
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

2016 Recreational Boating Incident Summary



alcohol

drown

female

capsized

Monroe Creek

York River

hazardous waters

open motorboat

row boat

private pond

canoe

Staunton River

Open motorboat
Lake Anna

hypothermia

inexperience

fishing

kayak

Chesapeake Bay

male

New River

inattention

Canoe

Personal Watercraft
James River

male victim

missing

Kerr Reservoir

jon boat

no life jacket

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)

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

2016 Virginia Boating Incident Summary*

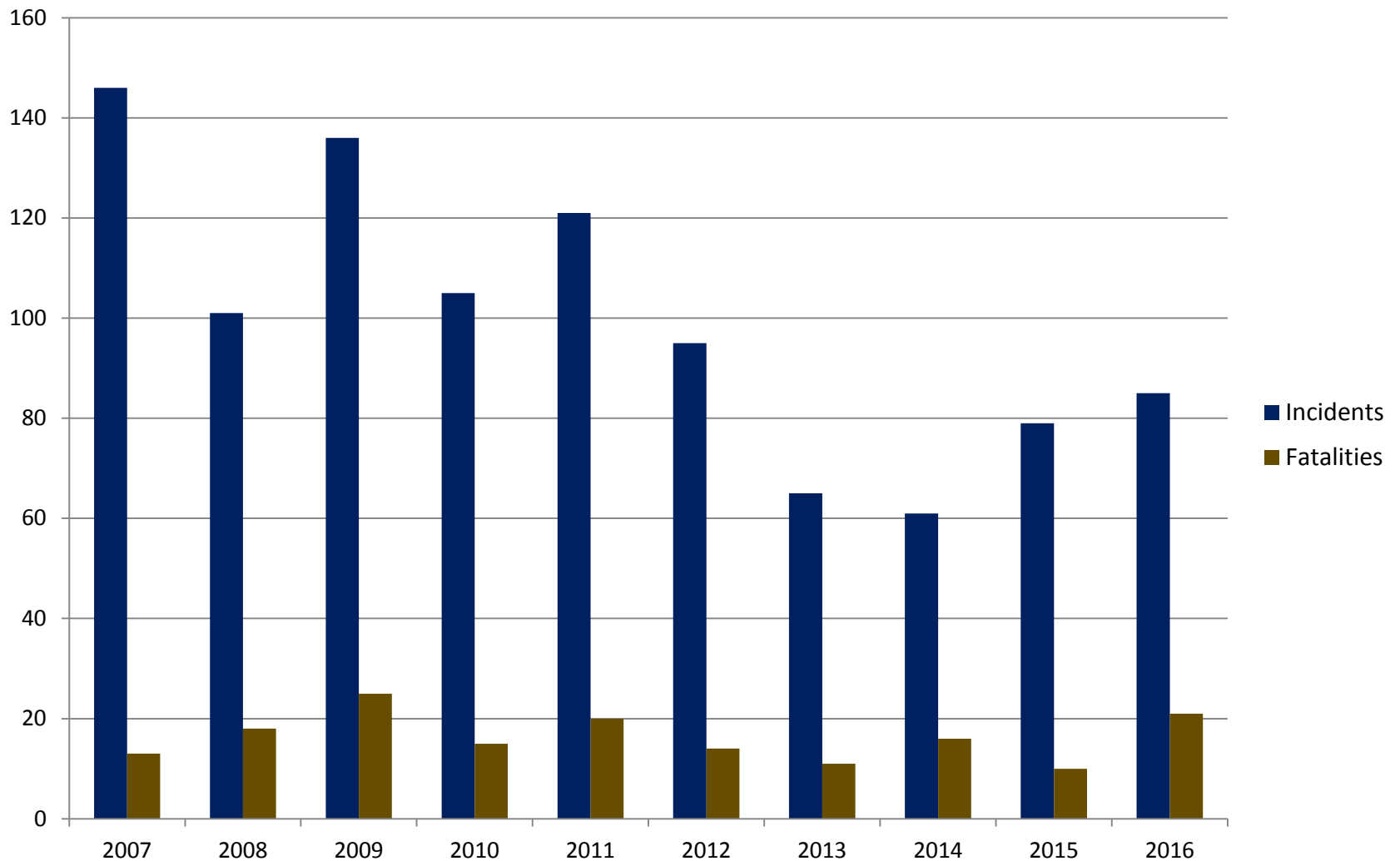
- Number of Incidents = 85
- Number of Vessels Involved = 96
- Number of Injuries = 42
- Number of Fatalities = 21
 - Alcohol was a known factor in 23% of fatal incidents
- Property Damage = \$ 576,546

*Reported to DGIF

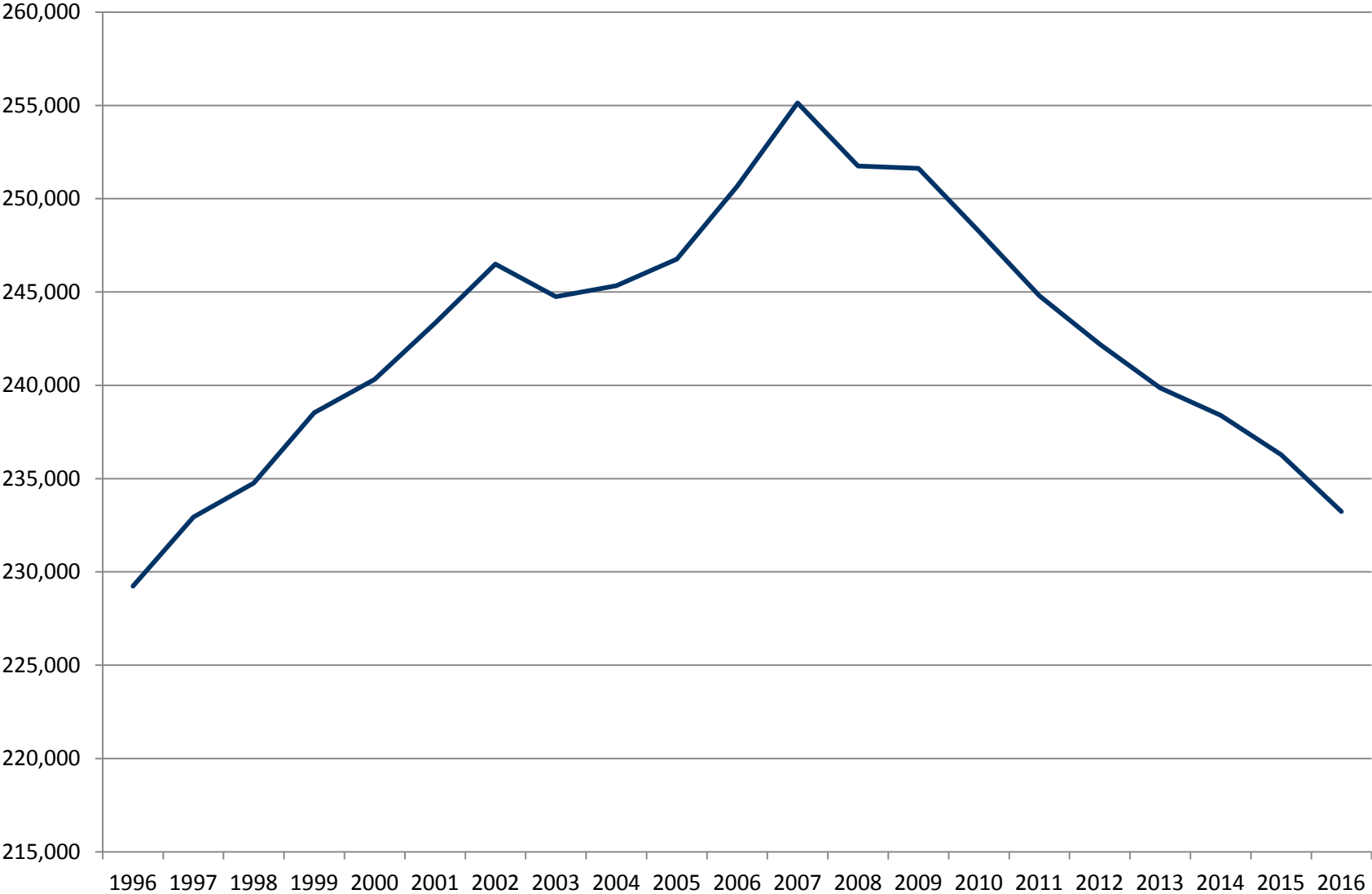
10 Year Boat Incident Summary

Year	Incidents	Injuries	Fatalities	Property Damage
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
2015	77	37	10	\$441,301.00
2016	85	42	21	\$576,546.00

