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# Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

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## 2015 Recreational Boating Incident Summary





no jon boat  
motorboat

life drown

drowning  
deceased

kayak

jacket

high water  
vessel

alcohol

canoe  
non-swimmer

male  
fishing  
private pond

rough seas

# 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

# 2015 Virginia Boating Incident Summary\*

- Number of Incidents = 77
- Number of Vessels Involved = 90
- Number of Injuries = 37
- Number of Fatalities = 10
  - Alcohol was a known factor in 20% of fatal incidents
- Property Damage = \$ 441,301

\*Reported to DGIF

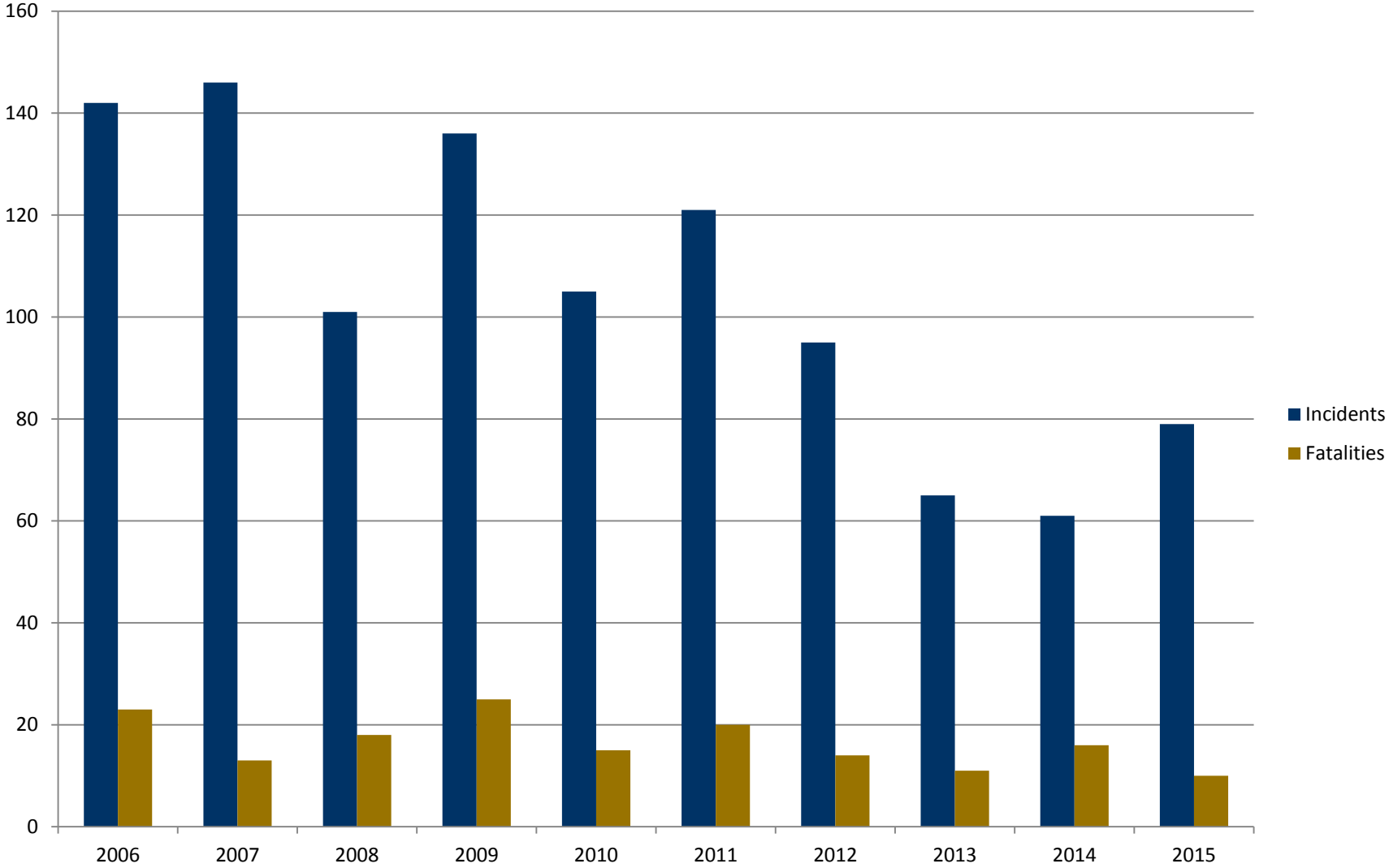
# Boating in Virginia

- # 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)

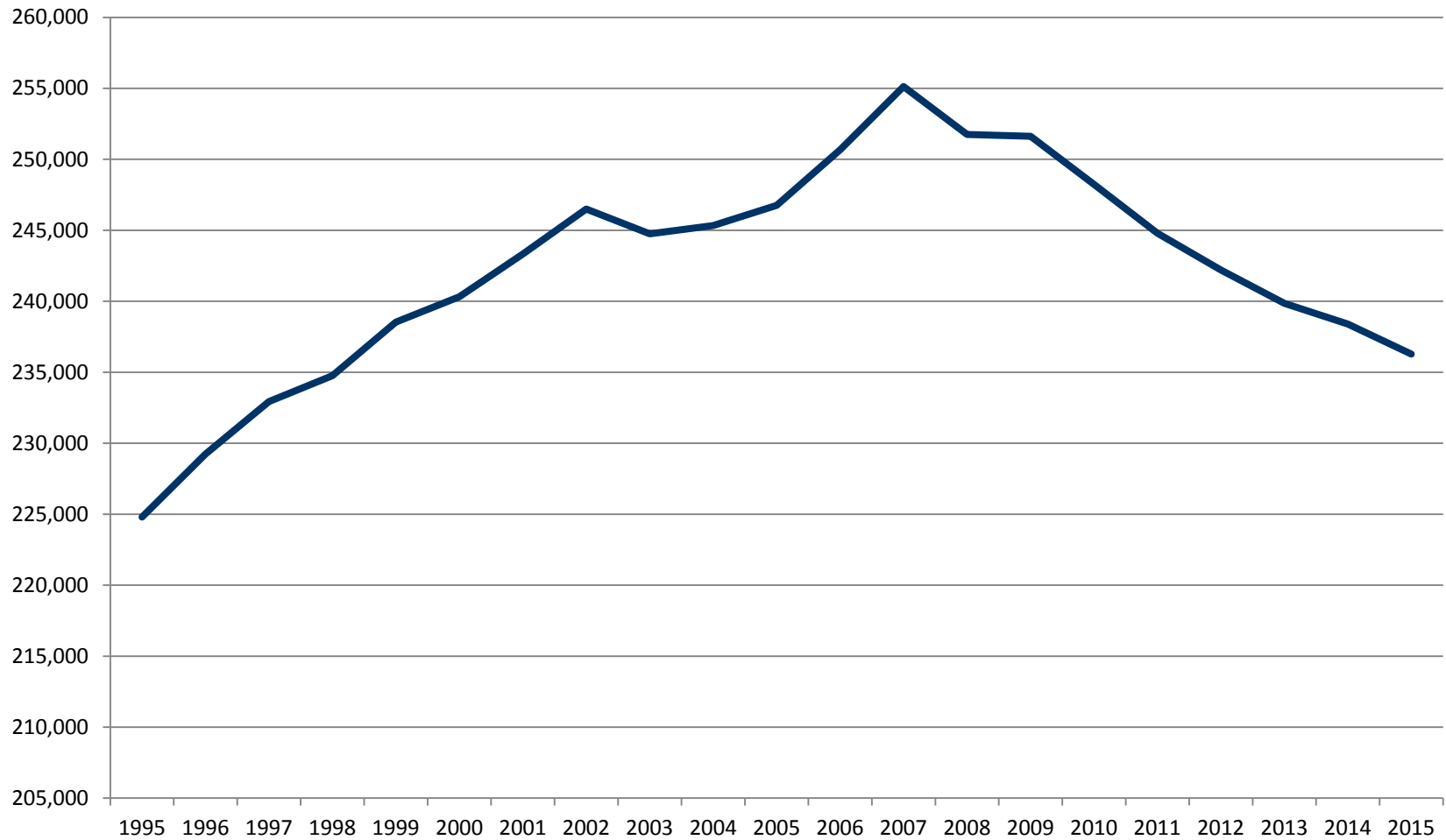
# 10 Year Boat Incident Summary

Year	Incidents	Injuries	Fatalities	Property Damage
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
2015	77	37	10	\$441,301.00

