



**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Rotorcraft Standards Branch

AIR-680

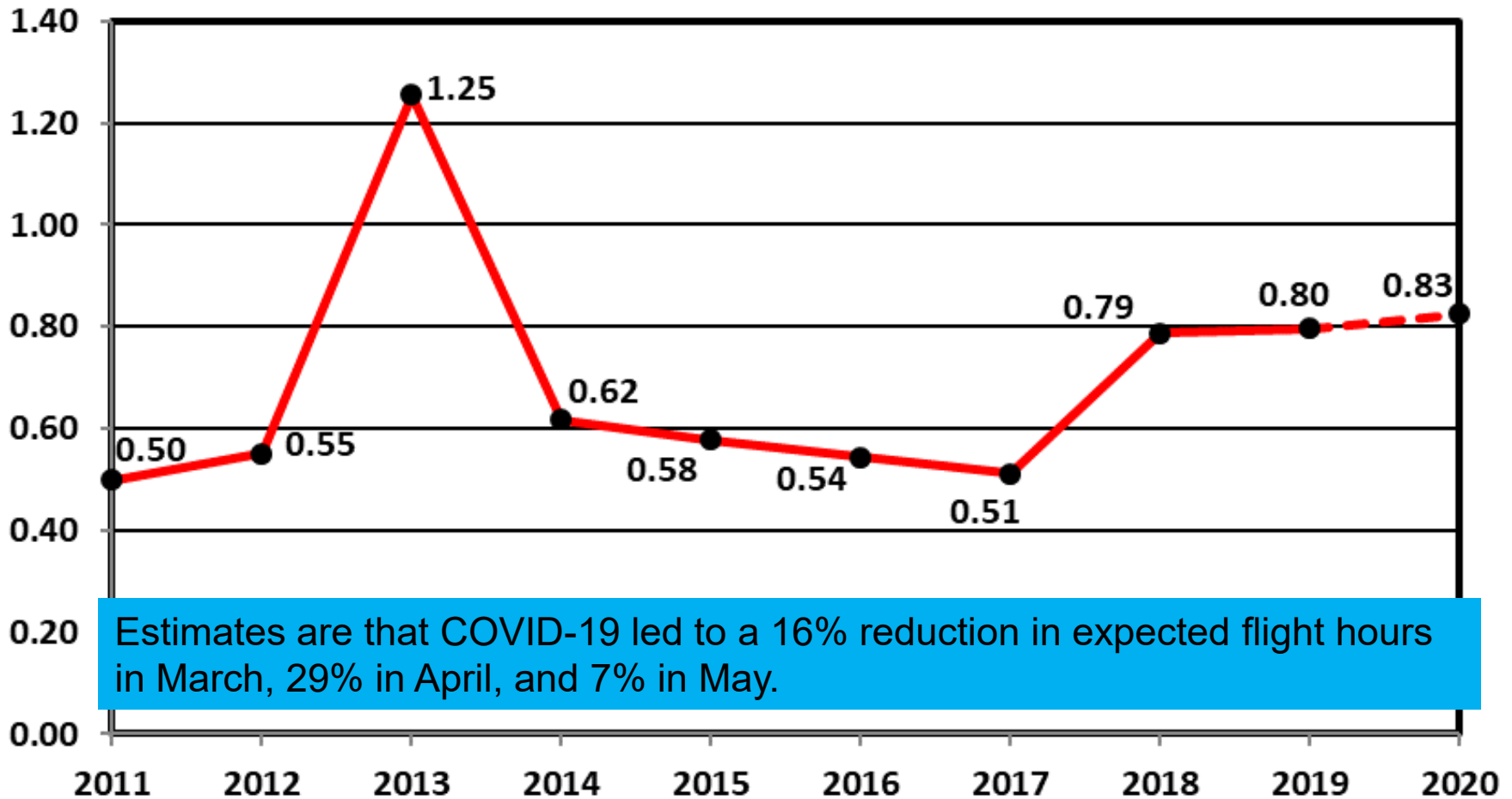
Monthly Accident Briefing

July 2020

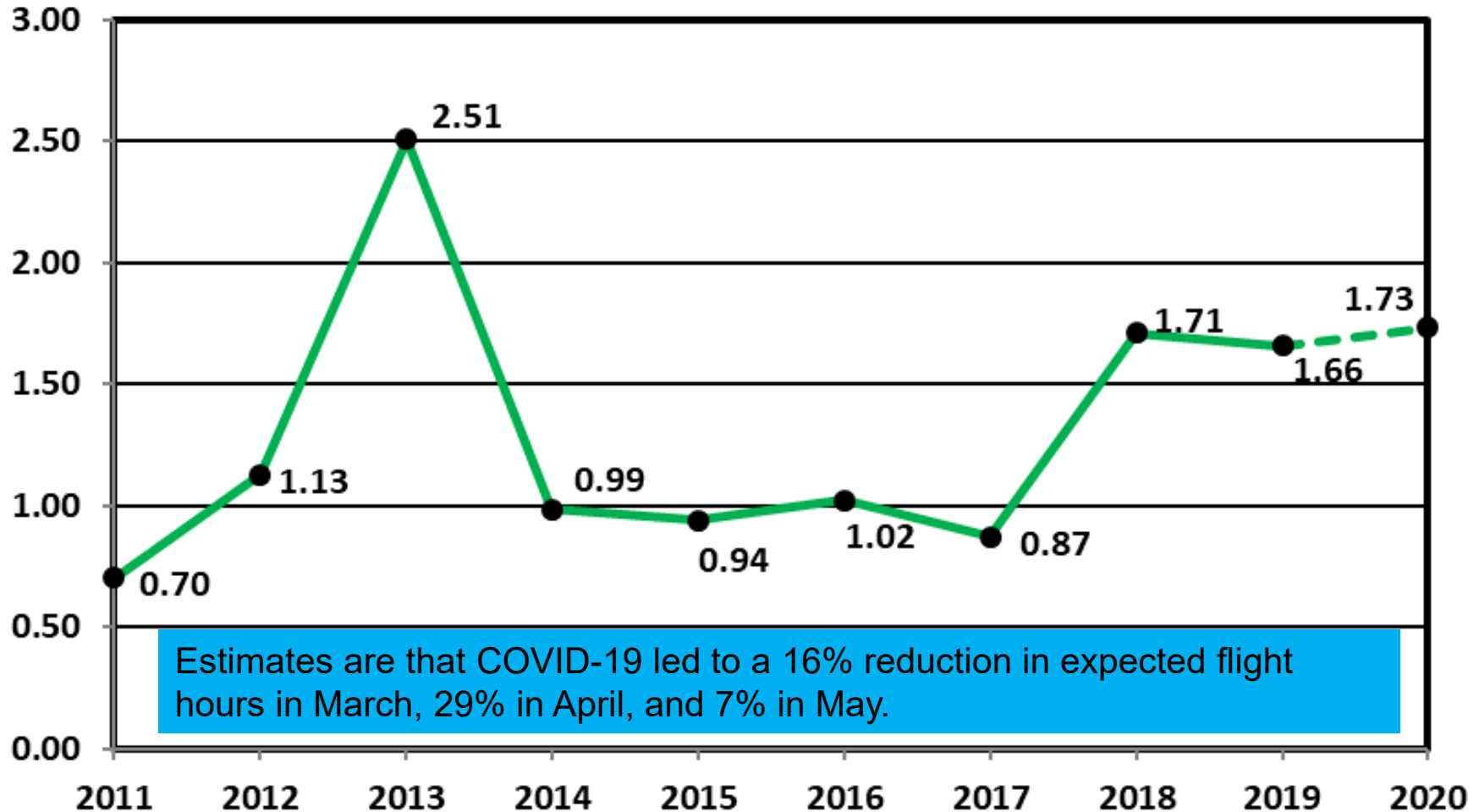
**By: AIR-682, Safety Management Section,
Rotorcraft Standards Branch**