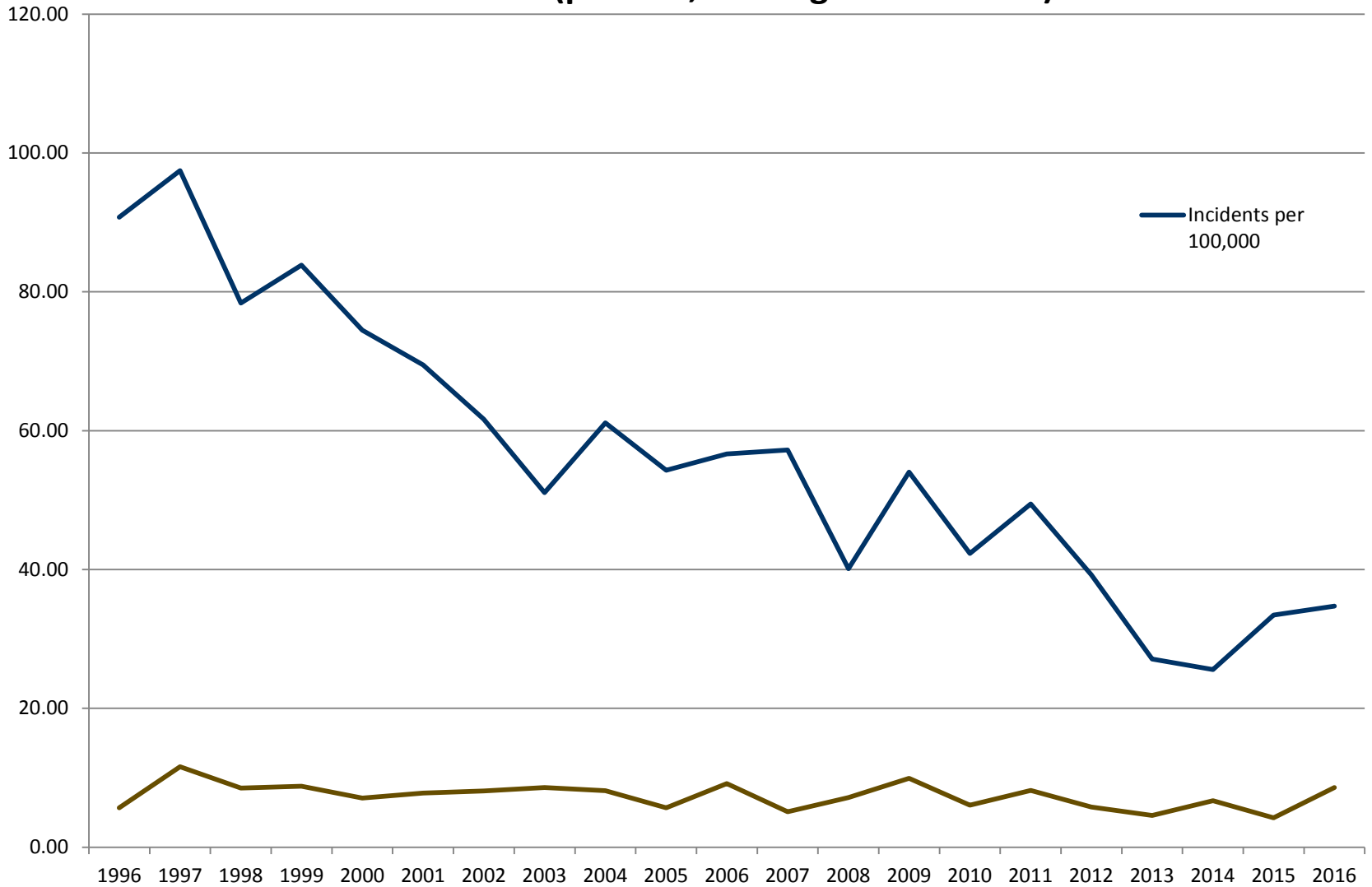
10 Year Boating Incident Statistics



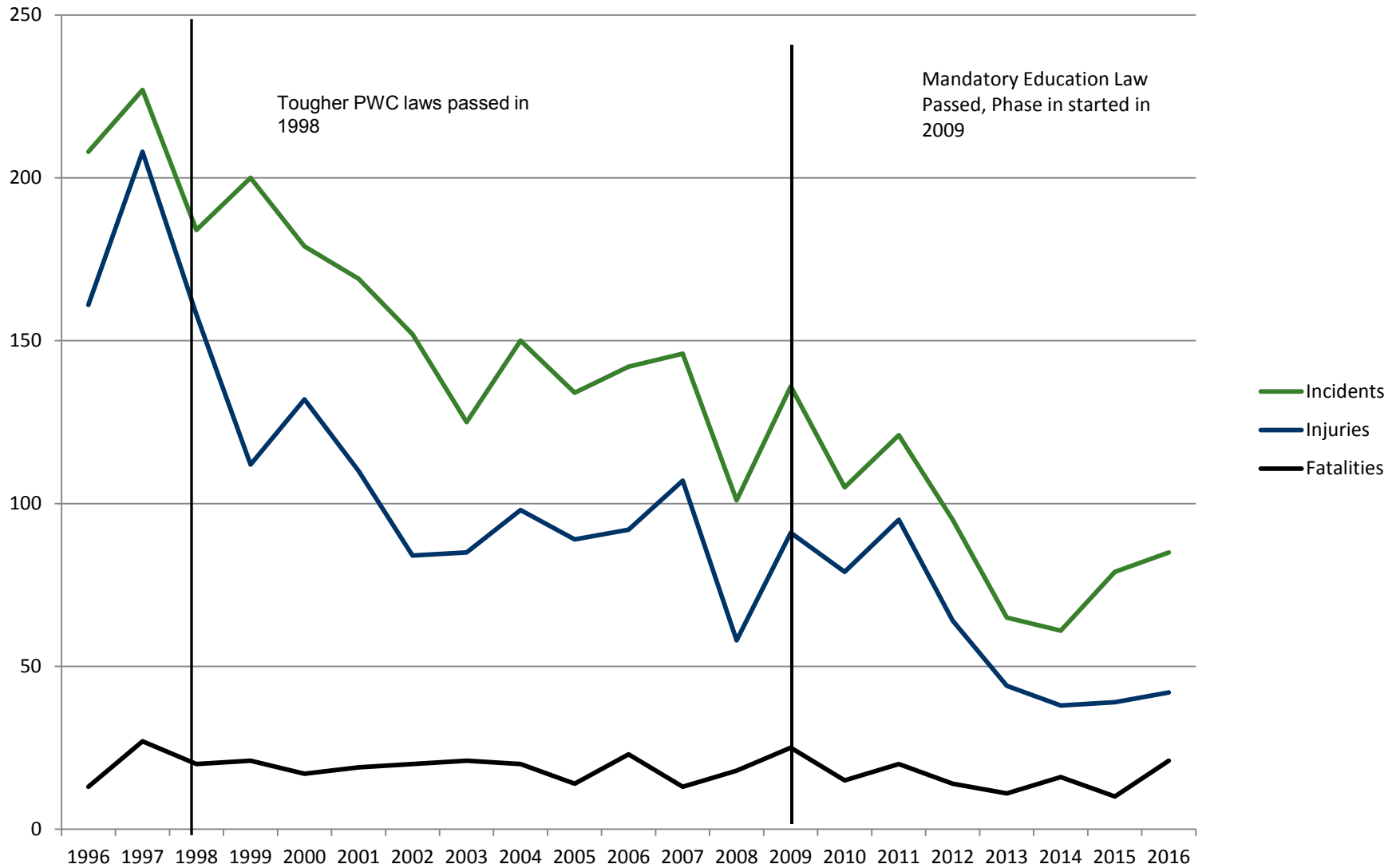
Recreational Vessels Registered in Virginia by Year 1996-2016



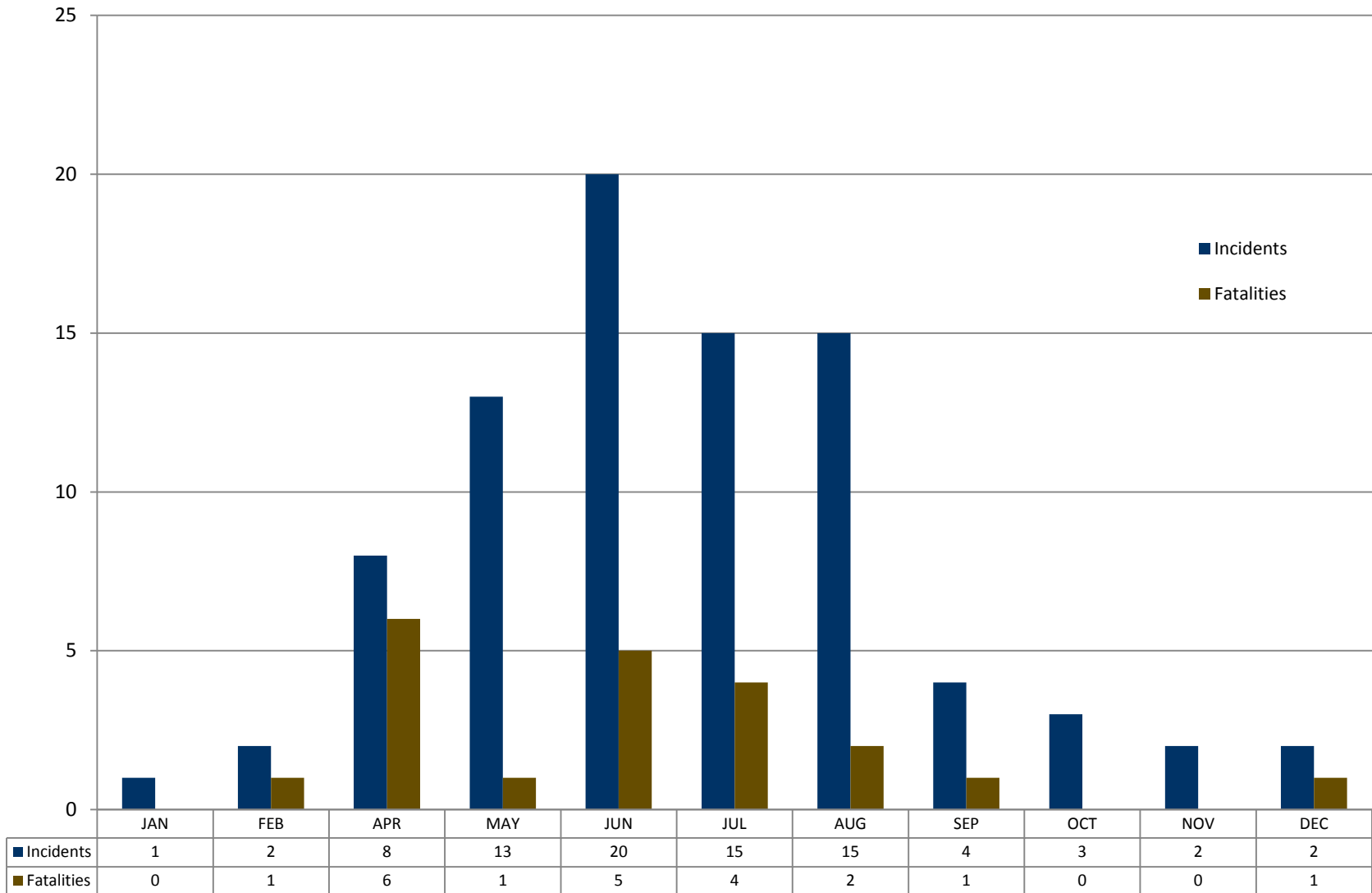
Annual Recreational Boating Incident Rate 1996 - 2016 (per 100,000 Registered Boats)



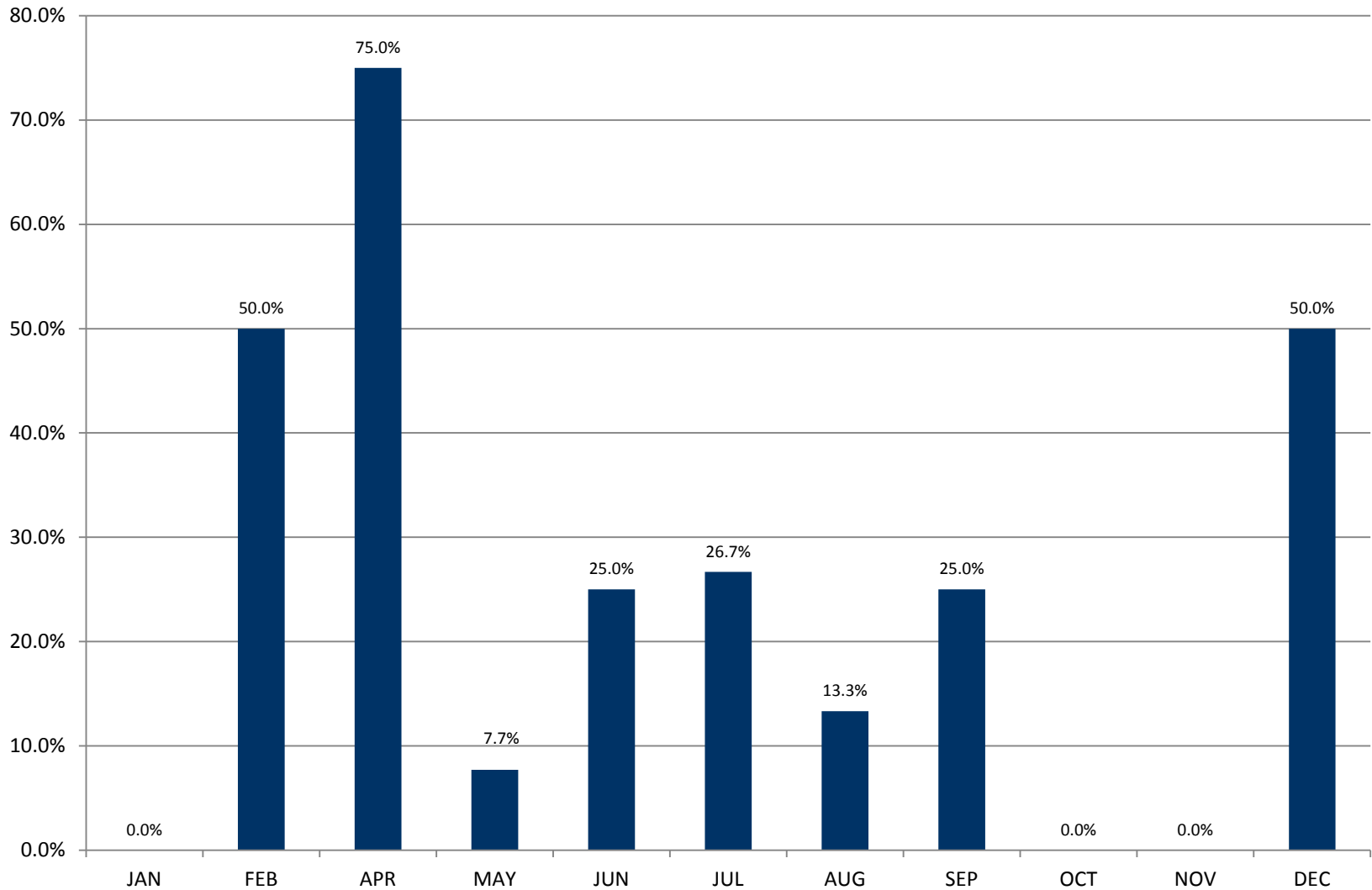
Fatalities, Injuries, and Incidents by Year 1996 - 2016



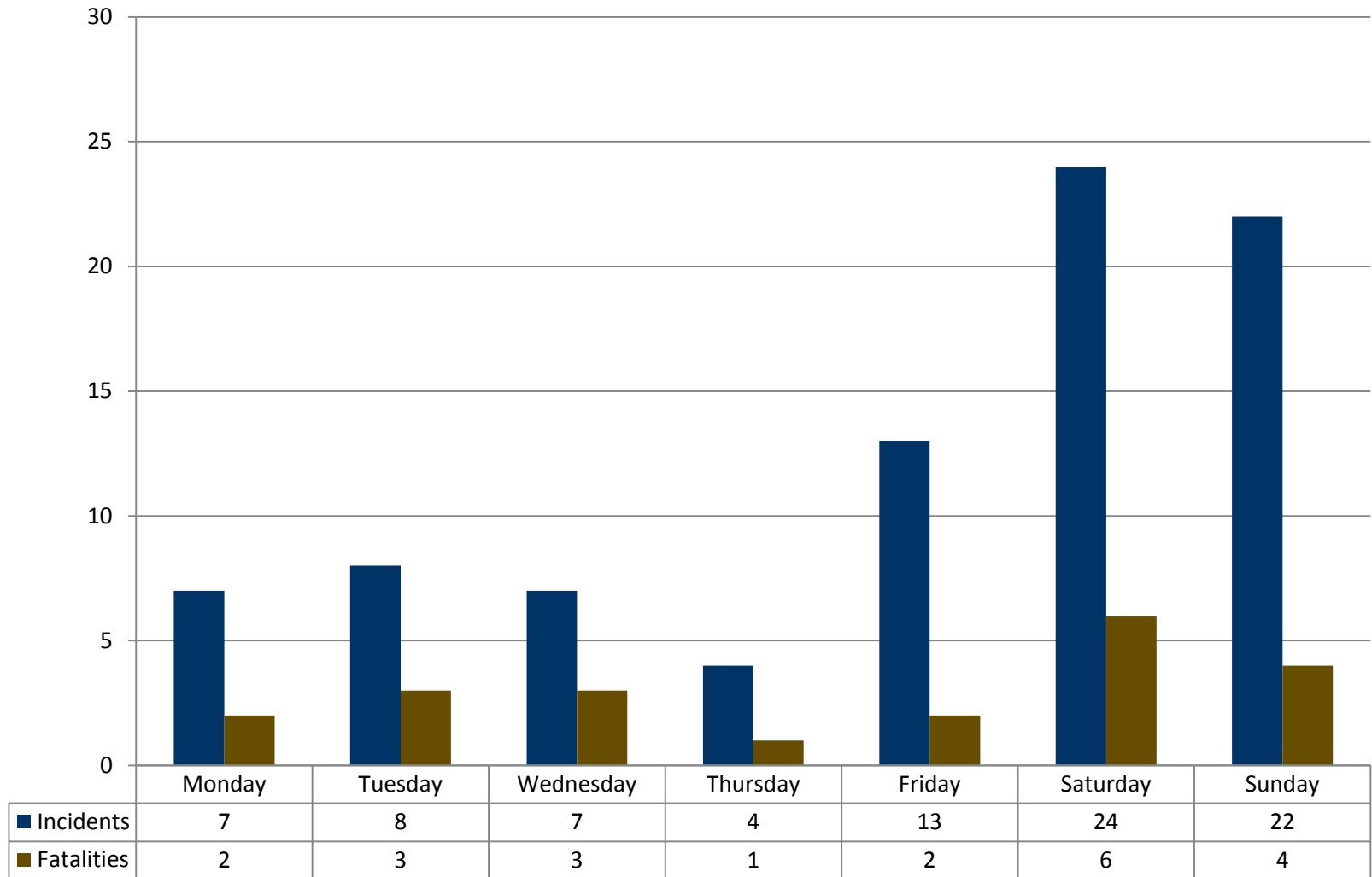
2016 Boating Incidents and Fatalities by Month