# 10 Year Boating Incident Statistics

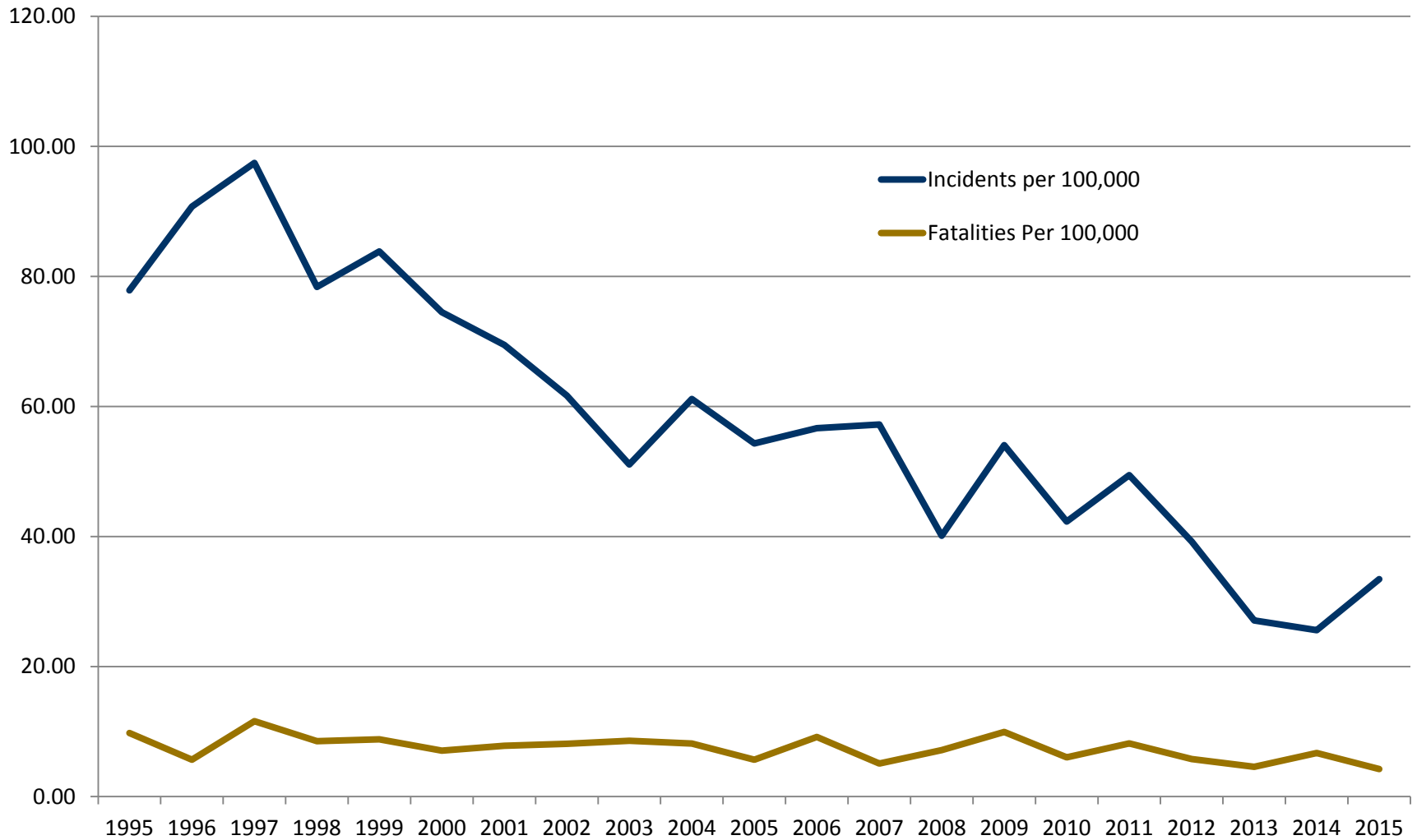


# Recreational Vessels Registered in Virginia by Year 1995 - 2015



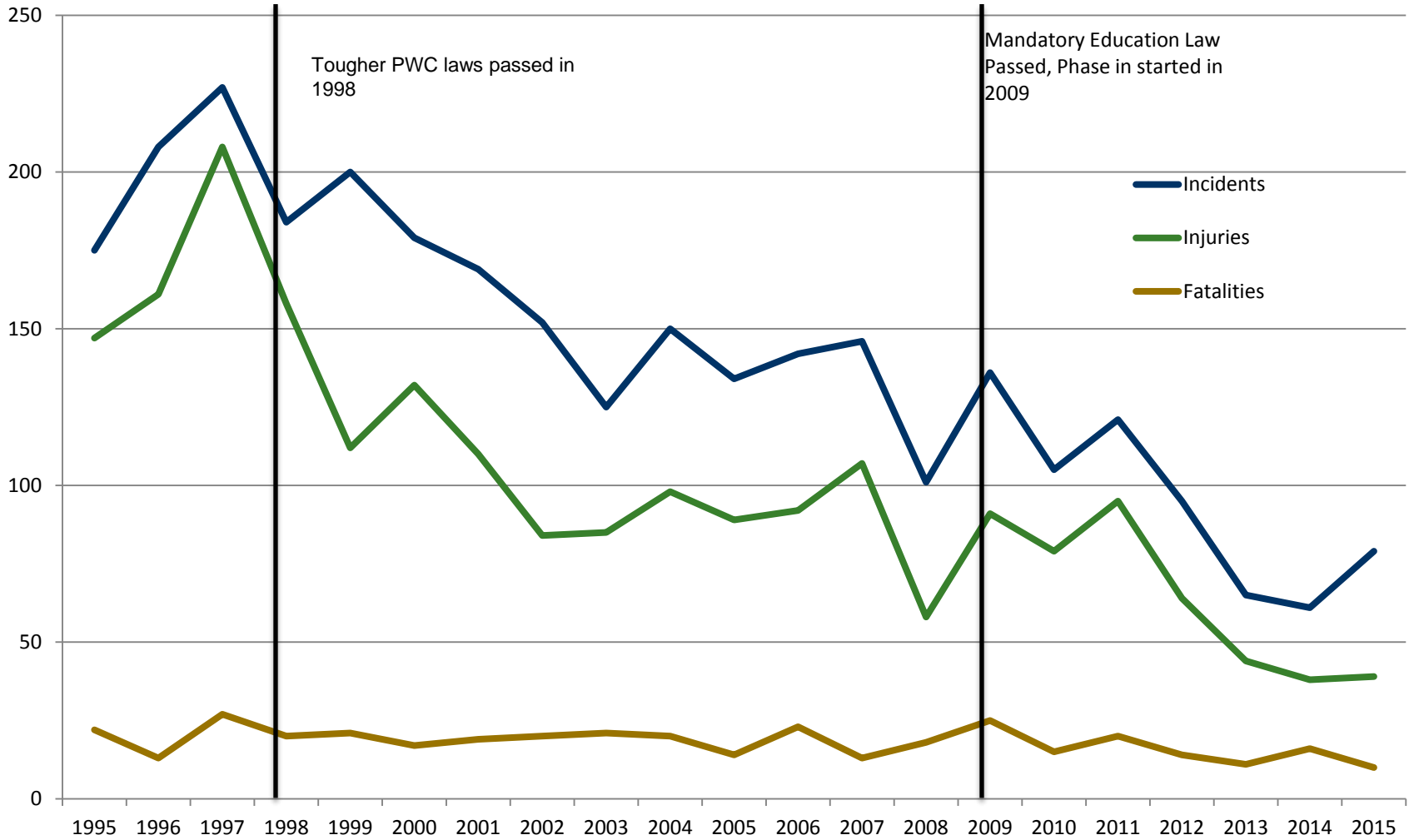


# Annual Recreational Boating Incident Rate 1995 - 2015 (per 100,000 Registered Boats)

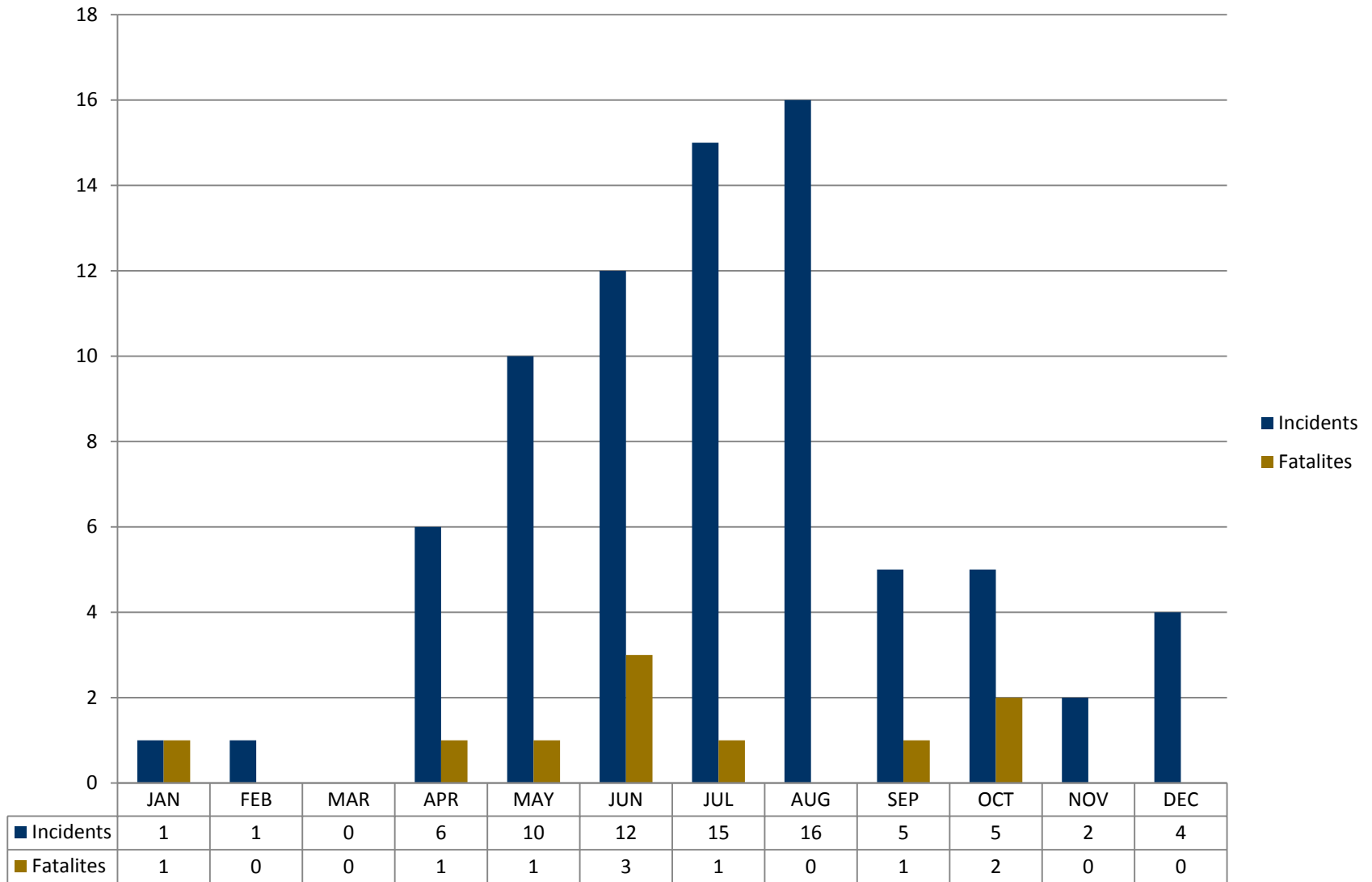