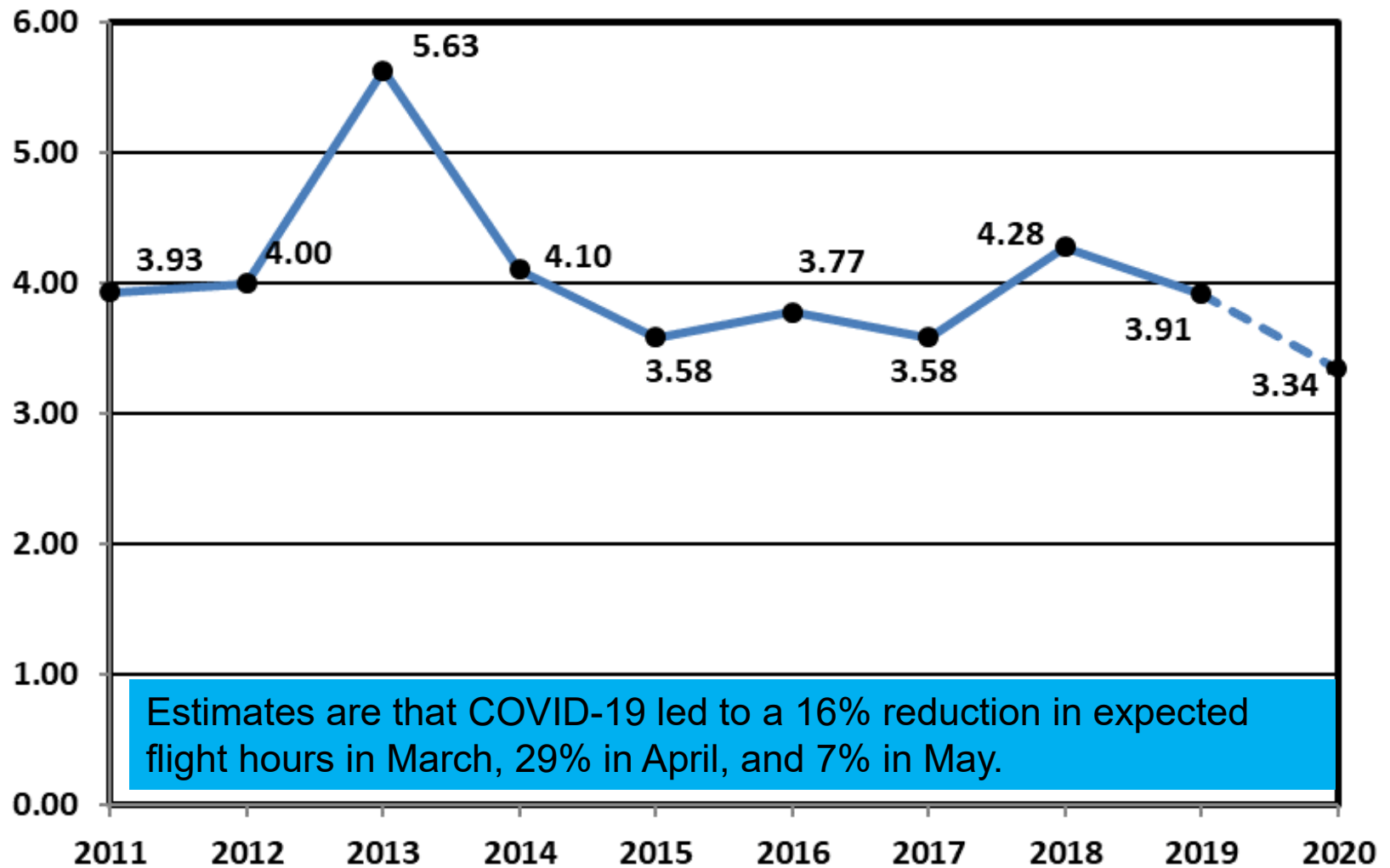
Estimated U.S. Rotorcraft FATAL Accident Rate by FY 10 Year Lookback – Rates per 100,000 Hours



Estimated U.S. Rotorcraft Fatality Rate by FY 10 Year Lookback – Rates per 100,000 Hours



Estimated U.S. Rotorcraft Accident Rate by FY 10 Year Lookback – Rates per 100,000 Hours



FY 20 – U.S. Registered Rotorcraft Event Counts

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	YTD
Accidents:	11	4	7	6	7	5	8	4	12	17			81
Fatal Acc:	4	0	3	2	0	1	1	2	3	4			20
Fatalities:	6	0	10	11	0	2	1	2	5	5			42

