



**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Rotorcraft Standards Branch AIR-680

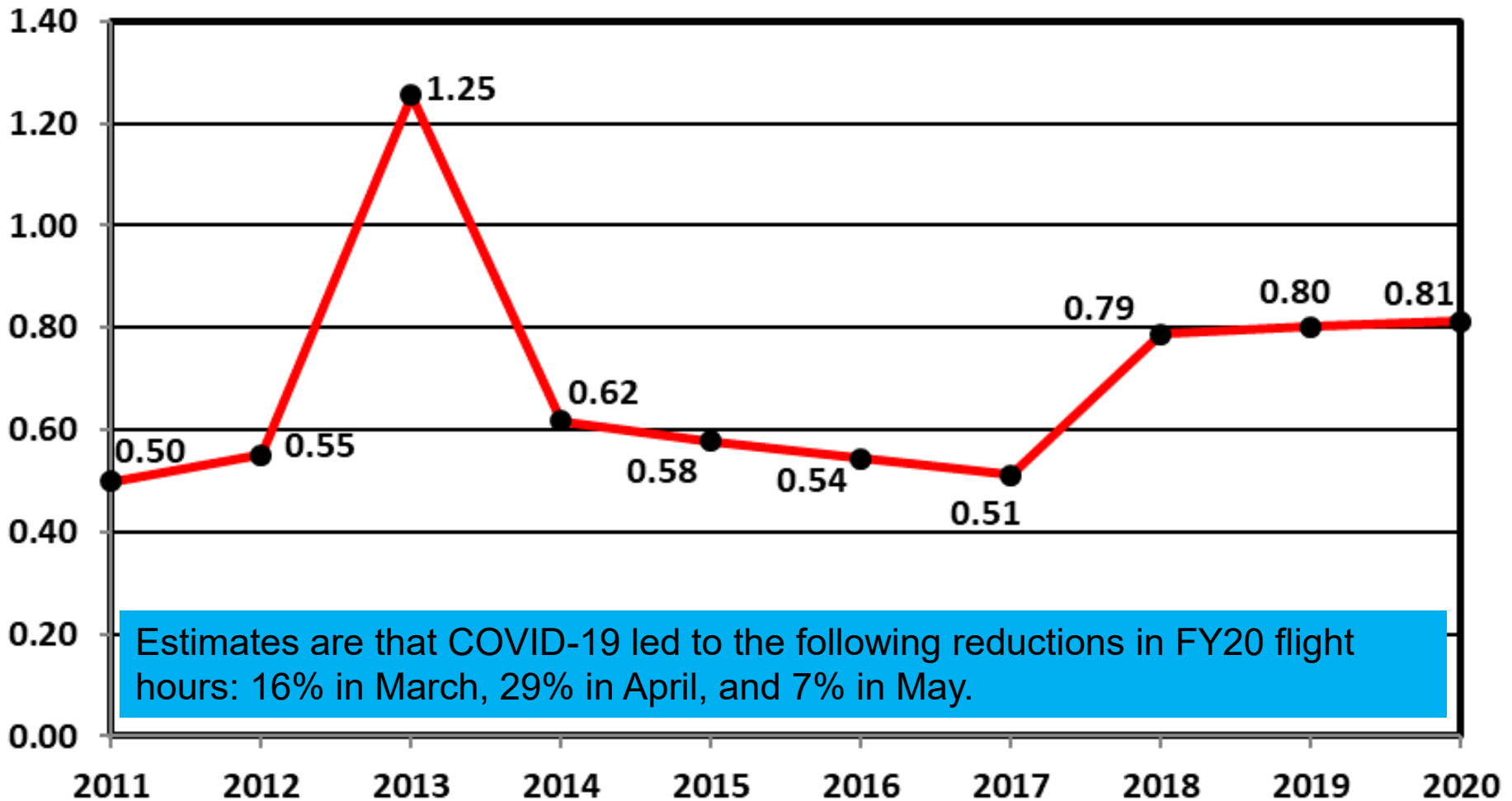
Monthly Accident Briefing

**September 2020
End of FY20**

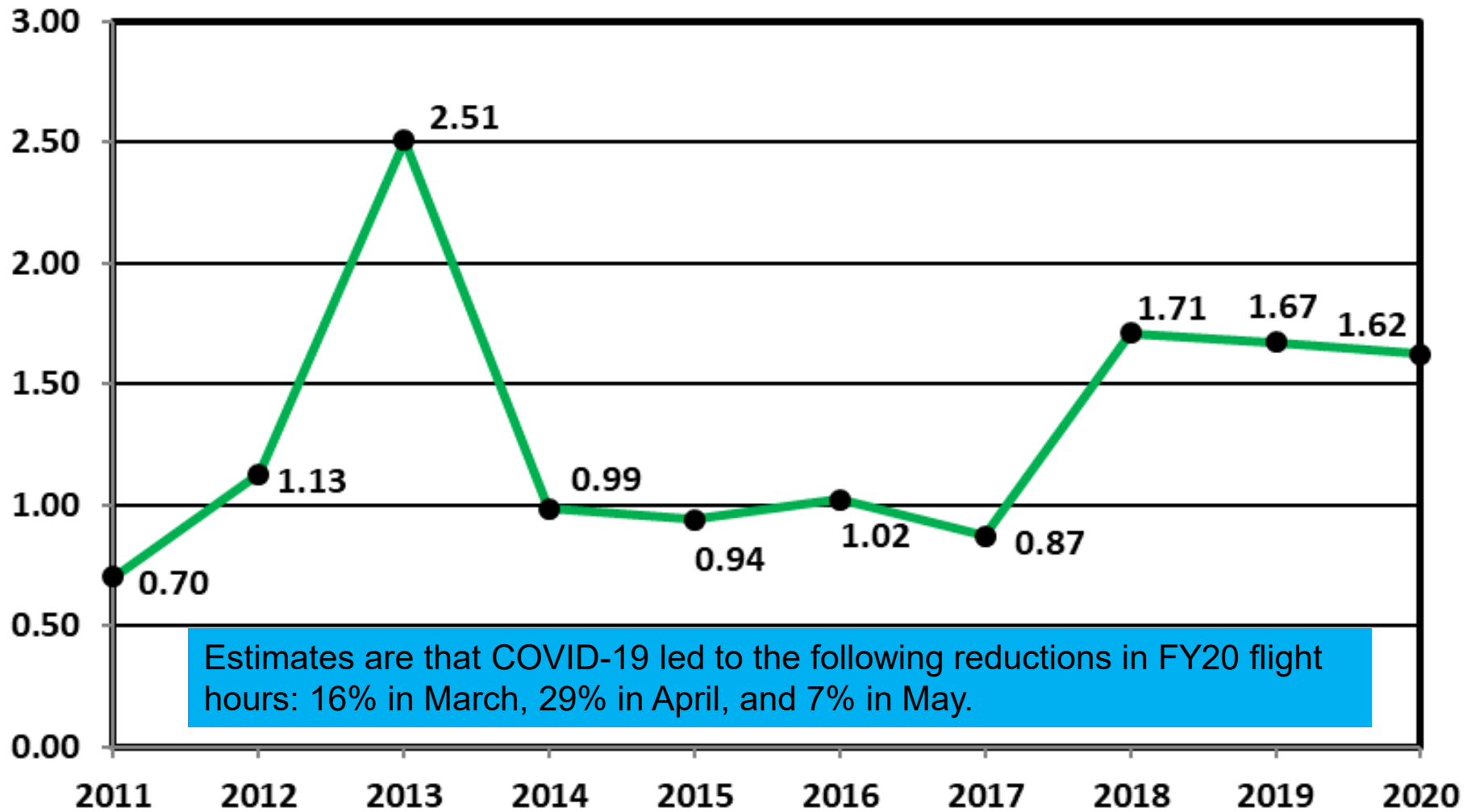
**By: AIR-682, Safety Management Section,
Rotorcraft Standards Branch**