# Fatalities, Injuries, and Incidents by Year

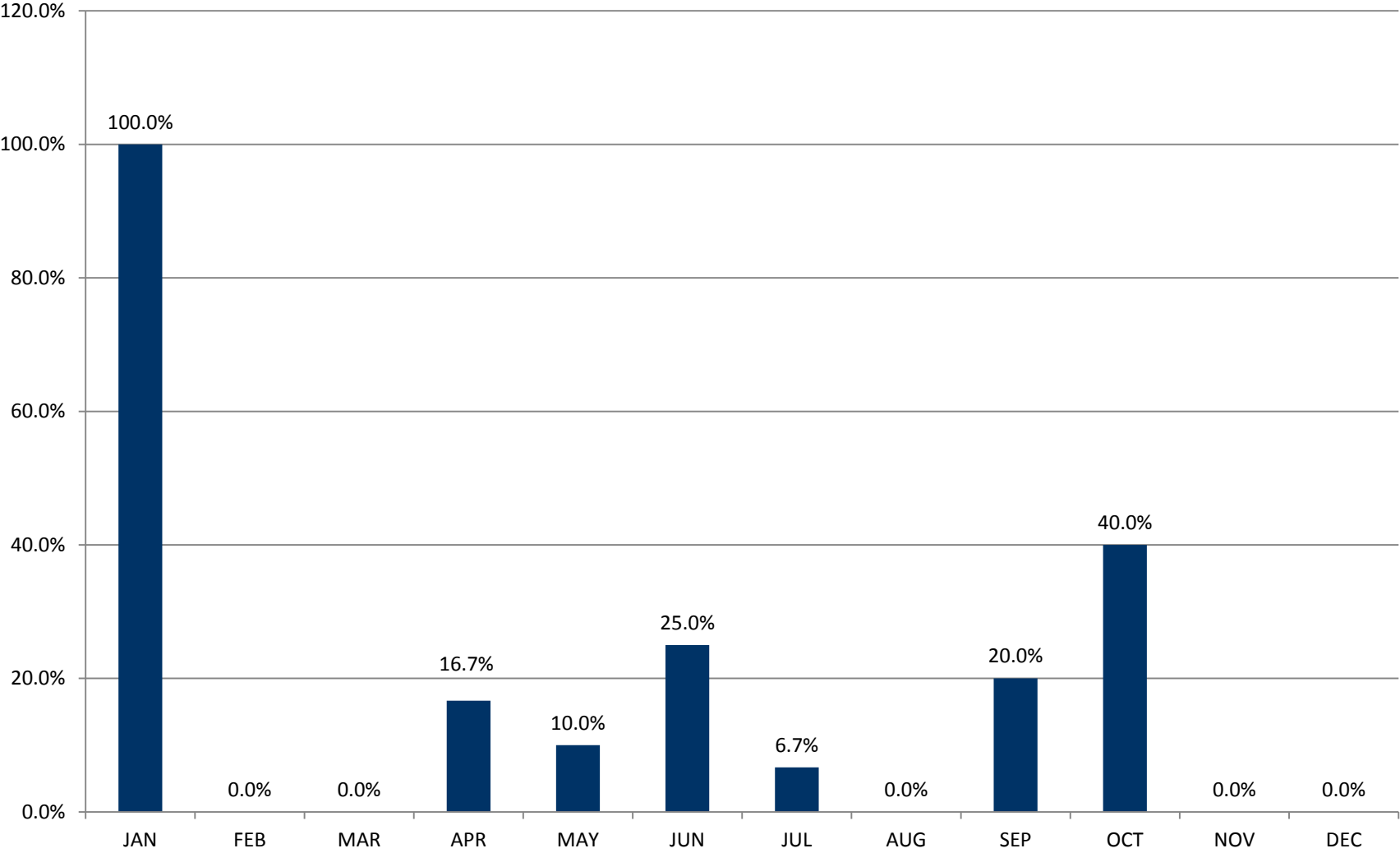
## 1995 - 2015



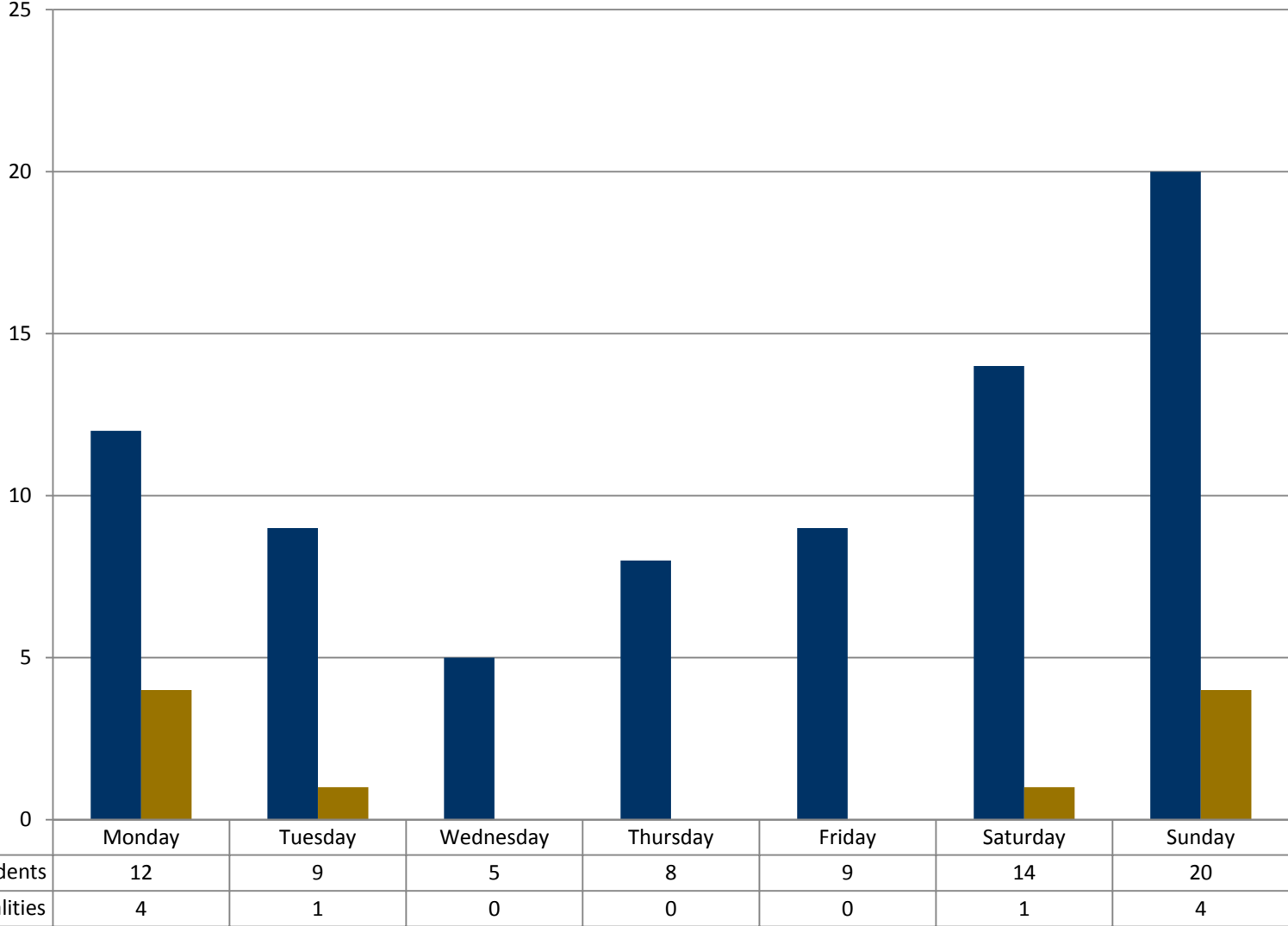
## 2015 Boating Incidents and Fatalities by Month



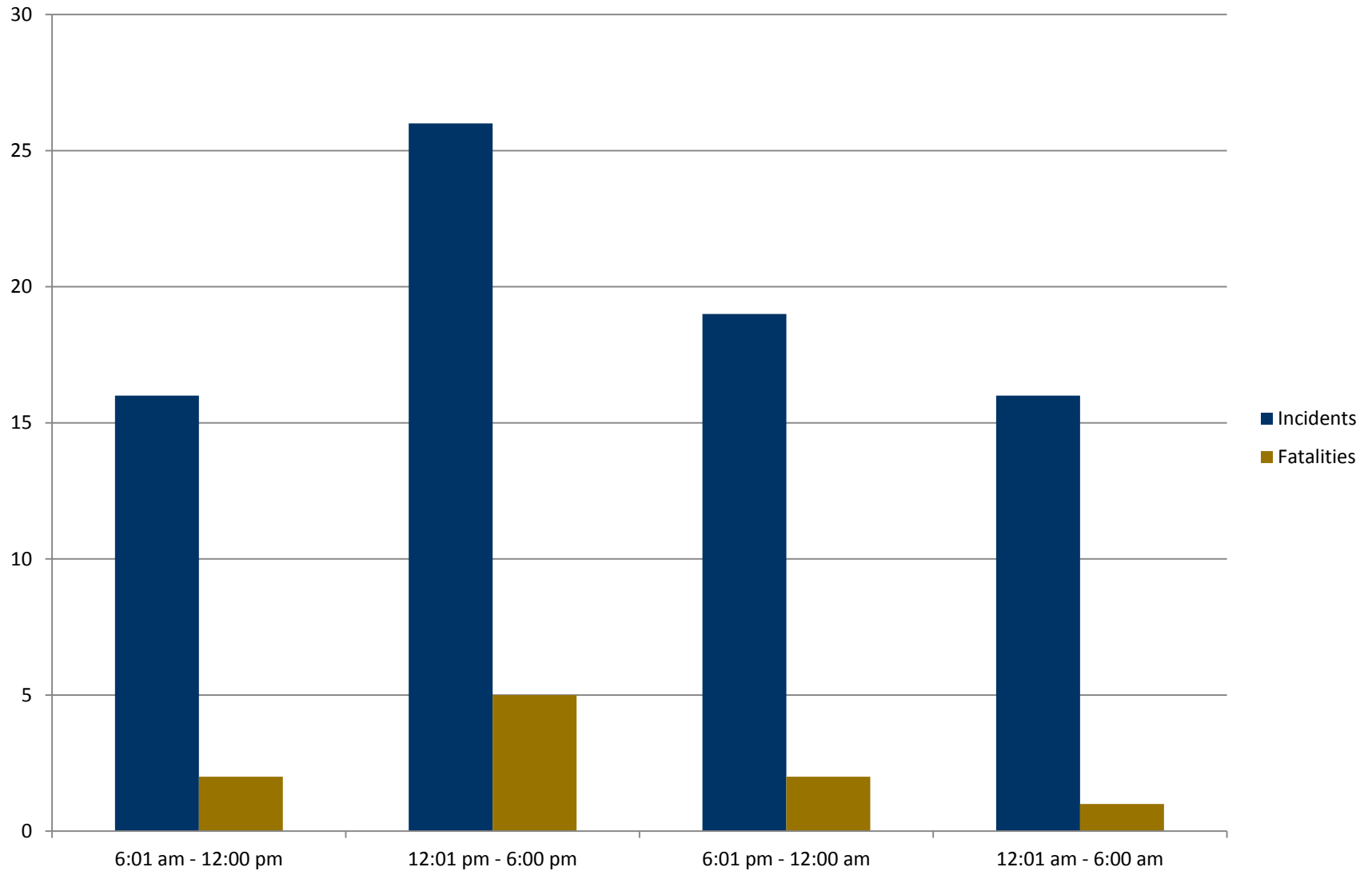
# 2015 Percentage of Incidents Each Month that were Fatal



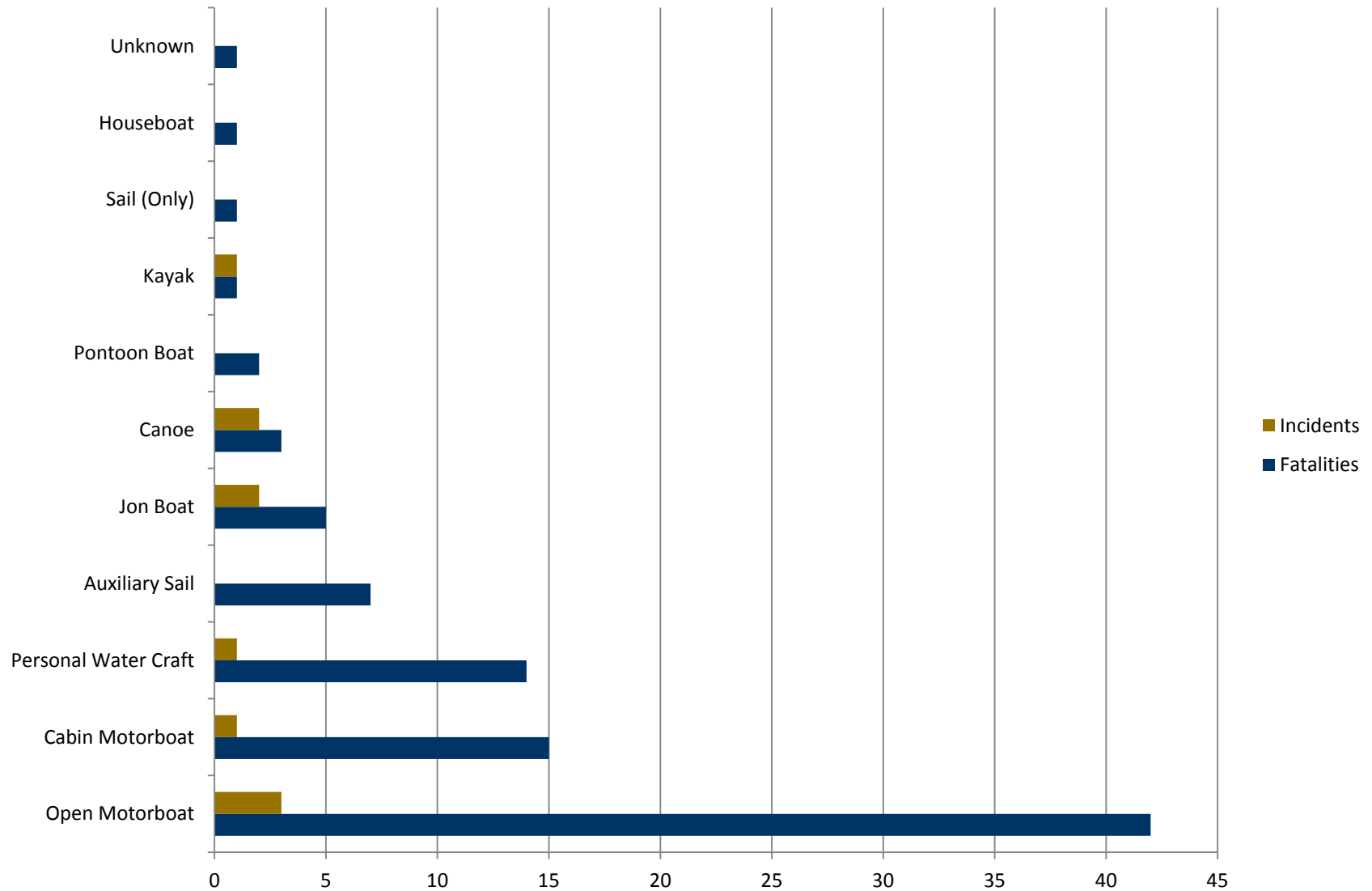
# 2015 Boat Incidents and Fatalities by Day of Week