Same time period, previous FY: 101 Accidents, 24 Fatal Accidents, 50 Fatalities

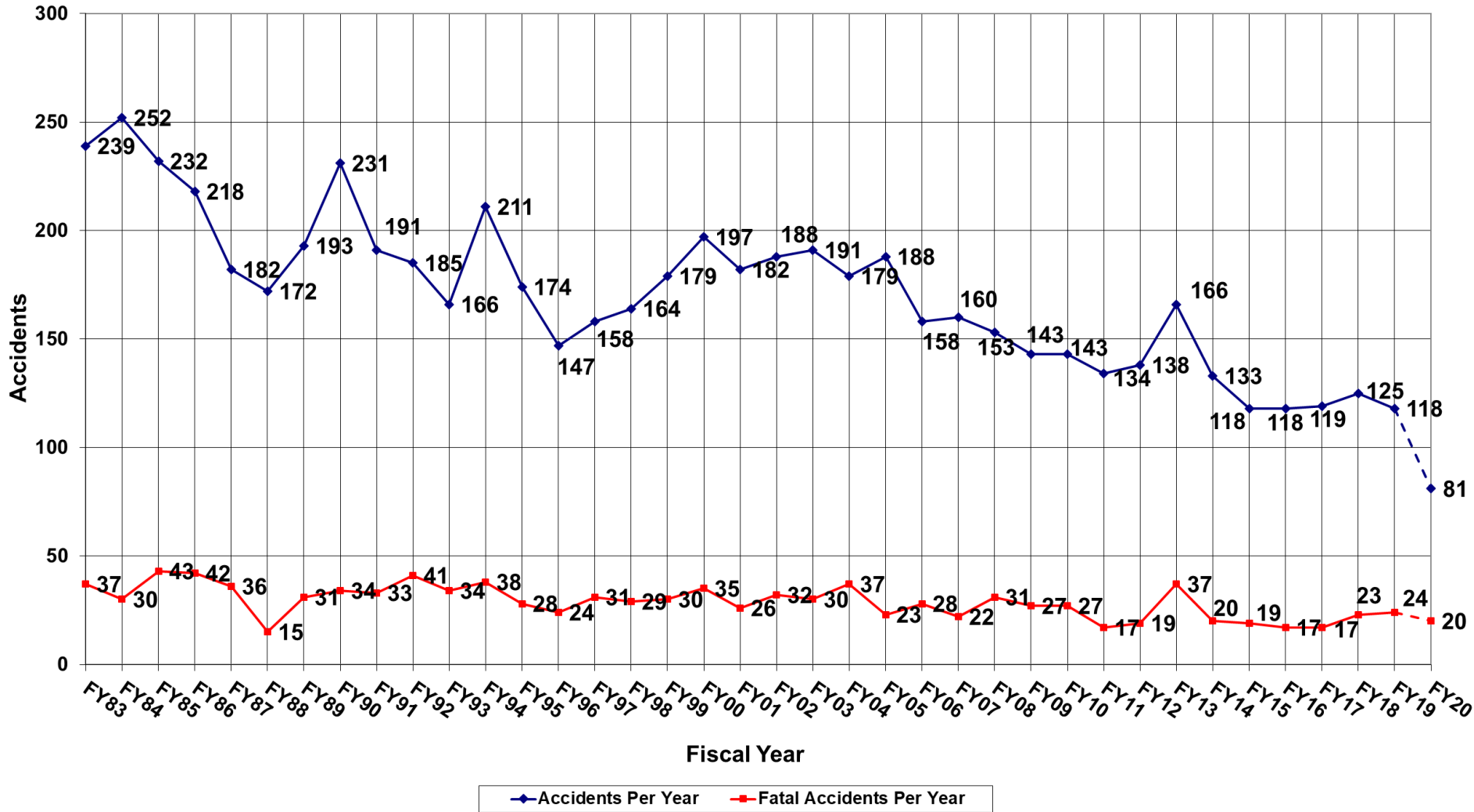
Data Source: FAA, NTSB Databases. Includes only events classified as accidents and does not include incidents. The accident numbers for each month of the Fiscal Year may vary from the previous monthly briefing based on analysis between FAA and NTSB databases for the specified month. The NTSB database may include accidents that were not reported to this office resulting in slightly different numbers.

Estimated Rates by Month (per 100,000 flight hours)

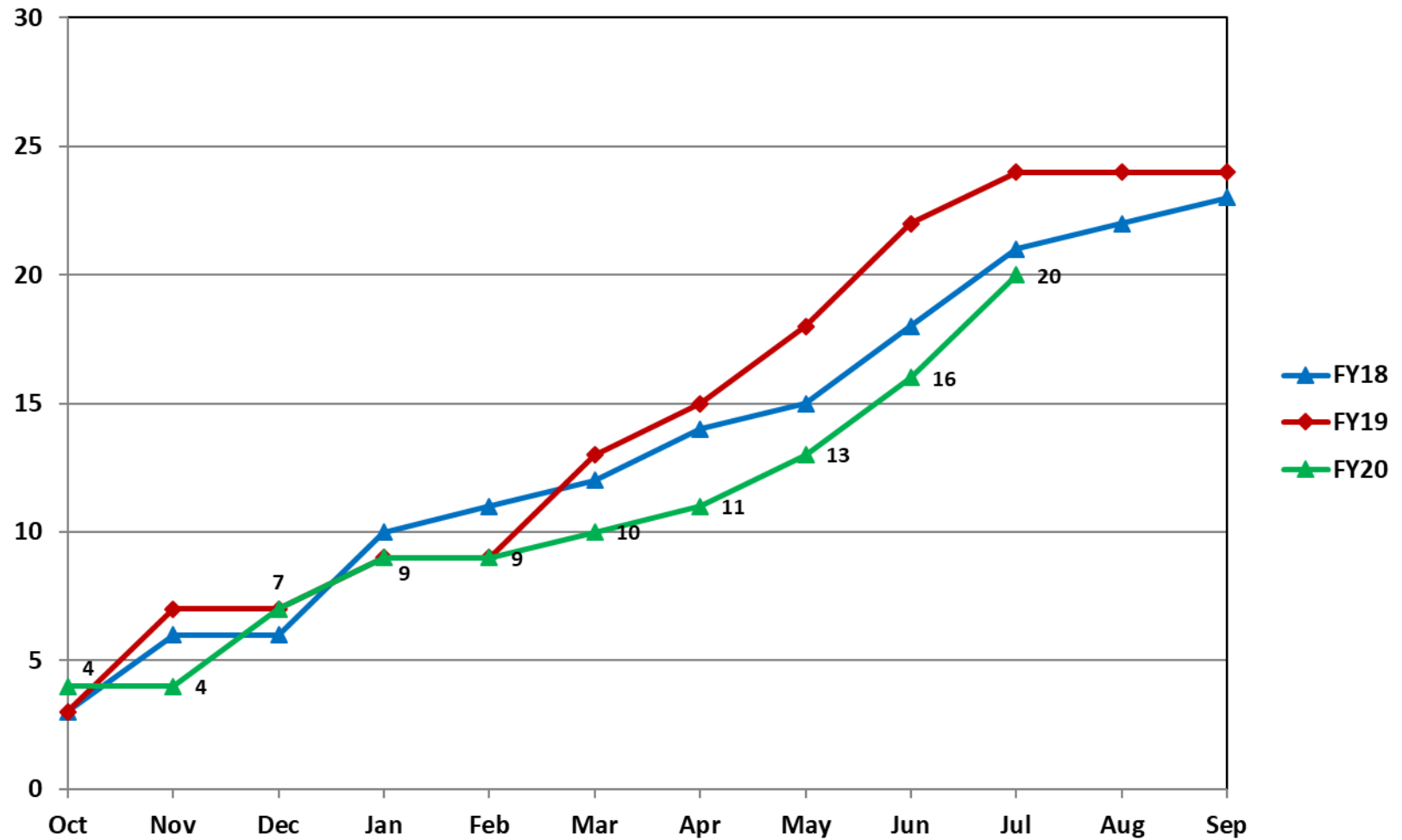
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	YTD
Accidents:	4.01	1.71	3.41	2.88	2.94	2.16	4.05	1.57	4.15	5.86			3.34
Fatal Acc:	1.46	0	1.46	0.96	0	0.43	0.51	0.79	1.04	1.38			0.83
Fatalities:	2.19	0	4.88	5.28	0	0.86	0.51	0.79	1.73	1.72			1.73

Estimates are that COVID-19 led to a 16% reduction in expected flight hours in March, 29% in April, and 7% in May.