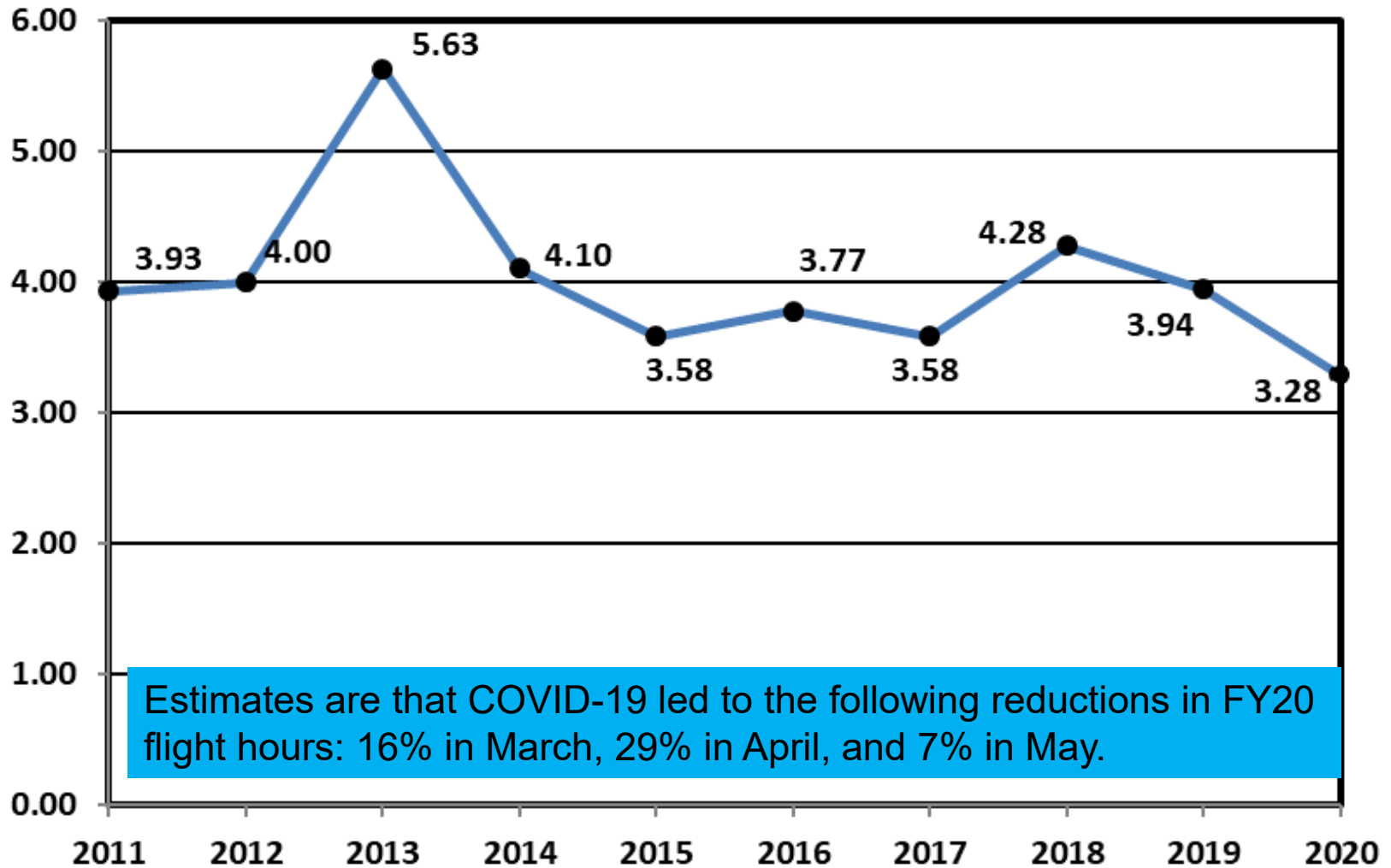
Estimated U.S. Rotorcraft FATAL Accident Rate by FY 10 Year Lookback – Rates per 100,000 Hours



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 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 12 | 19 | 9 | 7 | 97 |
| Fatal Acc: | 4 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 24 |
| Fatalities: | 6 | 0 | 10 | 11 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 0 | 48 |