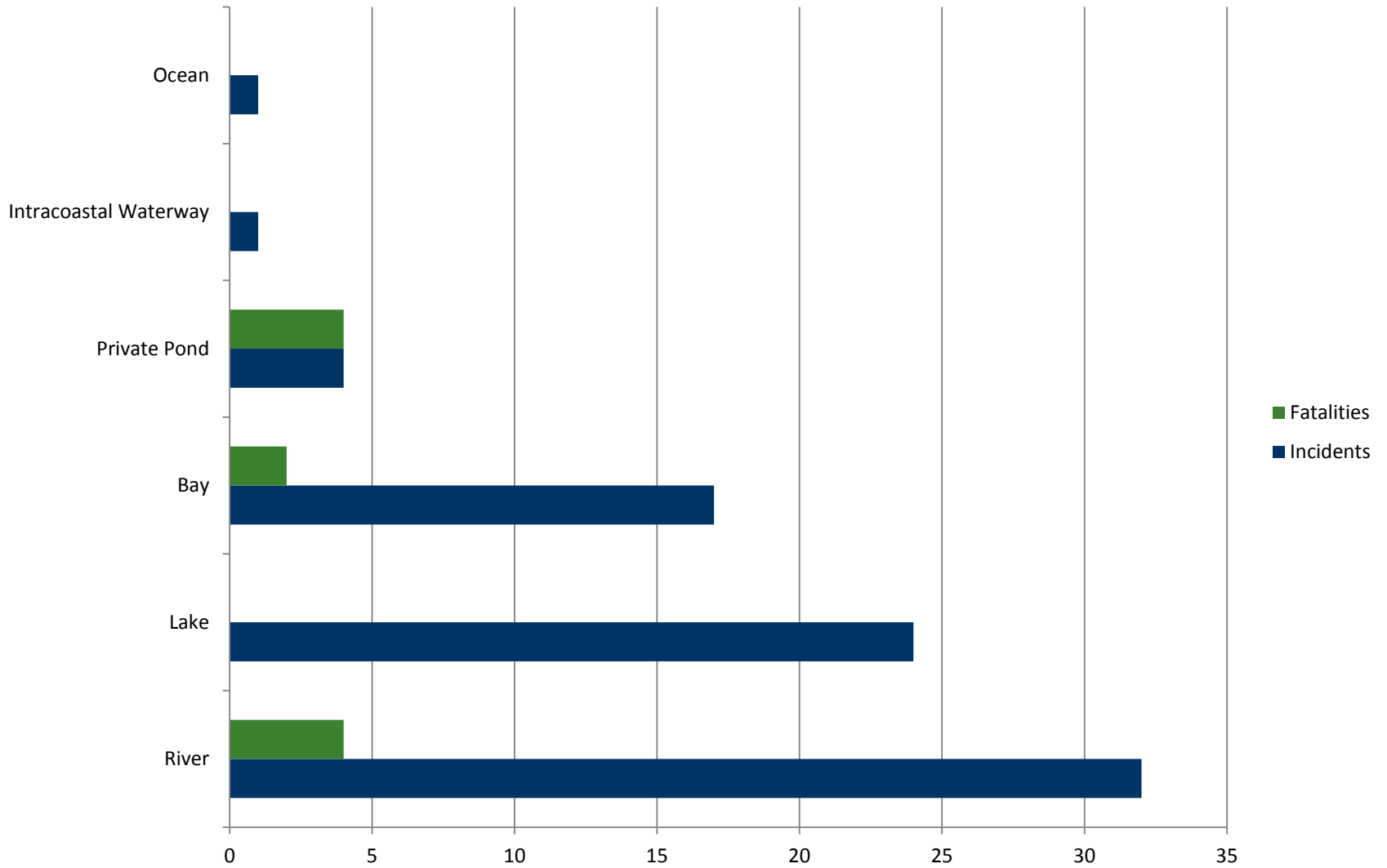
## 2015 Boating Incidents and Fatalities by Time of Day



## 2015 Boating Incidents and Fatalities by Vessel Type



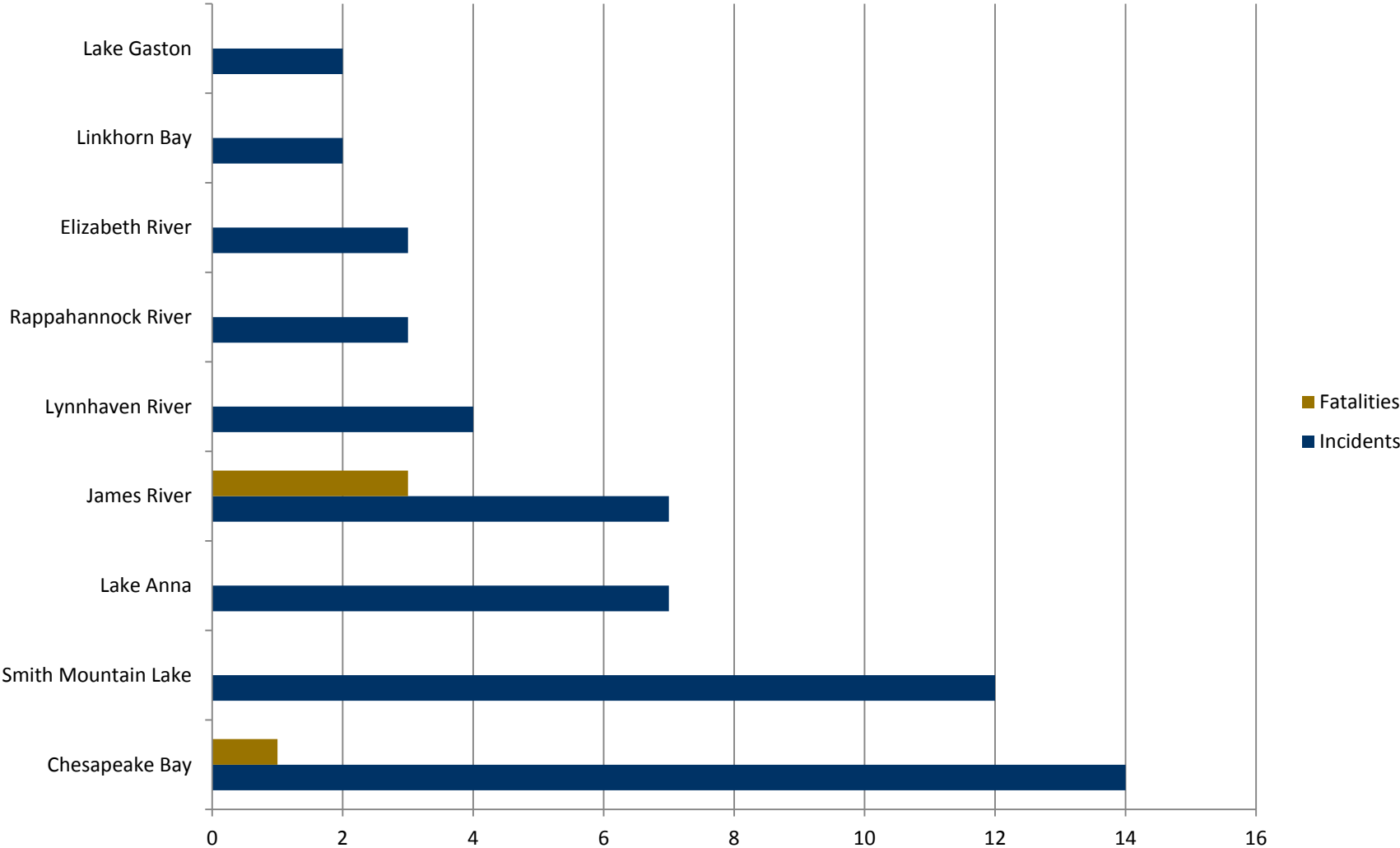
## 2015 Boating Incidents and Fatalities by Water Body Type