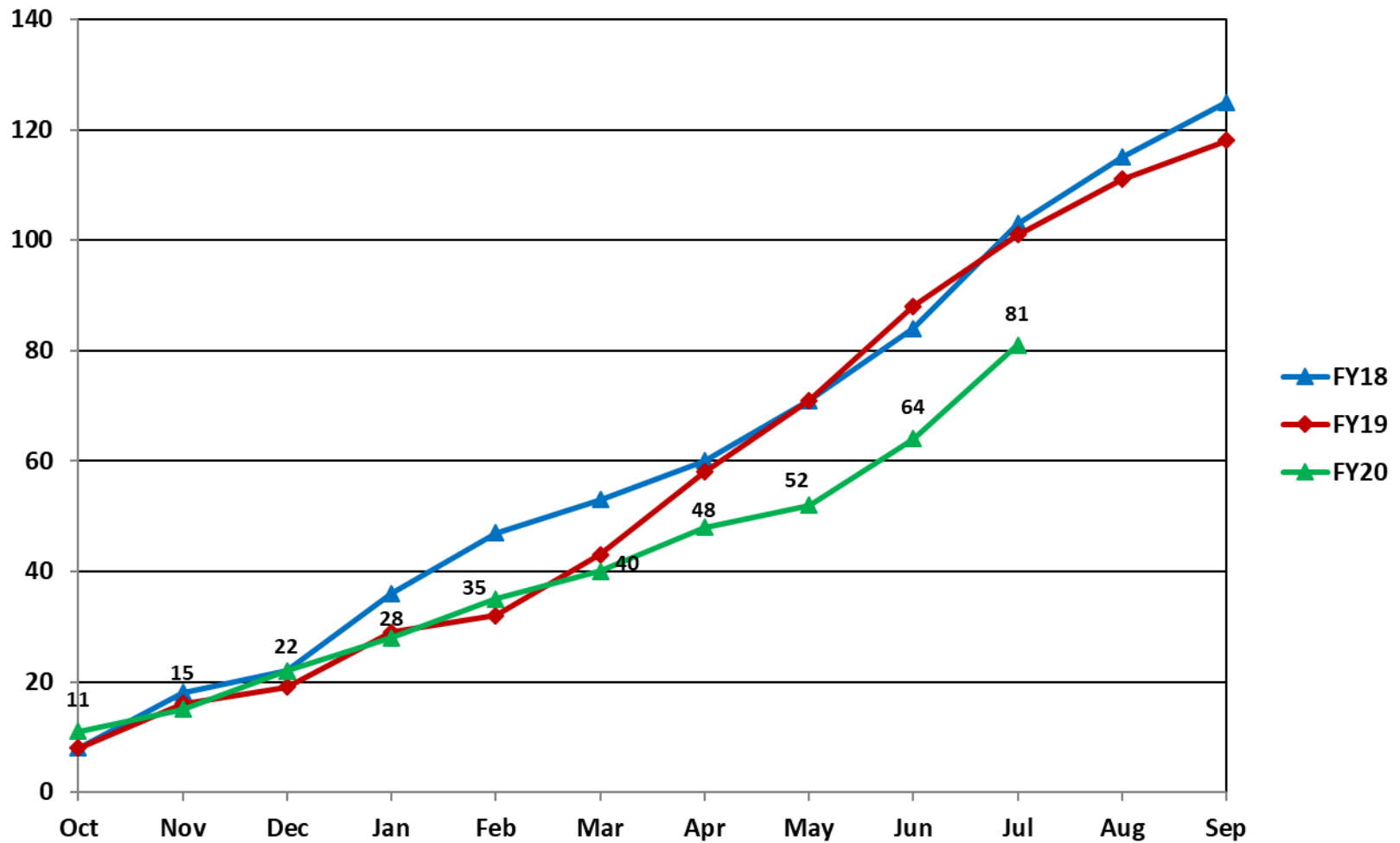
U.S. Registered Rotorcraft Accidents FY83 - FY20



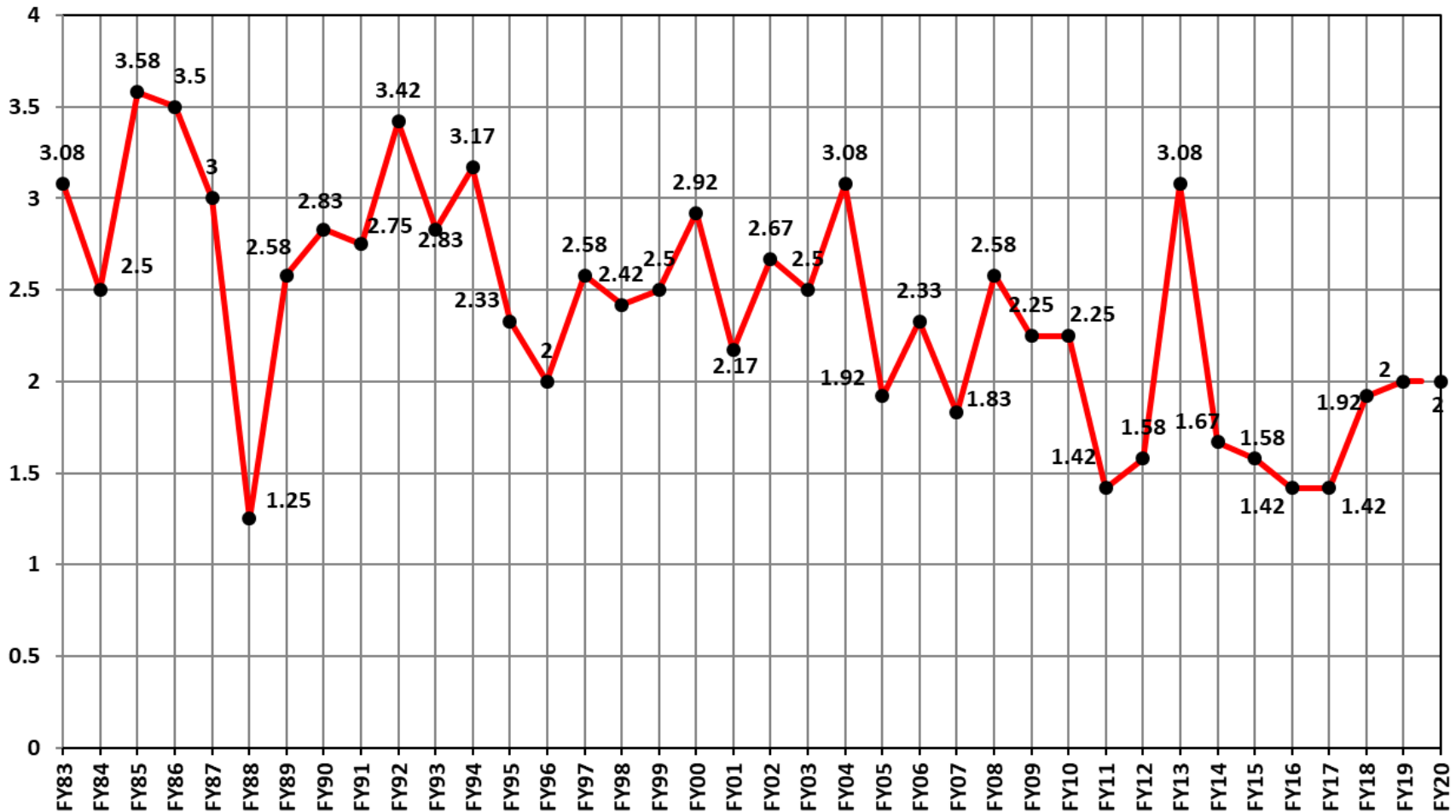
U.S. Registered Rotorcraft Cumulative Fatal Accident Count: FY18 - 20