Same time period, previous FY: 118 Accidents, 24 Fatal Accidents, 50 Fatalities

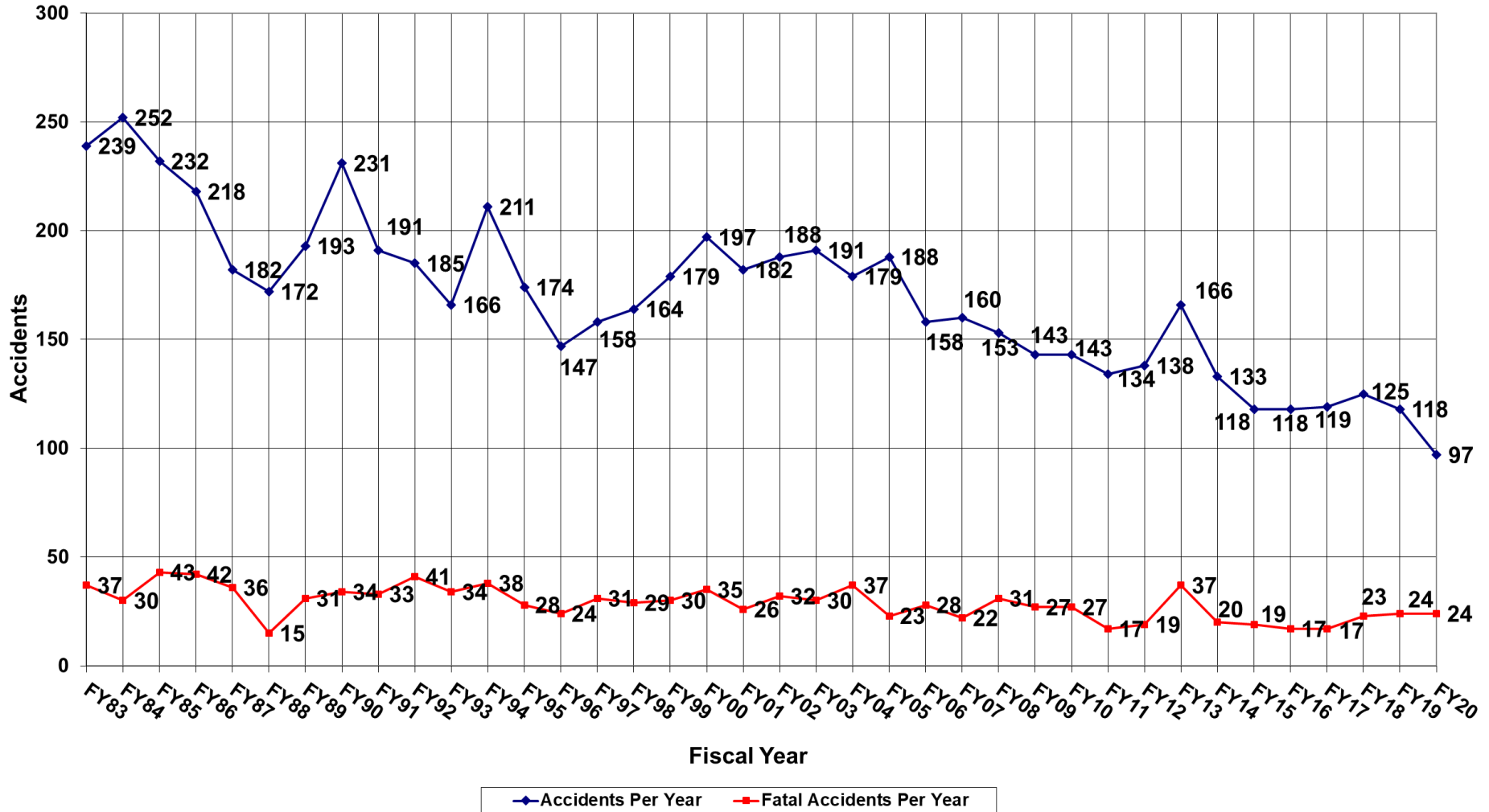
Data Source: FAA, NTSB Databases. Includes only events classified as accidents and does not include incidents. The accident numbers for each month of the Fiscal Year may vary from the previous monthly briefing based on analysis between FAA and NTSB databases for the specified month. The NTSB database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

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

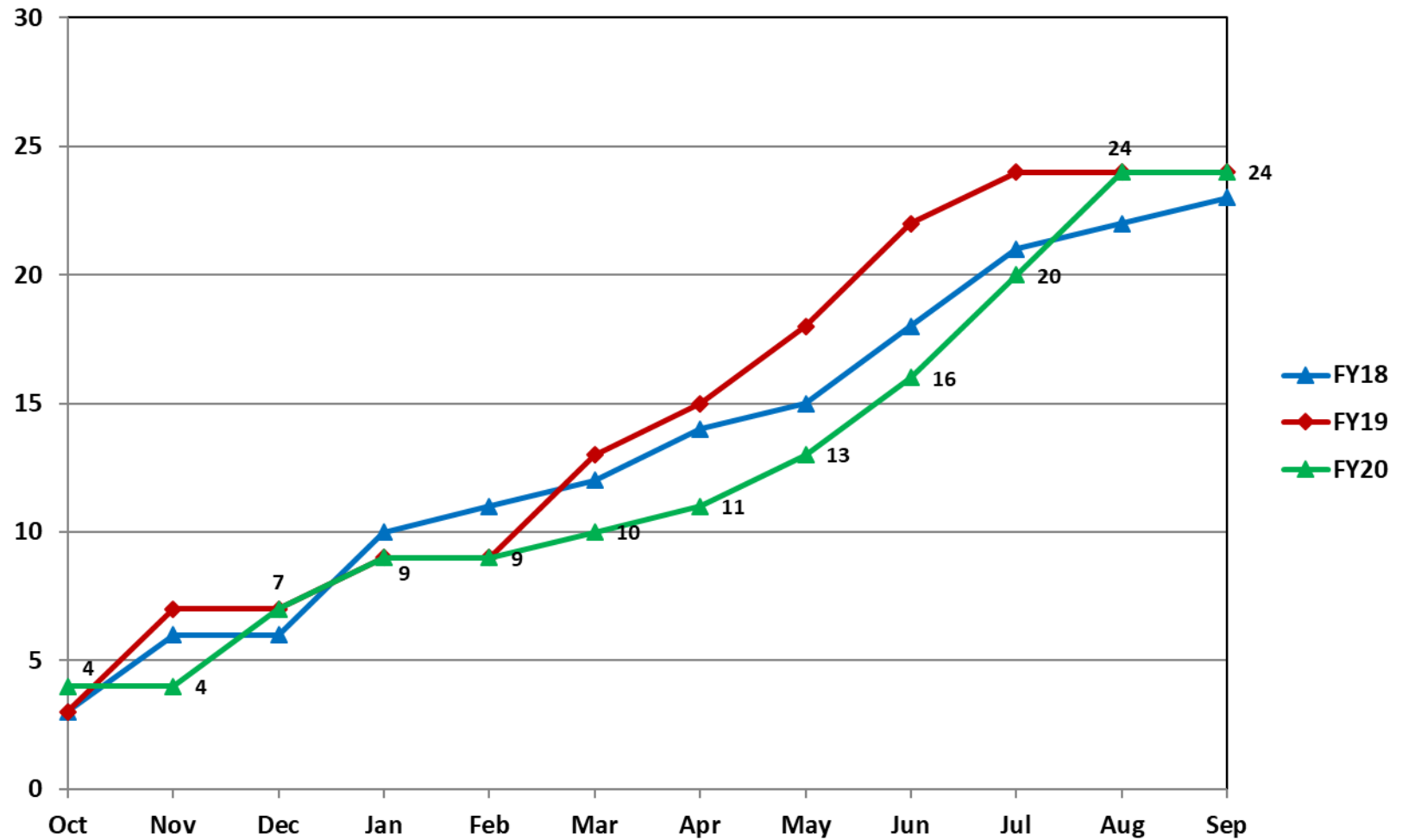
| | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | YTD |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Accidents: | 4.01 | 1.71 | 3.41 | 2.88 | 2.94 | 1.72 | 3.54 | 1.57 | 4.15 | 6.55 | 3.39 | 2.62 | 3.28 |
| Fatal Acc: | 1.46 | 0 | 1.46 | 0.96 | 0 | 0.43 | 0.51 | 0.79 | 1.04 | 1.38 | 1.5 | 0 | 0.81 |
| Fatalities: | 2.19 | 0 | 4.88 | 5.28 | 0 | 0.86 | 0.51 | 0.79 | 1.73 | 1.72 | 2.26 | 0 | 1.62 |

