safety Education Program began in 1986 and has since expanded to include over 1,000 Active ATV Volunteer Instructors

## History of Certified ATV Students

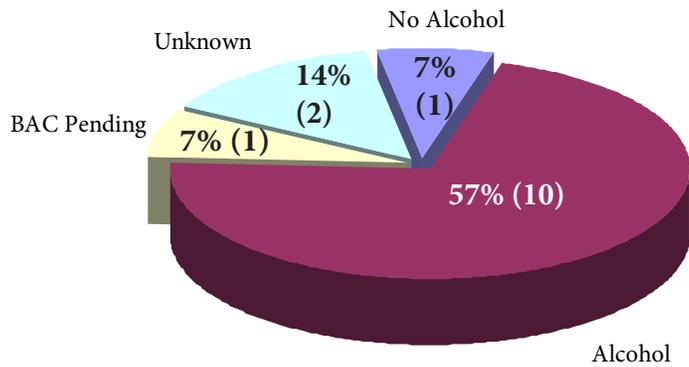


On April 28, 2004 the law changed, requiring mandatory ATV education for operators at least 12 years of age and born after January 1, 1988.

In 2009 the Internet Safety Course became available certifying 3,145 of the 7,079 students. In 2010 3,365 of the 7,025 students were certified via the Internet Safety course.

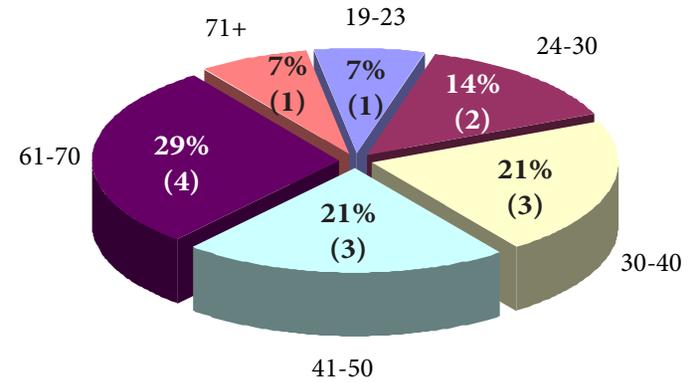
# ATV 2010 Fatality Data

### Alcohol as a Contributing Factor



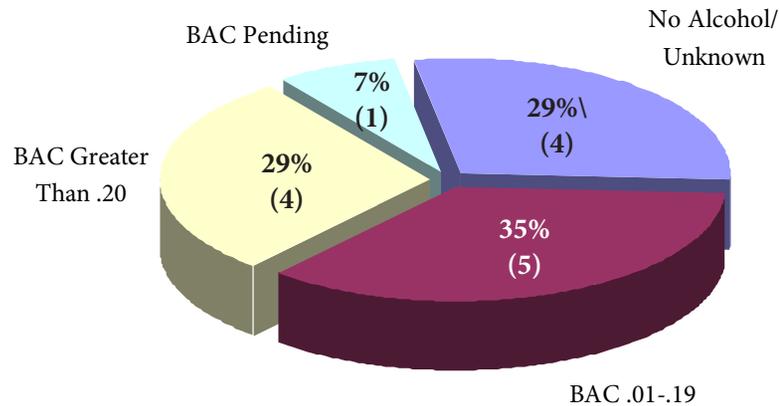
Alcohol was detected in fifty-seven percent of the victims. An increase of ten percent from 2009 (47%).

### Age of the Victims



The Average Age of fatality victims in 2010 was 45 years old, with fifty percent of victims being above 60 years of age.

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

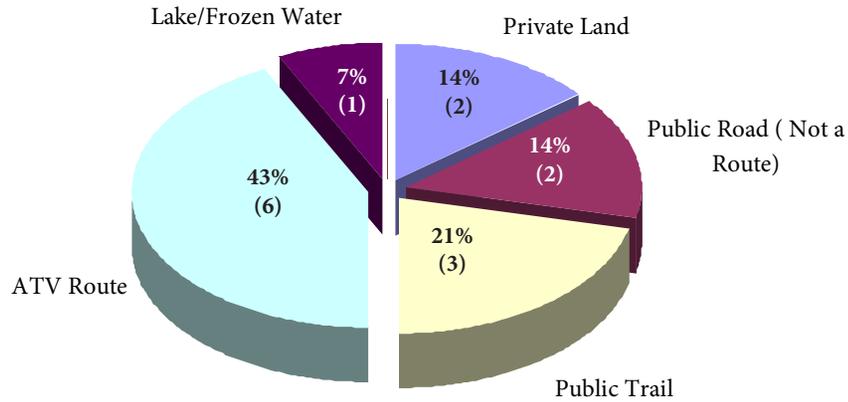


\*Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) is in grams/milliliter (g/ml)

