

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

2014 Recreational Boating Incident Summary



A word cloud visualization of drowning statistics. The words are arranged in a horizontal, cloud-like shape. The most prominent words are 'drown', 'no life jackets', and 'capsized'. Other significant words include 'canoe', 'river', 'trauma', 'open motorboat', 'fishing', 'alcohol', 'died', 'pond', 'night', 'swamped', 'cold water exposure', 'kayak', 'Speed', 'PWC', 'males', 'life jacket not worn', 'rough conditions', 'jon boat', 'male', 'male open motorboat', 'bass boat', 'lake', 'speed', 'overboard', 'swamp', and 'PWC'. The words are in various colors including brown, green, and blue, and vary in size to represent their frequency or importance in the data.

drown
no life jackets
capsized
canoe
river
trauma
open motorboat
fishing
alcohol
died
pond
night
swamped
cold water exposure
kayak
Speed
PWC
males
life jacket not worn
rough conditions
jon boat
male
male open motorboat
bass boat
lake
speed
overboard
swamp
PWC

Reportable Incidents

Incidents that are required to be reported to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

- ❑ Damage over \$2,000 by or to the vessel or its equipment
- ❑ Injury requiring medical aid beyond first aid
- ❑ Loss of life
- ❑ Disappearance of any person from a vessel

2014 Virginia Boating Incident Summary*

- Number of Incidents = 61
- Number of Vessels Involved = 71
- Number of Injuries = 38
- Number of Fatalities = 16
 - Alcohol was a known factor in 18% of fatal incidents
- Property Damage = \$ 617,916

*Reported to DGIF

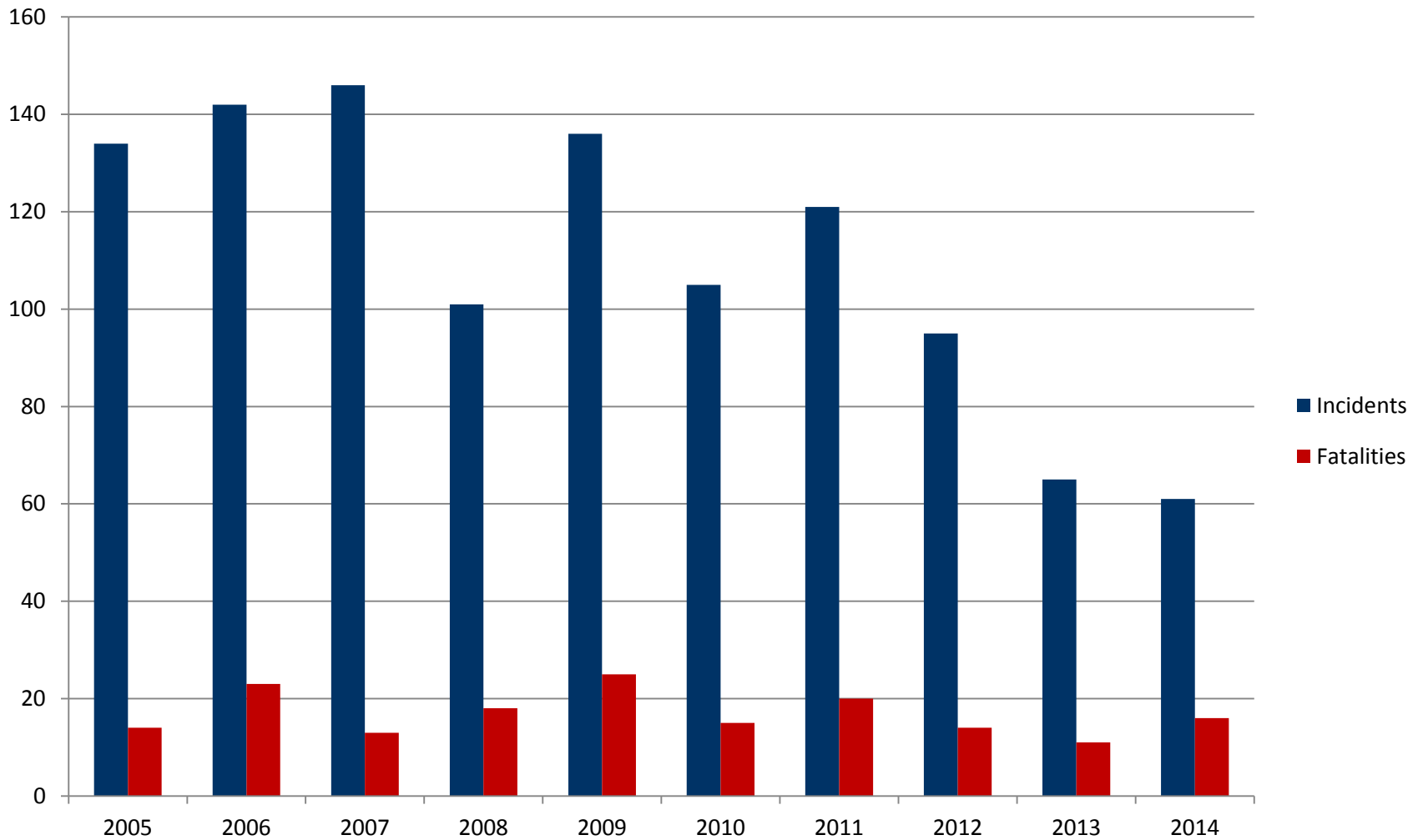
Boating in Virginia

- # of River Miles – 52,225 miles (source VDEQ)
- Coastline – 132 miles (source VIMS)
- Tidal Shore – 7,213 (source VIMS)
- Inland Lakes – 116,364 acres (source VDEQ)

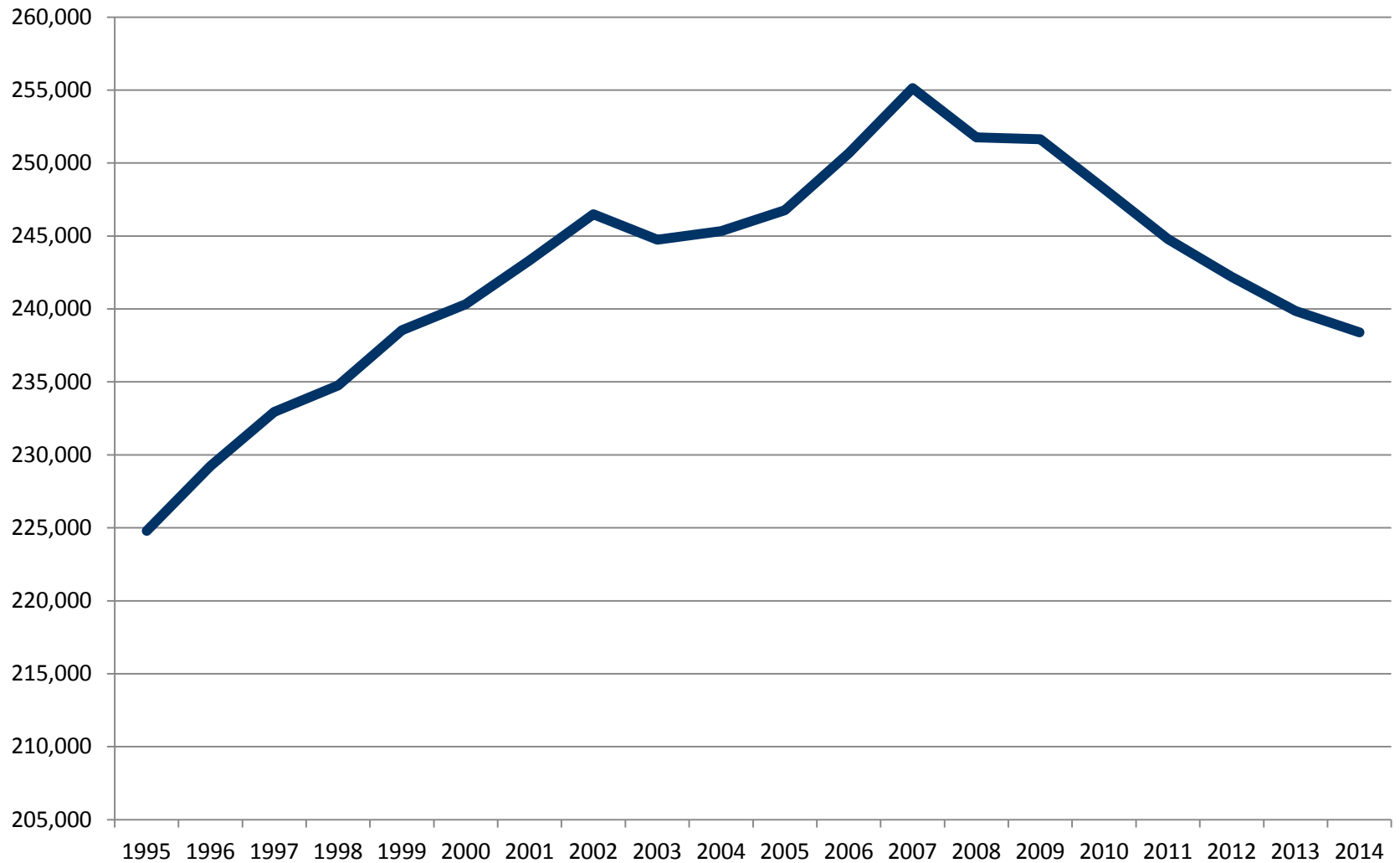
10 Year Boat Incident Summary

Year	Incidents	Injuries	Fatalities	Property Damage
2005	134	89	14	\$1,857,792.00
2006	142	92	23	\$950,953.00
2007	146	107	13	\$1,001,170.00
2008	101	58	18	\$387,668.00
2009	136	91	25	\$907,900.00
2010	105	79	15	\$1,898,499.00
2011	121	95	20	\$1,228,360.00
2012	95	64	14	\$476,584.00
2013	65	44	11	\$986,945.00
2014	61	38	16	\$617,916.00