Estimates are that COVID-19 led to the following reductions in FY20 flight hours: 16% in March, 29% in April, and 7% in May.

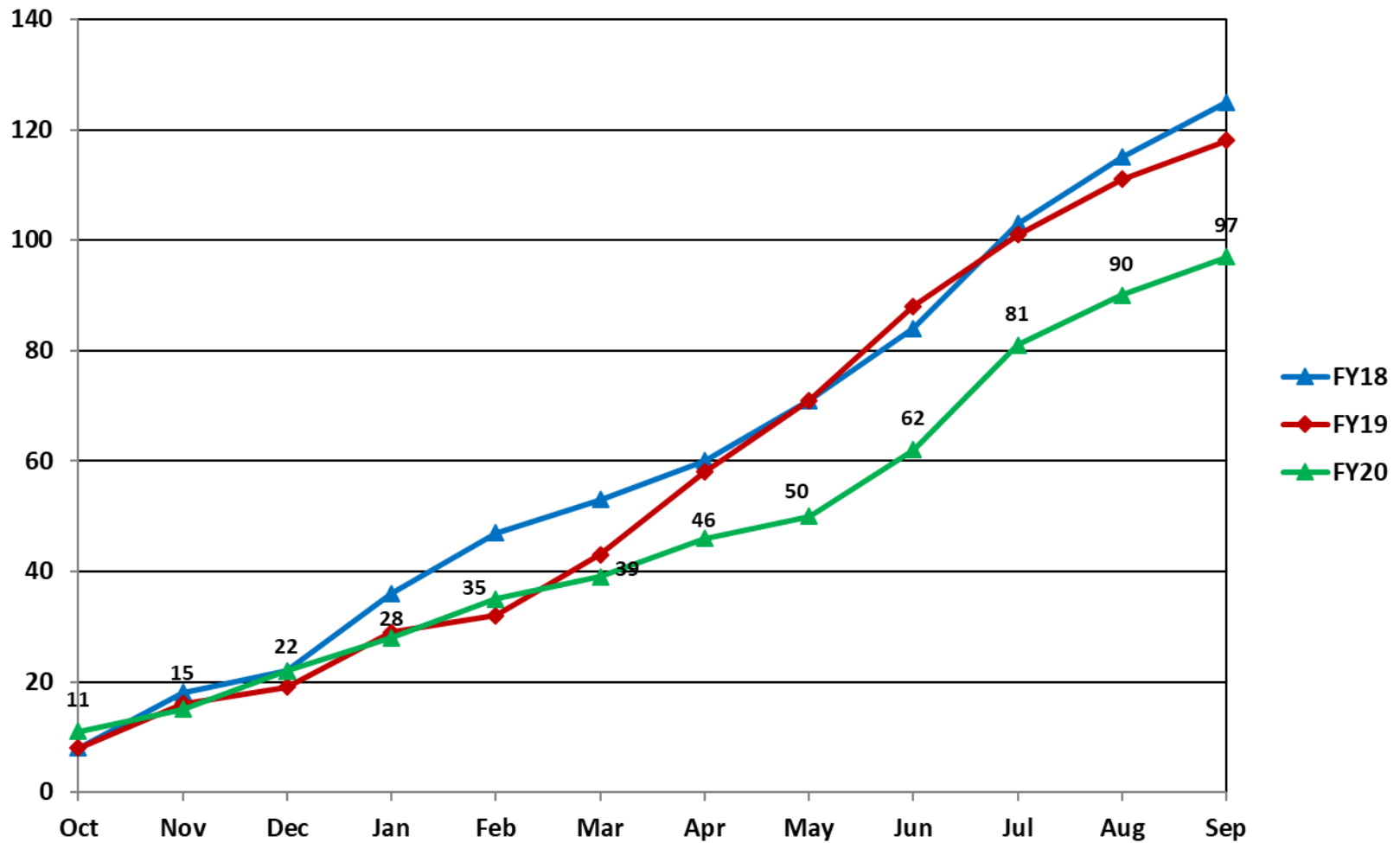
U.S. Registered Rotorcraft Accidents FY83 - FY20