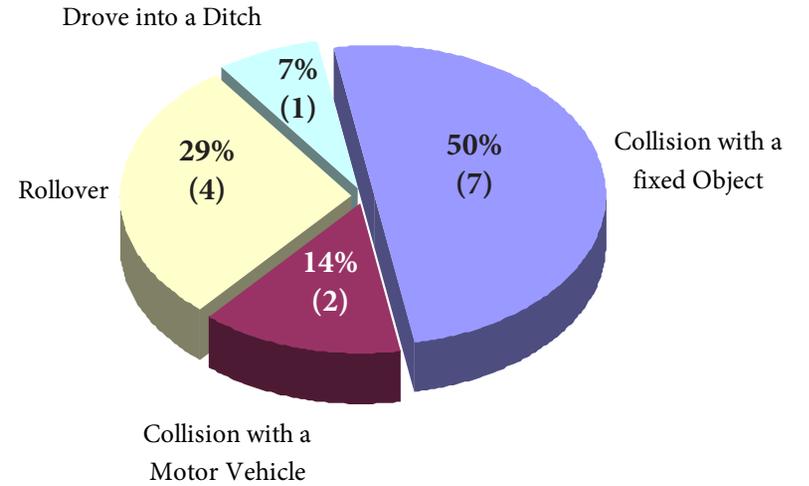
\*All Data is representative of a percentage of the data from the 14 fatal accident victims from 2010.

# ATV 2010 Fatality Data

Location of the Incident

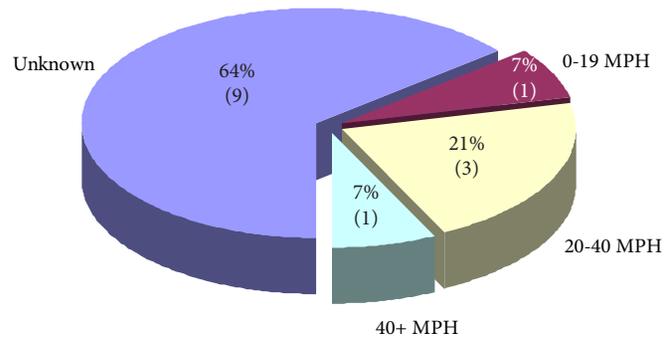


Type of ATV Incident



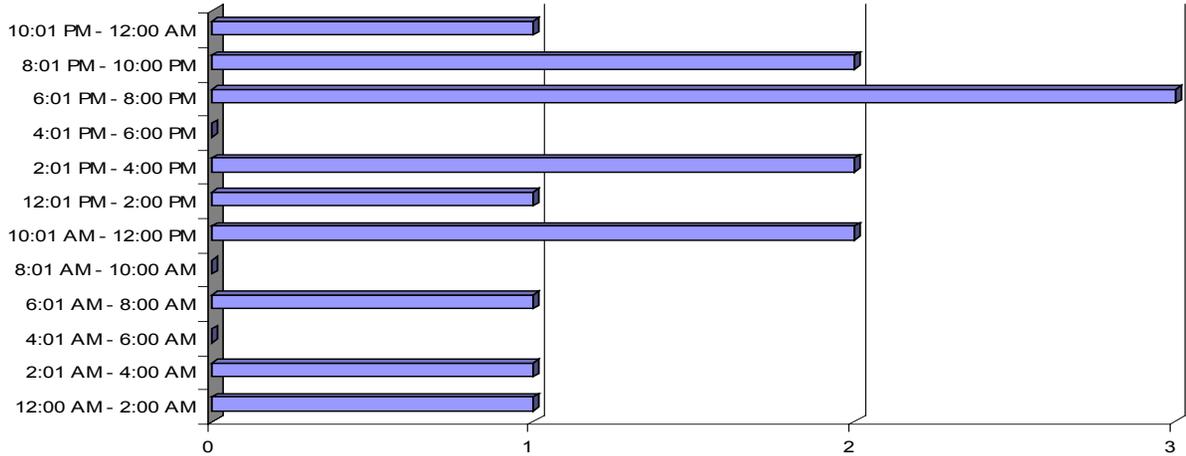
\*An ATV Route is a public road opened to legal ATV travel by the local municipality

