

# Chapter 10



## ATVs and Snowmobiles

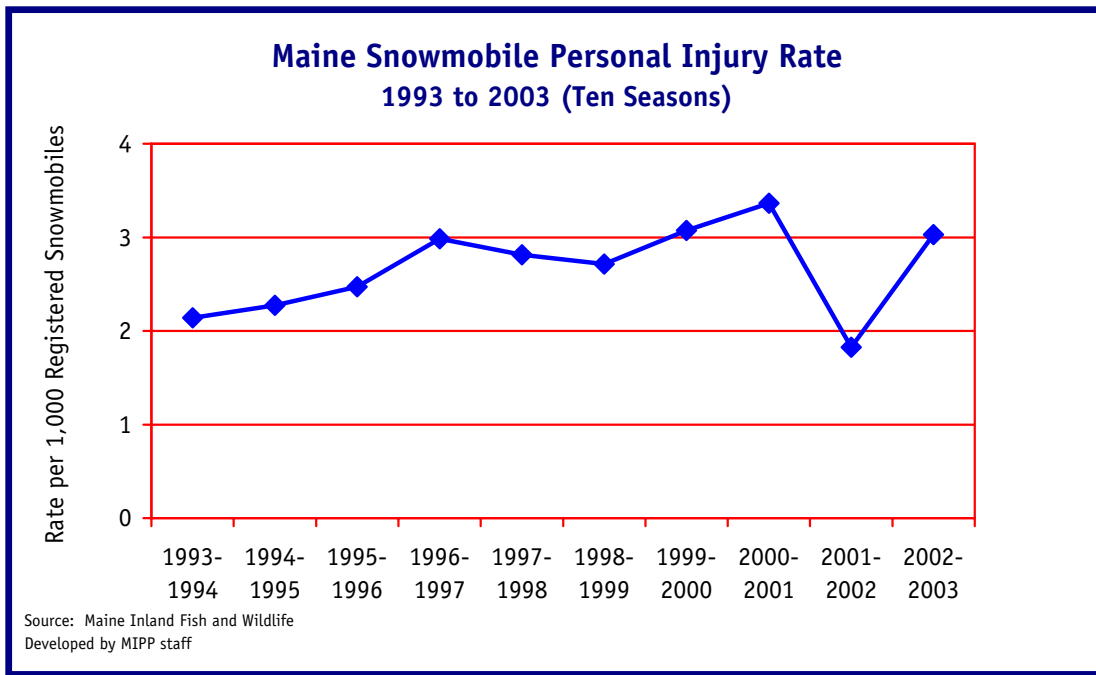
Snowmobile and All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) use has increased in Maine in the last decade. Recreational motor vehicle use is important to Maine's economy and way of life. Although the number of ATV trails is much more limited than for snowmobiles, recent attention to the issue by the Governor's ATV Task Force will likely result in increased recreational opportunities.

### Snowmobiles

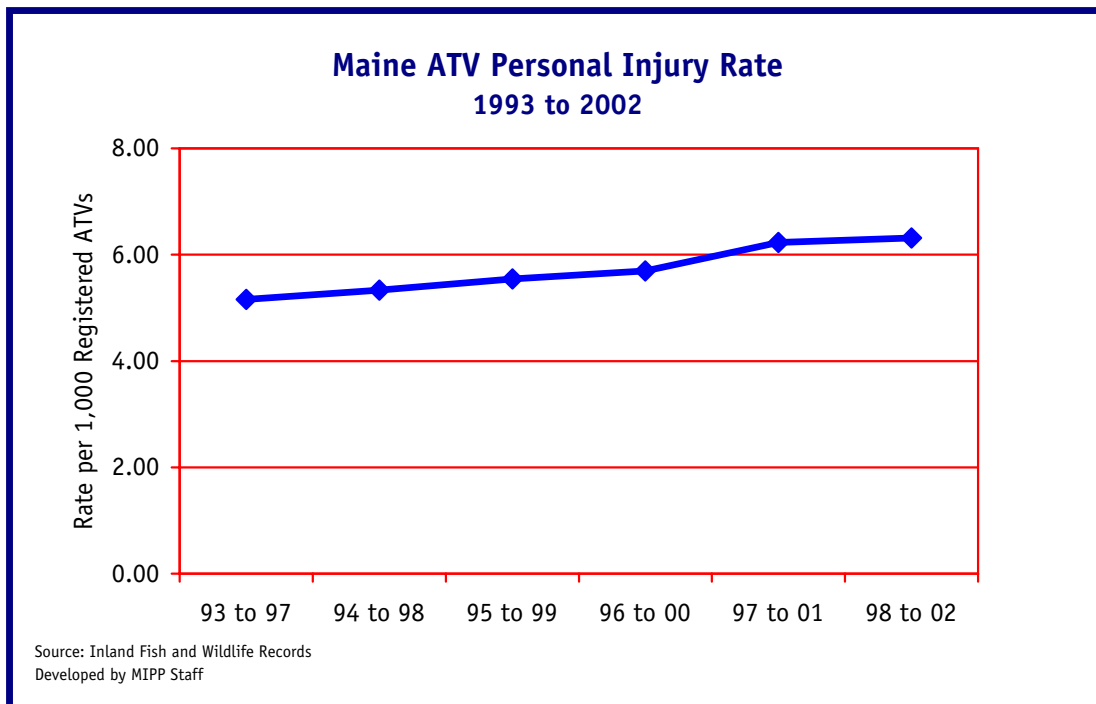
- There are over 13,000 miles of maintained snowmobile trails in Maine.
- During the last ten years, 91 people have died in snowmobile crashes and 2,252 were injured. Over 68% of all crashes resulted in some kind of injury.
- Snowmobile registrations have increased by 44.7% during the last ten years. The number of crashes has increased by 86.5%.
- The three most commonly cited reasons for snowmobile crashes during the last ten seasons were Unsafe Speed, Operator Inattention, and Operator Inexperience.
- Alcohol-related crashes account for 5%-7% of all snowmobile crashes. The rate of alcohol-related crashes has more than doubled in the last five seasons.
- Young operators, age 16 to 24, are most at risk of a snowmobile crash and subsequent hospitalization.