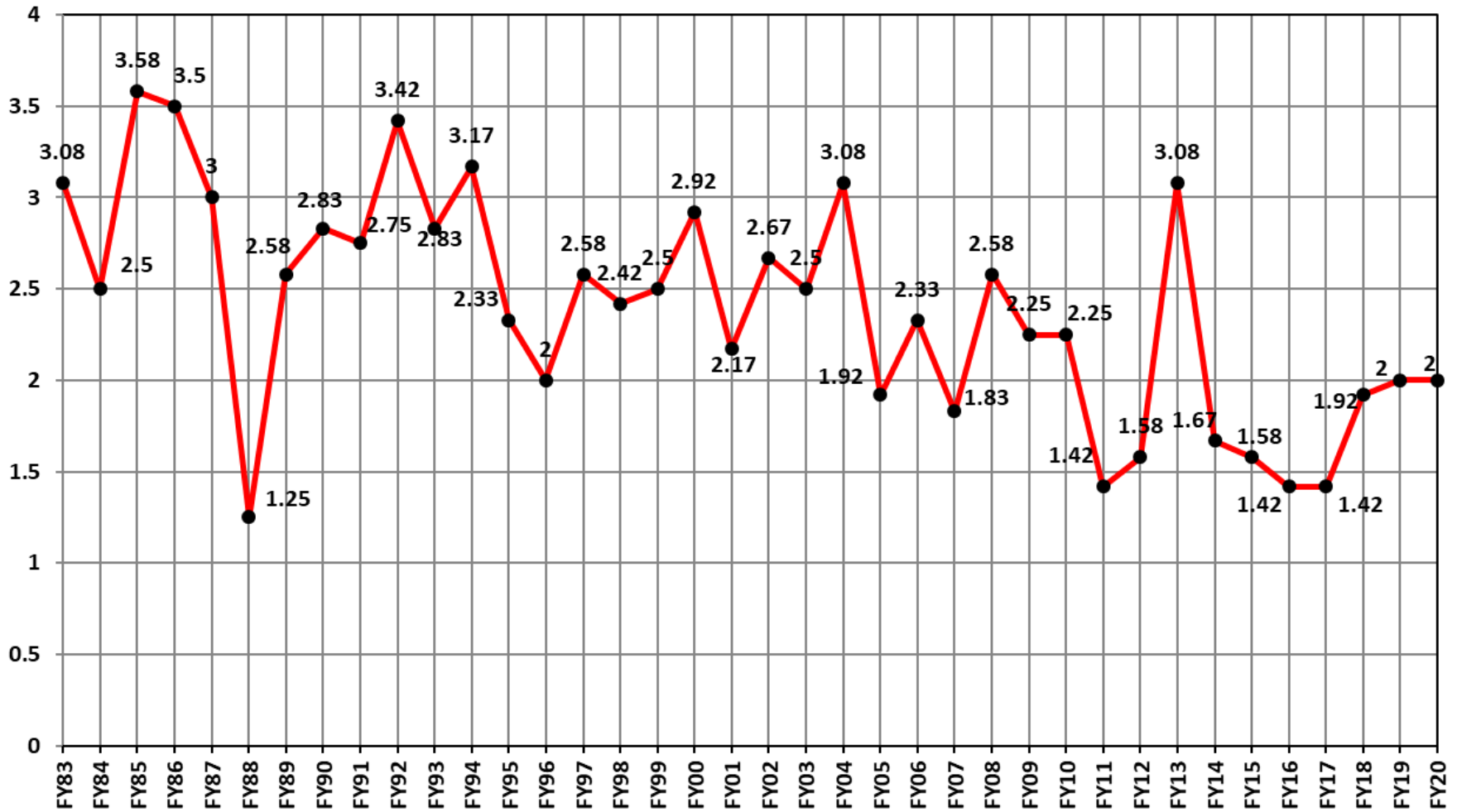
U.S. Registered Rotorcraft Cumulative Fatal Accident Count: FY18 - 20



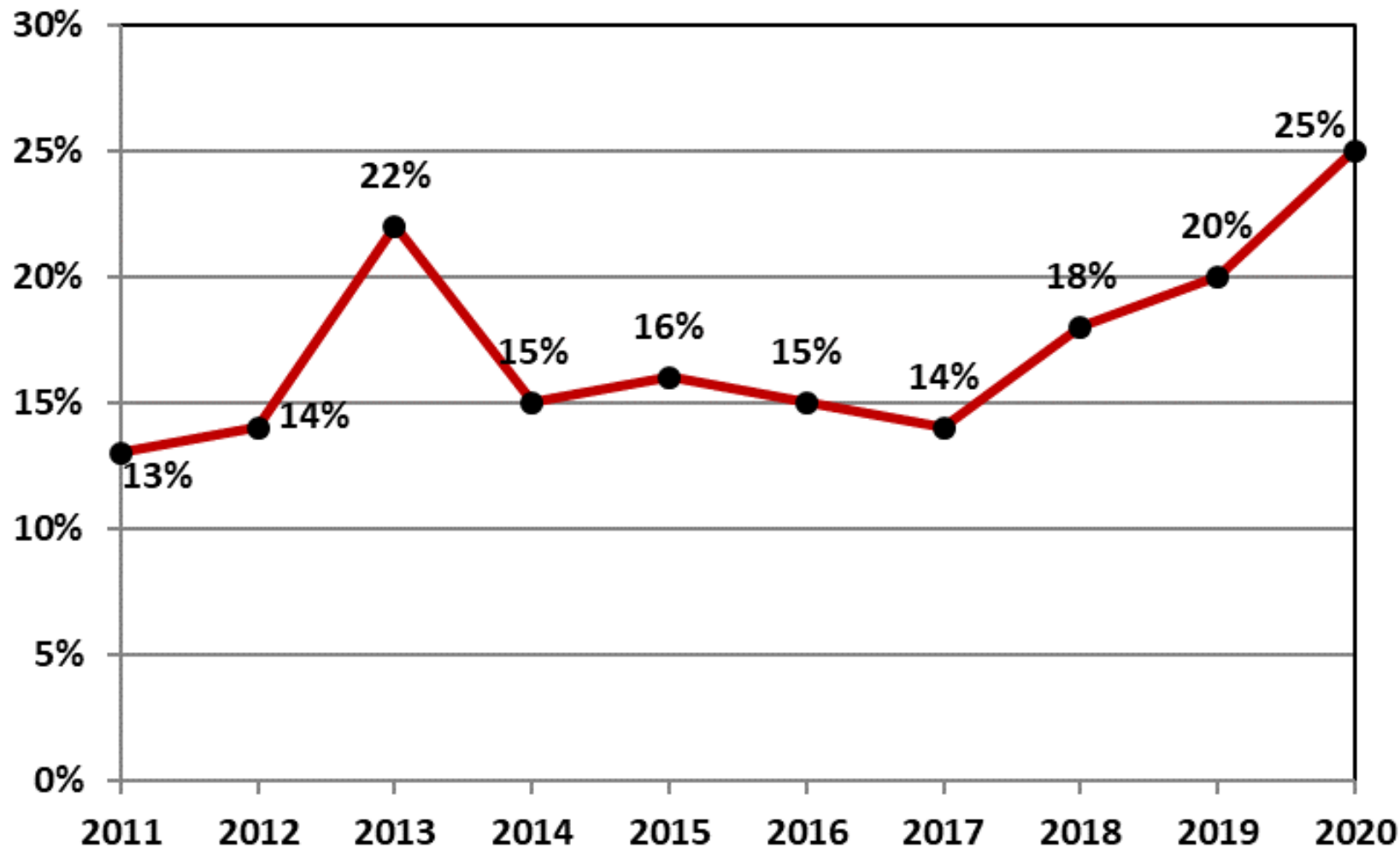
U.S. Registered Rotorcraft Cumulative Accident Count: FY18 - 20