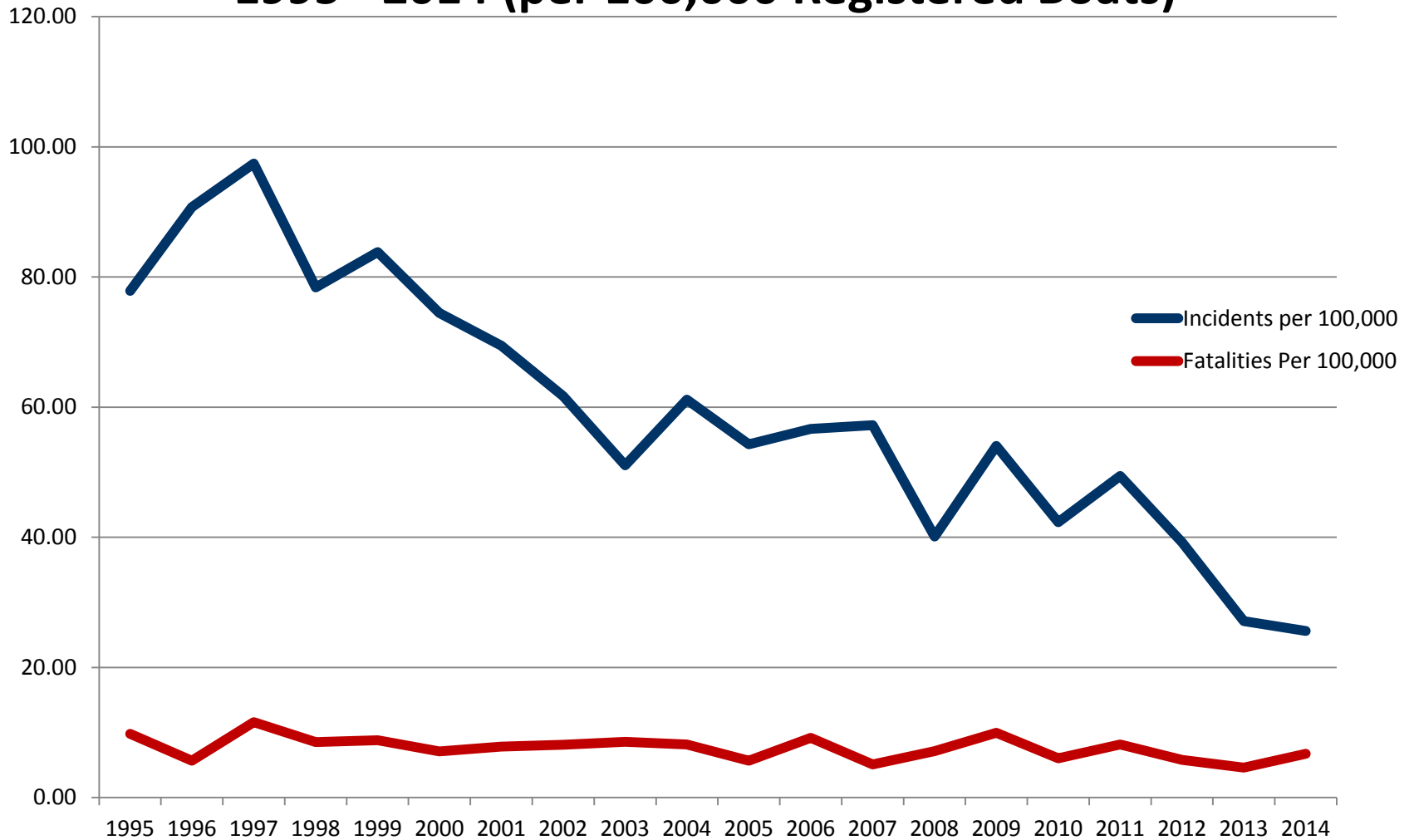
10 Year Boating Incident Statistics



Recreational Vessels Registered in Virginia by Year 1995 - 2014

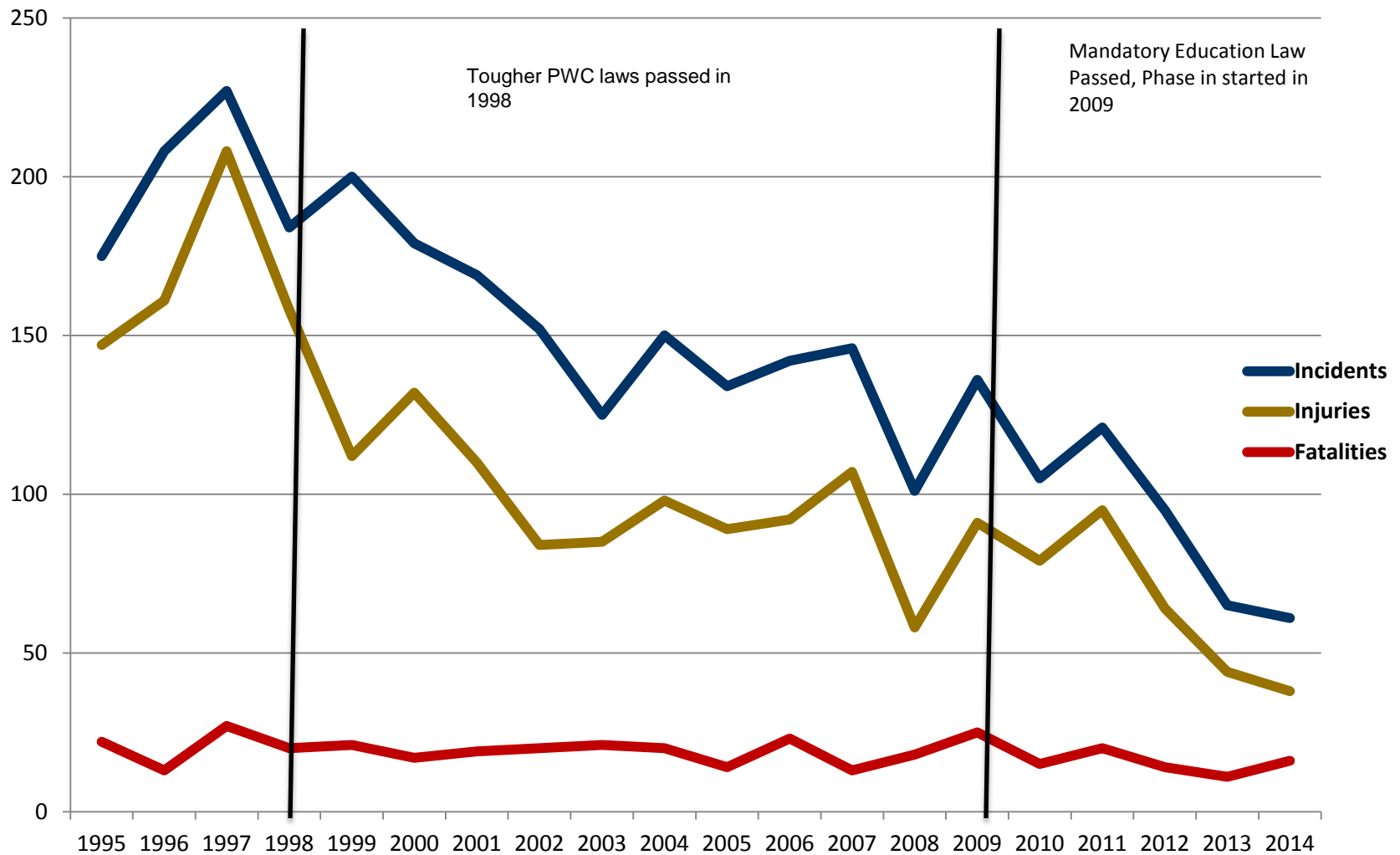


Annual Recreational Boating Incident Rate 1995 - 2014 (per 100,000 Registered Boats)