Estimated Speed at the Time of the Accident



# ATV 2010 Fatality Data

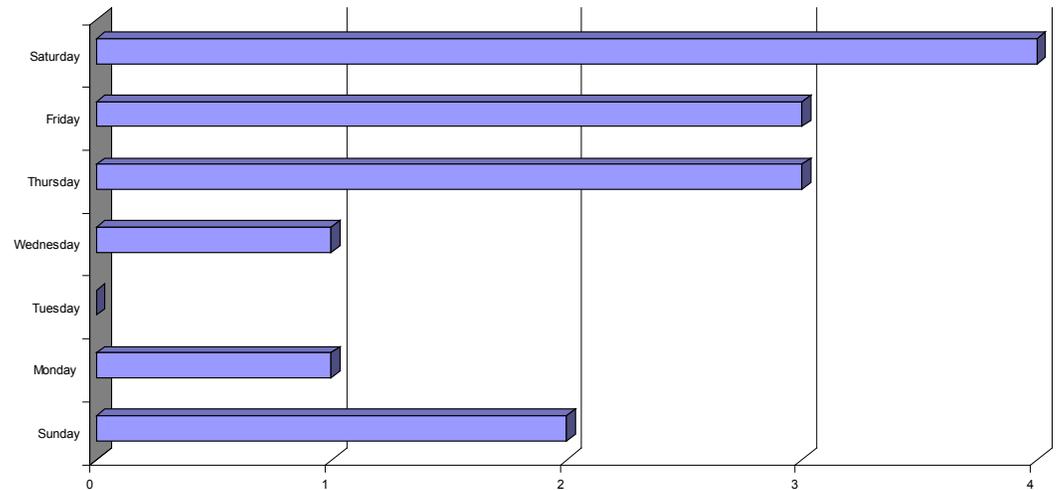
## Fatal ATV Accidents versus the Time of Day



Most of the fatal crashes occurred from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm and 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, similar to 2009 where the majority of fatal incidents occurred between 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

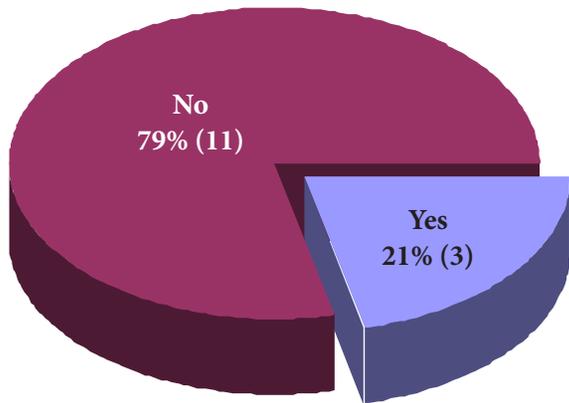
Most of the fatal crashes (11) occurred on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