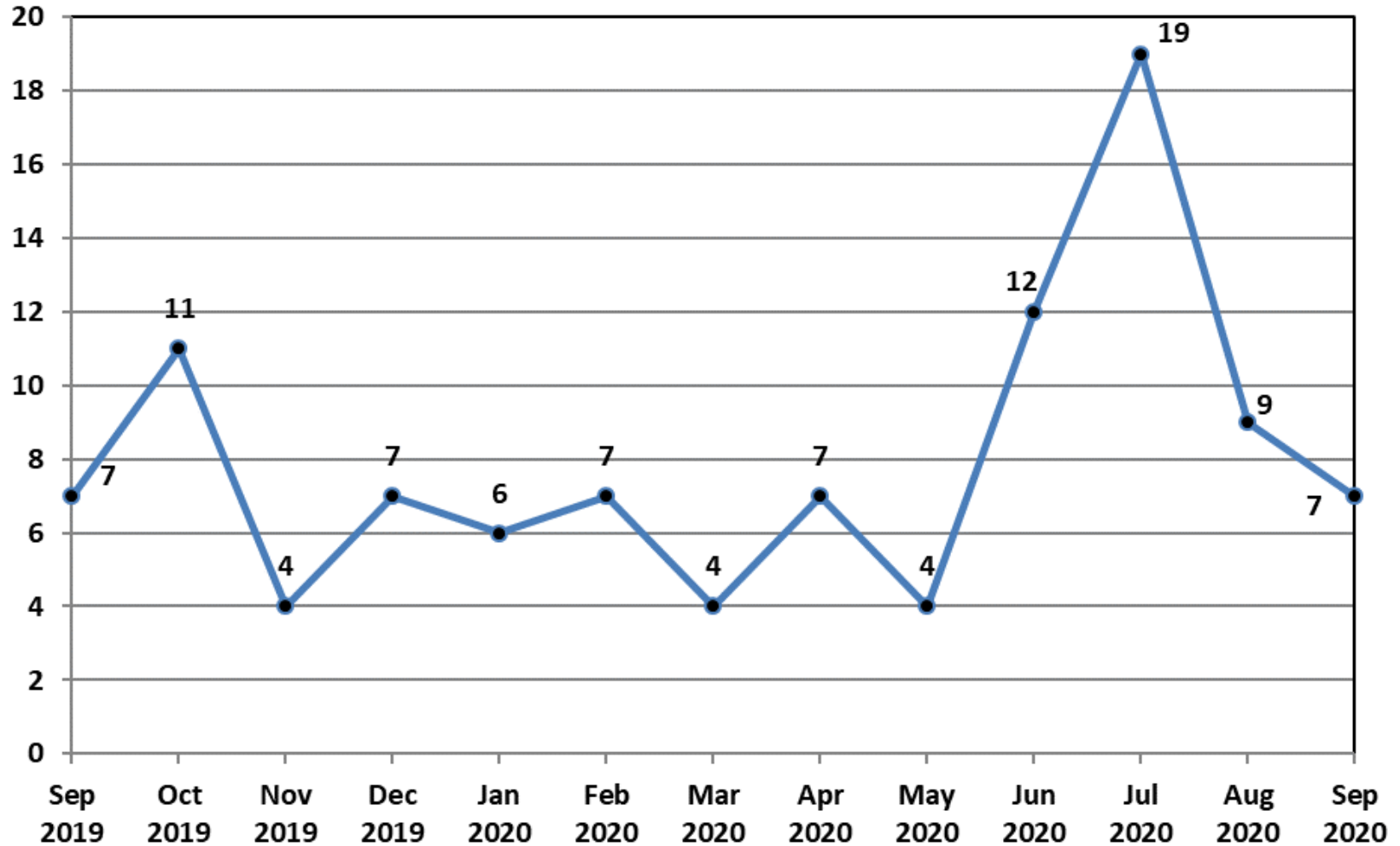
U.S. Registered Rotorcraft Average Fatal Accidents Per Month, FY83-FY20



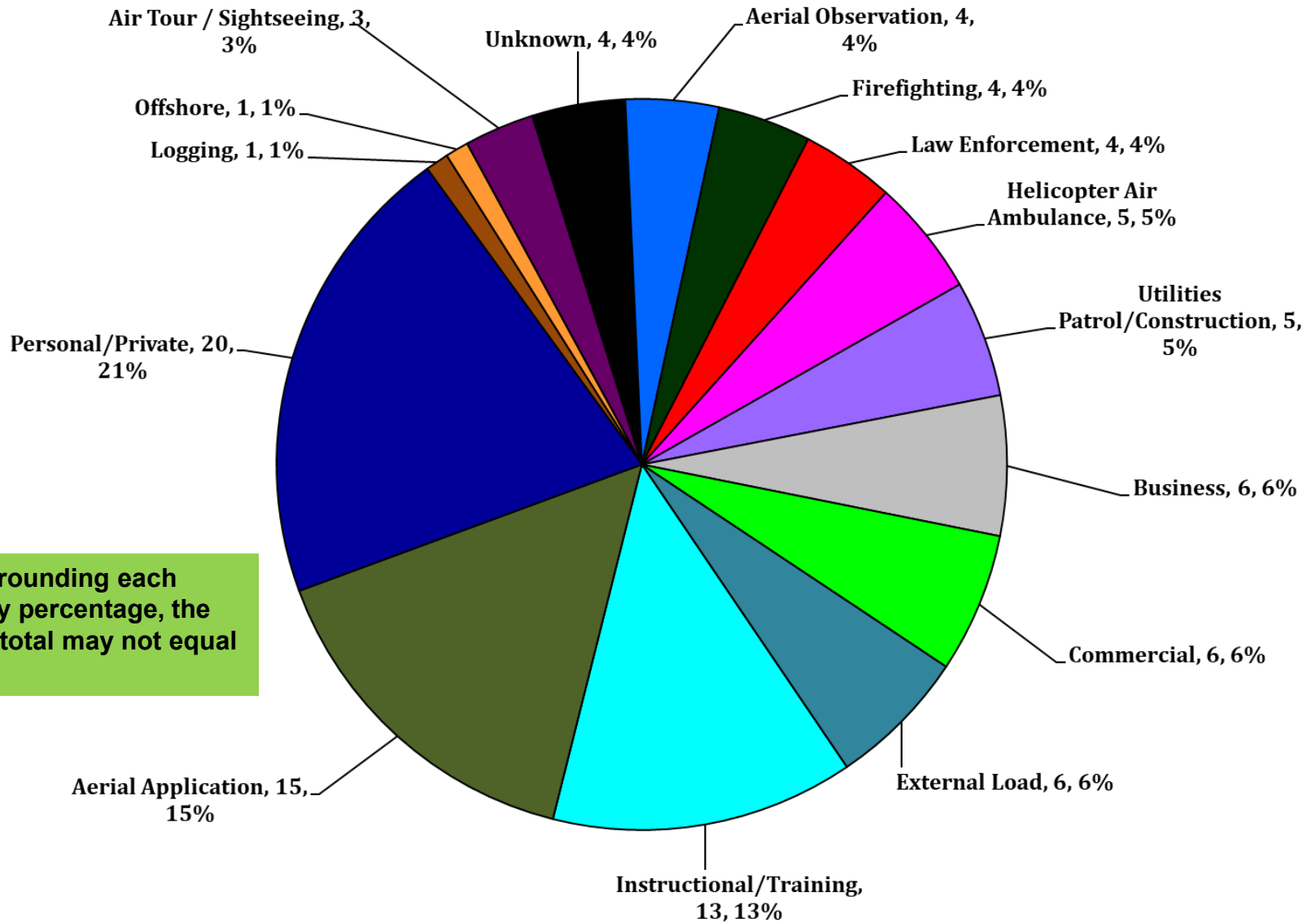
% of U.S. Rotorcraft Accidents with a Fatality (FY20, Oct-Sep)