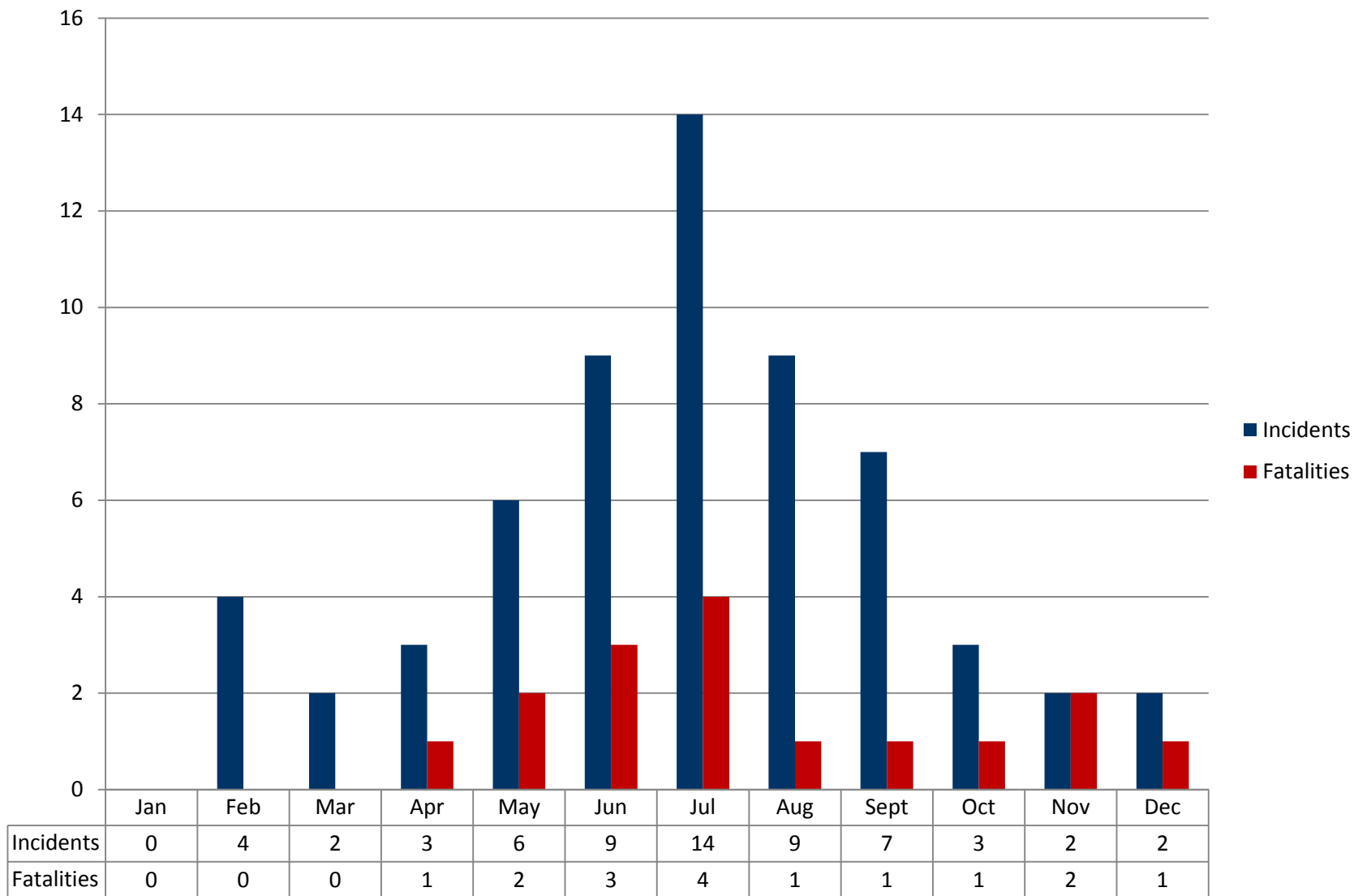


Fatalities, Injuries, and Incidents by Year

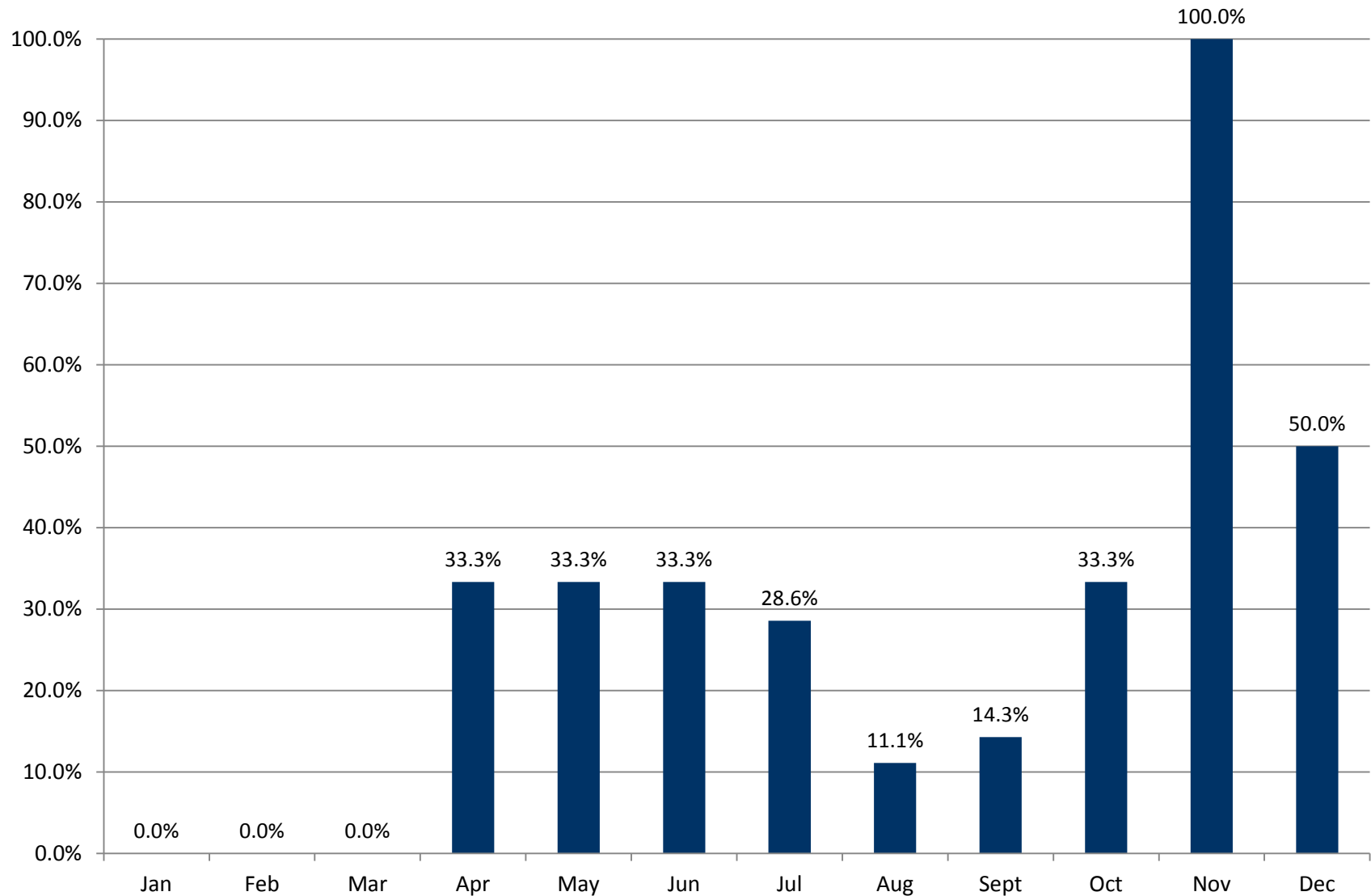
1994 - 2014



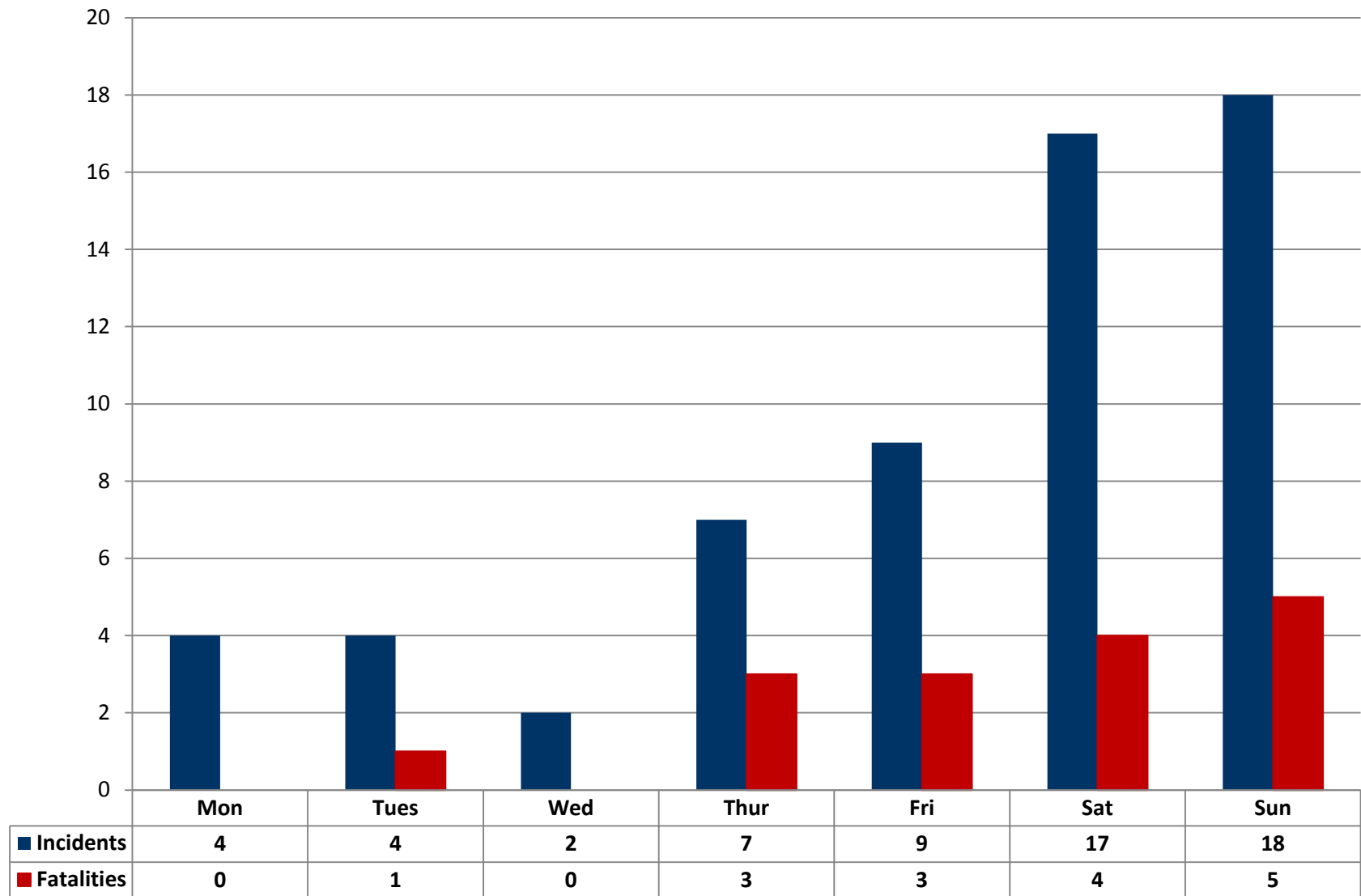
2014 Boating Incidents and Fatalities by Month



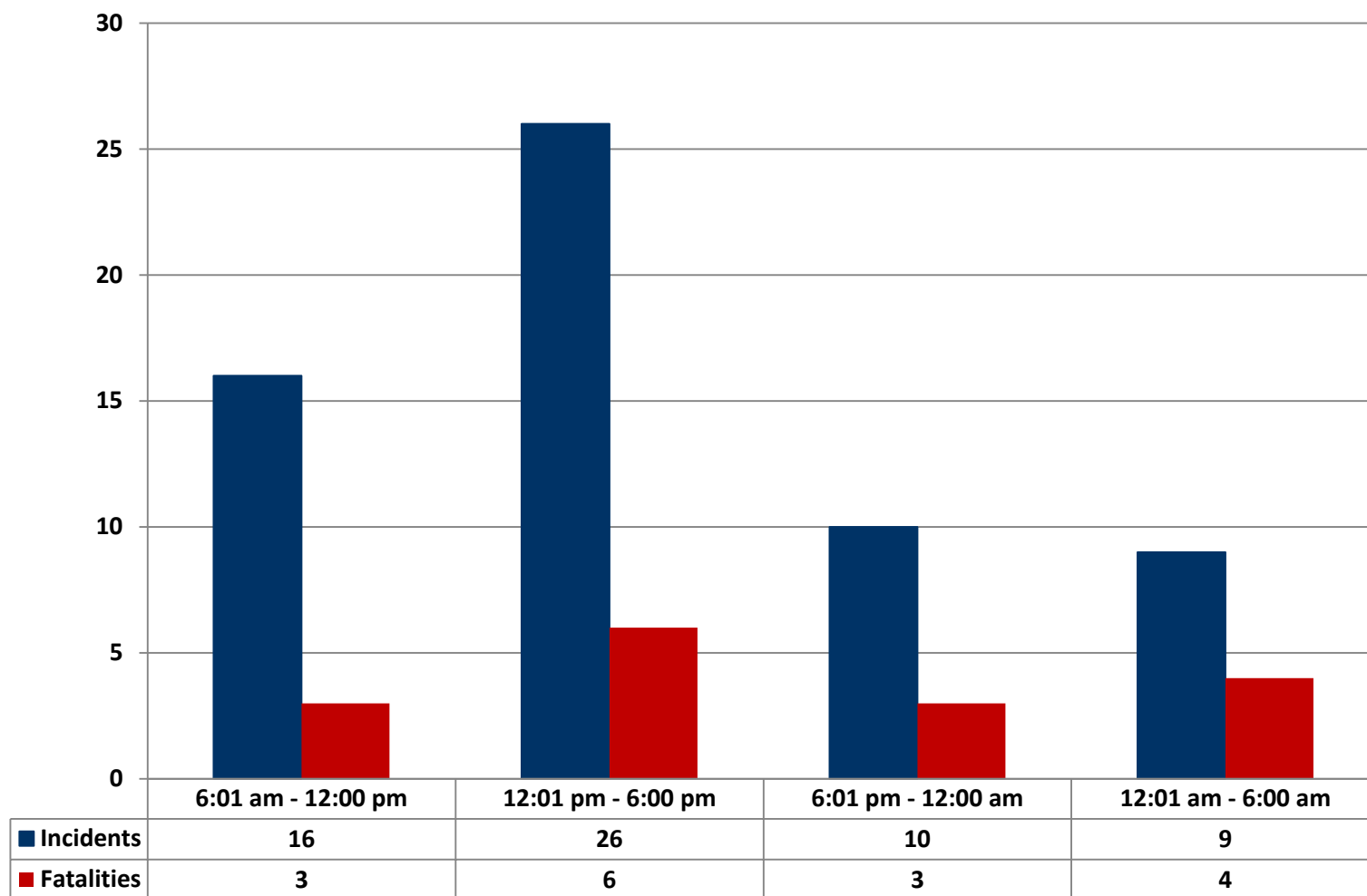
2014 Percentage of Incidents Each Month that were Fatal



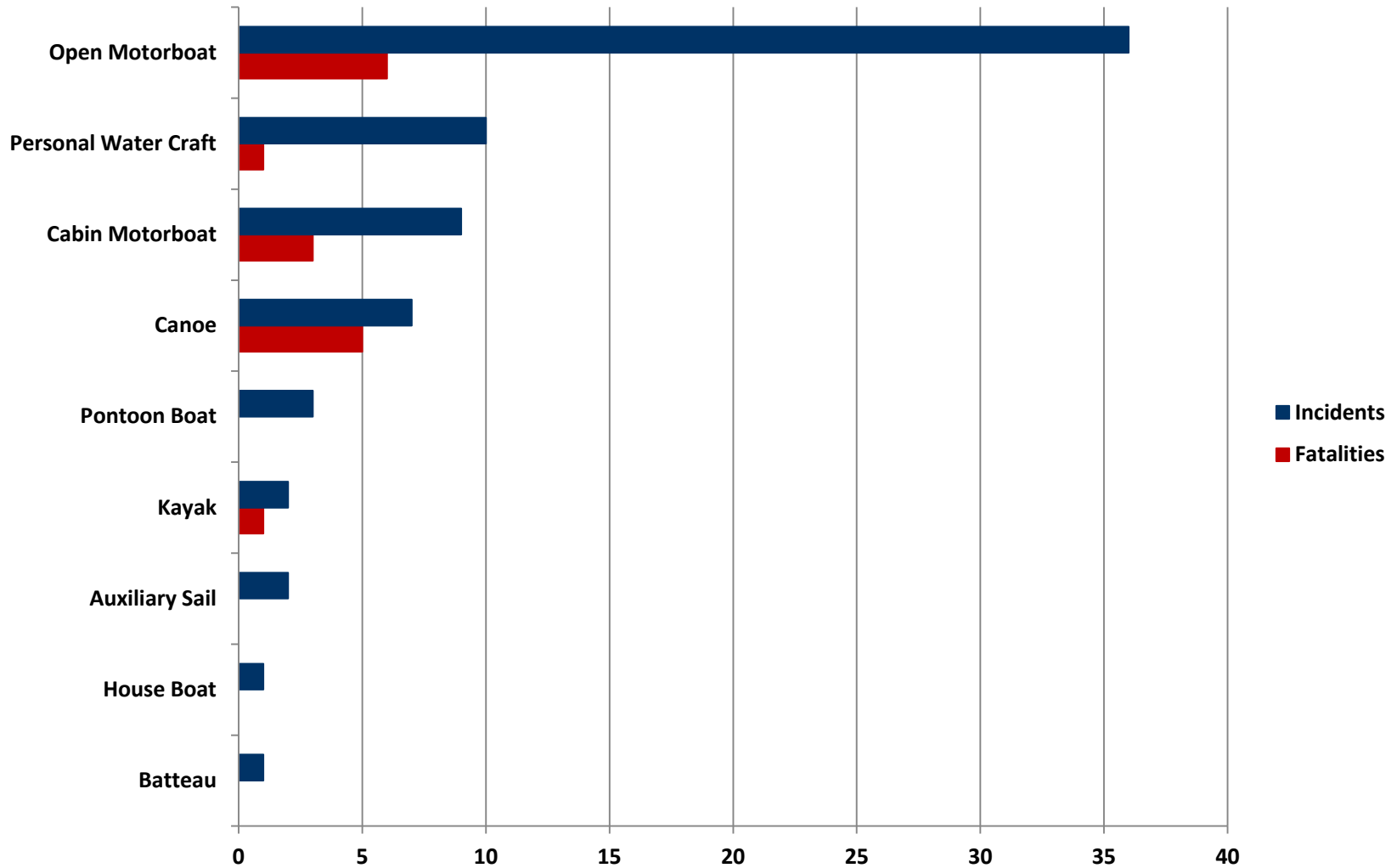
2014 Boat Incidents and Fatalities by Day of Week