### All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

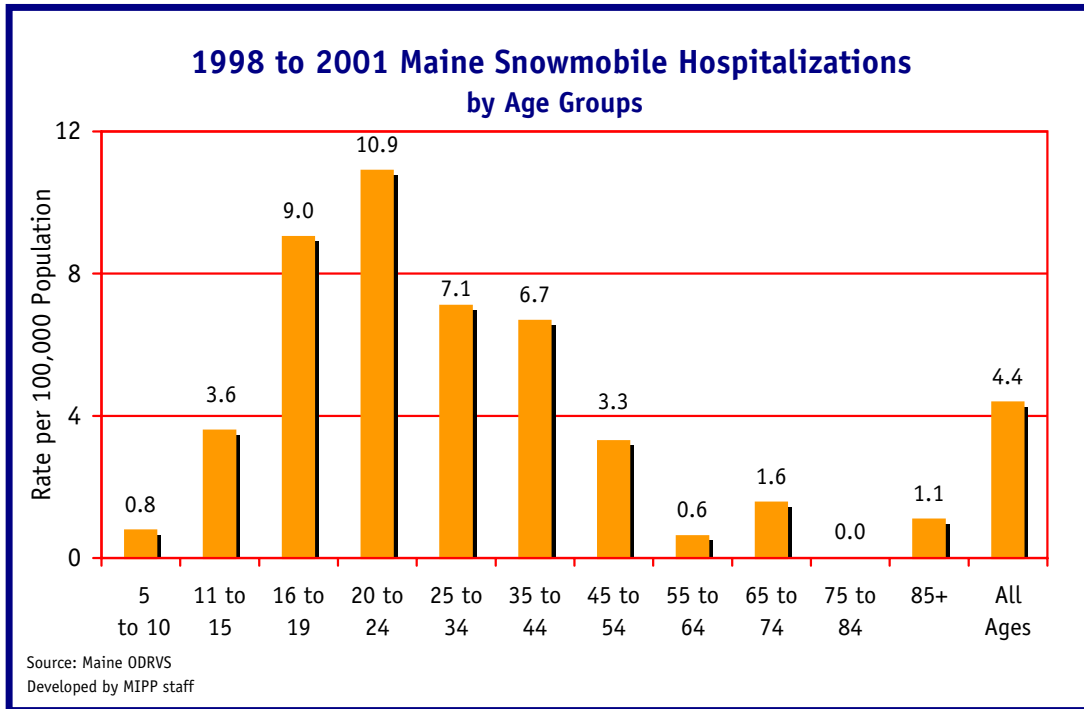
- ATV registrations have increased by 137% in the last ten years, but crashes have more than tripled with an increase of 233%.
- In the past 10 years, 1,994 persons have been injured and 32 have died in ATV crashes in Maine.
- Of the 2,005 ATV operators involved in crashes, 951 (47.4%) were age 20 or younger.
- Alcohol-related crashes accounted for 11.5% of all crashes, and the rate of these crashes has increased by 43% in the last ten years.
- Only 37% of crash victims were wearing a helmet at the time of a collision, while 50% were not wearing helmets and 13% were documented as unknown helmet status.
- Since 1997, only 146 ATV operators involved in a crash reported they had ATV safety training; 1,102 had no safety training.
- Nearly half the ATV crashes since 1997 resulted primarily from four causes: driving too fast for conditions (22.7 percent); inattention (12.2 percent); fell or thrown off (11.7 percent), and operating on a public way (4.3 percent).