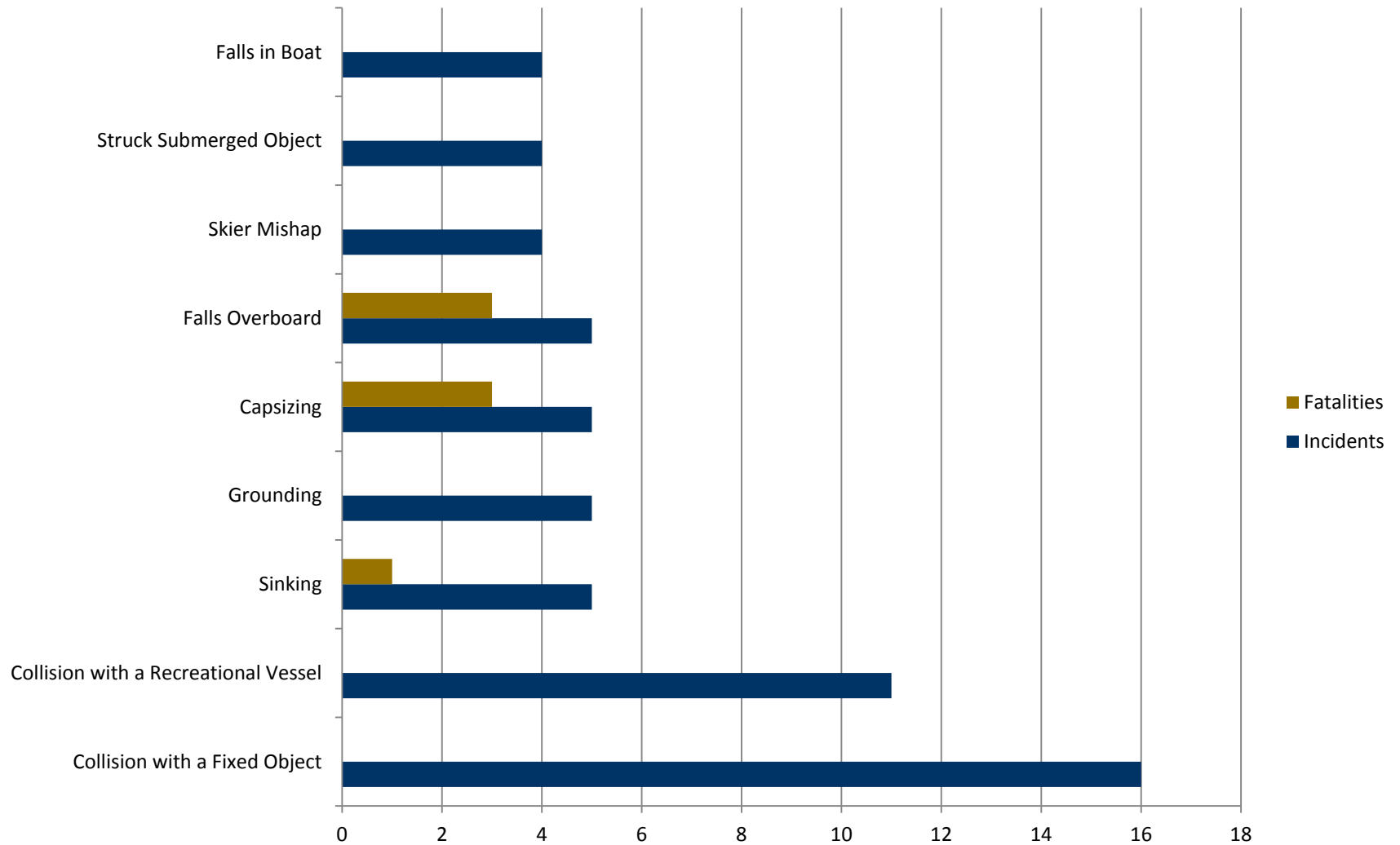
# 2015 Boating Incidents and Fatalities

## Top Locations of Incidents

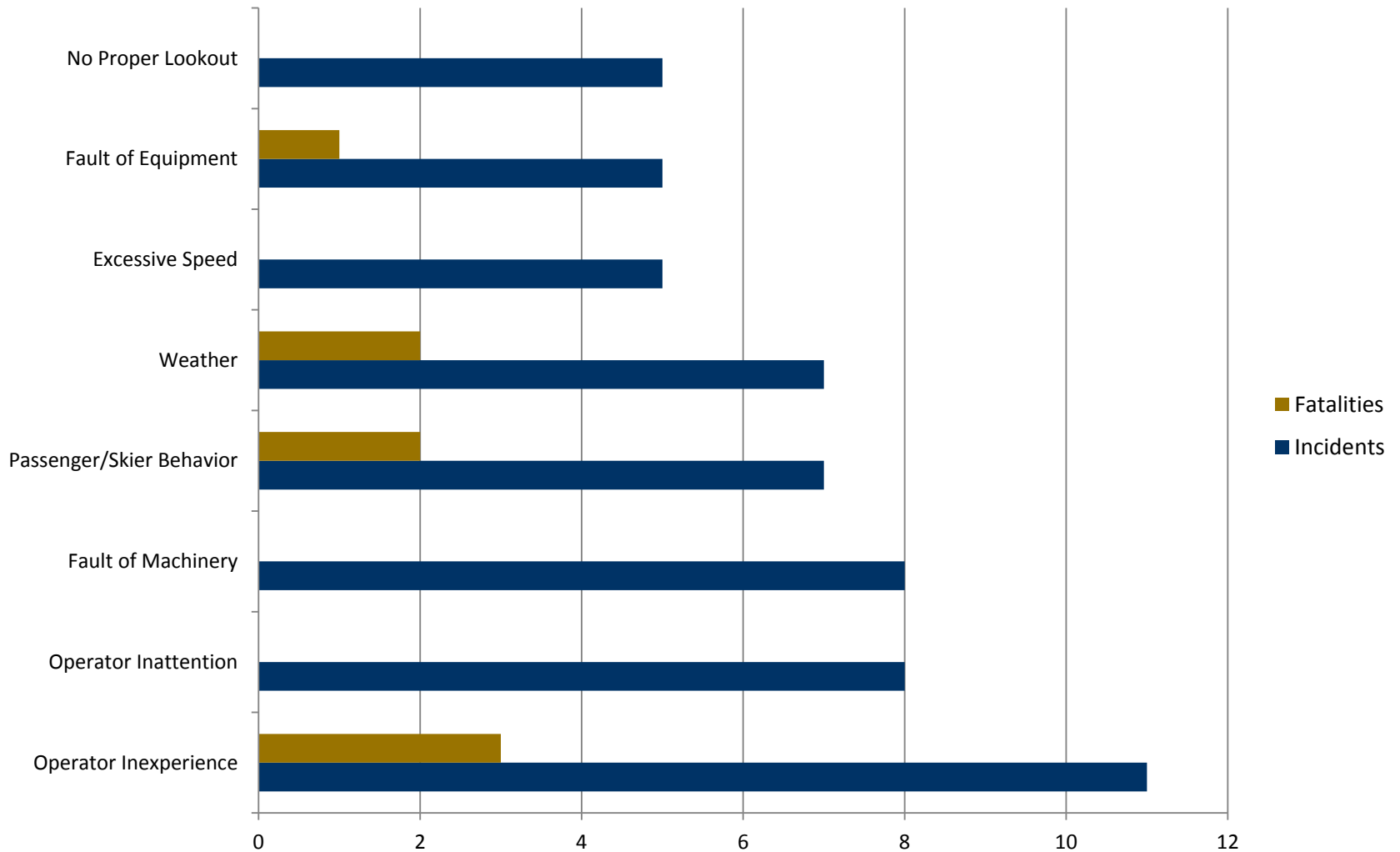


# 2015 Boating Incidents and Fatalities

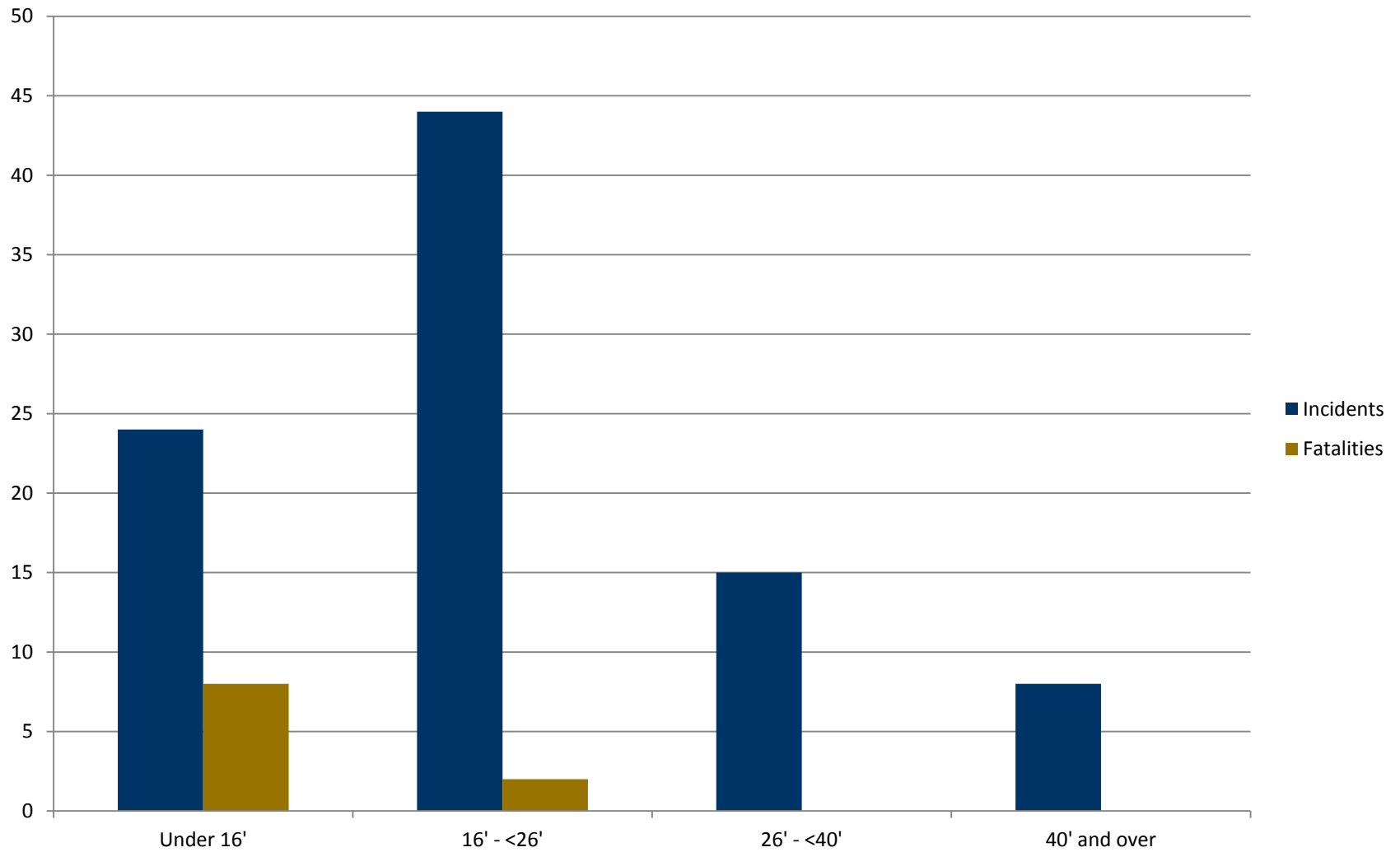
## Top Primary Incident Types



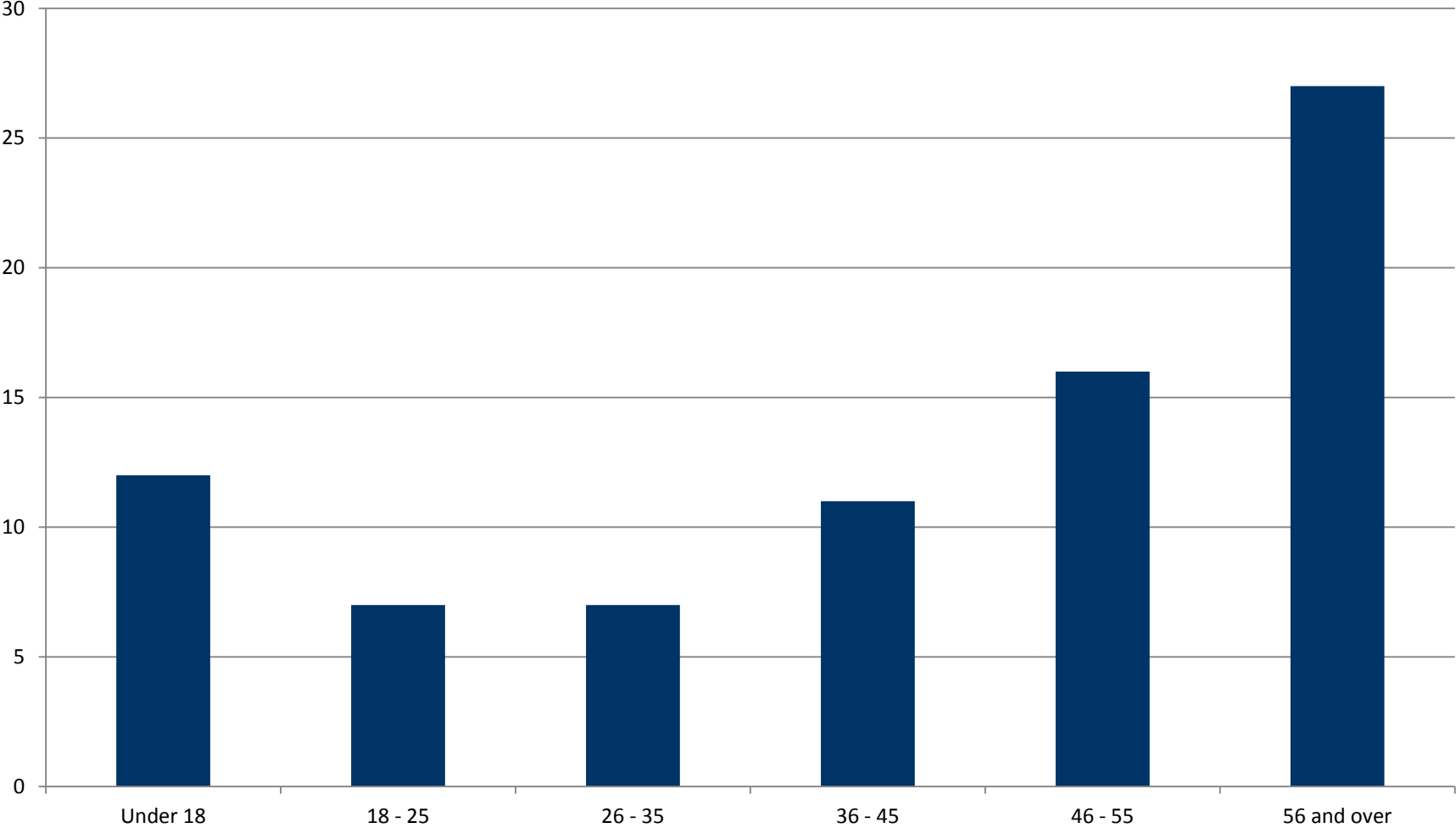
# 2015 Boating Incidents and Fatalities Top Primary Contributing Factor