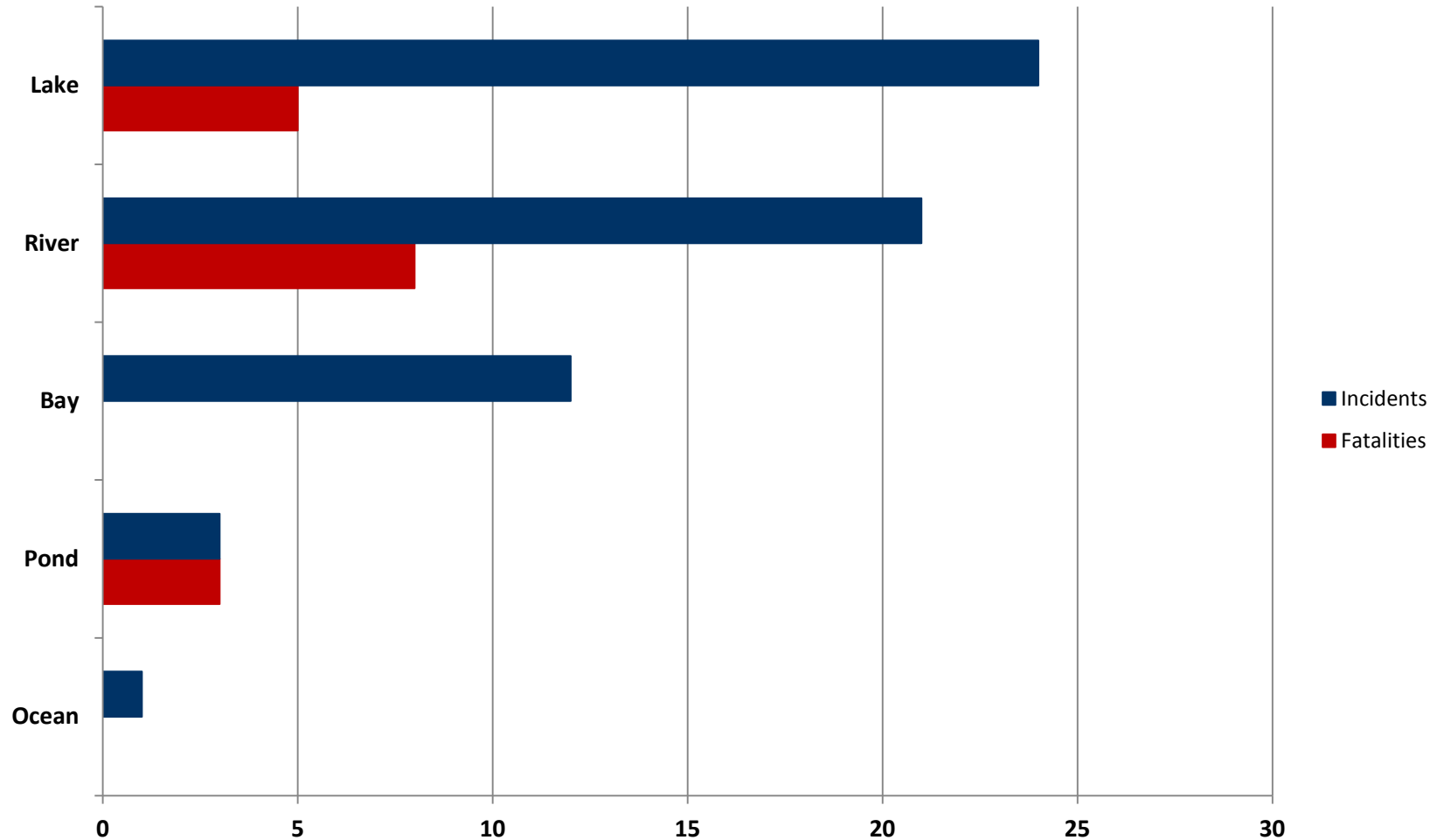
2014 Boating Incidents and Fatalities by Time of Day