## Fatal ATV Accidents Versus the Day of the Week

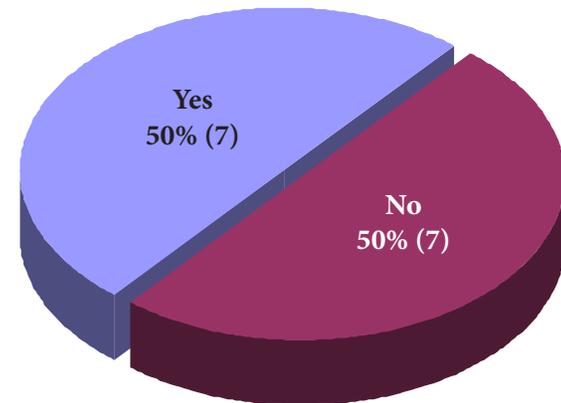


# ATV 2010 Fatality Data

### Operator ATV Safety Training Certificate

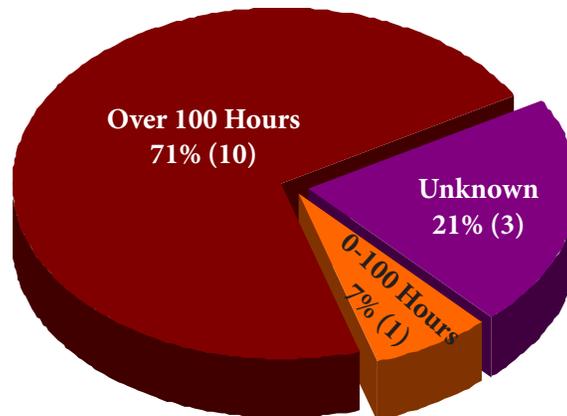


### Helmet Use



### Operator Experience Level

Operators of at least age twelve and born on or after January 1, 1988 are required by law to complete a Wisconsin ATV Safety Certification Course or another state/province equivalent.



Past data shows that, on average, it is more likely that an ATV operator wearing a helmet, that has taken an ATV Safety Course will not be involved in a fatal incident.

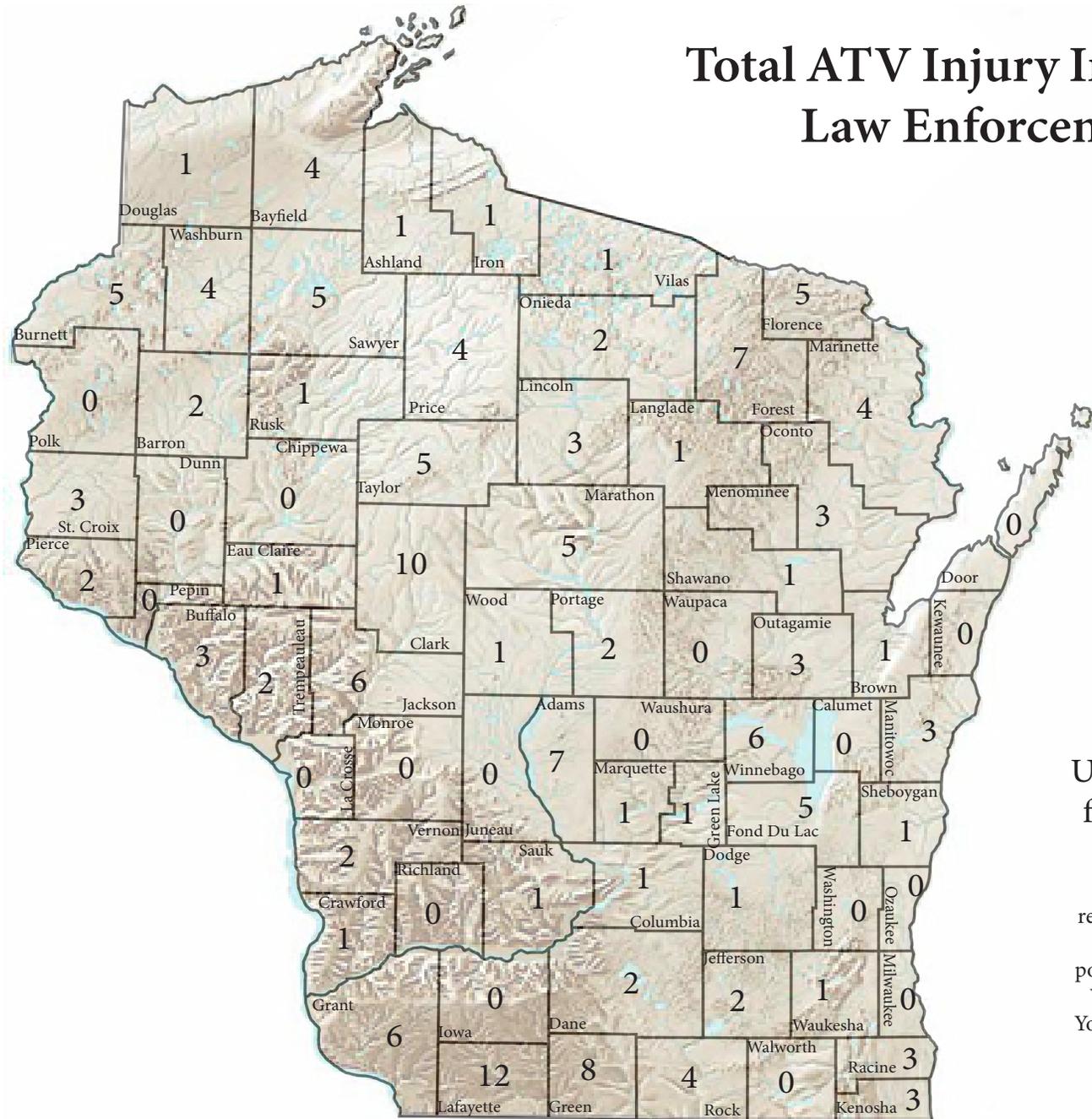
# Wisconsin ATV Fatality Summary for 2010