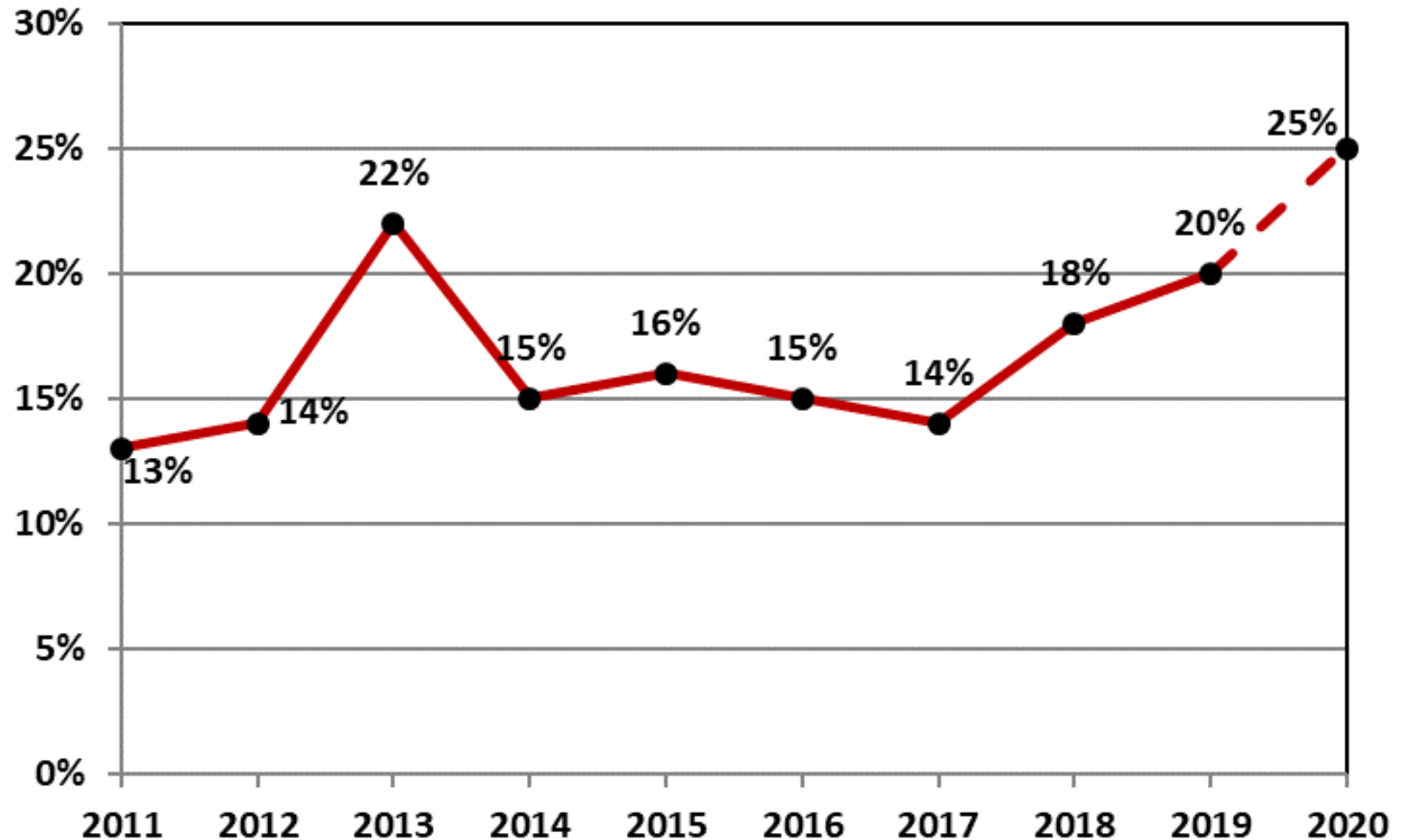
U.S. Registered Rotorcraft Cumulative Accident Count: FY18 - 20



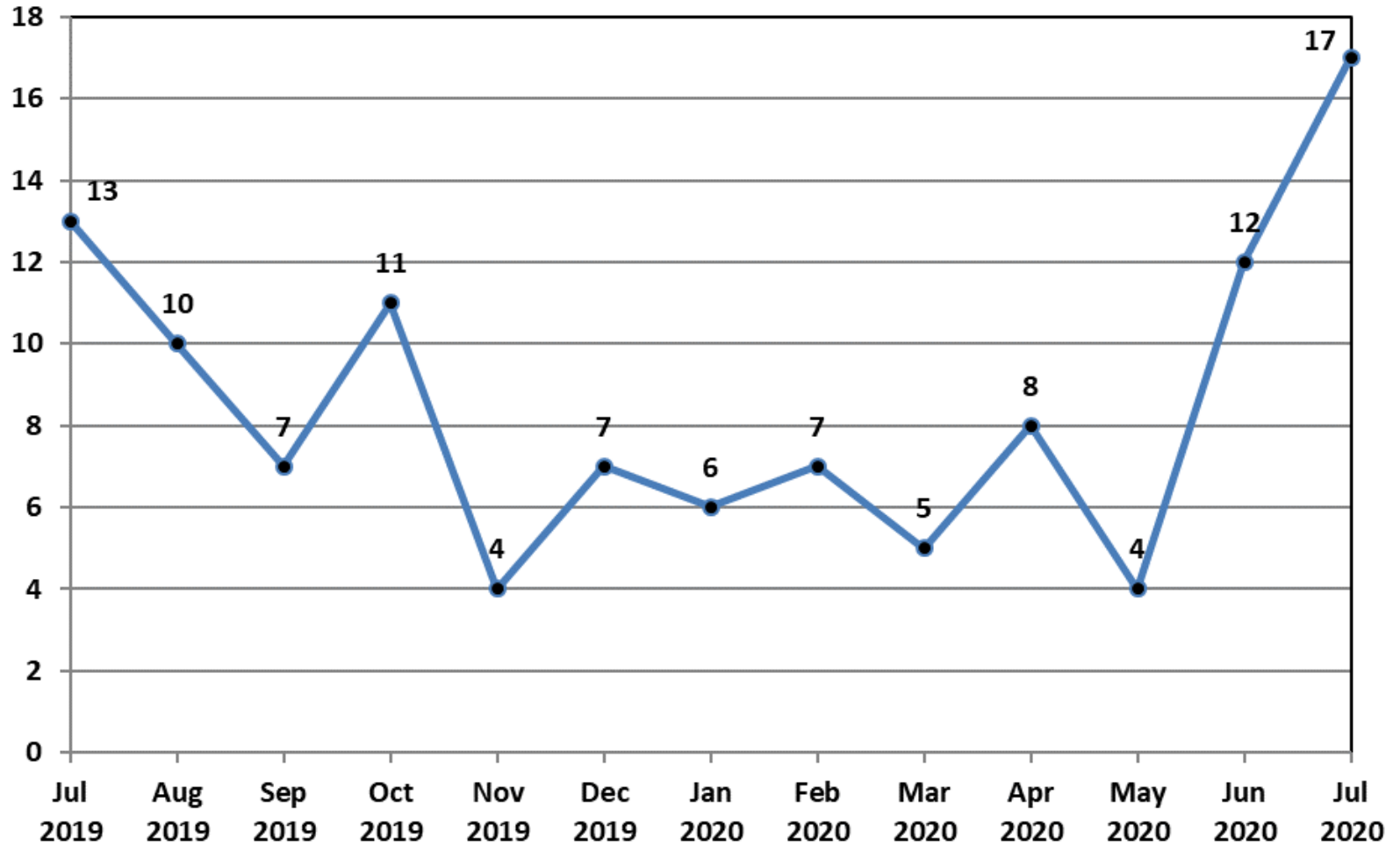
U.S. Registered Rotorcraft Average Fatal Accidents Per Month, FY83-FY20