2014 Boating Incidents and Fatalities by Vessel Type

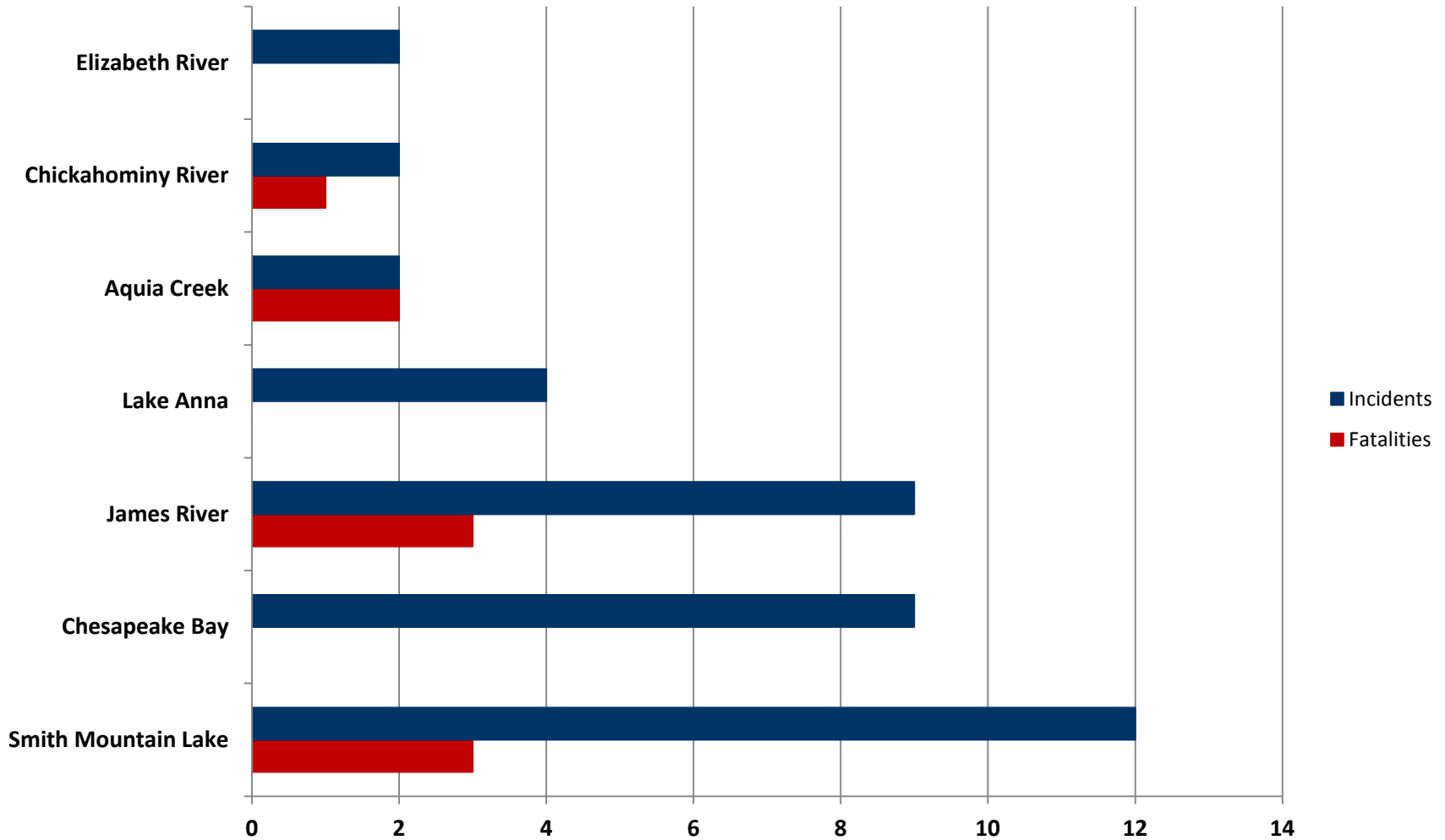


2014 Boating Incidents and Fatalities by Water Body Type



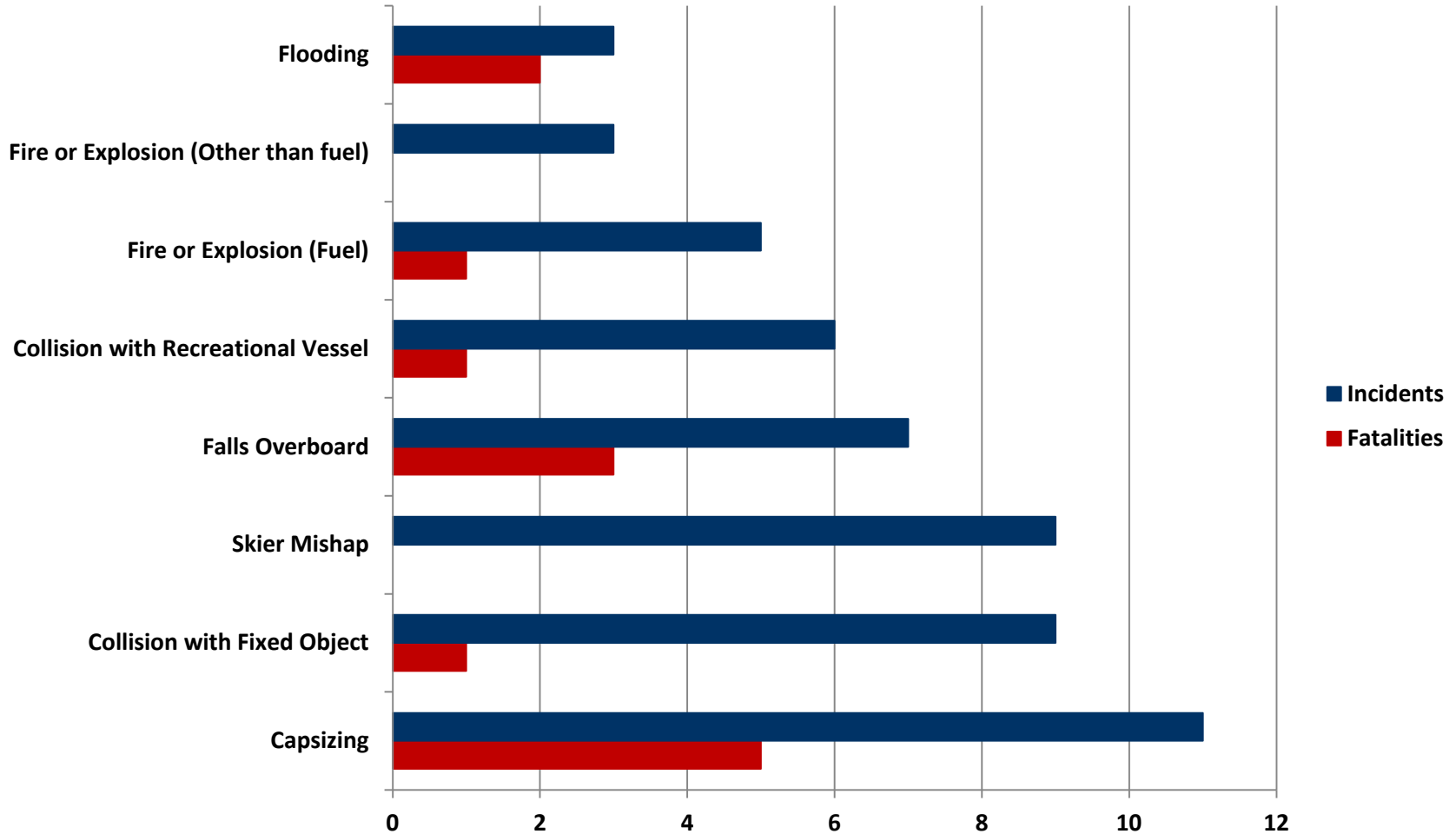
2014 Boating Incidents and Fatalities

Top Locations of Incidents



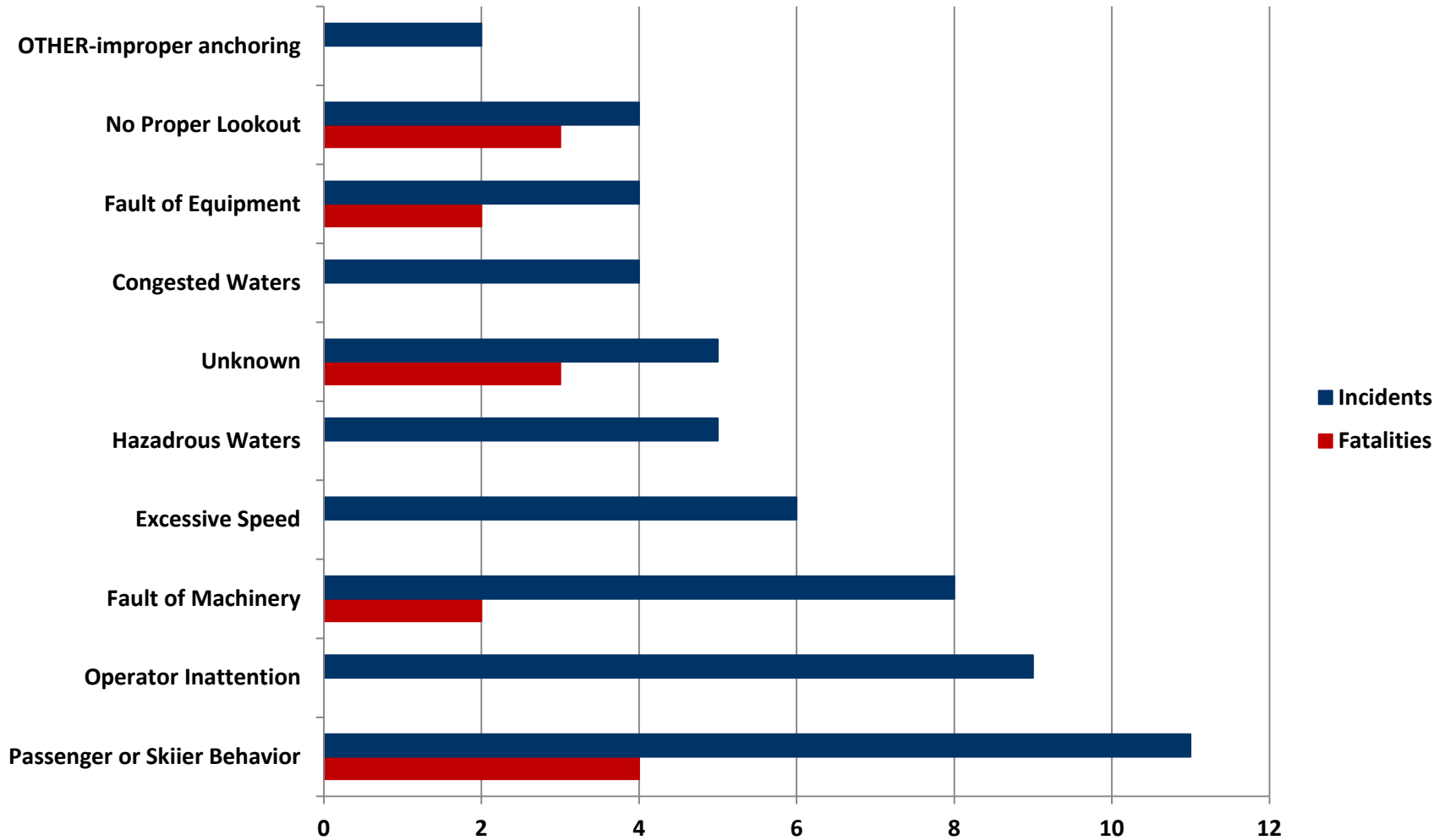
2014 Boating Incidents and Fatalities

Top Primary Incident Types