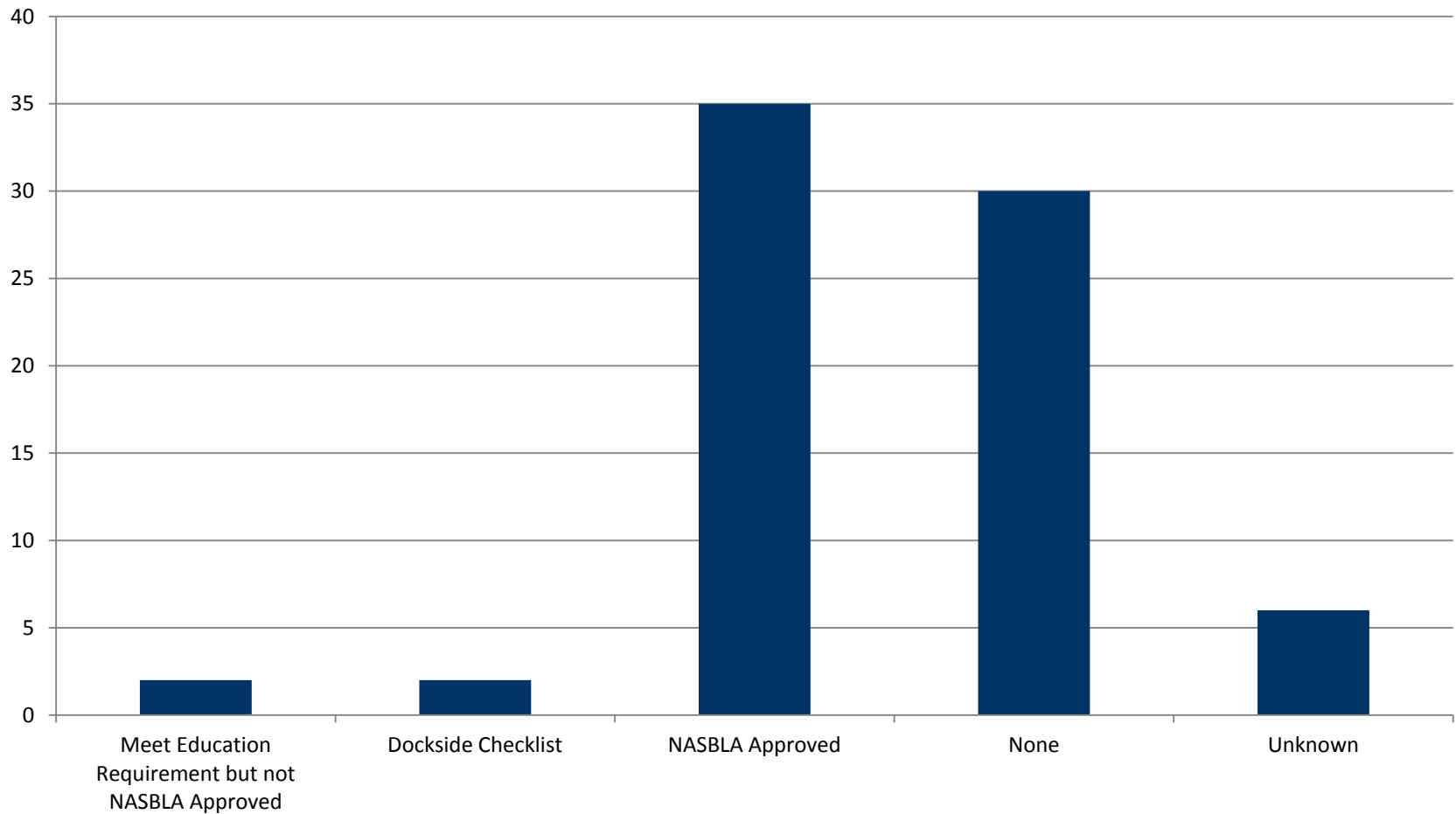
# 2015 Boating Incidents and Fatalities By Vessel Size



# 2015 Boat Incidents Age of Operators



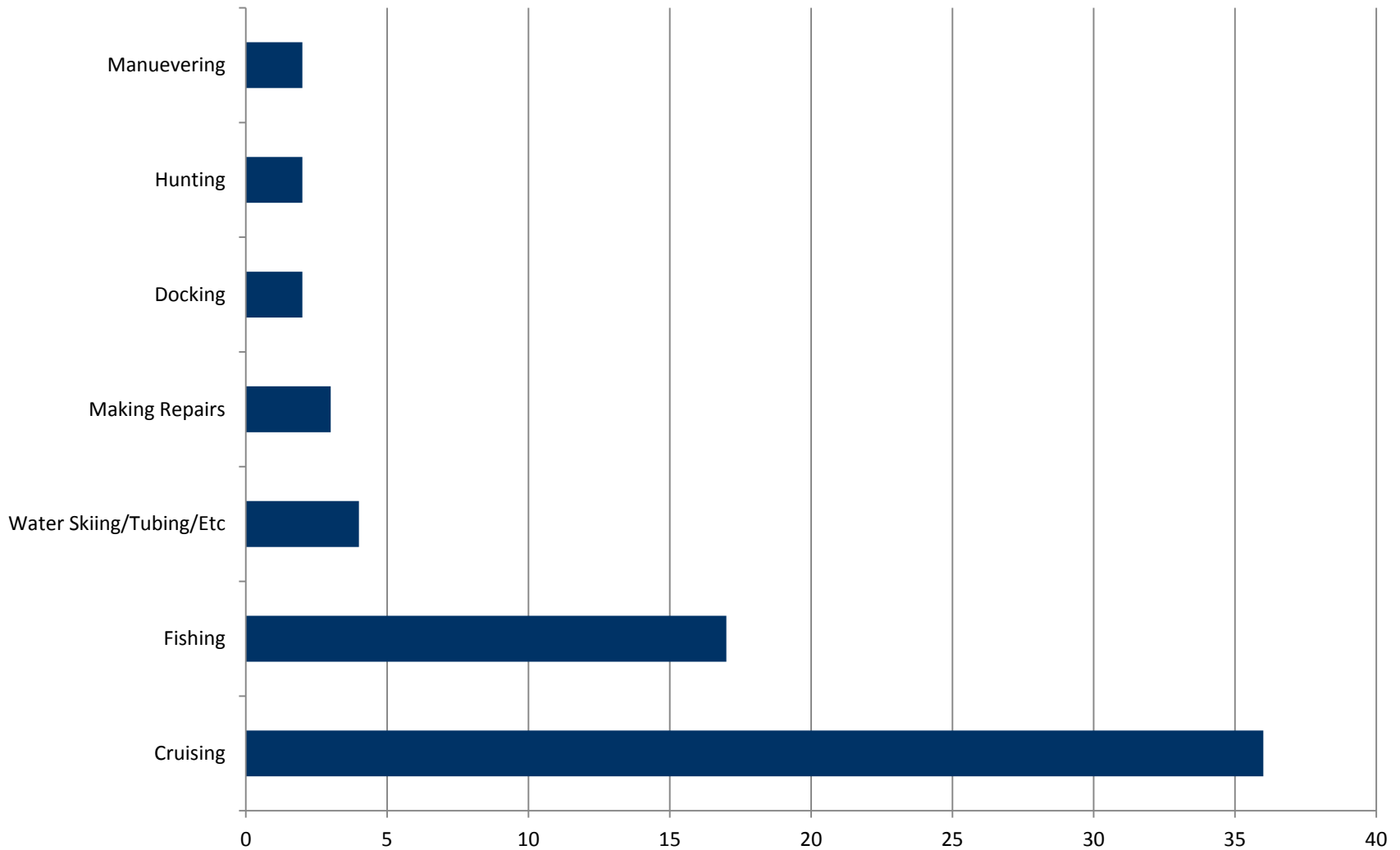
## 2015 Boat Incidents Education of Operators\*



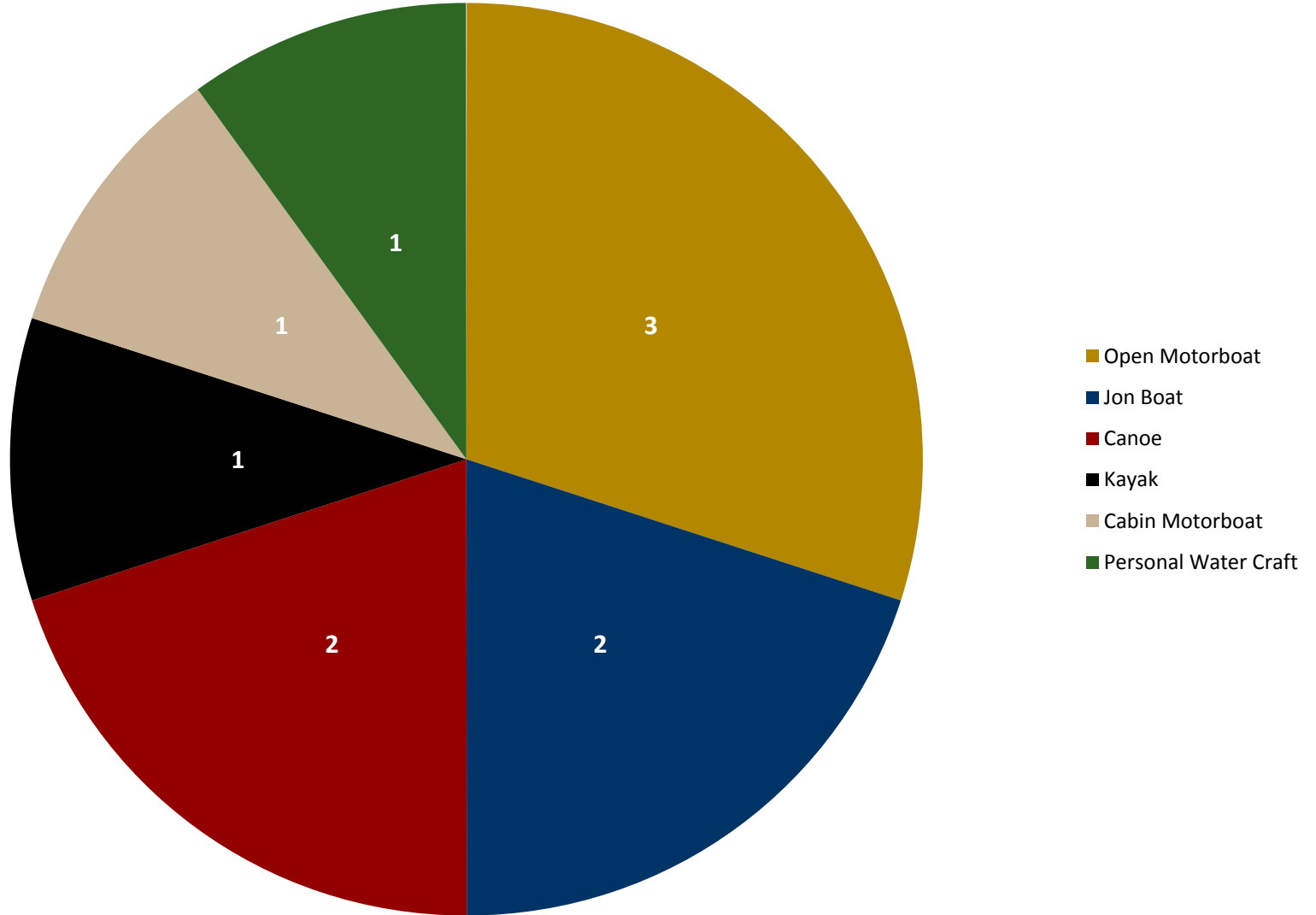
\* All boats involved in boating incident