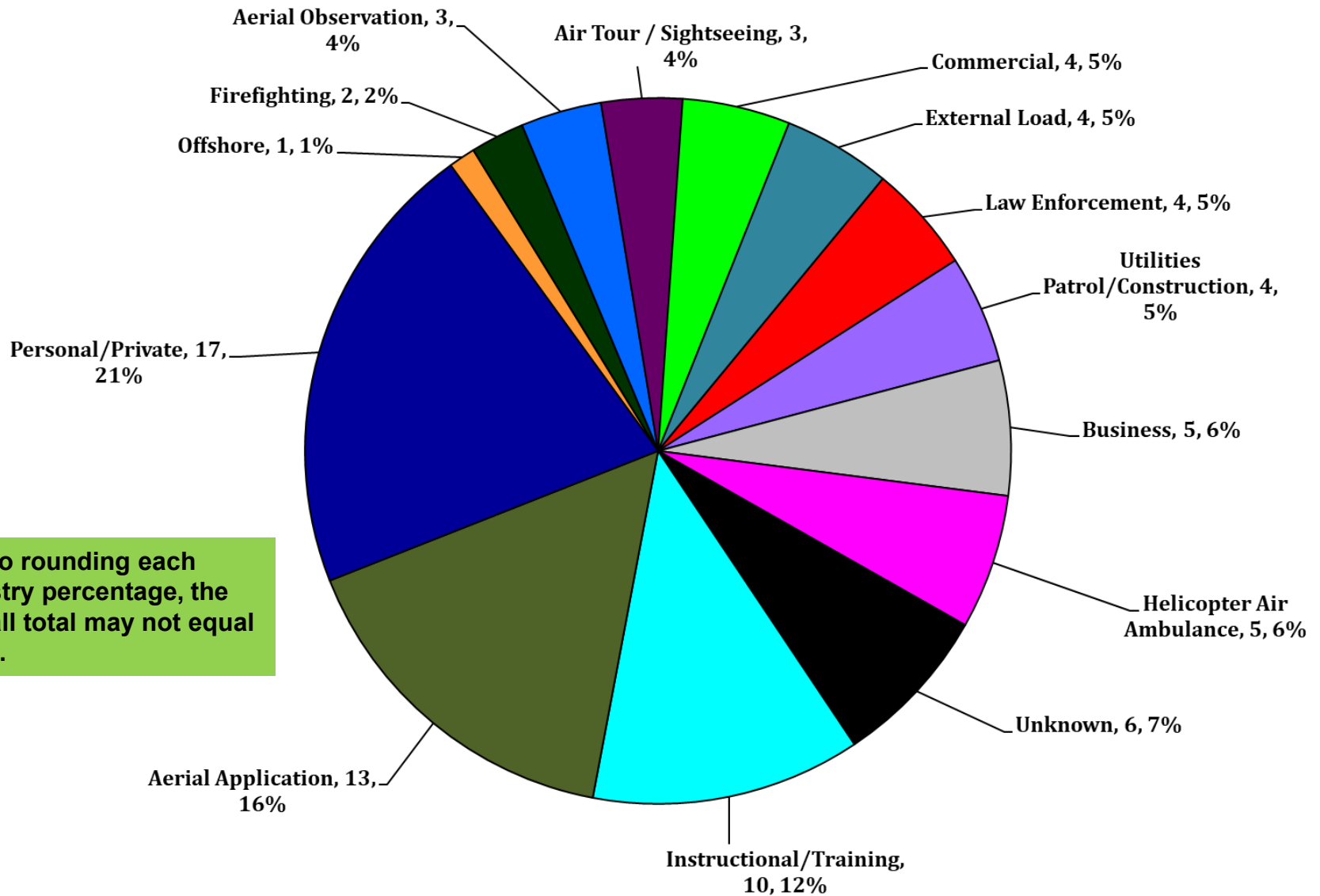
% of U.S. Rotorcraft Accidents with a Fatality (FY20, Oct-Jul)