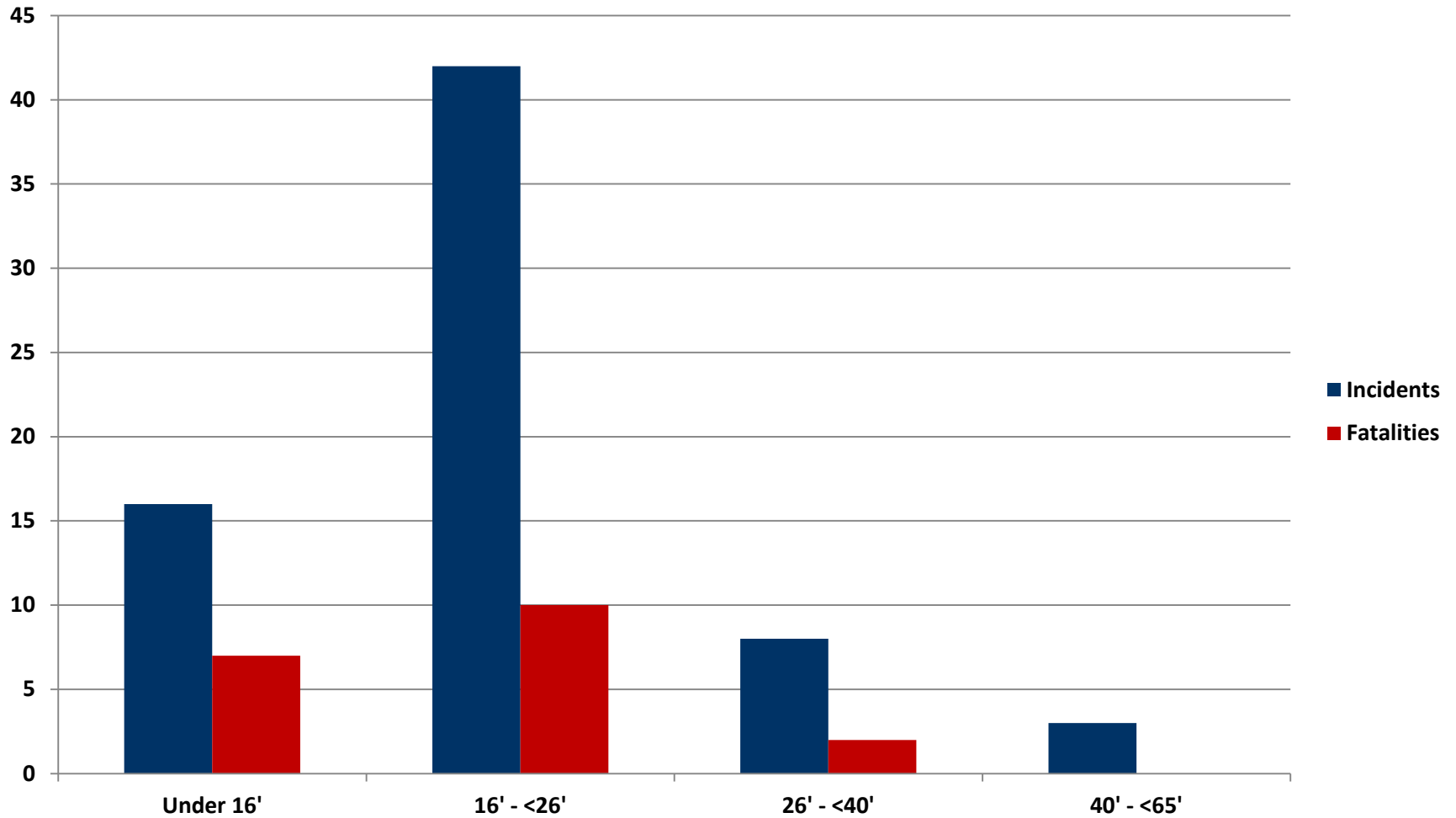


2014 Boating Incidents and Fatalities

Top Primary Contributing Factor

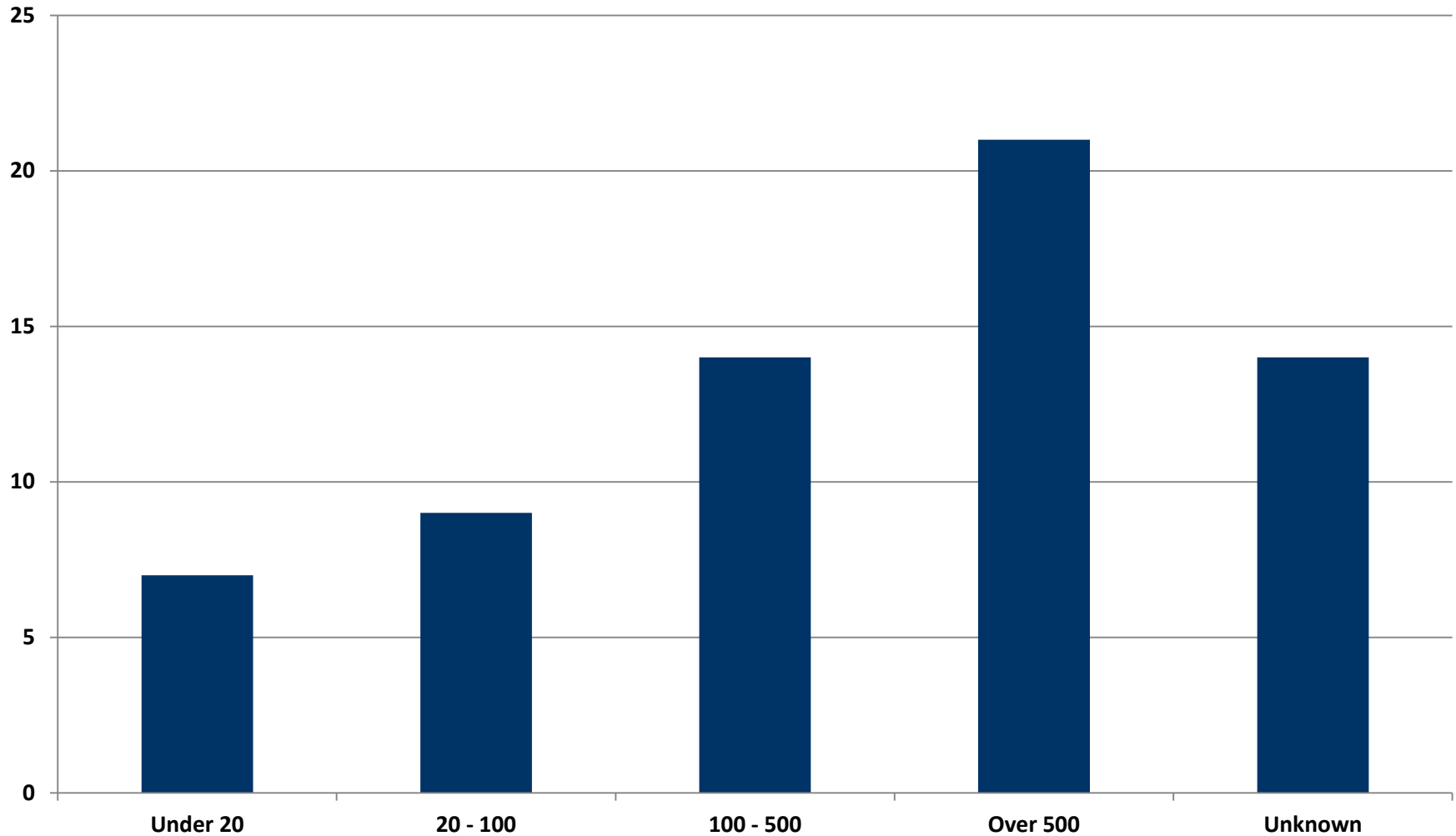


2014 Boating Incidents and Fatalities By Vessel Size



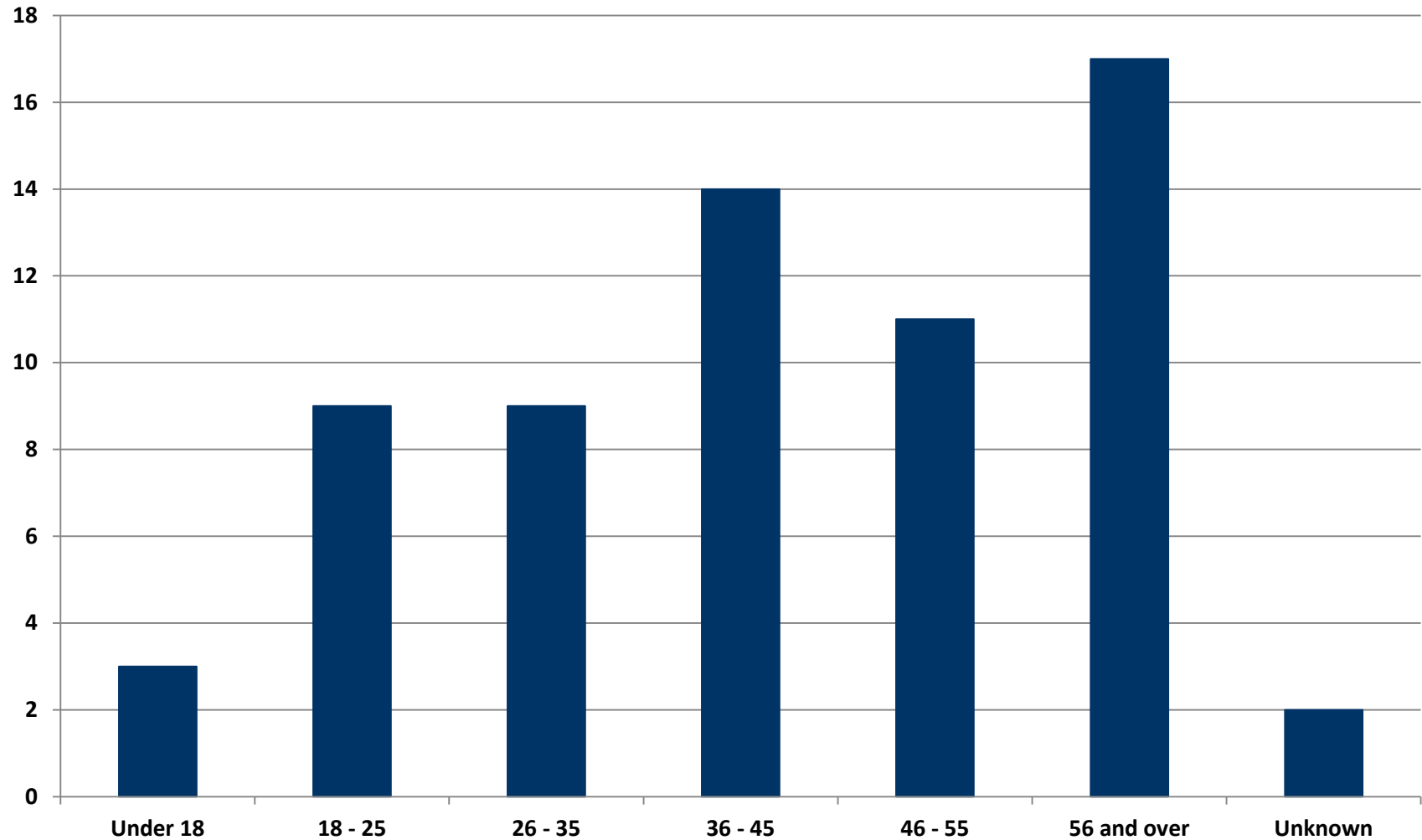
2014 Boat Incidents

Experience of Operators

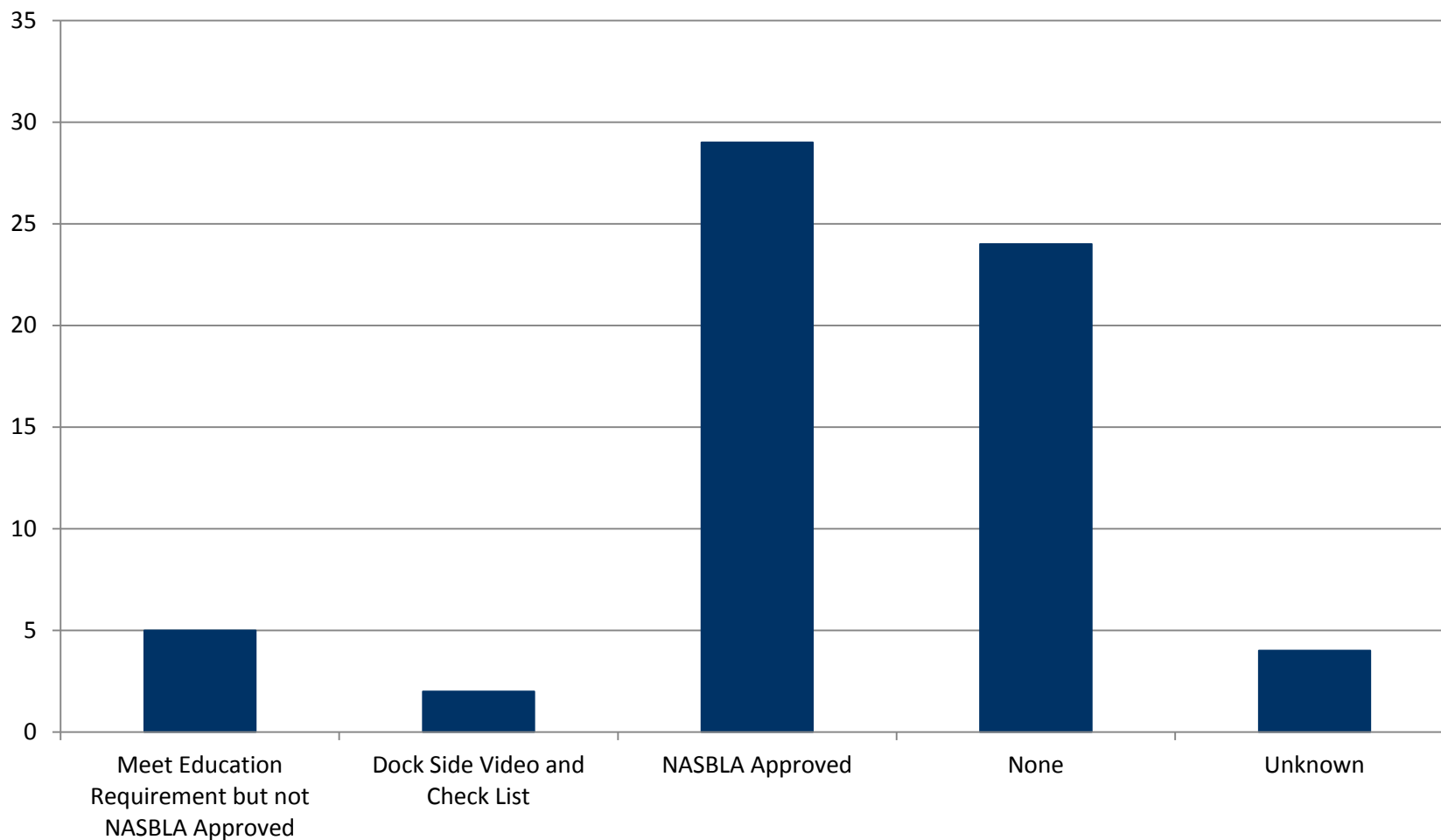


2014 Boat Incidents

Age of Operators