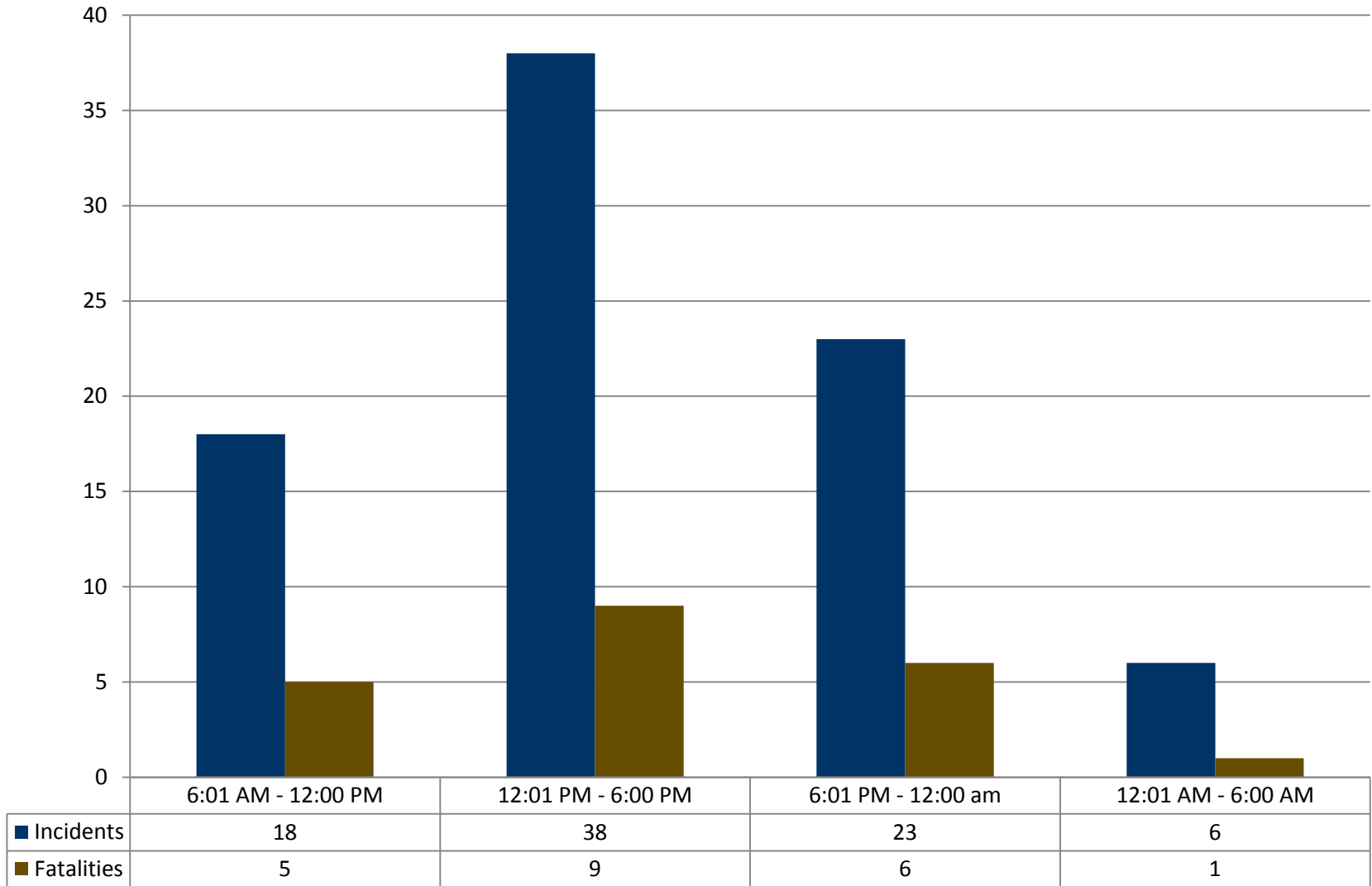
2016 Percentage of Incidents Each Month that were Fatal



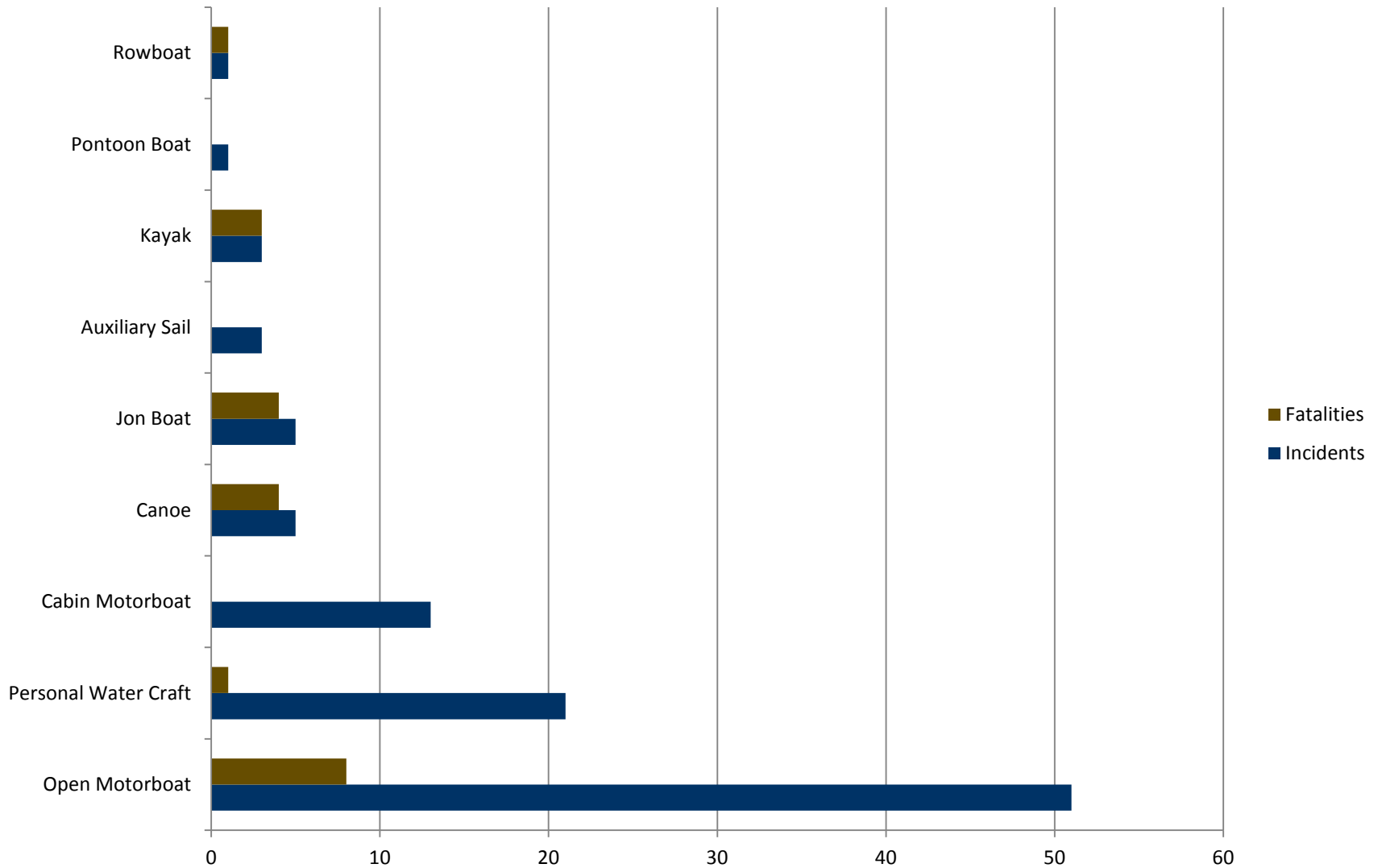
2016 Boat Incidents and Fatalities by Day of Week



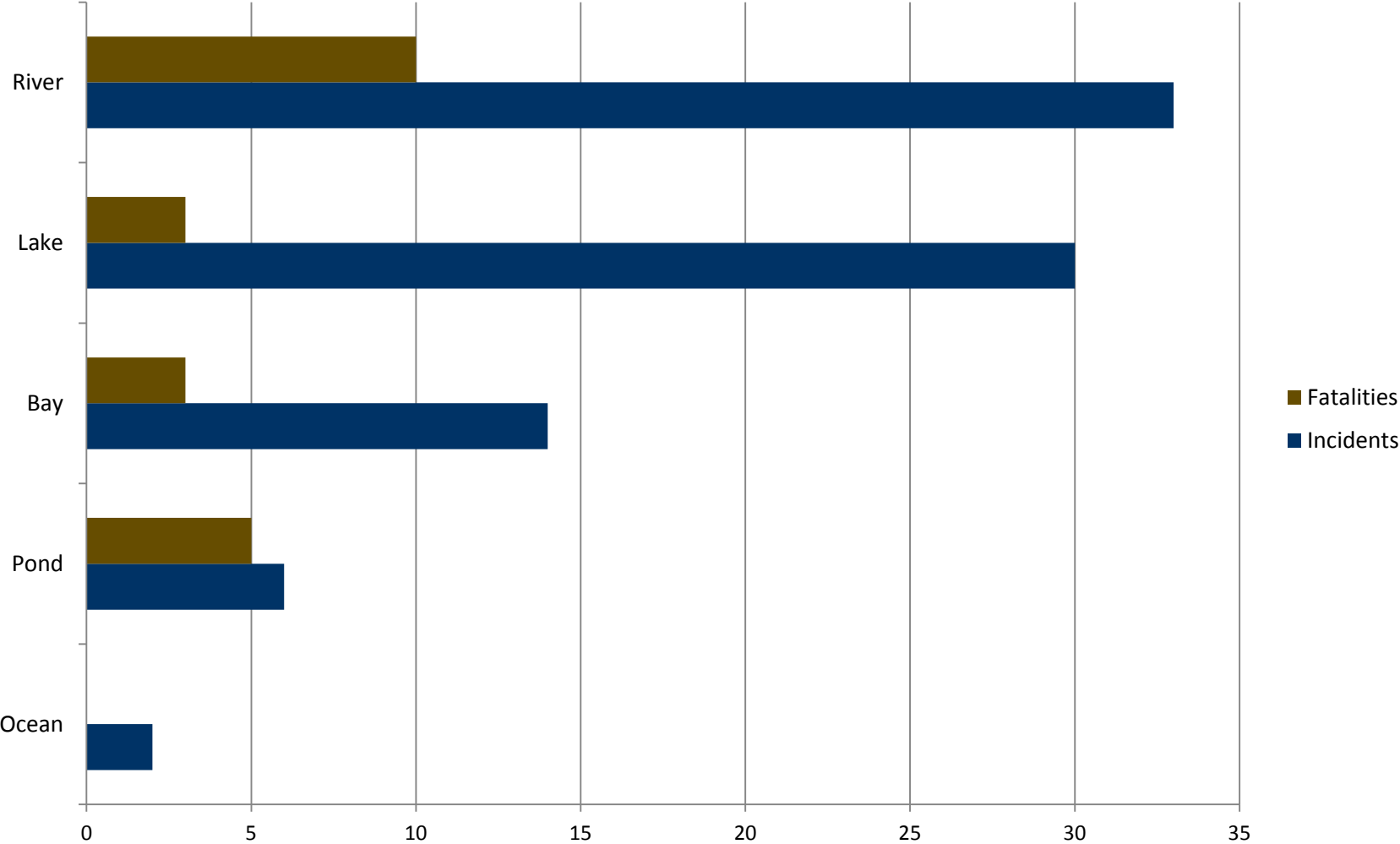
2016 Boating Incidents and Fatalities by Time of Day



