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Trends in Teen Life Jacket Use
October 8, 2013



Healthy Youth Survey

- **Biennial survey of Washington public school students**
 - Health status and risk and protective behaviors
 - Combines YRBS, Youth Tobacco Survey, Monitoring the Future and Communities that Care
 - State level random sample of schools
 - 8th, 10th, and 12th graders
 - Started in 2002

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2012 HYS participation

- The 2012 Healthy Youth Survey was completed...



By 204,929 students...

In 1,077 schools...

In all 39 counties.

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Purpose

- Life jacket usage trends.
- Life jacket usage by race/ethnicity.
- Non-boating trends by teens.

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Life Jacket Question

How often do you wear a life vest when you're in a small boat like a canoe, raft, or small motorboat?

- a. Never go boating in a small boat
- b. Never
- c. Less than half the time
- d. About half the time
- e. More than half the time
- f. Always

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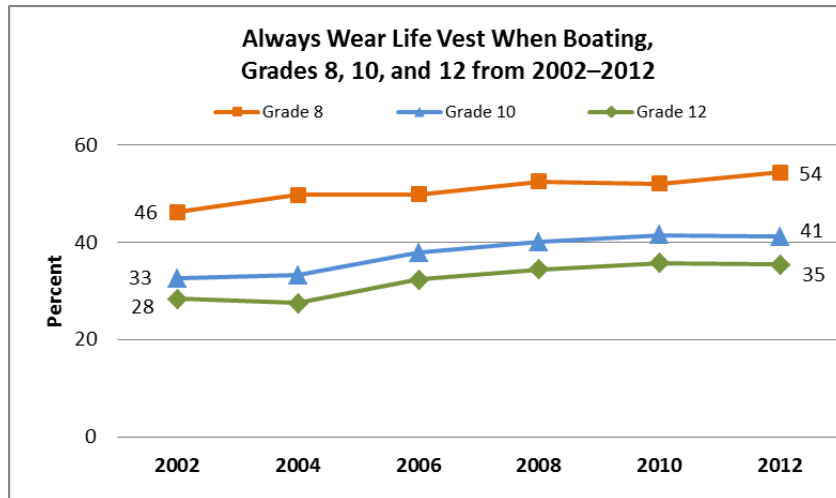


Methods

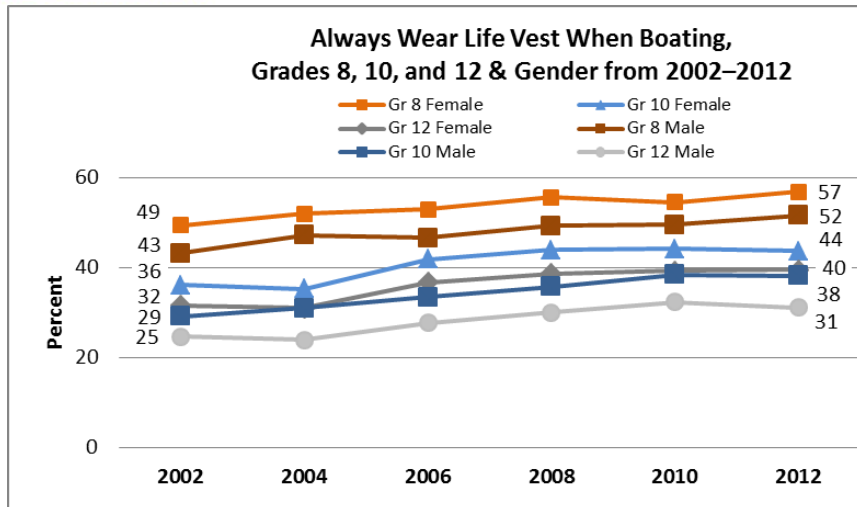
- Analysis of data by grade
- Life jacket usage
- Trend analysis done using the JoinPoint Regression Program

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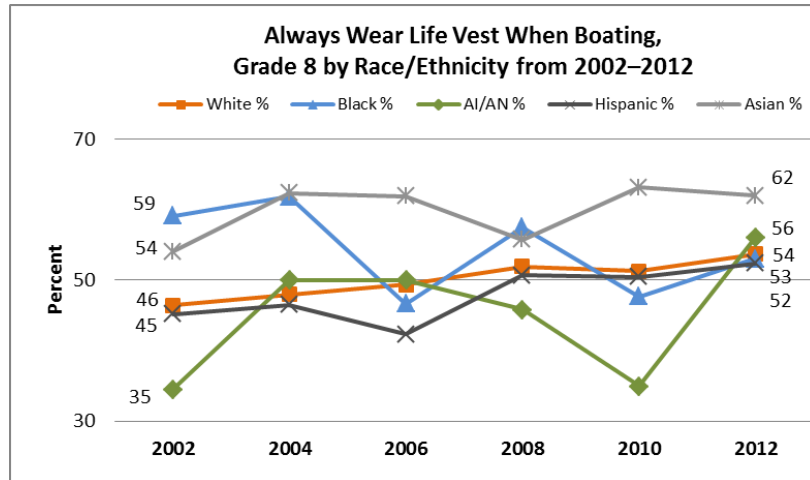
Life Jacket Wearing by Grade