# 2015 Boating Incidents

## Top Vessel Activity at Time of Incident

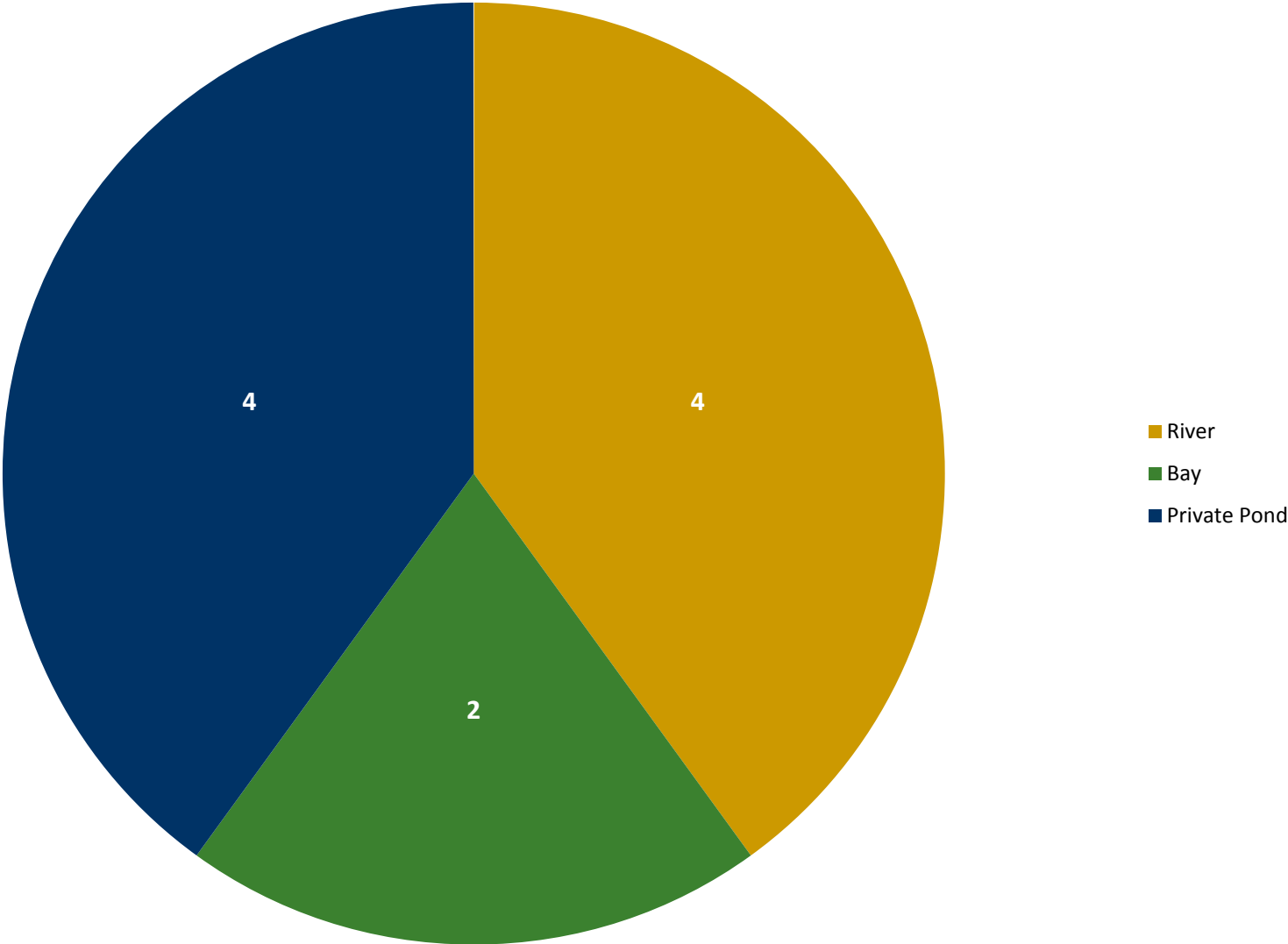


## 2015 Boating Fatalities - By Vessel Type

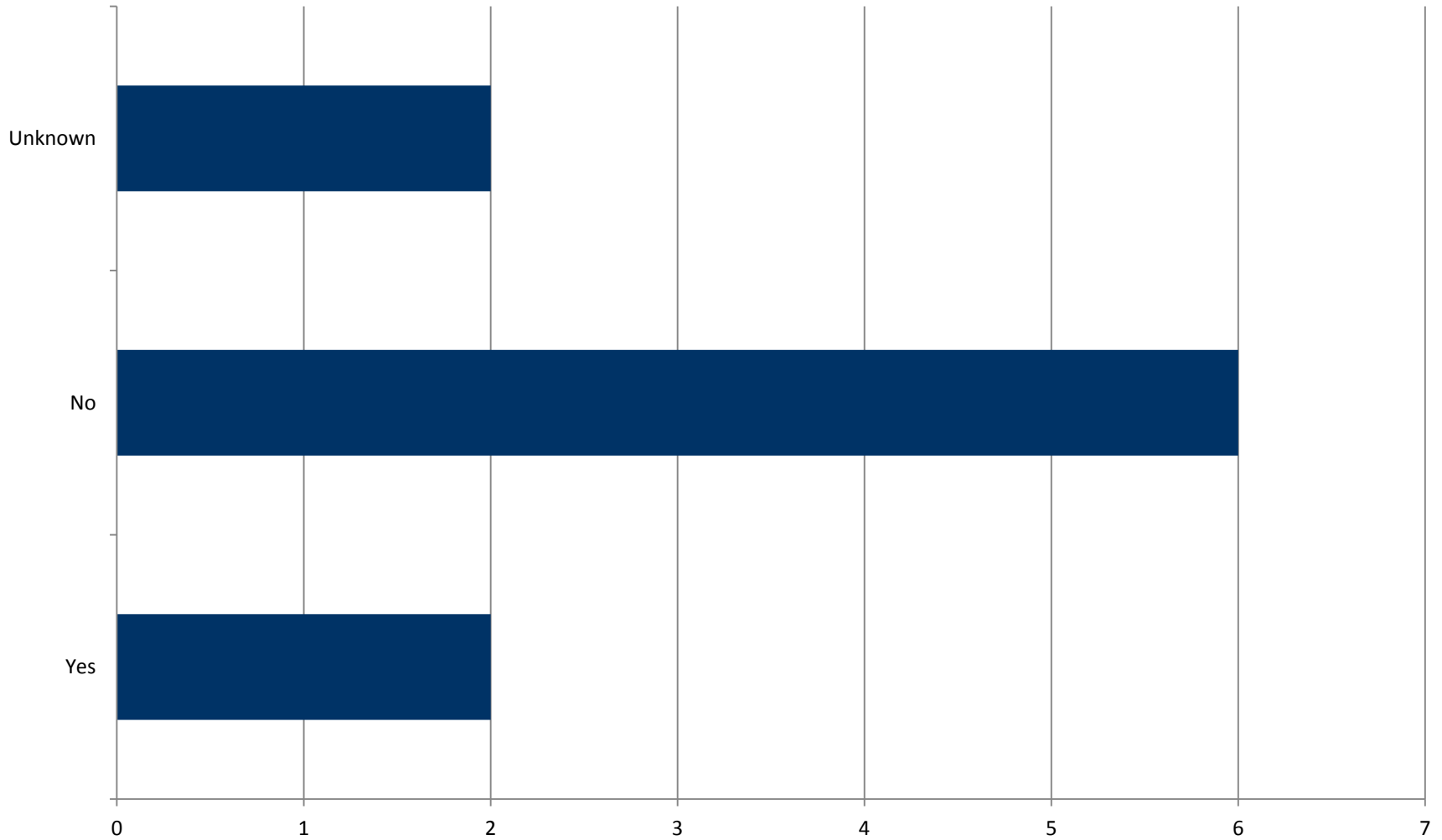




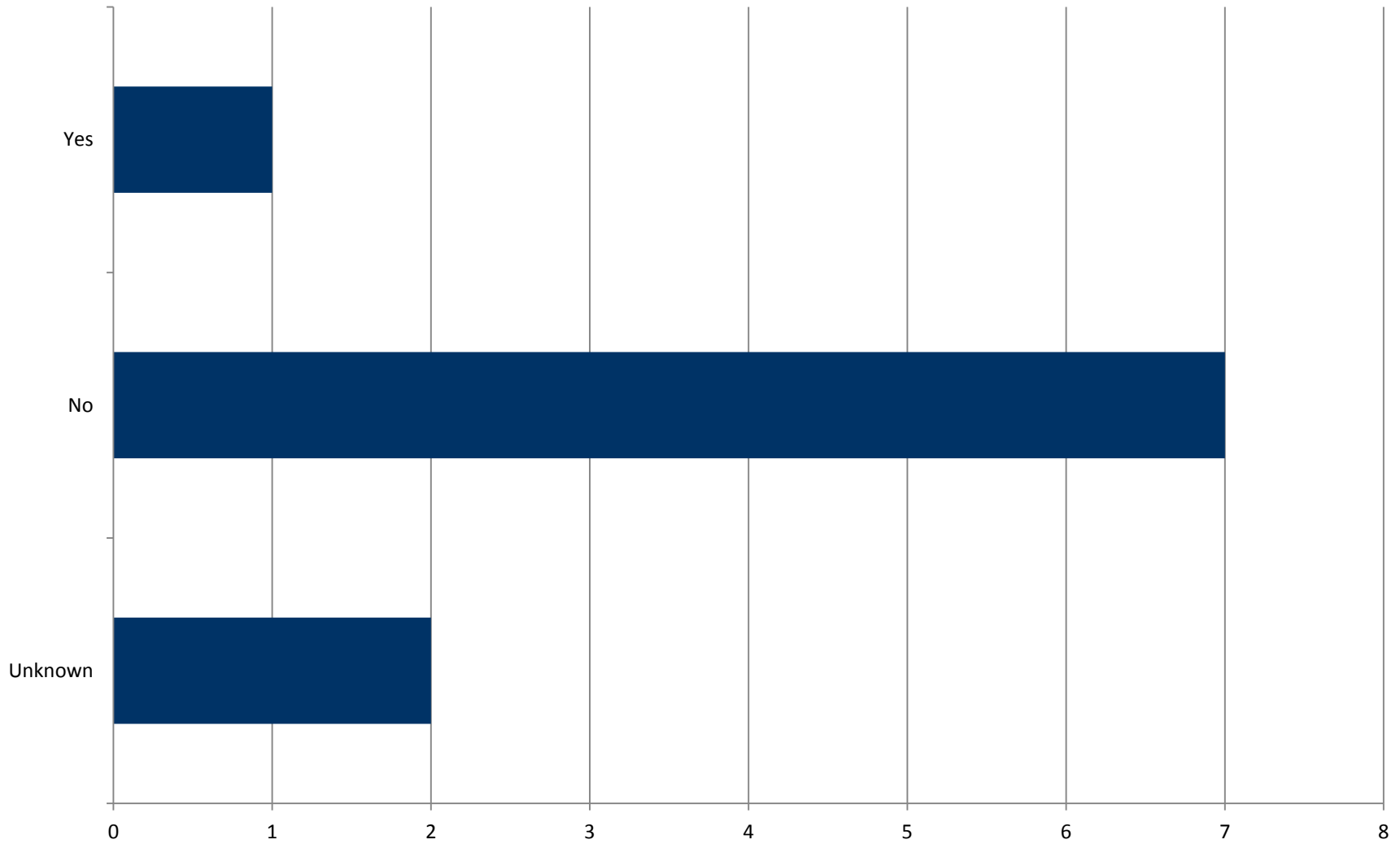
# 2015 Boating Fatalities - By Water Body Type