2016 Boating Incidents and Fatalities by Vessel Type

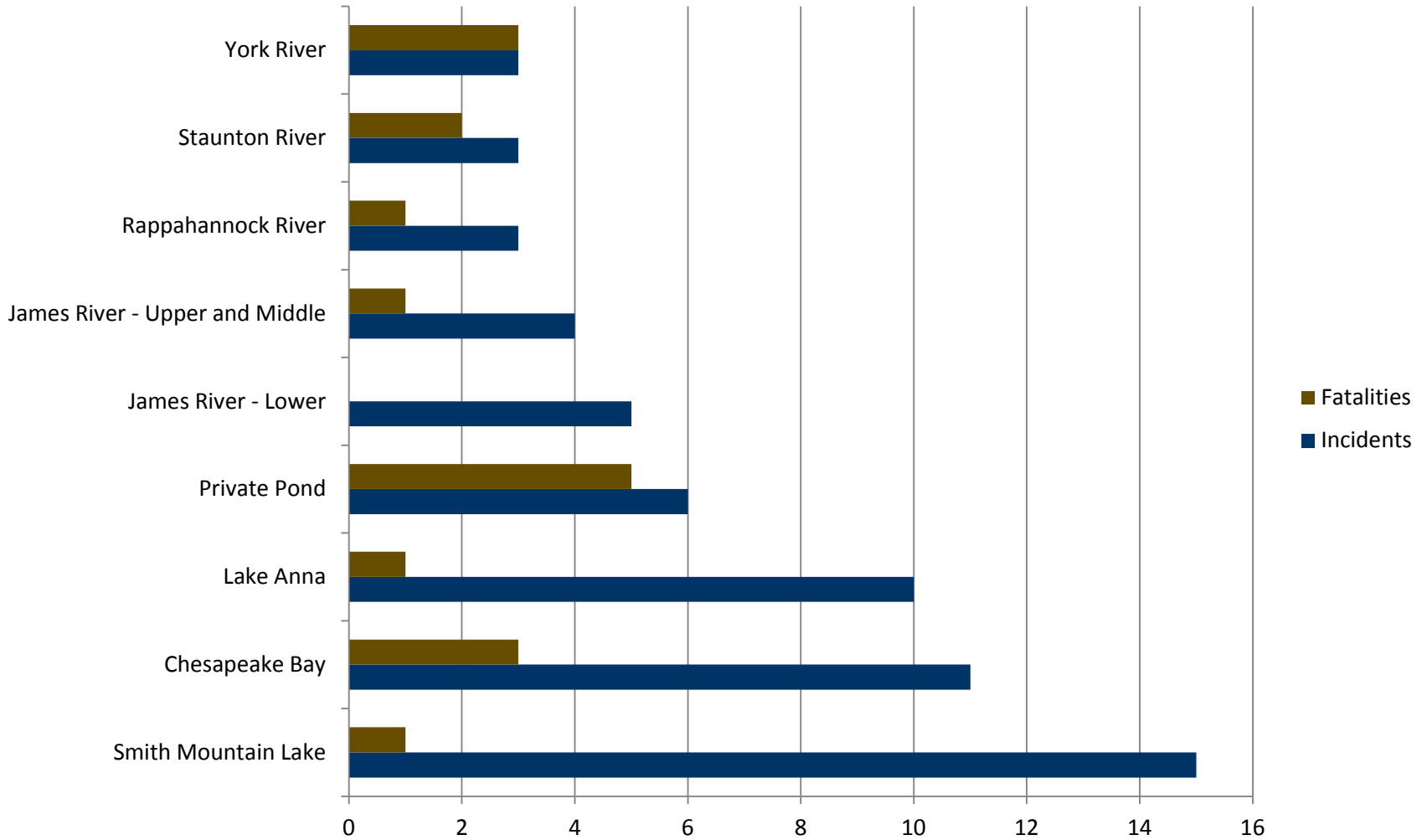


2016 Boating Incidents and Fatalities by Water Body Type



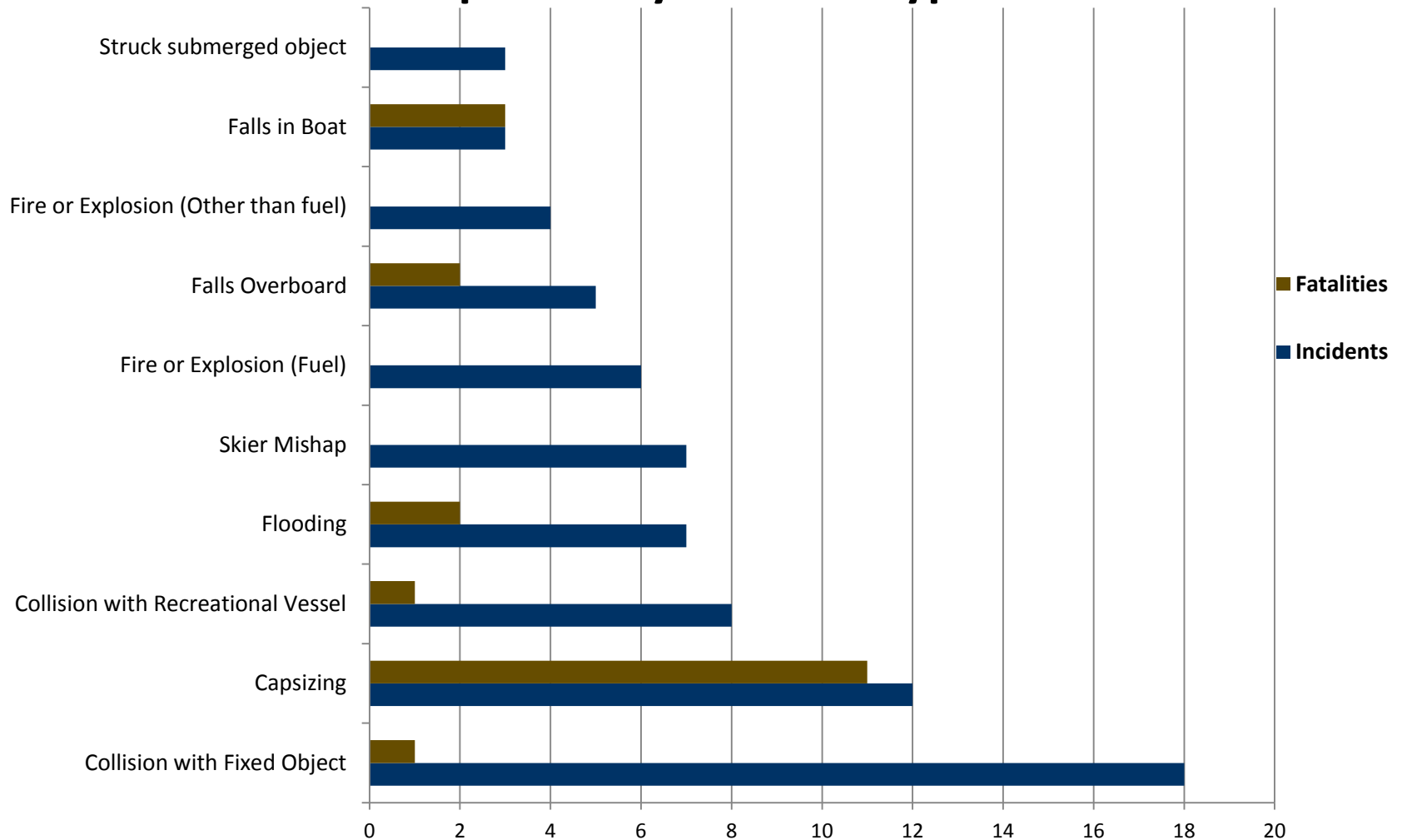
2016 Boating Incidents and Fatalities

Top Locations of Incidents

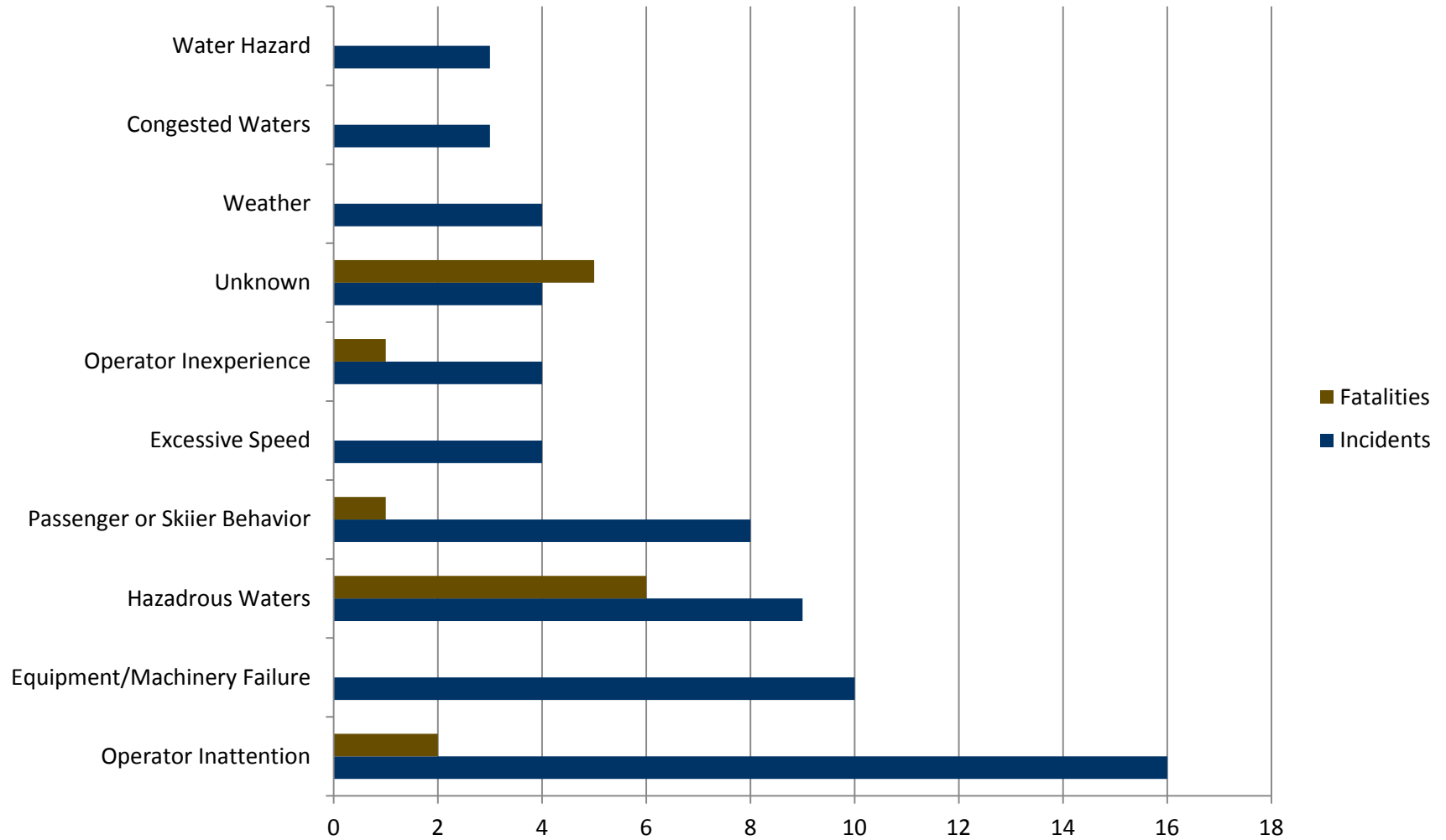