U.S. Registered Rotorcraft 13 Month Rolling Accident Count



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

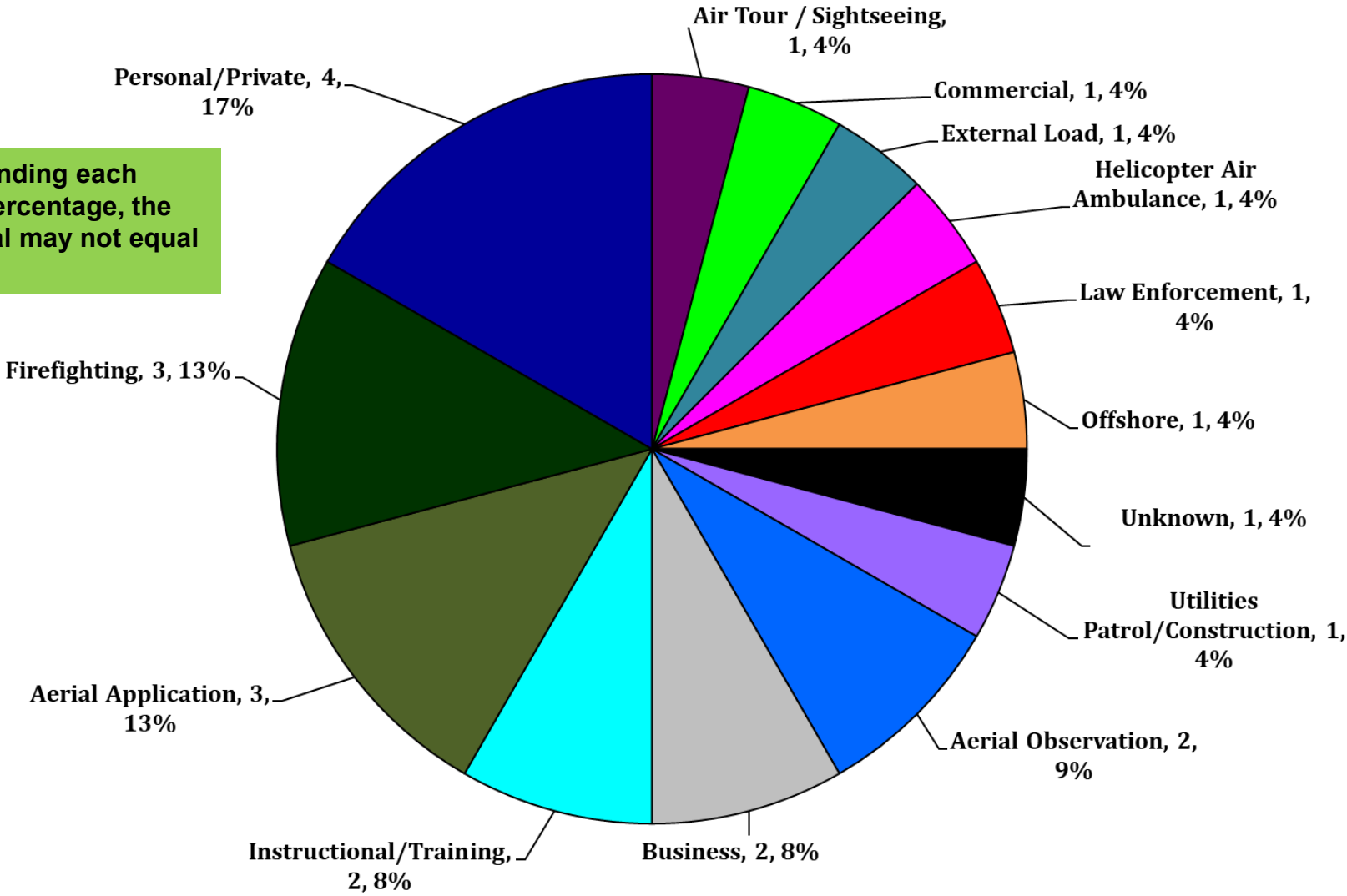


Due to rounding each Industry percentage, the overall total may not equal 100%.



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

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



FY 20 – U.S. Registered Fatal Rotorcraft Accidents

- 8-24-20 – Kaman K1200, N314, Part 133, Pine Grove, OR, 1 fatal
 - Firefighting; conducting water bucket ops near Mount Hood
 - Crash found near White River w/long line still attached [NTSB: WPR20LA283](#)
- 8-19-20 – Arrow Falcon Exporters UH-1H, N711GH, Part 133, Coalinga, CA, 1 fatal
 - Firefighting; pilot reported hydraulic issue; searched for precautionary landing site
 - Another pilot saw a/c pitch nose low before crashing [NTSB: WPR20LA280](#)

FY 20 – U.S. Registered Fatal Rotorcraft Accidents

- 8-8-20
 - Bell 206B, N284S, Marathon, TX, Part 135, 3 fatal
 - Aerial observation, wild game survey flight
 - Crashed under unknown circumstances [NTSB: CEN20LA328](#)

- 8-3-20
 - Airbus Helicopters EC130B4, N55GJ, Knoxville, TN, Part 91, 1 fatal, 3 no injuries
 - Personal use flight; descending to land at site near Tennessee River’s edge
 - Tried to stop descent, but a/c settled into the water [NTSB: ERA20LA273](#)

- 7-29-20
 - Airbus Helicopters AS350B3, N755AE, Pioche, NV, Part 91, 2 fatal
 - Preparing for external load work, was enroute to support truck
 - Long line found entangled in separated tail rotor [NTSB: WPR20LA244](#)