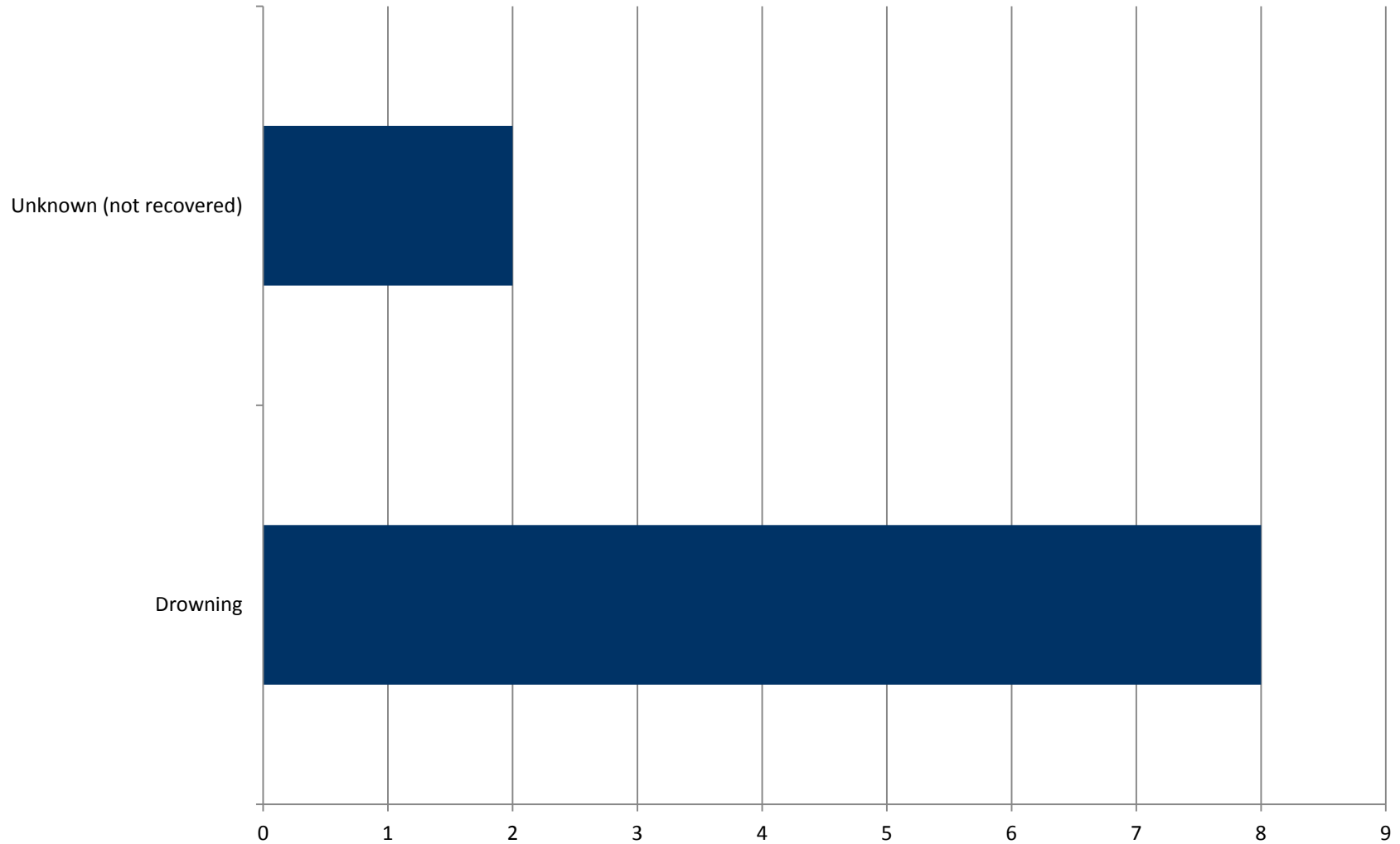
## 2015 Boating Fatalities Alcohol Use



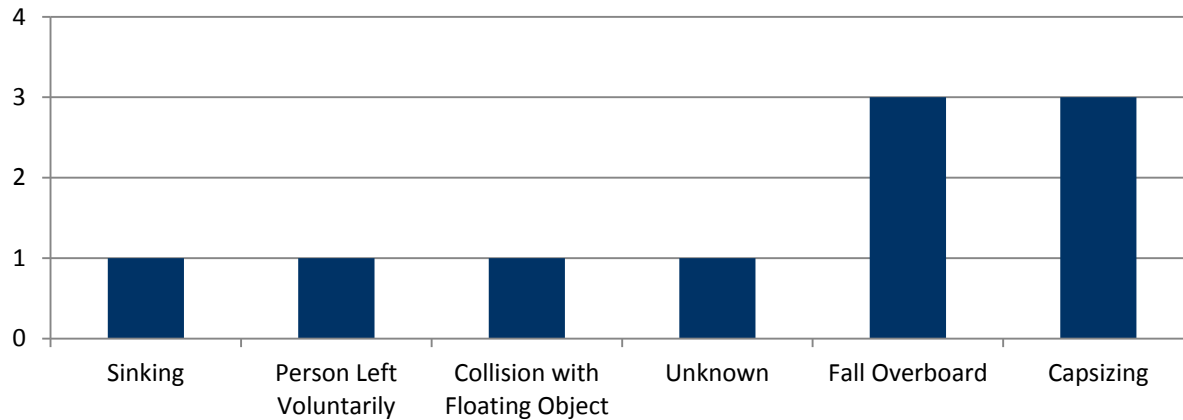
# 2015 Boating Fatalities Usage of Life Jackets



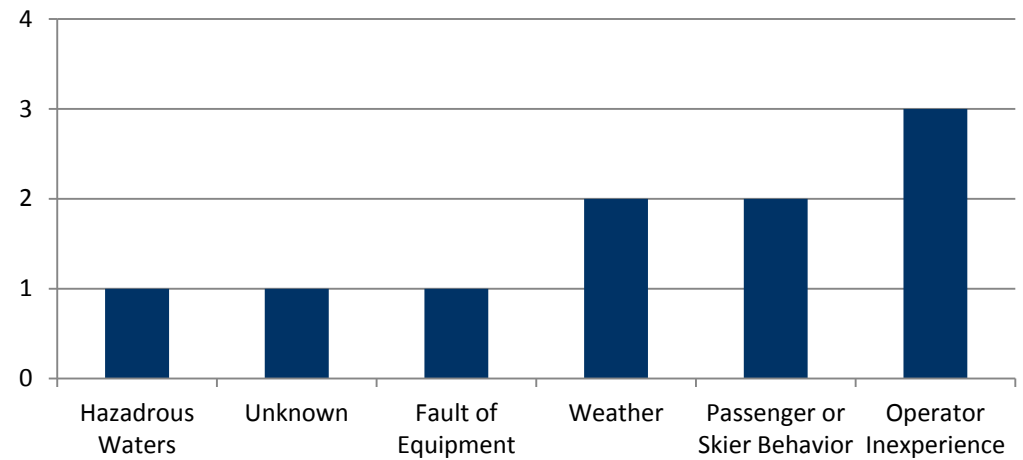
## 2015 Boating Fatalities Cause of Death



## 2015 Boating Fatalities Type of Incident



## 2015 Boating Fatalities Cause of Fatal Accident



# 2015 Boating Fatality Summary – Virginia

1/26/2015 – James River, 5:50 pm

Vessel was recreationally fishing an anchored gill net when it swamped due to rough seas and sank. The operator, a 74 year old male, was thrown in the water and was not recovered, he is presumed deceased.

4/6/2015 – Private Pond (Hazel Grove Lake), 5:30 pm

The victim, a 58 year old male, had just launched his newly purchase 10' kayak, when it became unstable and capsized. He was unable to free himself from the kayak. He was unconscious by the time his son was able to reach him in another kayak and pulled to the shore by by-standers. CPR was started, but he was pronounced dead at the hospital. Cause of death was drowning. Victim was wearing a life jacket.

5/17/2015 – Private Pond, 10:22 pm

The victim, a 25 year old male, left the small, manually powered jon boat to assist someone who was struggling in the water. He began struggling in the water himself and subsequently drown. No life jackets were onboard and no life jackets were used.

# 2015 Boating Fatality Summary – Virginia

6/1/2015 – James River, 4:00 pm

Two men were canoeing on the James River when one of the occupants attempted to stand up, causing the boat to become unstable and capsize. Both men went into the water. There were no life jackets on the canoe and neither man was wearing a life jacket. They held onto the canoe. The occupant who could swim, swim to shore and told the other occupant to hold onto the canoe and let it drift back to the ramp. A neighbor saw the empty canoe drifting down the river and called the fire department. The victim was no longer holding onto the canoe and his body was found 2 days later. The cause of death for the 50 year old victim was drowning.

6/28/2015 – James River, 1:00 pm

A group of people were floating the James River. The water level was about 7 feet above normal levels due to a recent storm. The vessels being used were 3 jon boats. Although they reported they had life jackets for each person, none of the group were wearing life jackets. The group was consuming alcohol and the deceased did not know how to swim. The high water caused a normal class 2 rapid to become much more dangerous and one of the boats overturned. The 51 year old victim was not wearing a life jacket.

# 2015 Boating Fatality Summary – Virginia

7/27/2015 – Private Pond (Lake Farms), 12:45 pm

Two men were fishing from a 14' jon boat on a private pond. One man was sitting in the front of the boat fishing while the other was operating the trolling motor, when the man in the front heard a splash and the operator was struggling in the water. He jumped in to try to save him, but the struggling man, pulled him under, so he swam to shore and called 911. While 2 life jackets were onboard, the 47 year old victim was not wearing a life jacket and drown.

9/6/2015 – Chesapeake Bay, unknown – vessel found at 10:20 pm

At 10:20 pm a vessel belonging to the 77 year old male victim, was found drifting. It appears that he was working his gill nets when he fell overboard and drown. No life jacket was worn.

10/6/2015 – Smith River, 6:29 pm

Two men age were canoeing on the Smith River when their canoe overturned. One of the men was able to swim to shore, but the other passenger, a 30 year old, went under the water and did not resurface. His body was recovered more than 2 weeks later. No life jackets were onboard and no life jackets were worn.



# 2015 Boating Fatality Summary – Virginia

10/17/2015 – Private Pond (Lake Tormentor), 8:00 am

A 62 year old male went fishing by himself the morning of October 17<sup>th</sup>. Rescue personnel found the 14' jon boat across the lake and it seemed the seat had detached from the pedestal. The victim drown. One life jacket was on the boat, but no life jacket was worn.

10/17/2015 – Chesapeake Bay, 12:25 am

A 30' cabin motorboat departed for an overnight fishing trip. At approximately 12:25, a passenger heard the cabin door slam shut and when he went to investigate, he was unable to find the victim and he presumed the victim had fallen overboard. The victim was reported to have been wearing a cast on his leg due to a fracture injury and the sea conditions were extremely turbulent. The 50 year old male victim has not been recovered and is presumed deceased.