2016 Boating Incidents and Fatalities

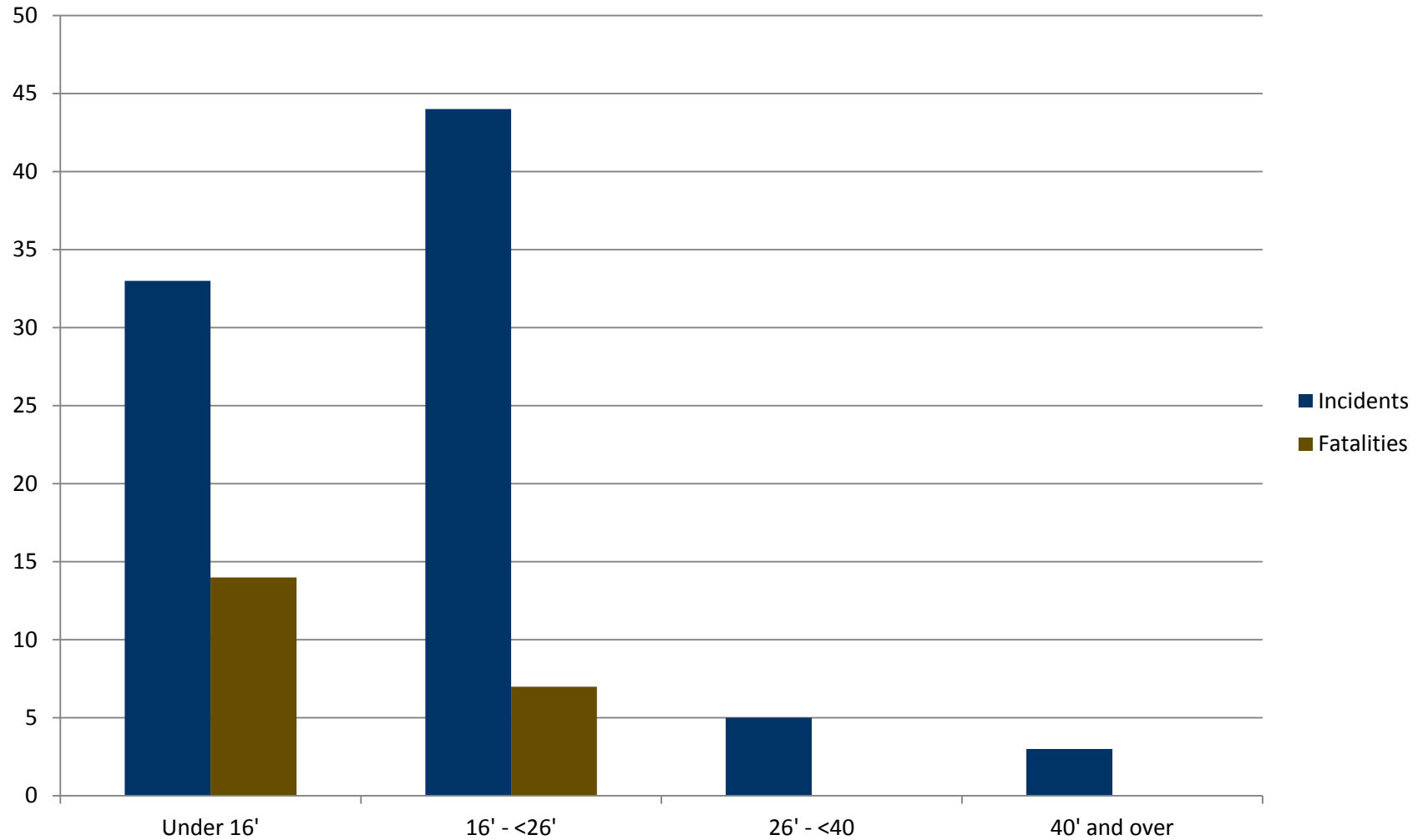
Top Primary Incident Types



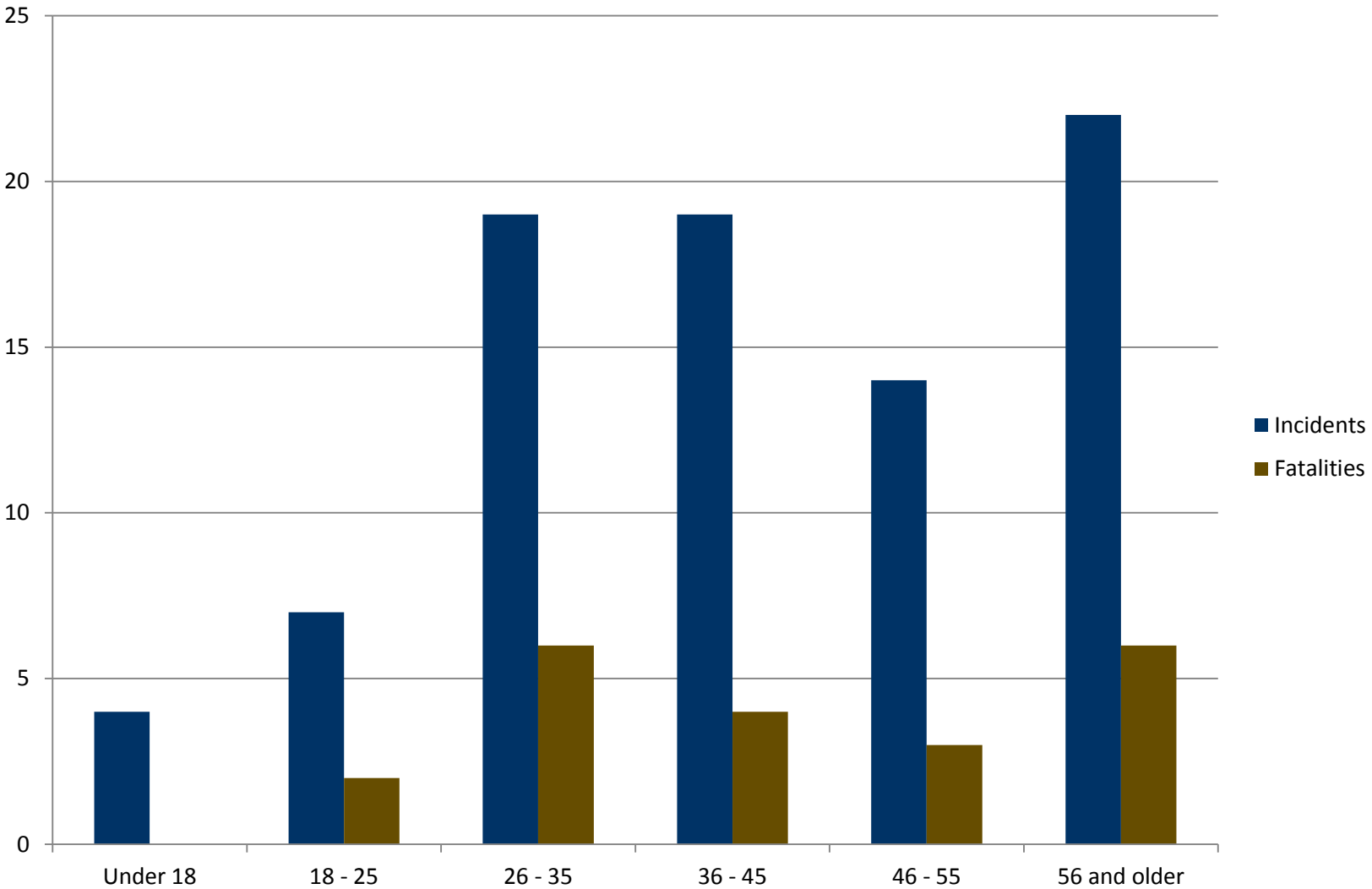
2016 Boating Incidents and Fatalities Top Primary Contributing Factor



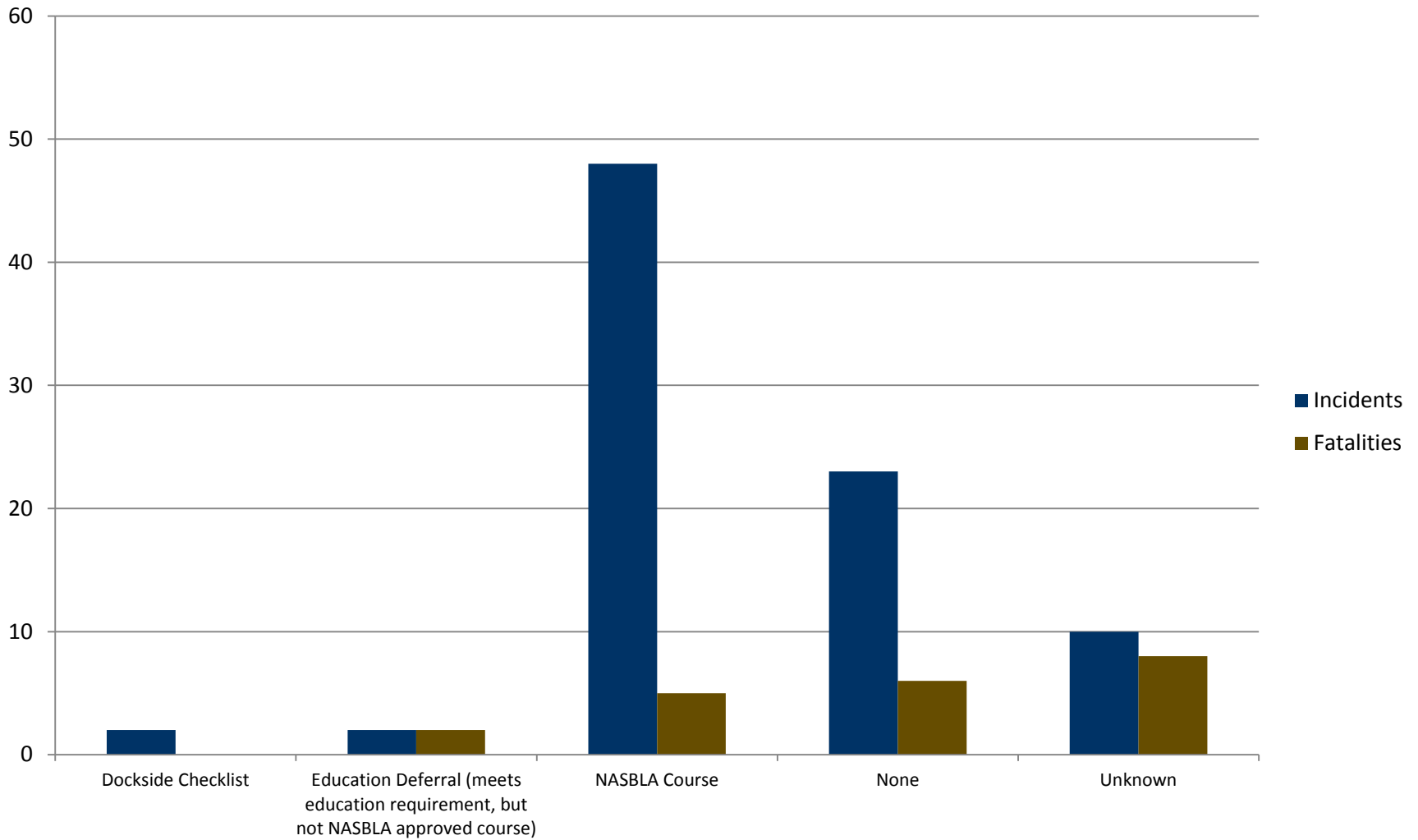
2016 Boating Incidents and Fatalities By Vessel Size