Life Jacket Wearing by Grade & Gender

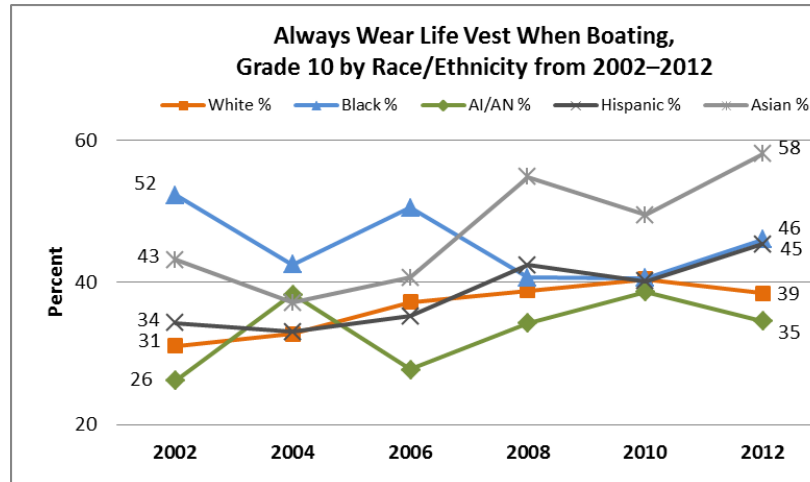


**Life Jacket Wearing by Race/Ethnicity
Grade 8**



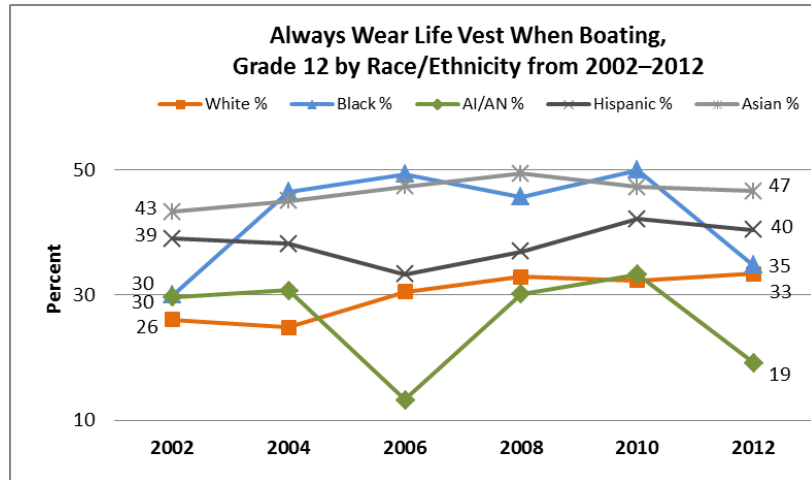
AI/AN = American Indian/Alaska Native

**Life Jacket Wearing by Race/Ethnicity
Grade 10**



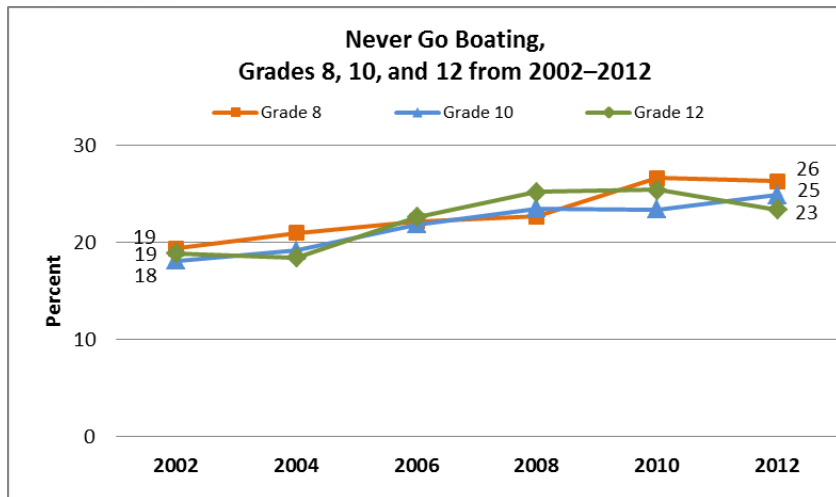
AI/AN = American Indian/Alaska Native

Life Jacket Wearing by Race/Ethnicity Grade 12



AI/AN = American Indian/Alaska Native

Never Go Boating by Grade





Summary

- The prevalence of reported life jacket usage while on a small boat has increased modestly among 8th, 10th and 12th graders. Reported usage is not that high, especially for 12th graders.
- Use has increased among both boys and girls.
- Use has not increased among all race and ethnic groups.
- The prevalence of never going boating has also increased.

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Limitations

- **Public school students only**
- **Self report data**
- **Numbers of students in some race groups is small**

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Recommendations

- Need to improve life jacket usage among teens.
- Targeted messages may be warranted.

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