U.S. Registered Rotorcraft 13 Month Rolling Accident Count

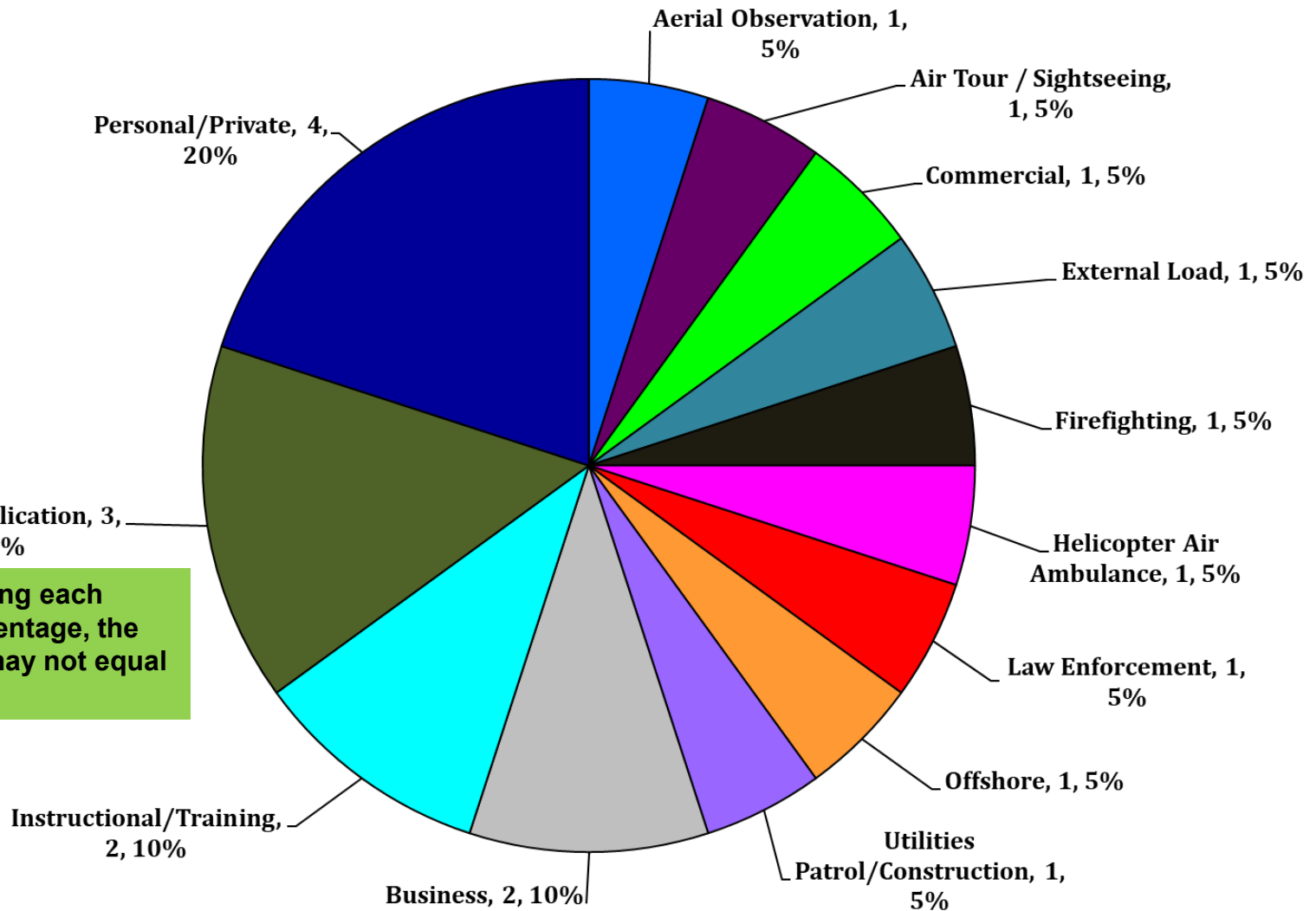


FY 20 – Total Accidents by Industry (Oct-Jul)



Due to rounding each Industry percentage, the overall total may not equal 100%.

FY 20 – Total FATAL Accidents by Industry (Oct-Jul)



Due to rounding each Industry percentage, the overall total may not equal 100%.



FY 20 – U.S. Registered Fatal Rotorcraft Accidents

- 7-29-20 – Airbus Helicopters, N755AE, Pioche, NV, Part 133, 2 fatal
 - Preparing for external load work, was enroute to support truck
 - Crashed about half a mile from support truckNTSB: WPR20LA244

- 7-24-20 – Brantly B-2B, N383ES, Monrovia, IN, Part 91, 1 fatal
 - Personal use flight
 - Departed from residence and crashed in adjacent fieldNTSB: CEN20LA304

FY 20 – U.S. Registered Fatal Rotorcraft Accidents

- 7-17-20 – Hiller UH-12D, N2297W, Mehama, OR, Part 137, 1 fatal
 - Aerial application, had departed support truck for next field
 - Impacted tall trees in between Christmas tree fields [NTSB: WPR20LA224](#)

- 7-7-20 – Rotorcraft Development Corp UH-1H, N623PB, Payson, AZ, Part 133, 1 fatal
 - Transporting supplies by long line to firefighting crew
 - Erratic pitch/bank attitudes before rapid descent [NTSB: WPR20LA211](#)

- 6-23-20 – Enstrom 280FX, N280MM, Hayden, ID, Part 91, 1 fatal, 1 serious
 - Instructional/training, rapid loss of altitude while flying low altitude
 - Post-crash fire [NTSB: WPR20LA191](#)

- 6-18-20 – Robinson R66, N4QW, Pikeville, NC, Part 137, 1 fatal
 - Aerial Application, struck power line [NTSB: ERA20LA220](#)

- 6-2-20 – Bell 206L3, N65PJ, Fairfield, CA, Part 133, 3 fatal
 - Utility Patrol/Construction; power line repair work; 2 linemen on external load
 - Struck power line during transition to forward flight [NTSB: WPR20LA163](#)

FY 20 – U.S. Registered Fatal Rotorcraft Accidents

- 5-30-20 – Schweizer 269C-1, N9421P, Ozark, AL, Part 91, 1 fatal
 - Instructional/training, solo student flight
 - Crashed near Ozark-Blackwell field [NTSB: ERA20LA197](#)

- 5-2-20 – MDHI 369E, N8375F, Houston, TX, Public Aircraft, 1 fatal, 1 serious
 - Night law enforcement search operation
 - Impacted unoccupied building and terrain [NTSB: CEN20LA167](#)

- 4-24-20 – Overseas Aircraft Support UH-1H, N3276T, Mesa, AZ, Part 91, 1 fatal, 1 minor
 - Repositioning flight; witnesses report observing tail rotor separation in-flight
 - Rotorcraft spun then impacted the ground [NTSB: WPR20LA130](#)

- 3-31-20 – Robinson R44, N107EH, Audubon, IA, Part 91, 2 fatal
 - Aerial observation flight for bird research
 - Wire strike during low-level flight, post-crash fire [NTSB: CEN20LA136](#)

- 1-26-20 – Sikorsky S-76B, N72EX, Calabasas, CA, Part 135, 9 fatal
 - Passenger transport from John Wayne Airport; Special VFR clearance
 - Crashed in Santa Monica mountains, post-crash fire [NTSB: DCA20MA059](#)

FY 20 – U.S. Registered Fatal Rotorcraft Accidents

- 1-9-20 – Robinson R66, N450MC, Mechanicsburg, PA, Part 91, 2 fatal
 - Personal use flight, night VMC; in-flight break up [NTSB: ERA20FA074](#)

- 12-26-19 – Airbus Helicopters AS350B2, N985SA, Lihue, HI, Part 135, 7 fatal
 - Air Tour on island of Kauai, crashed, post-crash fire [NTSB: ANC20MA010](#)

- 12-25-19 – Bell 407, N663SF, Headland, AL, Part 135, 1 fatal, 2 w/no injuries
 - HAA flight returning to base; a/c began abrupt roll while nearing helipad
 - A/c crashed onto its left side
 - Flight nurse and paramedic found pilot unresponsive [NTSB: ERA20FA056](#)

- 12-7-19 – Bell 407, N79LP, Gulf of Mexico, Part 135, 2 fatal
 - Offshore flight between oil platforms; reported 10 min out but never arrived
 - Main wreckage located at depth of 190 feet [NTSB: CEN20FA035](#)

FY 20 – U.S. Registered Fatal Rotorcraft Accidents

- 10-25-19 – Enstrom 280F, N280F, Adrian, OR, Part 91, 1 fatal, 1 serious
 - Personal use flight; low rotor rpm, then rapid descent [NTSB: WPR20FA016](#)

- 10-23-19 – Robinson R44, N225JM, Las Vegas, NV, Part 91, 2 fatal
 - Personal use flight; impacted near Red Rock Recreation Visitor Center [NTSB: WPR20FA013](#)

- 10-23-19 – Robinson R22, N7189D, Hebronville, TX, Part 91, 2 fatal
 - Two R22s on business flight to spot and capture wildlife
 - Collided mid-air while operating 50-100' ft AGL [NTSB: CEN20FA012A](#)

- 10-17-19 – Bell 206B, N167AG, New Salem, NC, Part 137, 1 fatal
 - Aerial application flight; 22nd aerial application of the day
 - Struck power lines then impacted terrain [NTSB: ERA20FA012](#)

FY 20 - US Rotorcraft Accidents By Model

MFR	Model	Registered U.S. Fleet Size	Percentage of Total U.S. Fleet	Number of FY20 U.S. Registered Accidents	Percentage of Total FY20 U.S. Registered Accidents
Airbus Helicopters	AS350 (H125)	915	7%	4	5%
	AS355	40	< 1%	1	1%
	BK117 (H145)	216	2%	1	1%
	EC120 (H120)	92	1%		
	EC130 (H130)	263	2%	1	1%
	EC135 (H135)	331	3%		
	SA342	6	< 1%	1	1%

Only models that comprise at least 1% of U.S. registered rotorcraft are listed unless an accident has occurred.