2016 Boat Incidents Age of Operators

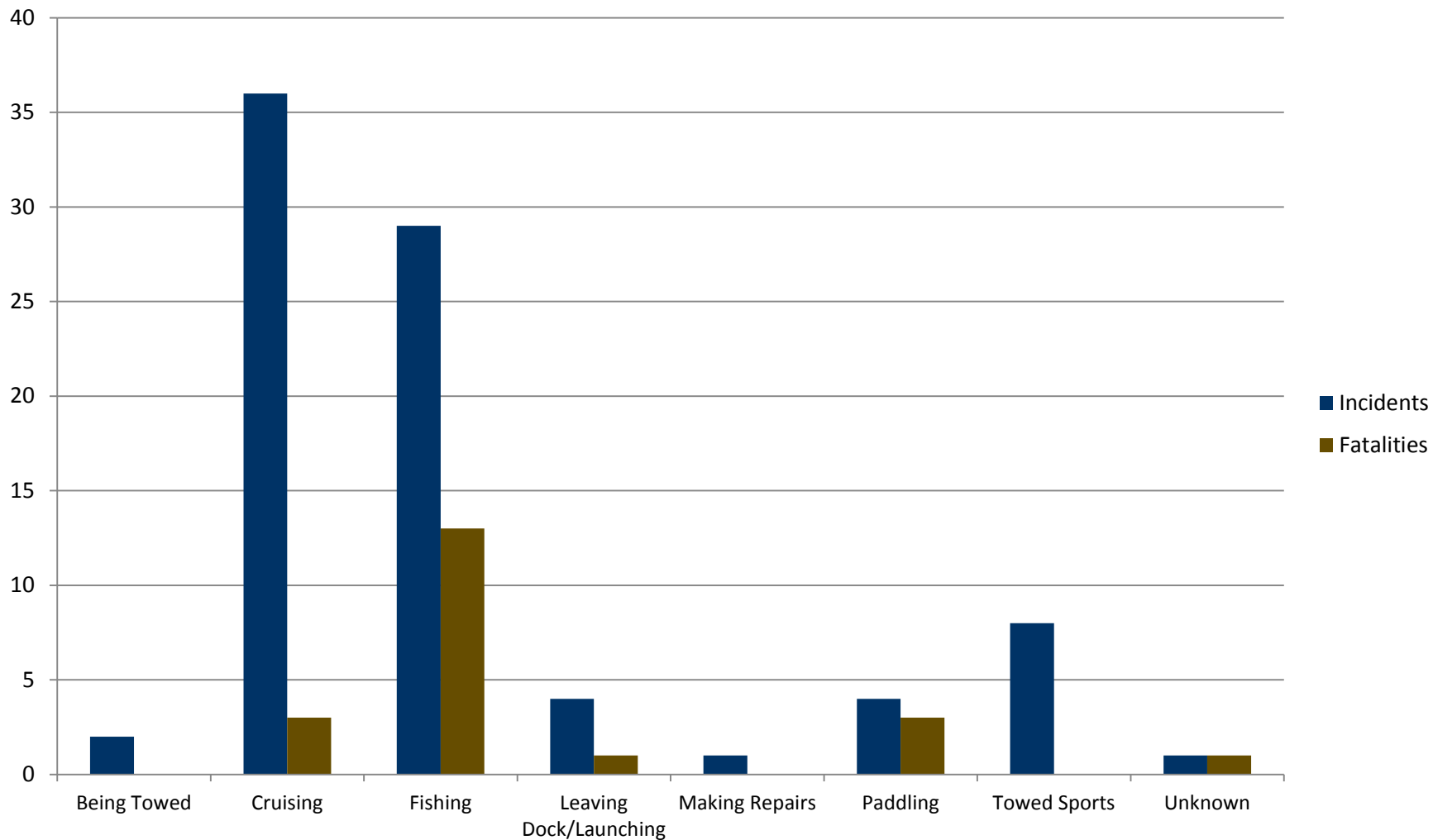


2016 Boat Incidents Education of Operators

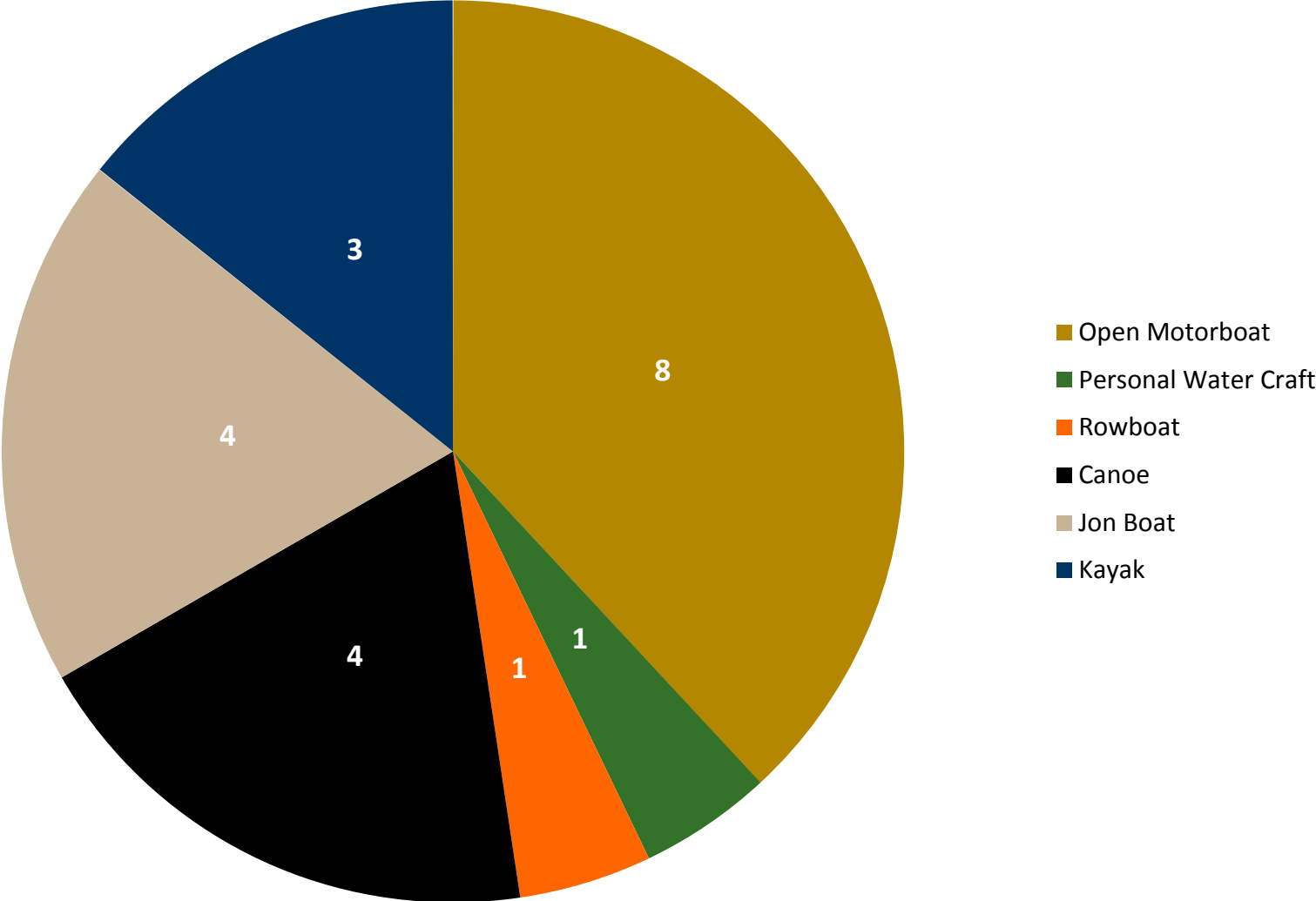


2016 Boating Incidents

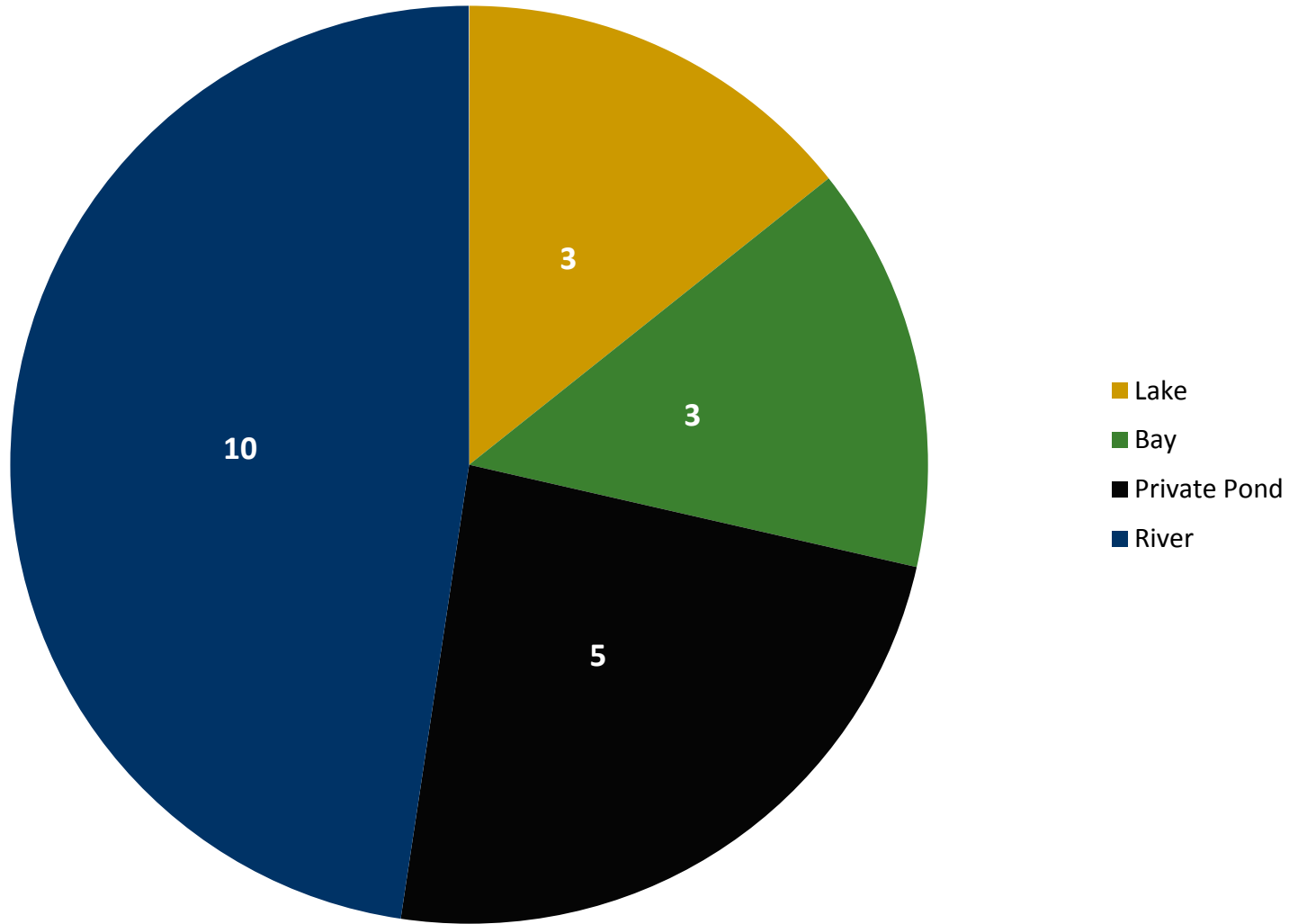
Top Vessel Activity at Time of Incident



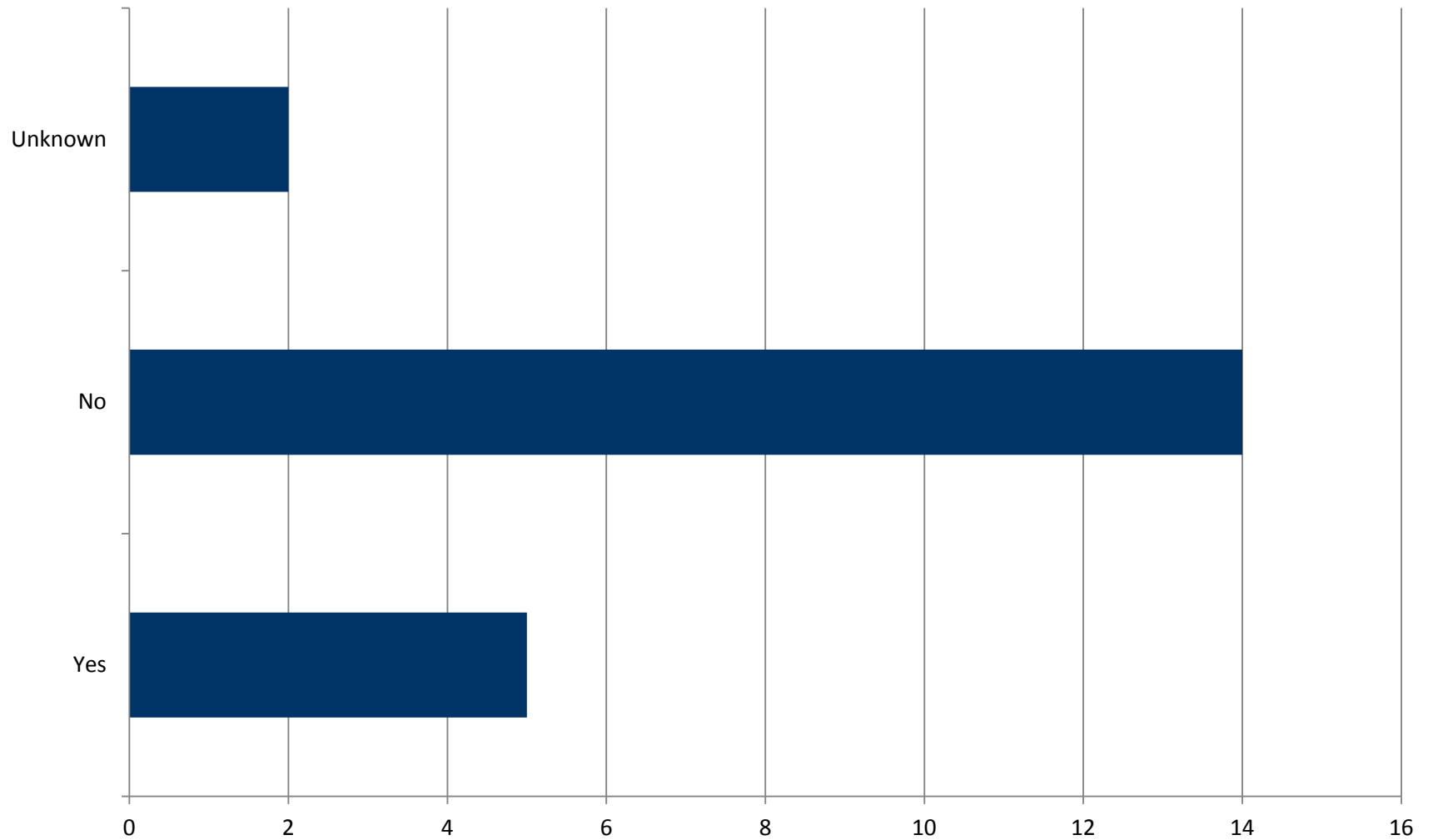
2016 Boating Fatalities - By Vessel Type