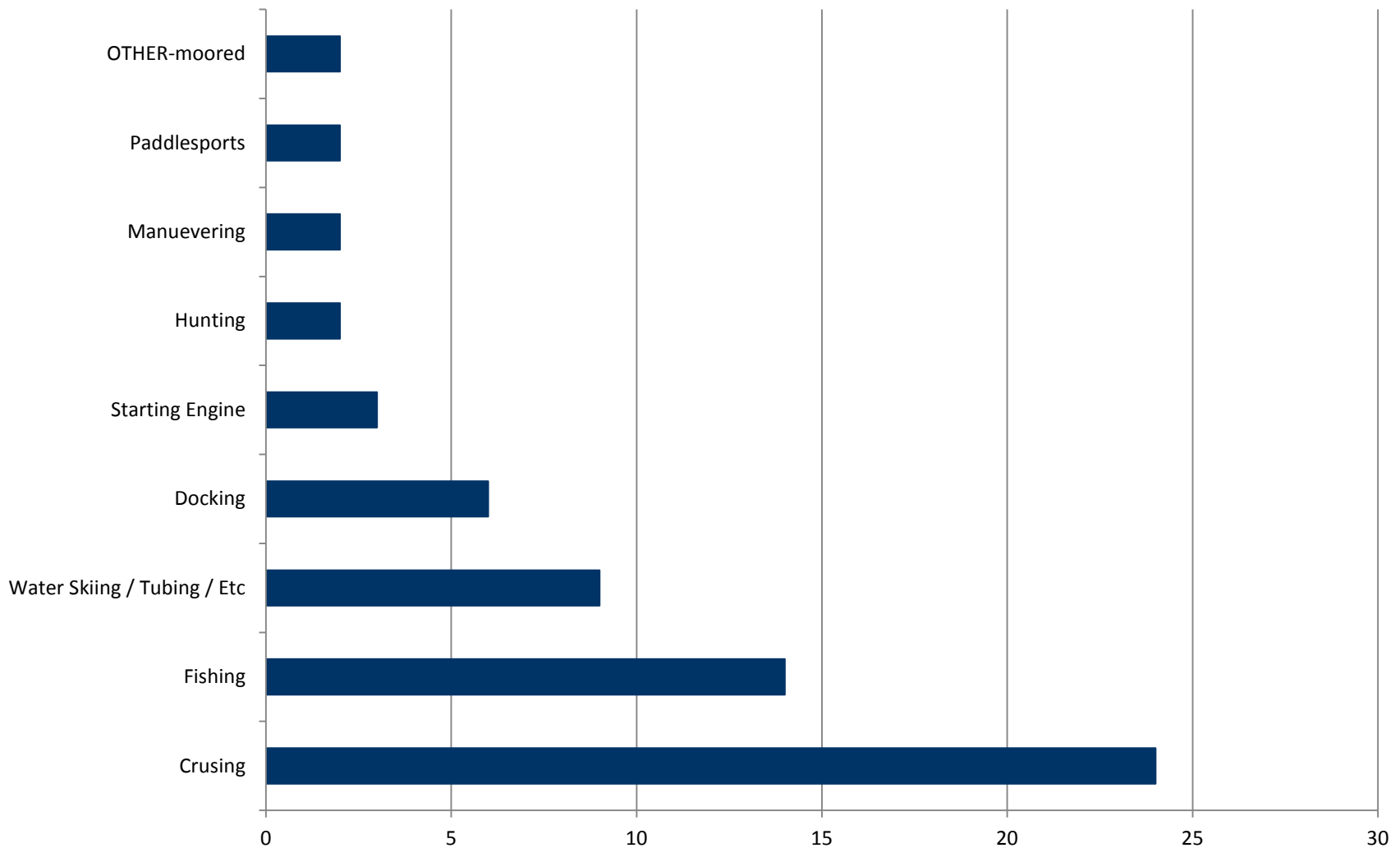


2014 Boat Incidents Education of Operators*

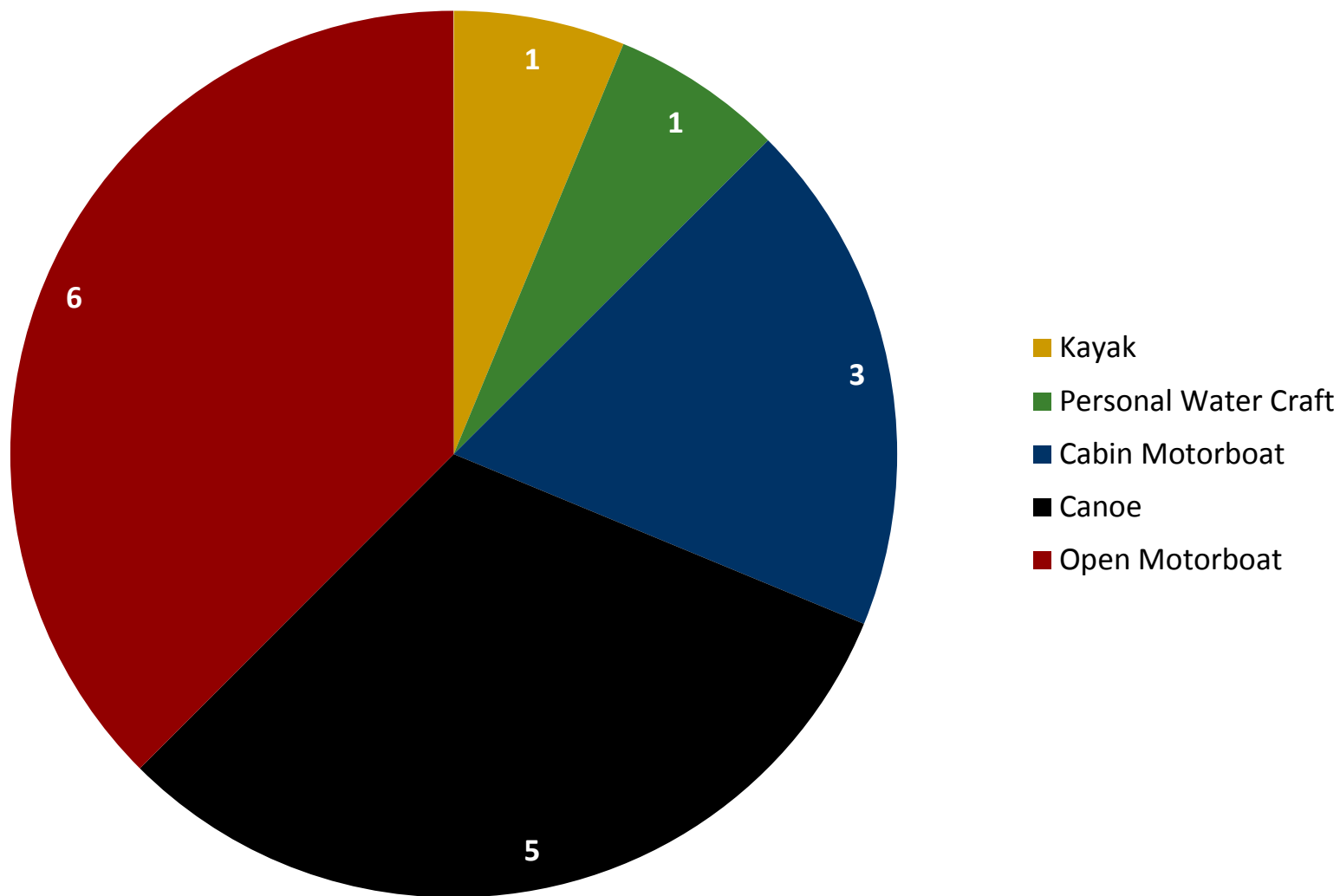


*** All boats involved in boating incident**

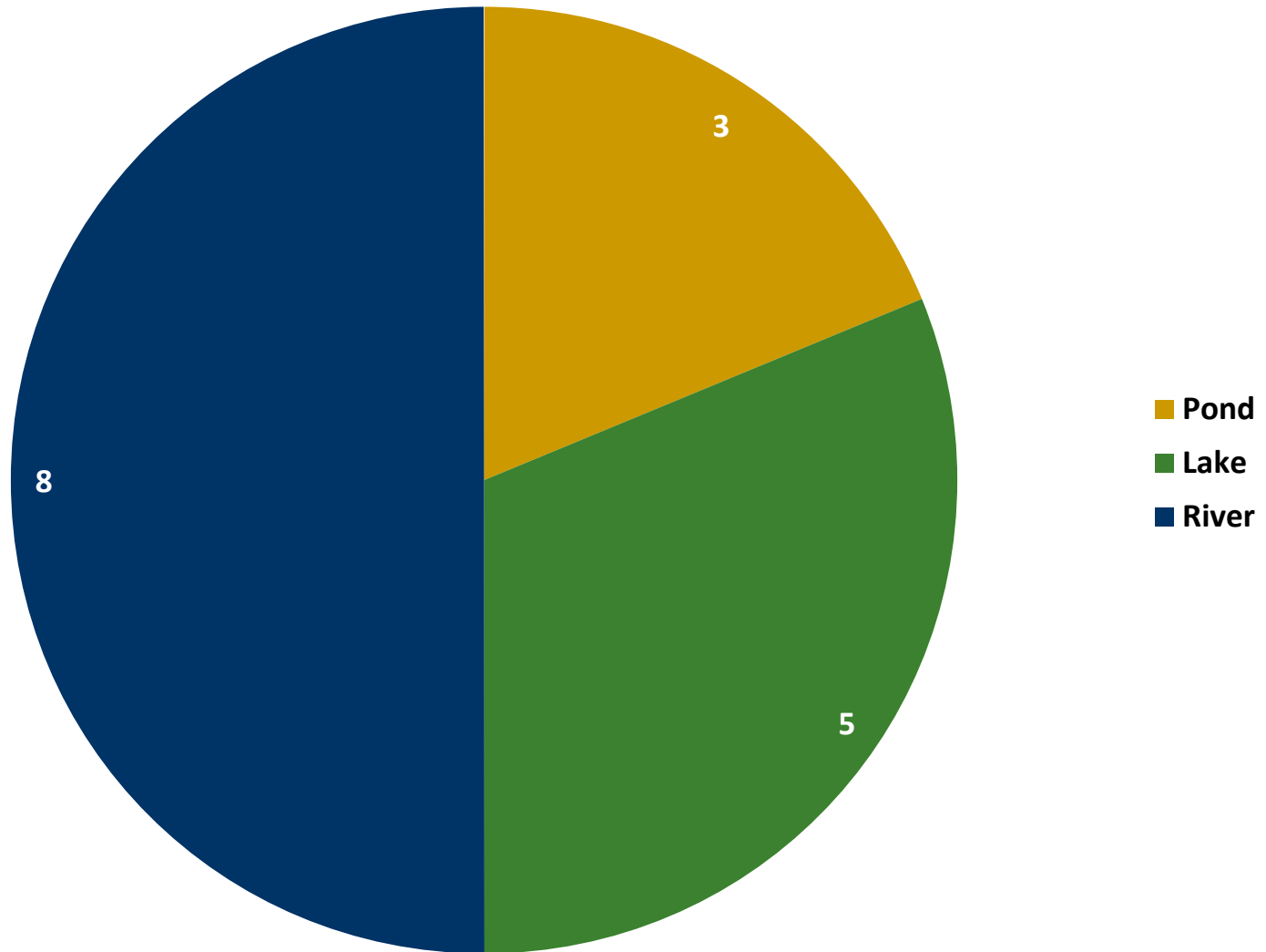
2014 Boating Incidents Top Vessel Activity at Time of Incident



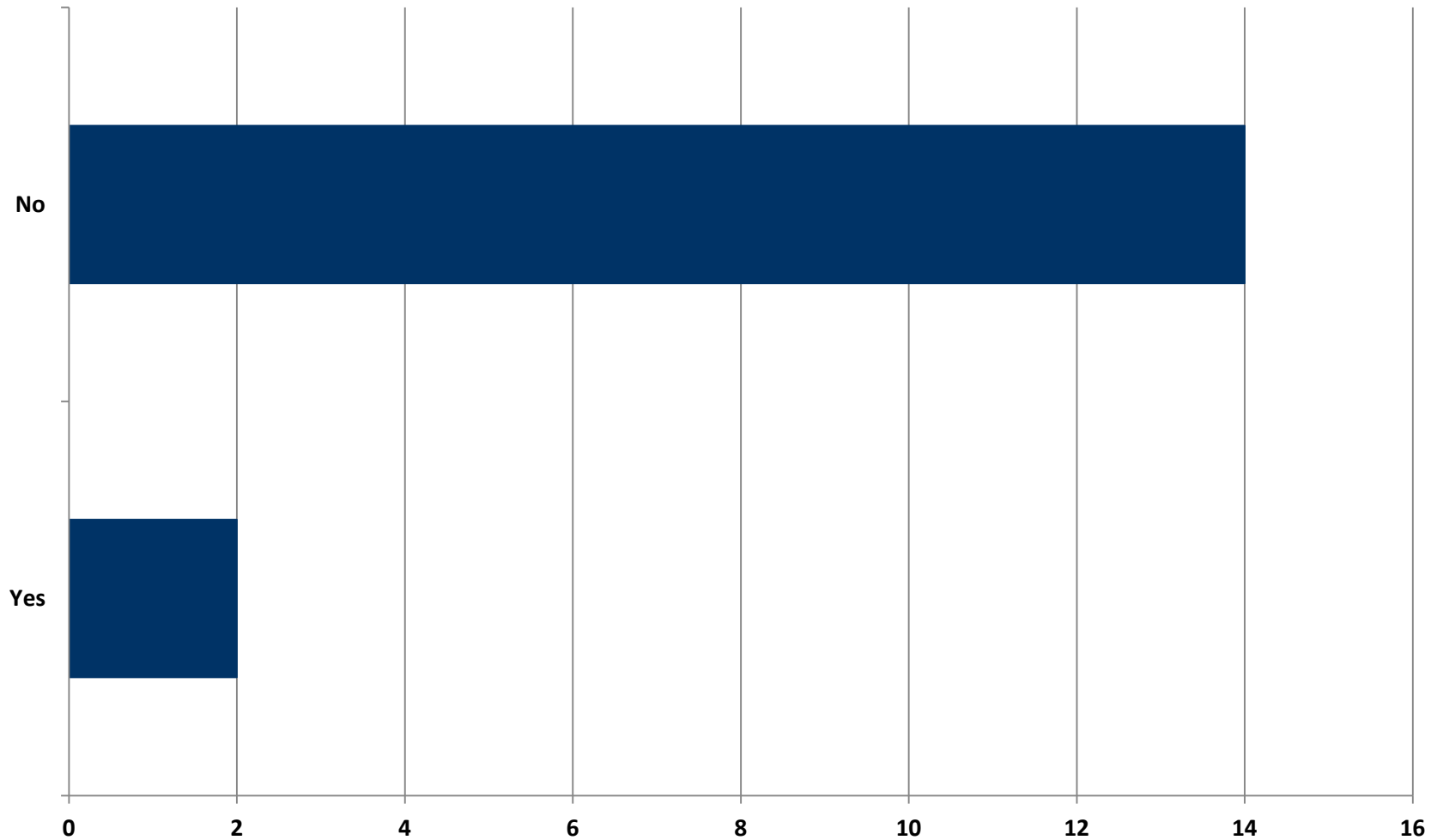
2014 Boating Fatalities - By Vessel Type



