



Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission

2014 Life Jacket Wear Rates Among Boaters in WA





Recreational Boater Safety (RBS)

- ▶ Recreational Boater Safety State Grant Program was established in 1973
 - ▶ Funding comes from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund
 - ▶ Washington RBS Program Focus: Injury Prevention and Education
 - ▶ Program Areas: Law Enforcement, Education, Registration and Titling, Navigation Aids, Boating Accident Reporting, and Public Access
-



Why are life jackets important?





Why are life jackets important?





Study's Purpose

- ▶ Provide trend information on the use of life jackets from 2010 to 2014
 - ▶ Compare life jacket use in Washington State to National life jacket wear data.
 - ▶ Assess the impact of life jacket loaner boards
-



Study's Design

- ▶ Closely followed JSI design for nat'l study
 - ▶ 2014 – August – 1st week of September
 - ▶ 34 sites
 - ▶ East / West
 - ▶ Lots of boats
 - ▶ Diversity of boat types, water bodies
 - ▶ 4 hour blocks on Saturday or Sunday
 - ▶ Observer training
 - ▶ Boat form / Site Form
-



Keep in mind...

- ▶ PFDs are legally required for....
 - ▶ Children under 13
 - ▶ PWCs
 - ▶ Anyone being towed
-



Washington Boater Wear Rates

All boats - All boaters

24%



Washington Boater Wear Rates

All boats - Children
under 13

90%



Washington Boater Wear Rates

All boats - Teens

45%



Washington Boater Wear Rates

All boats - Adults Only

2014 - 15%

2010 - 17%

Nat'l - 14.3%



Washington Boater Wear Rates

Power Boats - Adults

All power – 9.9%

Speed boats – 3.4%

Cabin Cruisers – 2.6%

Pontoon – 2.4%

PWC – 100%



Washington Boater Wear Rates

Paddle Craft- Adults

All Paddle Craft – 58.2%

Inflatables – 5.4%

Canoe – 43.4%

Kayak – 82%

SUP – 66.1%



Washington Boater Wear Rates

Boat Size - Adults

All boats – 14.7%

<16' – 56.5%

16-20' – 8%

21-25' – 4%

26'+ – 5.1%

*This figure includes PWC and paddle craft - both of which have high rates



Washington Boater Wear Rates

Loaner Boards vs. Non Loaner Board Sites by Age

	No Board	Loaner Board	Difference
All Boaters	23.5%	26.1%	+2.6%
Age 0-12, Children	90.1%	91.1%	+1%
Age 13-17, Teens	46.3%	43.3%	-3%
Adults (18+)	13.3%	16.7%	+3.4%






Loaner Board Summary

- ▶ Higher wear rates in many but not all circumstances
 - ▶ Higher for adults on some powerboats but not speedboats (think ski boats, wake boarding boats etc...)
-



2010 Wear Rates vs 2014

- ▶ Significantly higher for children 0-12 
- ▶ Decline for teen females from 55% to 45% 
- ▶ Decrease in adults from 17% to 15% 

Note: The analyses was adjusted for differences between the 2010 and 2014 studies by weighting the 2010 data on various characteristics to match the distributions in the 2014 study.



Key questions this study raised

- ▶ Loaner boards – Expansion? Cost – Benefit?
 - ▶ Visual prompt in lieu of a LJLB?
 - ▶ Is the culture changing?
 - ▶ How often should we fund a study?
 - ▶ Your questions....
-



Thank You

Wade Alonzo

wade.alonzo@parks.wa.gov

360-902-8836

Derek Van Dyke

derek.vandyke@parks.wa.gov

360-902-8842