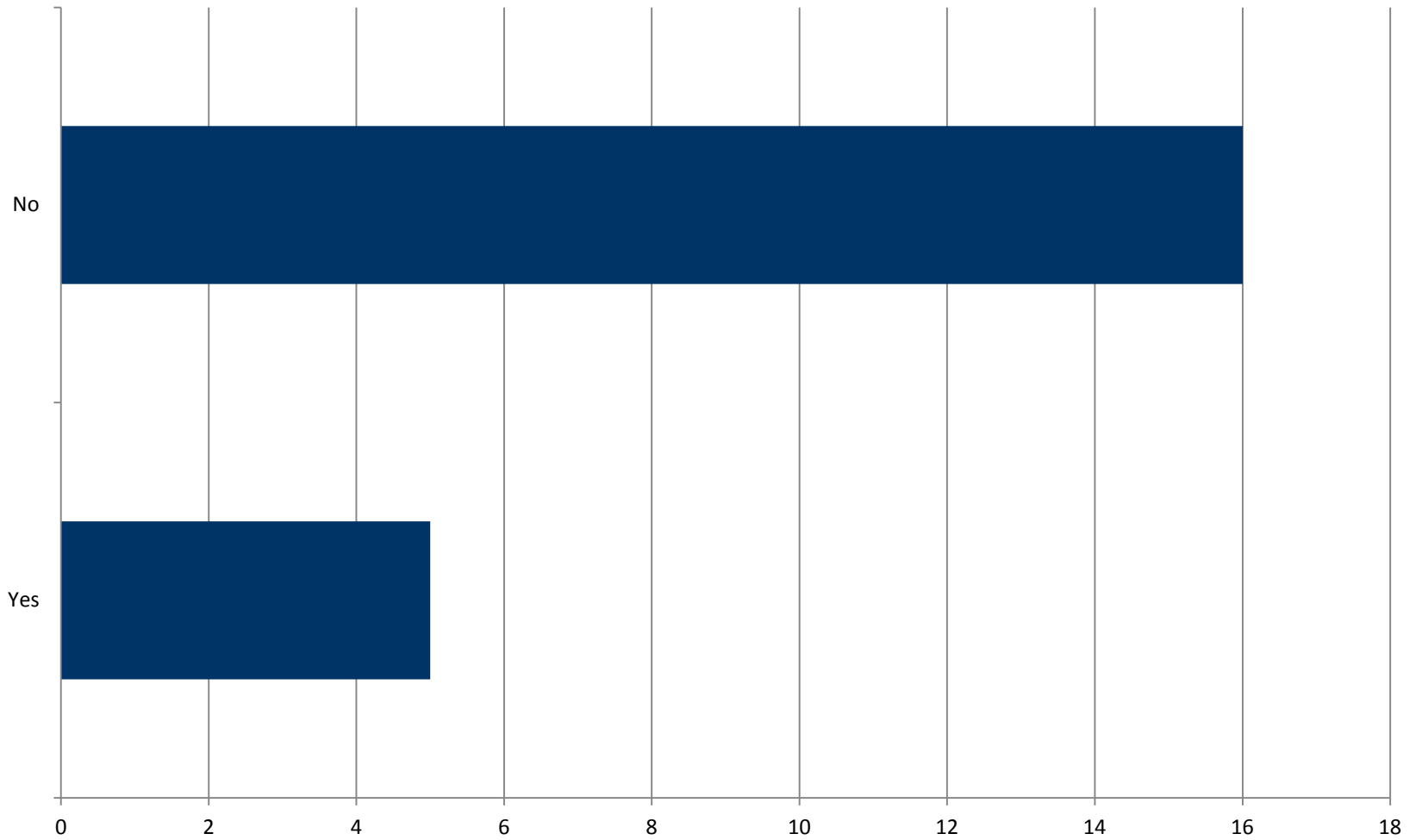
2016 Boating Fatalities - By Water Body Type