2014 Boating Fatalities by Location

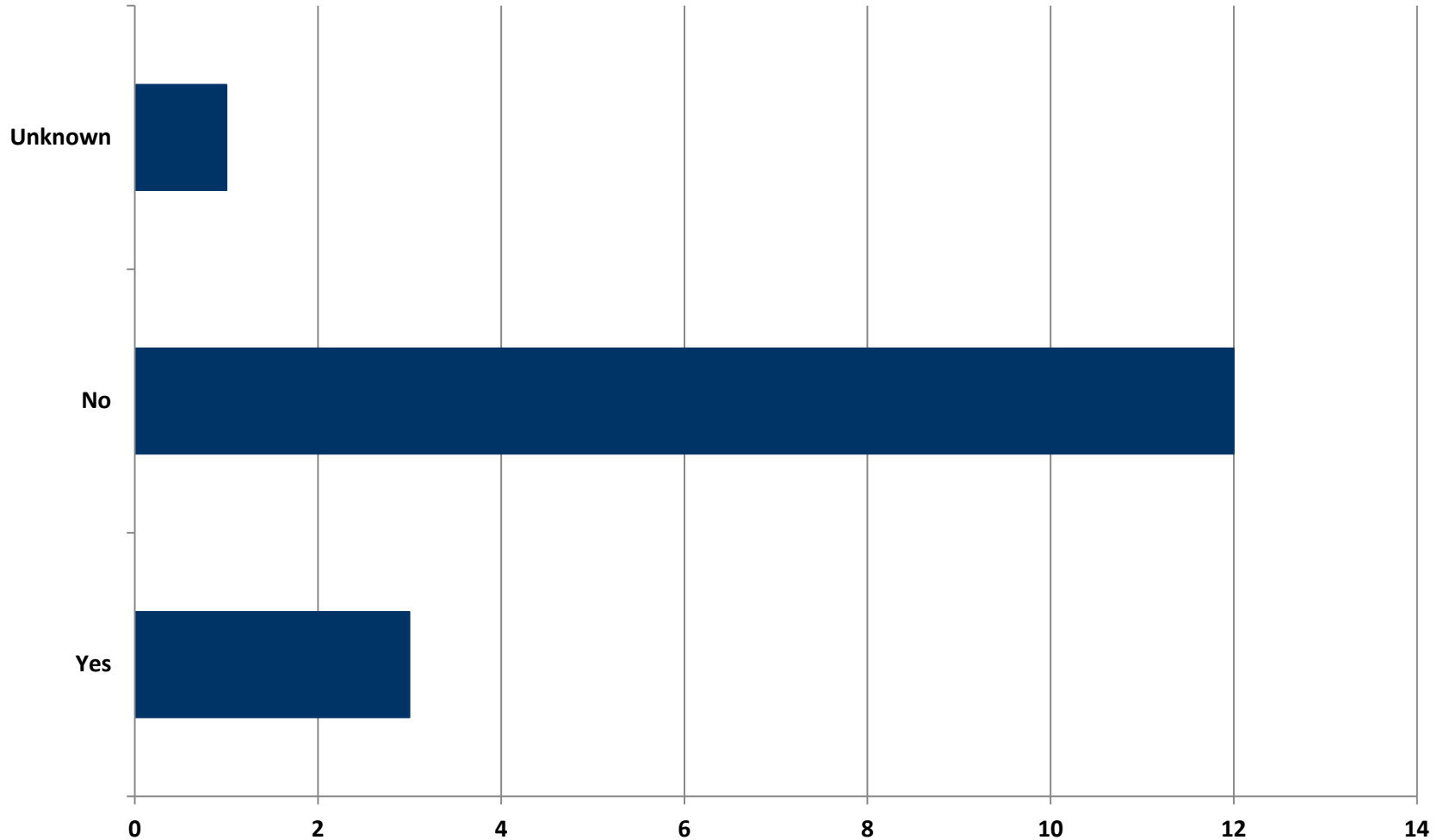


2014 Boating Fatalities Alcohol Use

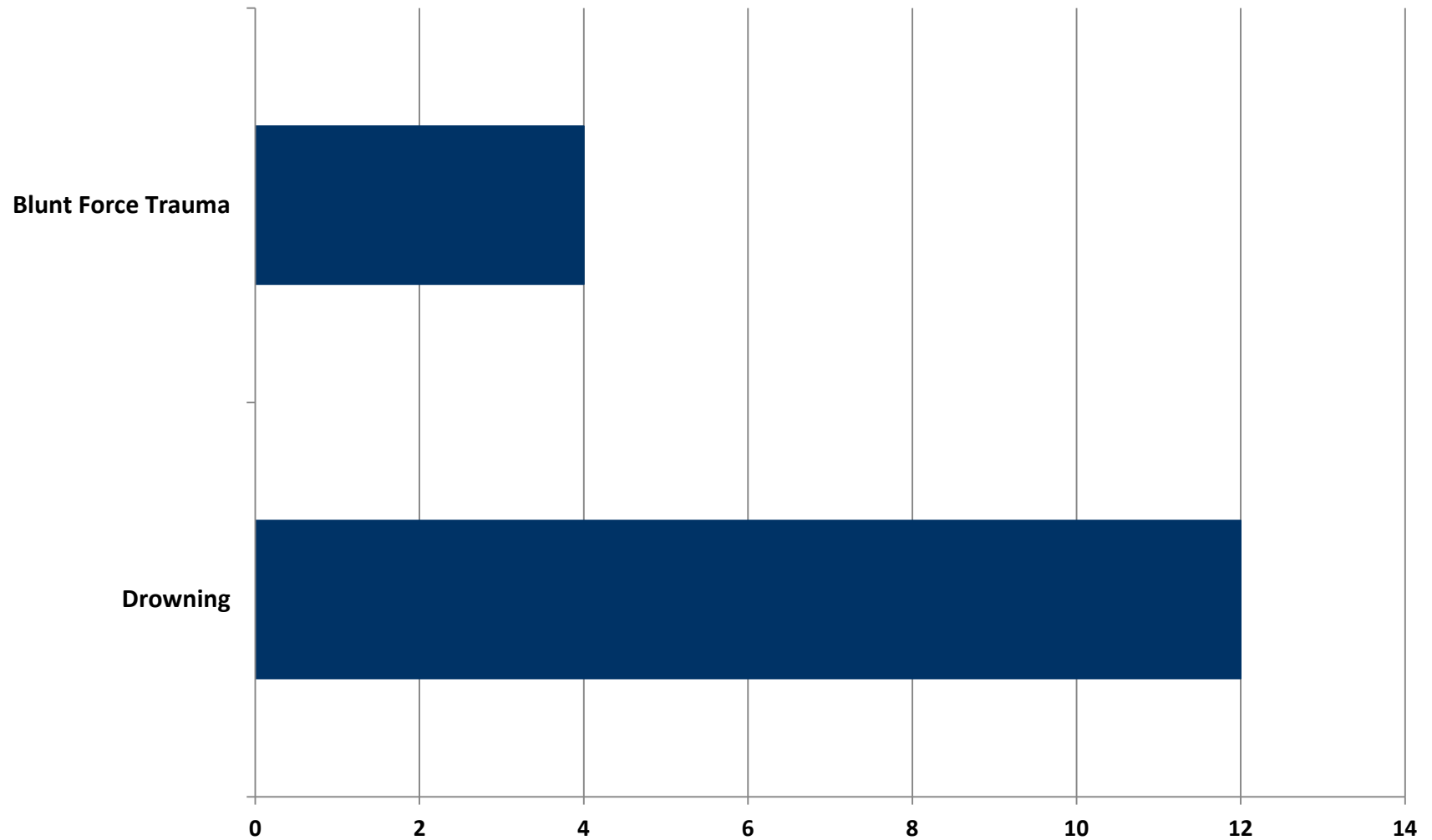


2014 Boating Fatalities

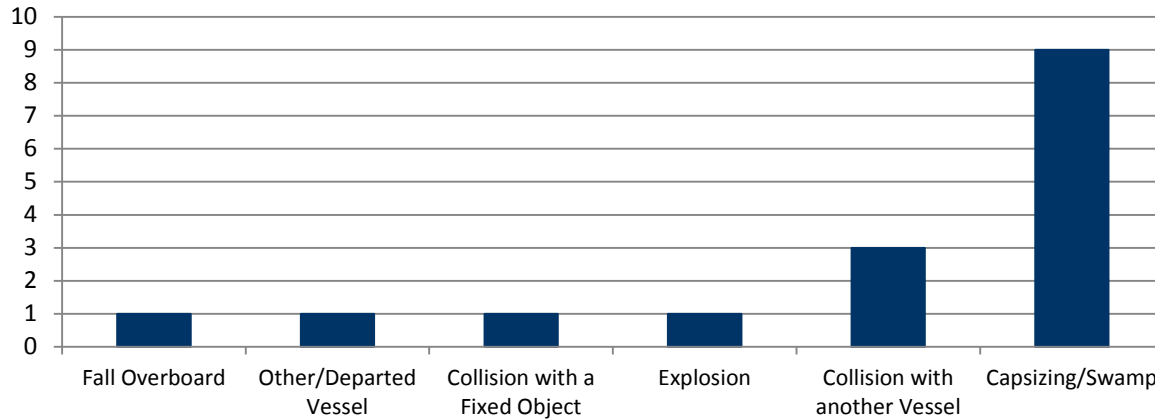
Usage of Life Jackets



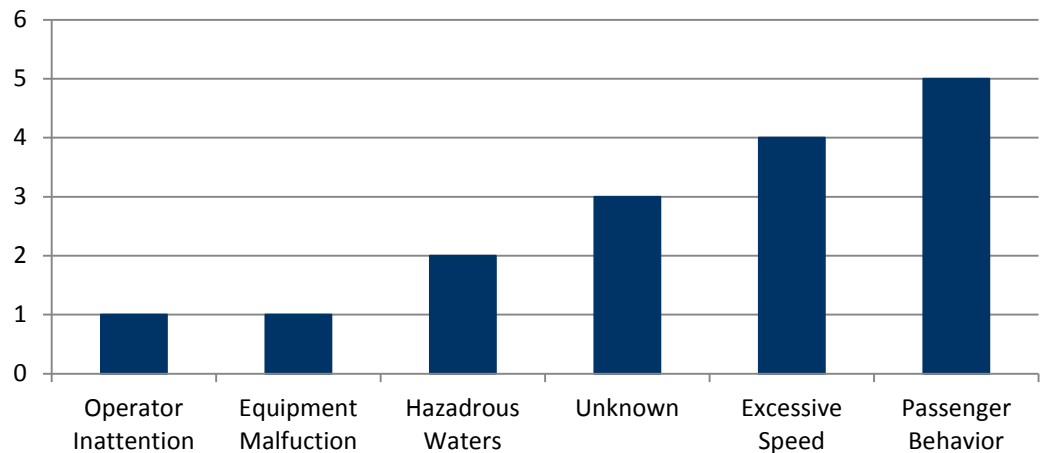
2014 Boating Fatalities Cause of Death



2014 Boating Fatalities Type of Incident



2014 Boating Fatalities Cause of Fatal Accident



2014 Boating Fatality Summary – Virginia

4/19/2014 Private Pond (Halifax County), 12:00 pm

Two people went fishing on a private pond in Halifax County in a 13' canoe. The victim caught a fish and stood up to reel it in. This caused the canoe to flip over and both occupants ended up in the water. One of the occupants was able to swim to the shore, but the other did not know how to swim and went under the water and did not resurface. No life jackets were onboard or were used.

5/2/2014 Smith Mountain Lake, 6:05 pm

A 19' bass boat with 2 people onboard was traveling upstream when it ramped over with a 17' bass boat with 3 people onboard. This collision knocked one person from the second boat into the water. The victim died from blunt force trauma.

5/30/2014 Aquia Creek, 10:30 pm

A 19' open motorboat was traveling upstream Aquia Creek from the Potomac River with 2 people onboard. The operator hit the river marker at a high rate of speed and died from blunt force trauma. No life jackets were worn and alcohol played a factor.

2014 Boating Fatality Summary – Virginia

6/8/2014 James River, 4:20 pm

Five people were onboard a 16' open motorboat to go fishing. As they went out, they realized the conditions were too rough and turned around to head back in. The engine stopped running and the boat started taking on water. The boat swamped and all the occupants found themselves in the water. Four life jackets were used, one was not serviceable. Two people drowned as a result of the incident.

6/22/2014 Private Pond (Dinwiddie County), 2:30 am

Three people went fishing on a private pond in Dinwiddie County in a 13' canoe after a day of fishing, eating, and drinking. One person stood up in the canoe to relieve himself and the canoe capsized. Two people swam the boat back to the nearest shore while the other swam to the other bank back towards their campsite. They lost verbal contact with the victim, who was known to be a good swimmer. The victim's body was found 50' from the shore in 10' of water. No life jackets were available or were worn and alcohol was a factor.

2014 Boating Fatality Summary – Virginia

7/18/2014 Lynnhaven River, 5:15 pm

The victim tried starting her PWC when it exploded throwing the victim into the air. She landed back on her PWC and fractured her L1 vertebra. The victim died at a later date as a result of the injuries sustained during this accident.

7/19/2014 James River (Surry County)

On 7/19 the victim's vessel was found beached in Surry County. On 7/20, a body was discovered near the Jamestown Ferry – it was found to be the owner of the vessel found the day before. Life jackets were not used.

7/31/2014 Smith Mountain Lake, 9:22 pm

Two subjects were on a 21' Bass Boat traveling at high speeds at night and hit a large Chris Craft. Both boats began to sink. Both subjects on the bass boat died from blunt force trauma as a result of the collision.

2014 Boating Fatality Summary – Virginia

8/31/2014 Pamunkey River, 1:00 pm

The victim launched his boat, the boat didn't start. The boat began to drift due to the swift current. The victim tried to use his anchor to pull his boat to shore. Those efforts didn't work and so the victim went into the water to try to swim the boat back to shore. The victim became tired, and disappeared under the water. No life jackets were worn.

9/28/2014 Waller Mill Reservoir, 3:00 pm

Two people were on a 15' canoe when it capsized. One of the occupants was trapped under the canoe and the other grabbed him and pulled him to shore. CPR was conducted on the individual and he was transported to the hospital where he later died from drowning. Life jackets were worn.

10/18/2014 Private Pond (Pittsylvania County), 6:00 pm

Two people were fishing from a 14' canoe. One of the passengers leaned over causing the canoe to capsize throwing both people into the water. The victim was last seen trying to swim to shore. No life jackets were onboard and none were used. Alcohol had been consumed by both individuals prior to the incident.

2014 Boating Fatality Summary – Virginia

11/01/2014 Chickahominy River, 2:30 pm

Two fisherman found a body floating in the River and contacted James City County Fire and Rescue. The Fire and Rescue found a partially submerged kayak. Upon further investigation, the kayak had been anchored and the anchor light was still on. The victim's wife stated her husband went catfishing that night and had not returned. The victim was found with one of the straps of a life jacket wrapped around his arm – but the life jacket was not worn. The cause of death was drowning.

11/11/2014 Lake Kerry (Private Lake), 3:38 pm

Two people borrowed a 13' canoe to cut down some limbs that were reaching over the water. The victim stood up which caused the boat to capsize. One person held onto the boat, while the victim tried to swim to the shore. The victim was seen going underwater and he did not resurface. No life jackets were on the vessel or were used.

2014 Boating Fatality Summary – Virginia

12/18/2014 – Aquia Creek , 11:15 am

Two waterfowl hunters were in a 16' jon boat heading to a duck blind while it was still dark. As they were navigating to their location, their boat crossed between buoys of a marked commercial gill net and the boat motor became entangled in the net causing the boat to capsize. The hunters stayed with the boat for about 30 minutes and one person decided to swim to shore to try to get help. When the survivor made it to shore, he lost consciousness for several hours. When he regained consciousness, it was daylight and was able to obtain help from a nearby residence. The survivor told the officer that he used a type IV life jacket and stated that the victim was holding onto a life jacket. It is believed that the cause of death was cold water exposure.