*Fleet size based on analysis of rotorcraft on FAA registry as of March 2020

FY 20 - US Rotorcraft Accidents By Model

MFR	Model	Registered U.S. Fleet Size	Percentage of Total U.S. Fleet	Number of FY20 U.S. Registered Accidents	Percentage of Total FY20 U.S. Registered Accidents
Bell	206Bs	934	7%	3	4%
	206Ls	559	4%	5	6%
	212	81	1%		
	407	773	6%	4	5%
	412	96	1%		
	429	106	1%		
	505	82	1%		

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FY 20 - US Rotorcraft Accidents By Model

MFR	Model	Registered U.S. Fleet Size	Percentage of Total U.S. Fleet	Number of FY20 U.S. Registered Accidents	Percentage of Total FY20 U.S. Registered Accidents
Robinson	R-22	864	7%	11	14%
	R-44	1,667	13%	12	15%
	R-66	288	2%	3	4%

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FY 20 - US Rotorcraft Accidents By Model

MFR	Model	Registered U.S. Fleet Size	Percentage of Total U.S. Fleet	Number of FY20 U.S. Registered Accidents	Percentage of Total FY20 U.S. Registered Accidents
Sikorsky	S-61	93	1%	1	1%
	S-76	231	2%	1	1%
	S-92	87	1%		

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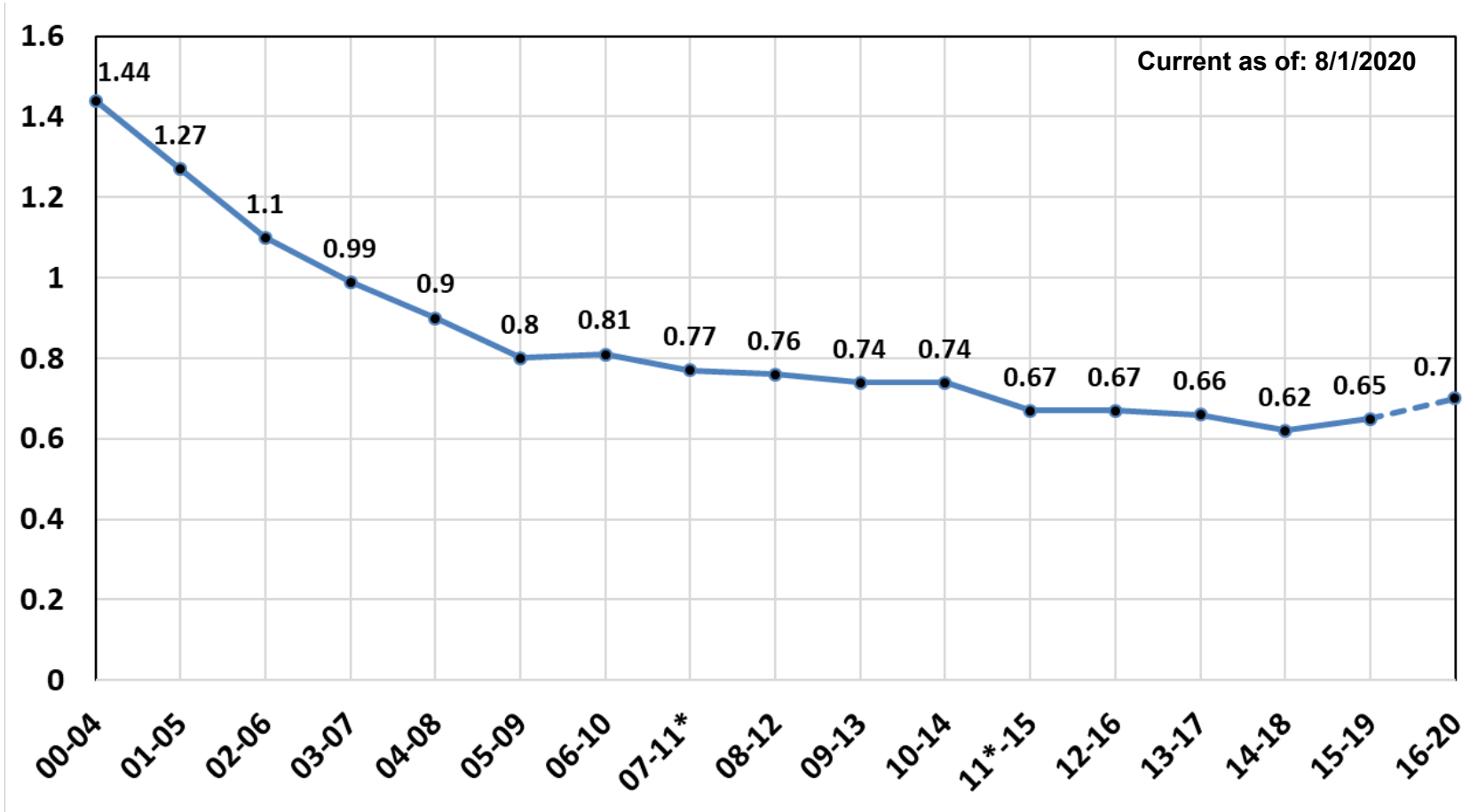
FY 20 - US Rotorcraft Accidents By Model

MFR	Model	Registered U.S. Fleet Size	Percentage of Total U.S. Fleet	Number of FY20 U.S. Registered Accidents	Percentage of Total FY20 U.S. Registered Accidents
Brantly	B-2	52	< 1%	1	1%
California Helicopter Airways	S-58	35	< 1%	1	1%
Enstrom	280	126	1%	3	4%
	480	63	< 1%	1	1%
	F28	160	1%	2	2%
Helicopteres Guimbal	Cabri G2	34	< 1%	1	1%
Hiller	UH-12/H-23	285	2%	3	4%
Leonardo (formerly Agusta Westland)	A109	167	1%	1	1%
	A119	91	1%	1	1%
	AW139	130	1%		
MDHI	369	715	6%	3	3%
	600N	30	< 1%	2	2%
Restricted Category (all TCs)	HH-1/TH-1/UH-1	549	4%	4	5%
	OH-58	403	3%	3	4%
	H-60	213	2%		
Schweizer Rotorcraft Services Group	269/300/TH-55	516	4%	4	5%
Scott's Bell	47	532	4%	3	4%

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U.S. Helicopter Safety Team (USHST) 5 Year Average Fatal Accident Rate (CY)



Goal: By 2025, reduce the 5 year average fatal accident rate to 0.55 per 100K hours

U.S. Helicopter Safety Team (USHST) Key Fatal Accident Rate Markers (CY)