#	Date/Time	Location	Type & Cause of Incident / Fatality	Age / Sex	BAC / Residency	WI Safety Certified / Helmet
1	02/28/2010	Town of Dunn	Rollover	62	0.202	No
	1:00AM	Dane County (Lake)	Speed/Alcohol	M	WI	No
The victim was operating on a frozen lake and attempted a right hand turn. The ATV rolled over onto its side and crushed the operator.						
2	04/01/2010	Town of Athelstane	Rollover	33	0.317	No
	3:10PM	Marinette County (private land)	Speed/Alcohol	M	WI	No
According to the passenger, the victim/operator came to a fork in the trail and appeared to not know what way to go and rolled the ATV while attempting to turn right.						
3	04/30/2010	Town of Iron Belt	Collision with a fixed object	65	0.19	No
	7:57PM	Iron County (Road/Route)	Alcohol/Speed	M	WI	Yes
It appears the victim struck a large rock near the ditch line rolling his ATV and ejecting him to the ground.						
4	06/13/2010	Town of Iron Brule	Collision with a fixed object	41	0.099	No
	2:04AM	Douglas County (Road/Route)	Alcohol/Drugs/Speed/Fog	M	WI	Yes
The victim rounded a slight corner loosing control of his ATV and drove onto the shoulder hitting a tree.						
5	06/28/2010	Town of Dodgeville	Rollover	81	0	No
	10:51AM	Iowa County (Private Property)	Steep Terrain	M	WI	No
The victim may have been riding side saddle on the left side of the ATV due to a hip problem; he appeared to be checking cattle when he rolled his ATV.						
6	07/09/2010	Village of Nebagamon	Drove into Ditch	44	Unknown	Yes
	11:38AM	Douglas County (Road/Route)	Careless Operation	M	WI	Yes
The victim was operating on an ATV road route and appeared to be purposely swerving his ATV from side to side. The victim lost control of the ATV, went into the road ditch and was ejected form the ATV. The victim passed away from his injuries on 7/13/2010.						
7	08/12/2010	Village of Wayne	Collision with a fixed object	19	0.21	Yes
	8:44PM	Lafayette County (Road)	Speed/Alcohol	M	WI	No
The victim was operating an ATV on a road that is not an ATV route, drove off the road and struck a driveway embankment causing the ATV to go airborne, ejecting the victim. The incident occurred on 8/12/10 and the victim passed away from his injuries on 8/13/10.						