- 7-24-20
 - Brantly B-2B, N383ES, Monrovia, IN, Part 91, 1 fatal
 - Personal use flight
 - Departed from residence and crashed in adjacent field [NTSB: 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
 - 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% | 5 | 5% |
| | AS355 | 40 | < 1% | 1 | 1% |
| | BK117 (H145) | 216 | 2% | 1 | 1% |
| | EC120 (H120) | 92 | 1% | | |
| | EC130 (H130) | 263 | 2% | 2 | 2% |
| | 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

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|------|-------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Bell | 205 | 52 | < 1% | 1 | 1% |
| | 206Bs | 934 | 7% | 5 | 5% |
| | 206Ls | 559 | 4% | 4 | 4% |
| | 212 | 81 | 1% | | |
| | 407 | 773 | 6% | 4 | 4% |
| | 412 | 96 | 1% | | |
| | 429 | 106 | 1% | | |
| | 505 | 82 | 1% | | |

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|-----------------|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Robinson | R-22 | 864 | 7% | 12 | 12% |
| | R-44 | 1,667 | 13% | 16 | 16% |
| | R-66 | 288 | 2% | 3 | 3% |

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|----------|-------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Sikorsky | S-61 | 93 | 1% | 1 | 1% |
| | S-76 | 231 | 2% | 1 | 1% |
| | S-92 | 87 | 1% | | |

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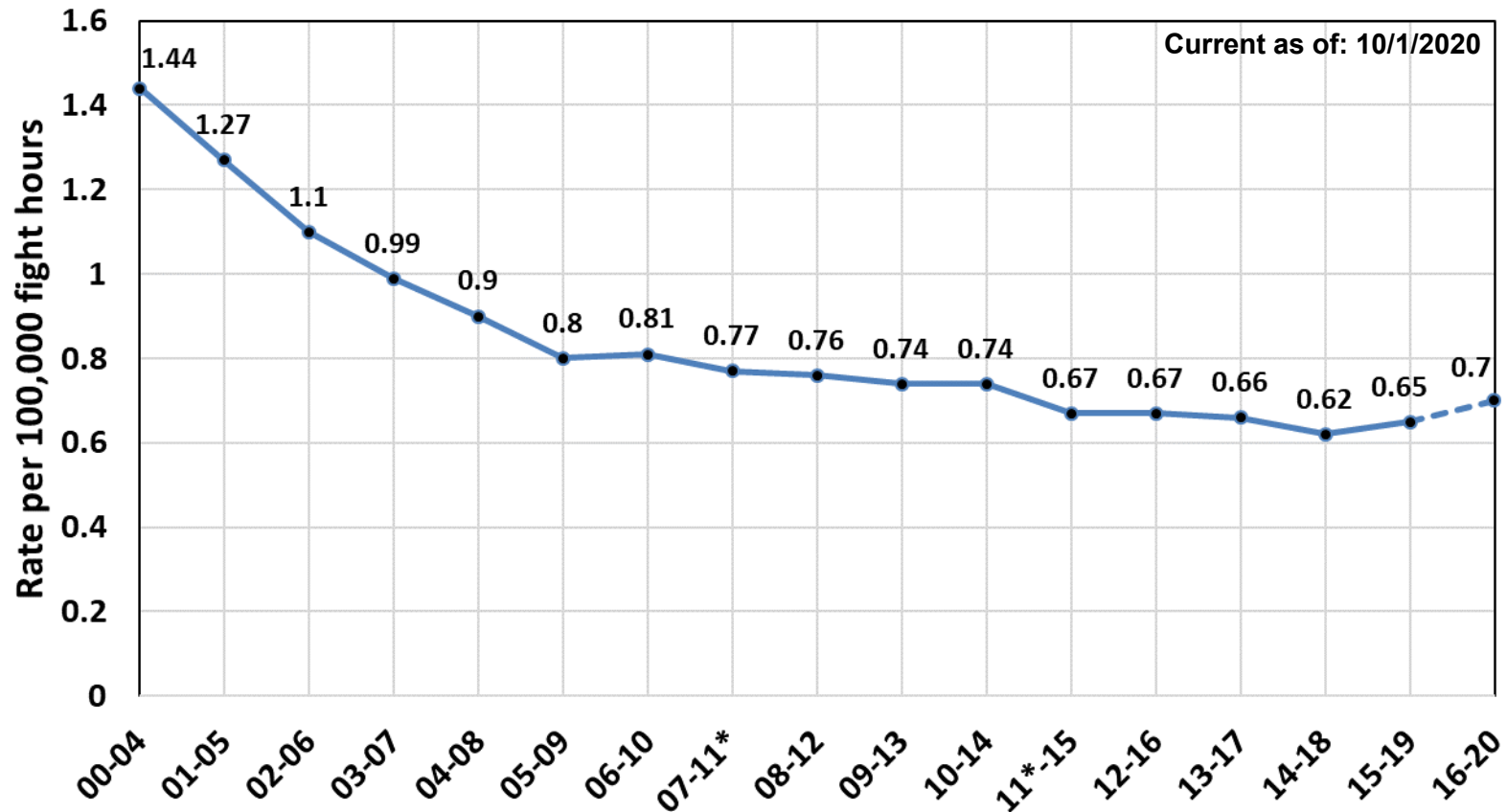
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|--|----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Brantly | B-2 | 52 | < 1% | 1 | 1% |
| California Helicopter Airways | S-58 | 35 | < 1% | 1 | 1% |
| Enstrom | 280 | 126 | 1% | 3 | 3% |
| | 480 | 63 | < 1% | 2 | 2% |
| | F28 | 160 | 1% | 2 | 2% |
| Helicopteres Guimbal | Cabri G2 | 34 | < 1% | 2 | 2% |
| Hiller | UH-12/H-23 | 285 | 2% | 3 | 3% |
| Kaman | K1200 | 26 | < 1% | 1 | 1% |
| Leonardo (formerly Agusta Westland) | A109 | 167 | 1% | 1 | 1% |
| | A119 | 91 | 1% | 1 | 1% |
| | AW139 | 130 | 1% | | |
| MDHI | 369 | 715 | 6% | 6 | 5% |
| | 600N | 30 | < 1% | 2 | 2% |
| Restricted Category (all TCs) | HH-1/TH-1/UH-1 | 549 | 4% | 5 | 5% |
| | OH-58 | 403 | 3% | 3 | 3% |
| | H-60 | 213 | 2% | | |
| Schweizer Rotorcraft Services Group | 269/300/TH-55 | 516 | 4% | 4 | 4% |
| Scott's Bell | 47 | 532 | 4% | 3 | 3% |

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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)