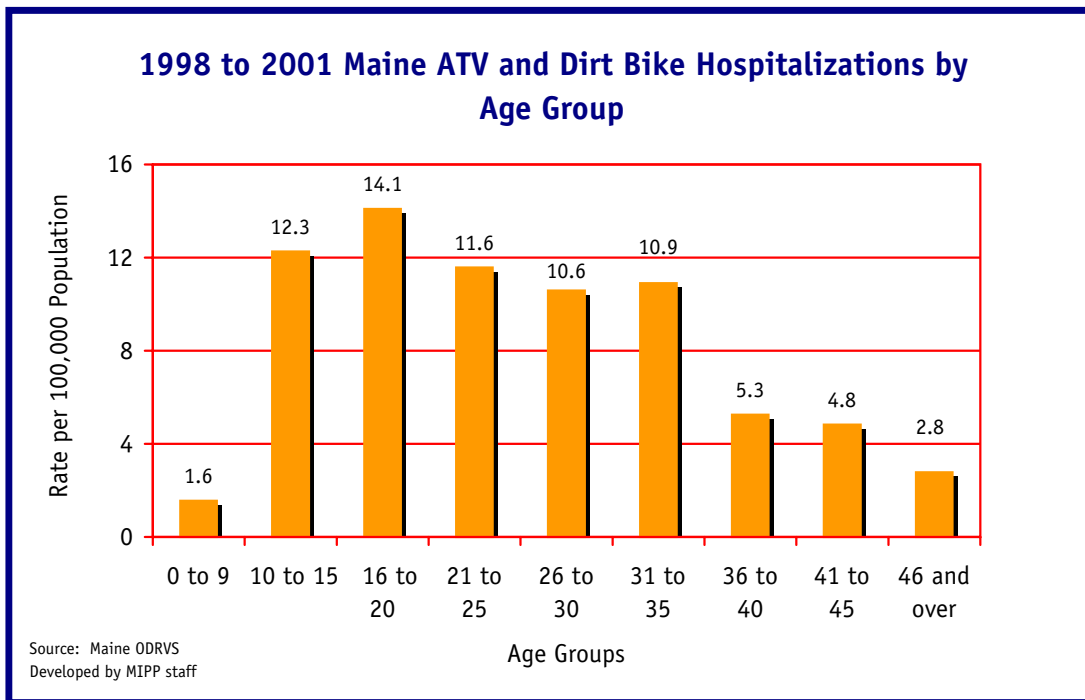
Although there has been a general rise in snowmobile crashes that result in injury, the number of injured depends largely on the annual snow cover. During the winter of 2001-02, there was very limited snow cover. Males account for 83.6% of all snowmobile crashes.