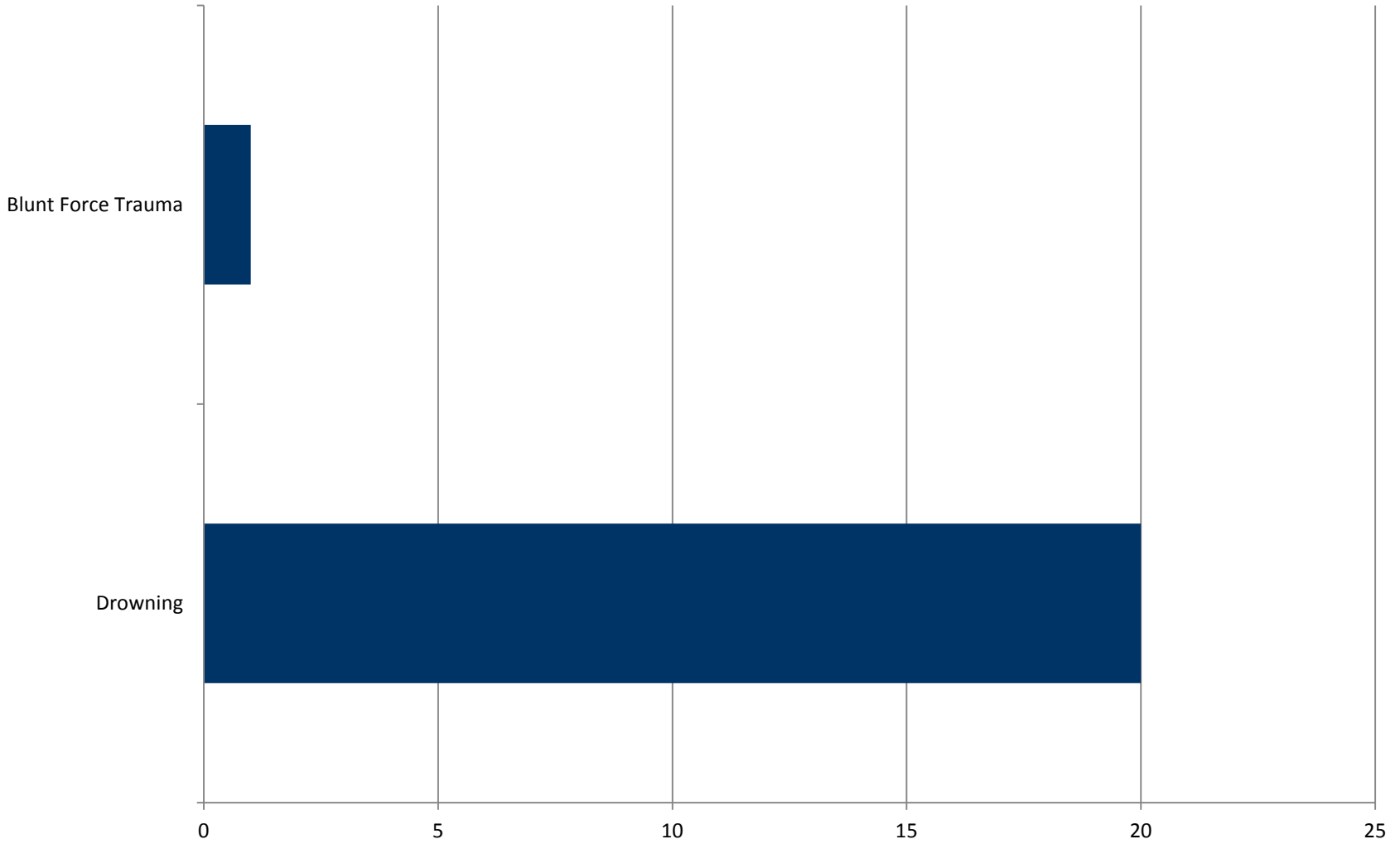
2016 Boating Fatalities Alcohol Use



2016 Boating Fatalities Usage of Life Jackets

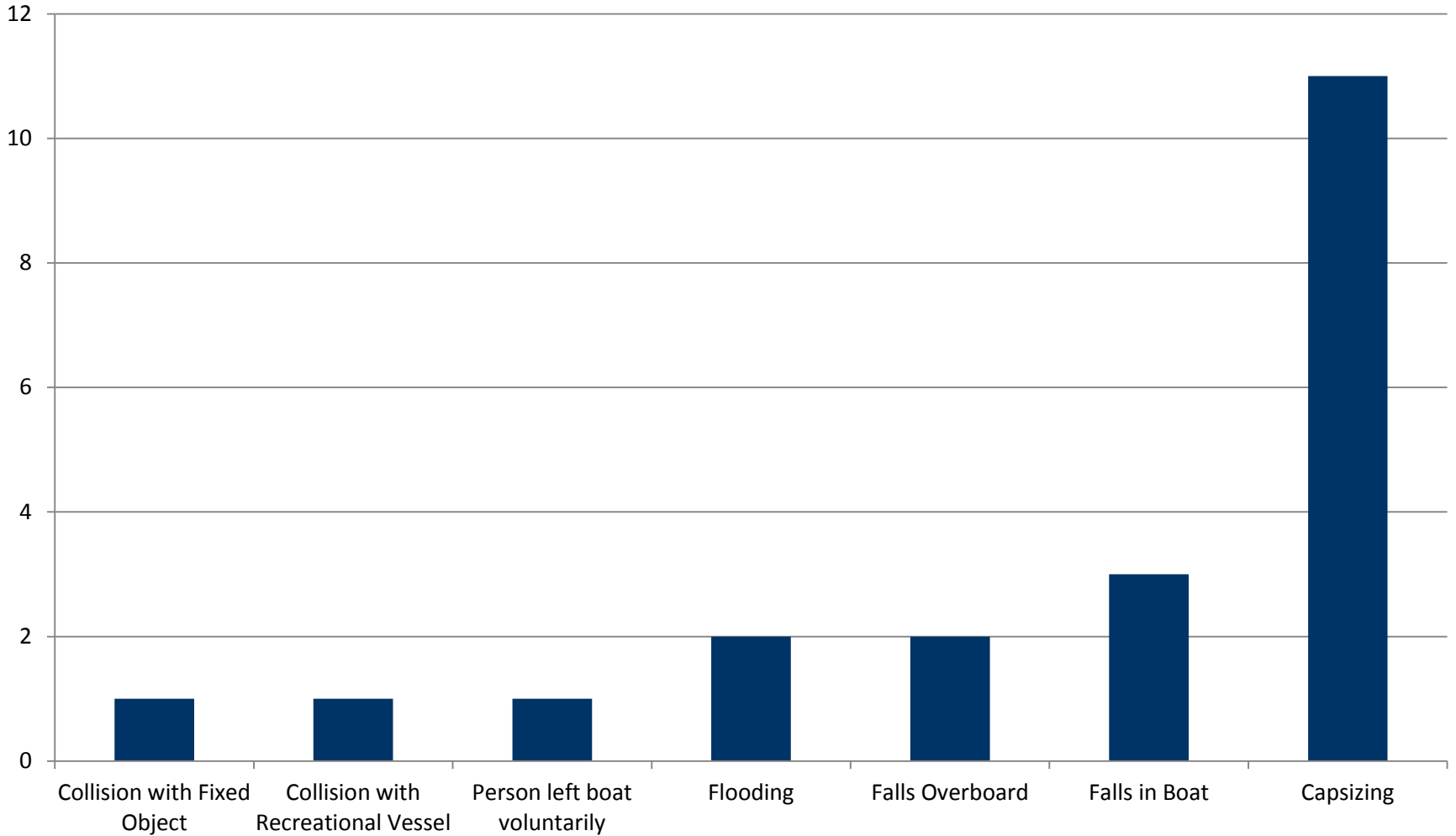


2016 Boating Fatalities Cause of Death

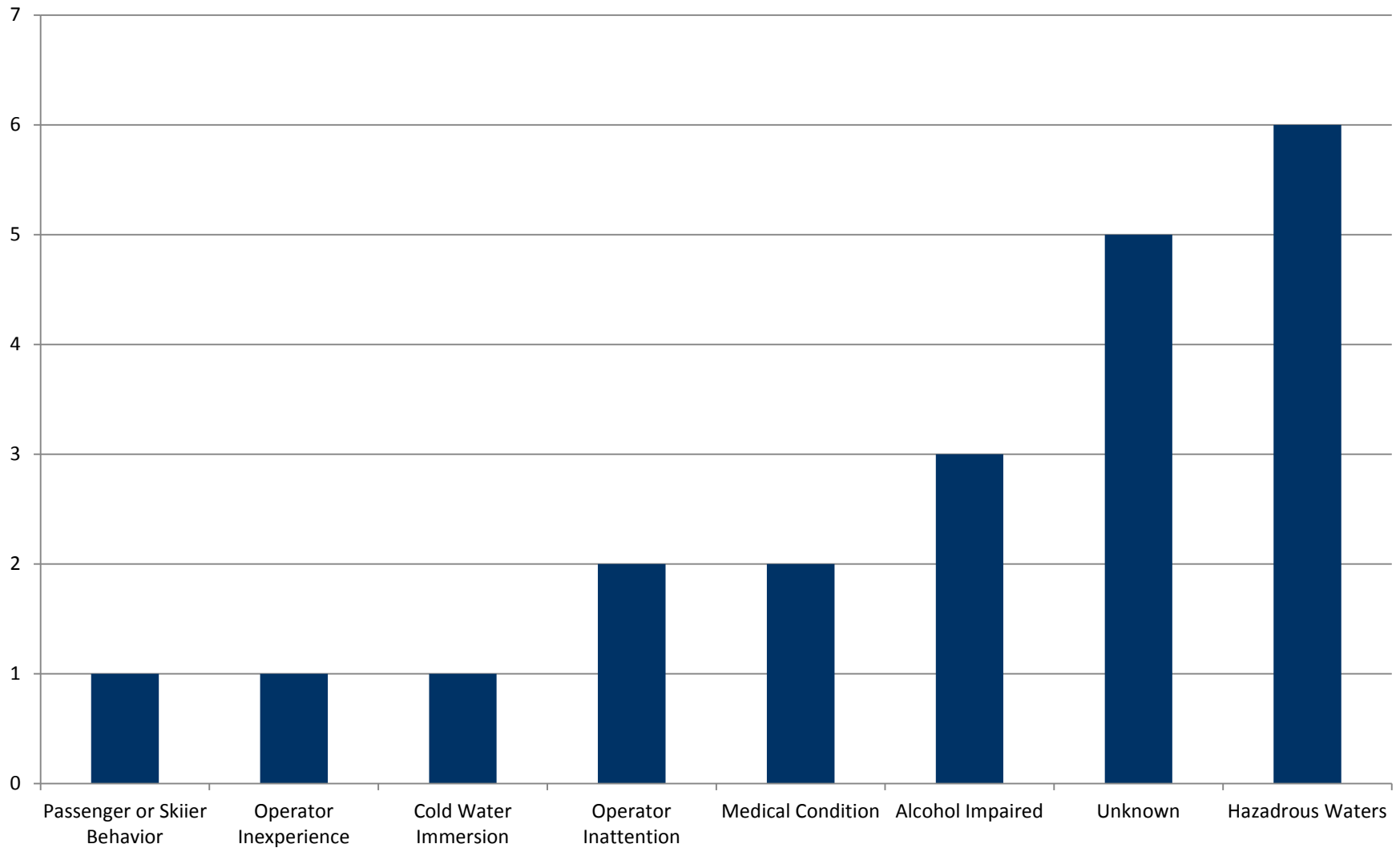


2016 Boating Fatalities

Type of Incident



2016 Boating Fatalities Cause of Fatal Accident



2016 Boating Fatality Summary – Virginia

2/20/2016 – Rappahannock River, 10:30 pm

On February 21, 2016, the 51 year old male victim was reported missing on the Rappahannock River to the Middlesex County Sheriff's Office. The victim had left the house in a sixteen foot open skiff at approximately 2230 hours on February 20 2016. On February 22 2016 a local waterman reported that he was towing in a vessel that he found about a mile north east of Broad Creek in the Rappahannock River capsized. The only items inside of the boat were two life jackets and a fuel tank. There was no visible damage to the outside of the vessel indicating any type of collision. Victim was recovered on Sunday February 28 2016. Cause of death was drowning. Victim was not wearing a life jacket

4/6/2016 – Lake Anna, 5:00 pm

Victim, a 63 year old male, took the kayak to the Hickory Landing boat ramp on Lake Anna in Louisa County, to launch it for the first trip. When he did not return home, his wife went to look for him. It appears that when the victim was attempting to launch or returning from paddling his kayak on the lake he most likely suffered a medical incident which caused him to fall into the lake and drown. Victim was wearing a life jacket.

2016 Boating Fatality Summary – Virginia

4/15/2016 – Private Pond, 7:40 pm

Two people were fishing from a canoe at a private pond in Orange County. The canoe capsized and both occupants were thrown into the water. One occupant was able to hold onto the canoe but the victim was out of the canoe's reach and drowned before he could be rescued. The 37 year old male victim was not wearing a life jacket.

4/16/2016 – Private Pond, 6:20 pm

Two people were fishing from a 10' aluminum jon boat (no motor) on a private pond in Caroline County. The jon boat capsized putting both occupants, male age 73 and male age 4 in the water. Neither occupant was wearing a life jacket and both occupants drowned.

4/26/2016 – Private Pond (Taylor's Mill Pond), 7:00 am

Victim was in a 10" aluminum jon boat with a trolling motor on Taylor's Mill Pond in Greensville County. The responding officer noticed the victim's boat floating in the spillway with a paddle and throw cushion in the boat and the seat in the rear that had been flipped over. It appears the victim fell out of the boat. The 53 year old man drowned and was not wearing a life jacket.

2016 Boating Fatality Summary – Virginia

4/30/216 – Staunton River, 9:45 am

Three individuals were fishing from a small jon boat in the Staunton River, Campbell County, when they decided to float down river. The third passenger attempted to maneuver the vessel to avoid the bridge using the trolling motor, but due to the strong current and conditions of the river, he was unable to alter their path of travel. The operator started the gas motor in an attempt to alter their direction of travel, however the vessel had turned and the bow was now facing the pillar and he had no time to react. The starboard corner of the bow struck the bridge pillar, elevating the vessel causing the port side stern to take on water. This caused the vessel to capsize and become pinned against the pillar. The operator was pinned to the vessel by the current and remained with the vessel at the pillar and was recovered a short time later without injury. The other two occupants floated down river, one of the occupants was recovered without injury and the victim, a 20 year old male has not been recovered. No life jackets were worn.

5/21/2016 – York River, 12:30 pm

The victim, a 29 year old male, was on a 10' kayak fishing on the York River in James City County. At approximately 1230, the victim overturned the kayak and went into the water. Witnesses could see the victim trying to flip the kayak back over and then the witness heard the victim call for help. Witnesses ran to the boat ramp, and one witness grabbed a life ring and tried swimming out to the victim. One witness swam out to the kayak but did not see the victim and was unable to locate the victim. The victim's body was located at 1700 hours. Life jackets were not on board and not used.

2016 Boating Fatality Summary – Virginia

6/5/2016 – Monroe Creek, 12:30 am

On Sunday June 5, 2016, at about 0030 Hours, the victim 44 year old male, was seen leaving a bar in an 18' open motorboat. At 0700 am the next morning, a person on the shoreline saw the vessel drifting with no one in it. Sometime after 0030 Hours, the victim, traveling north in Monroe Creek, attempted to turn to port to follow the course of the creek. This area is not marked by aids to navigation and is a dark area of the creek. The boat took the turn wide and struck two. The victim first struck the center console and windshield, and then was ejected from the vessel. After the victim was ejected from the boat, his boat turned starboard caused by the engine torque and the boat then struck another boat in a lift, before hitting the pier head on. The cause of death was drowning. No life jackets were worn and alcohol was involved.

6/5/2016 – James River (Upper), 3:30 pm

A 14' canoe with two occupants was launched from the boat ramp onto the James River in Amherst County. Water conditions were rough with large waves and very poor visibility. Upon hitting the rapids of balcony falls at approximately they began to take on water and capsized. The victim swam to the shore on river left and the other swam while hanging onto the canoe towards river right. The victim was not wearing a life jacket and did not make it to the shore. The other occupant made it to the shore with the canoe and dumped the water out. He then got back in the canoe and paddled downstream while looking on the opposite bank the victim. He got to an area with cell phone reception and called rescue services. The victim, a 29 year old male, was recovered 5 days later.

2016 Boating Fatality Summary – Virginia

6/6/2016 – Kerr Reservoir (Buggs Island Lake), 11:05 am

Two subjects were drifting in their boat, fishing from a 21' open motorboat. They decided to jump overboard to cool off. The operator surfaced, but the victim, a 27 year old male, did not resurface. Both subjects had consumed alcohol and were believed to be intoxicated. The victim was recovered the following morning. Life jackets were onboard but not used.

6/18/2016 – Staunton River, 4:30 pm

The victim launched his 14' open motorboat on the Staunton River in Campbell County about 2:30 pm to tow some family members in kayaks up river so they could float down river. After releasing the kayakers about 3:30 pm, he headed up river alone to fish. The kayakers returned to the put in location around 4:30 pm. At about 4:30 pm, they observed a boat seat and the victim's hat floating down river. The victim's boat was later located by rescue personnel. The victim, a 61 year old male, was recovered 2 days later. Life jackets were found on the vessel but were not worn, alcohol is listed as a contributing factor.

6/22/2016 – Private Pond, 7:24 am

Two people took a 14' canoe out into a pond in Newport News. When the occupants attempted to switch places in the canoe, it flipped over. One occupant was able to get himself to shore. The victim, a 54 year old male, was recovered on June 23. No life jackets were worn and no life jackets were on board the vessel.

2016 Boating Fatality Summary – Virginia

7/3/2016 – Smith Mountain Lake, 7:30 pm

A PWC (personal watercraft) with 2 people on board was struck near the rear starboard side by a 21' open motorboat. The 17 year old female passenger of the jet ski died from blunt force trauma. Operator inattention, navigation rule violations, and alcohol use are listed as the cause of this incident.

7/8/2016 – Chesapeake Bay, 3:40 pm

Three people were fishing from a 19' open motorboat on the Chesapeake Bay in Northampton County. The victim, a 31 year old male, was on the tower of the vessel while the other two were reeling in a fish from the deck. After fighting the fish for a period of time they lost it and had a brief conversation with the victim that was still above them in the tower. They then heard him stumbling above them and observed him fall from the tower to the water. One passenger jumped into the water and held his head out of the water and the other passenger picked them up in the vessel. They called 911 and started heading back to the place they launched the vessel. From the time that they saw him fall until they arrived 45 minutes later at the dock, he was unresponsive. An Autopsy revealed that the victim died from a heart attack and he also had water in his lungs. Life jackets were on the vessel but none were worn.

2016 Boating Fatality Summary – Virginia

7/12/2016 – York River, 12:30 pm

At approximately 9:30, a 20' open motorboat with six people onboard launched from Croaker boat landing in James City County. Occupants advised they did consult weather reports prior to launch. The vessel was anchored from the bow while they were fishing. While they were fishing, they were continuously taking on water over the stern of the boat, which had a low transom and there was little freeboard. The bilge pump was functioning, but didn't run continuously due to a float switch. Due to the weather and an increase in wave activity, they decided to return back to the boat landing. While underway, the main bilge pump stopped working and a smaller auxiliary pump was connected to the battery, but it could not keep up with the amount of water in the bilge. At one point, the boat motor shut off. The operator was able to start the motor back up and attempted to get the boat on plane to drain the water from the boat. The operator instructed the passengers to stand in the back of the boat in an attempt to get the bow out of the water. This caused the stern to swan and the vessel to roll hard starboard and capsize. The two victims had been sitting in the bow of the vessel and when the vessel capsized, were trapped underneath the vessel. At the time of the incident, the two victims and one other passenger were wearing life jackets. Two passengers tried to free the two people from underneath the vessel, but were unable to free them. At approximately 2:30 another vessel came by and was able to be flagged down to assist in their rescue. Although the victims, two females ages 35 and 9, were wearing life jackets, they drown as a result of being trapped under the vessel.

2016 Boating Fatality Summary – Virginia

8/11/2016 – Chesapeake Bay, 6:28 pm

Three people were on an 18' open motorboat on the Chesapeake Bay in Norfolk. The victim, a 25 year old male, jumped into the water towards a tube that was attached to the boat (boat was drifting). The tube and boat floated away from the victim, so the operator drove the boat and tube back towards the victim. The victim was seen going under water and did not resurface. Life jackets were onboard but not used. Alcohol is listed as a contributing factor. The victim's body was found three days later.

8/14/2016 – New River, 4:00 pm

Two people launched their 14' canoe on the New River in Pulaski County at approximately 11:30 am. As the couple approached the last set of falls just above the Pepper's Ferry Bridge the canoe bumped a rock and water entered the canoe. The canoe then hit another rock and more water entered the canoe. When the canoe bumped the third rock the canoe took on water and capsized. Both passengers were thrown out of the vessel and into the river. Both were able to surface in the current. While both tried to make it to the shore, the victim, a 68 year old male, disappeared under the water and did not resurface. The other occupant yelled for help and an unknown swimmer swam out to her and handed her a life jacket and pulled her to shore. Witnesses called for rescue and the victim was recovered that evening. Life jackets were in the canoe but not worn.

2016 Boating Fatality Summary – Virginia

9/24/2016 – Aquia Creek, 10:15 pm

Operator and occupant were fishing in a 12' rowboat in Aquia Creek in Stafford County. The boat was anchored from the stern. The operator stood up in the boat and fell into the water. The occupant attempted to pull him into the boat but eventually fell into the water. While both attempted to get into the boat, the boat capsized. The operator, a 69 year old male, who was not wearing a PFD, eventually drowned. The other occupant was wearing a life jacket and eventually made it to shore and called emergency personnel.

12/28/2016 – Chesapeake Bay, 9:00 am

Two kayakers departed in separate kayaks at 5:30 am heading to the buoy 38 in the Chesapeake Bay to fish. They reached their destination at 6:45 am and started fishing and drifting north. At approximately 8:00, the kayakers turned around and started heading back, the victim trailing 500 yards behind. When the lead kayaker had made it back to buoy 38, he turned to check and saw the victim out of the kayak. He headed back to help him and texted 911. At 11:00 the victim was recovered by the USCG and was unresponsive. The 35 year old male was transported to the hospital and pronounced dead at 2:39 pm. The victim was wearing a life jacket and died as a result of complications from drowning and hypothermia.