# Wisconsin ATV Fatality Summary for 2010

#	Date/Time	Location	Type & Cause of Incident / Fatality	Age / Sex	BAC / Residency	WI Safety Certified / Helmet
8	09/04/2010	Town of Argonne	Collision with a fixed object	41	0.103	No
	6:05PM	Forest County (Road/Route)	Speed/Alcohol/Drugs	M	WI	Yes
The victim was operating an ATV on a road that is an ATV route when he left the road and struck a tree.						
9	09/11/2010	Town of Breed	Collision with Motor-Vehicle	24	0.013	No
	7:45PM	Oconto County (Road/Route)	Alcohol/Speed	M	WI	Yes
The victim was approaching an intersection when a mini-van turned in front of him causing him to collide with the vehicle.						
10	09/22/2010	Town of Levis	Collision with Motor-Vehicle	68	Pending	No
	7:34AM	Clark County (Road/Route)	Not observed by motor-vehicle operator	M	WI	No
The victim was operating his ATV near the driveway to his residence and was struck from behind by an SUV.						
11	10/09/2010	Town of Oma	Collision with a fixed object	37	0.12	No
	8:31PM	Iron County (Trail)	Speed/Alcohol	F	WI	No
Victim was traveling on trail and appeared to have struck a tree, ejecting the victim.						
12	10/09/2010	City of Hurley	Rollover	34	0.210	No
	10:18PM	Iron County (Trail)	Speed/Alcohol/	M	IL	Yes
Victim was traveling on trail which has steep terrain. Victim drove his ATV off the side of the trail, causing the ATV to rollover.						
13	10/21/2010	Town of Wabeno	Collision with a Fixed Object	24	Unknown	No
	2:54PM	Forest County (Road)	Alcohol/Speed/Pending	M	WI	No
The victim was operating on an ATV on a road when he swerved to miss a deer, lost control and struck some trees. The victim passed on 2/14/2011.						
14	10/22/2010	Town of Harrison	Collision with a Fixed Object	61	0.035	No
	1:00PM	Lincoln County (Trail)	Alcohol/Speed/Pending	M	WI	Yes
The victim was operating on an ATV trail, when he left the trail and collided with a tree. The victim had been consuming alcohol.						

# Total ATV Injury Incidents Reported to Law Enforcement by County



Total Incidents = 170

Unknown County accounts for 11 of the total incidents

A report must be filed for any crash that results in an injury requiring treatment by a physician or a fatal incident must be reported as soon as possible to a Conservation Warden or other law enforcement officer. You must file a written report of the incident within 10 days to the DNR.

\*Topographic map created by the Department of Geography and Geology, University of Wisconsin Colleges

# Citations Issued for ATV Violations in 2010

**Registration/ Trail Pass Violations**

Operate ATV without Registration (V-1).....160  
 Give Permission to Operate ATV without Valid Registration (V-2).....31  
 Fail to transfer ATV Registration (V-15).....12  
 Fail to Display or Improper Display of Registration Decals on  
 ATV (V-16).....27  
 Operate ATV on ATV Trail without an ATV Trail Pass (V-30).....21  
 Fail to Display or Improper Display of Non-Resident Trail Pass on  
 ATV (V-35).....1

**Alcohol/ Drug Related**

Operate ATV While Intoxicated (V-4).....39  
 Owner Permitting Operation by a Person Under Age, Physically or  
 Mentally Disabled or Under Influence of Alcohol or Drug (V-22).....68  
 Operate with Alcohol Concentration Above 0.08% (V-23).....23  
 Refuse to Take Intoxicated ATV Test (V-24).....10  
 Absolute Sobriety Under Age 19 (V-25).....1  
 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).....14  
 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).....2  
 Operate at a Speed that is Unreasonable or Improper (V-20).....24  
 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).....40  
 Operate/ride ATV without Headgear (V-28).....105  
 Operate, Sell, Rent or Manufacture an ATV Exceeding the 96 Decibel  
 Noise Limit (V-33).....51  
 Operate, Sell, Rent or Manufacture ATV that Emits Noise Greater than  
 96 Decibels (V-34).....22

**Other Violations**

Operate ATV in a Careless Manner (V-3).....43  
 Transport Loaded or Uncased Firearm or a Strung or Uncased Bow on  
 ATV (V-7).....19  
 Drive or Pursue Any Animal with ATV (V-8).....1  
 Fail to Report ATV Accident (V-13).....3  
 Refuse to Stop After Being Requested or Signaled to do so By a Law  
 Enforcement Officer (V-14).....14  
 Operate ATV on Public or Private Property of Another without  
 Consent (V-5).....43  
 Operate ATV on Indian Lands Without Consent (V-6)..... 2  
 Illegal Operation of ATVs On or In the Vicinity of  
 Highways (V-11).....243  
 Interfere with ATV Route or Trail Signs & Standards (V-29).....1  
 Operate ATV without a Valid Safety Certificate or Fail to Carry  
 Certificate on ATV and Display Upon Request (V-32).....114

**The Total Number of Citations (including warden and  
 sheriff patrols) in 2010 was 1,130**

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

Wear Your *HELMET*  
While You *RIDE*  
*RESPONSIBLY...*  
*UNDER CONTROL...*  
and  
*SOBER*  
and You Will  
*RIDE FOR LIFE*

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/enforcement/safety/atved.html>