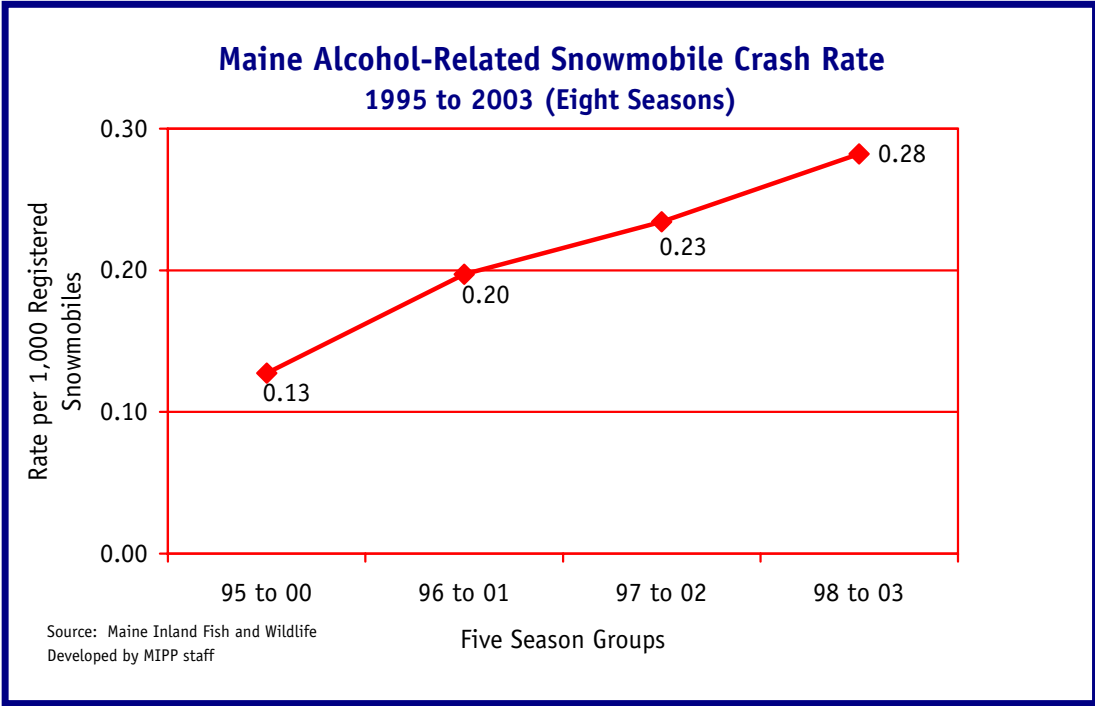
The number of registered ATVs in Maine has increased 136% over the past 10 years, while the number of injuries has increased 234%, resulting in an injury rate increase of 22%.



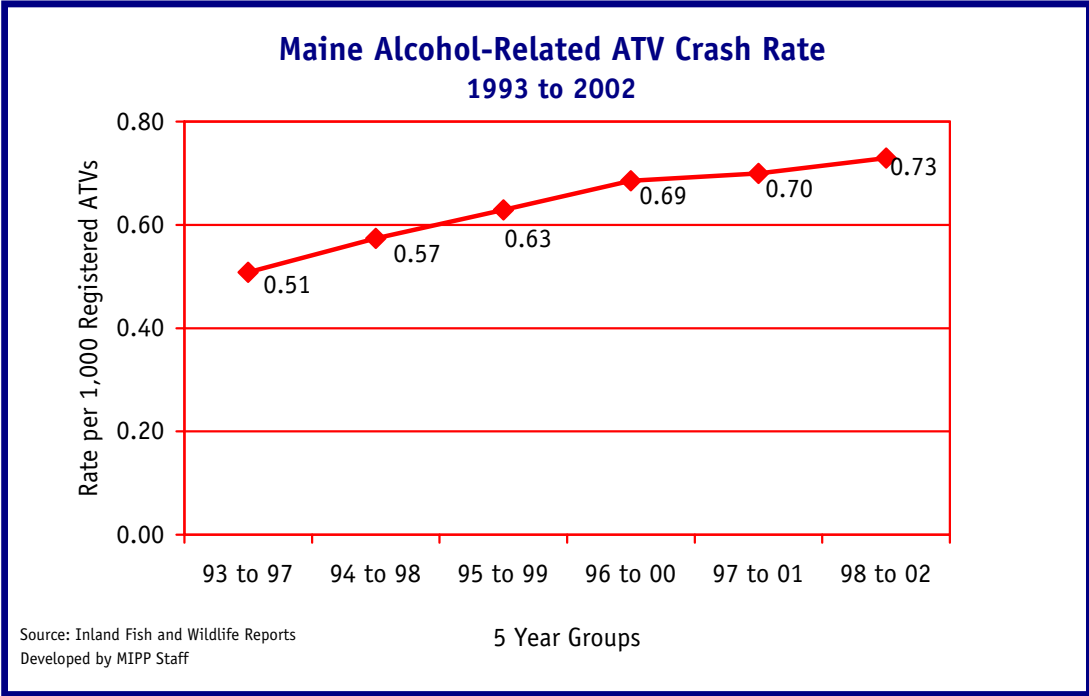
The majority of individuals hospitalized for snowmobile crashes are between the ages of 16 and 44.



Individuals age 10 to 35 account for over 80% of all ATV and dirt bike crash hospitalizations. There has been an 87% increase in ATV and dirt bike related hospitalizations in four years. Males account for 88.1% of all ATV and dirt bike related hospitalizations.



Alcohol-related crashes represent 5% of all crashes and 7% of all injuries. The alcohol-related rate of crashes per registered snowmobile has more than doubled in the last eight seasons.



The crash rate per registered ATV increased by 43.4% since 1993, but the number of ATV alcohol related crashes has increased 134%.