



Analysis of Incidents Reported in 2021

Andrea Worley

January 2022

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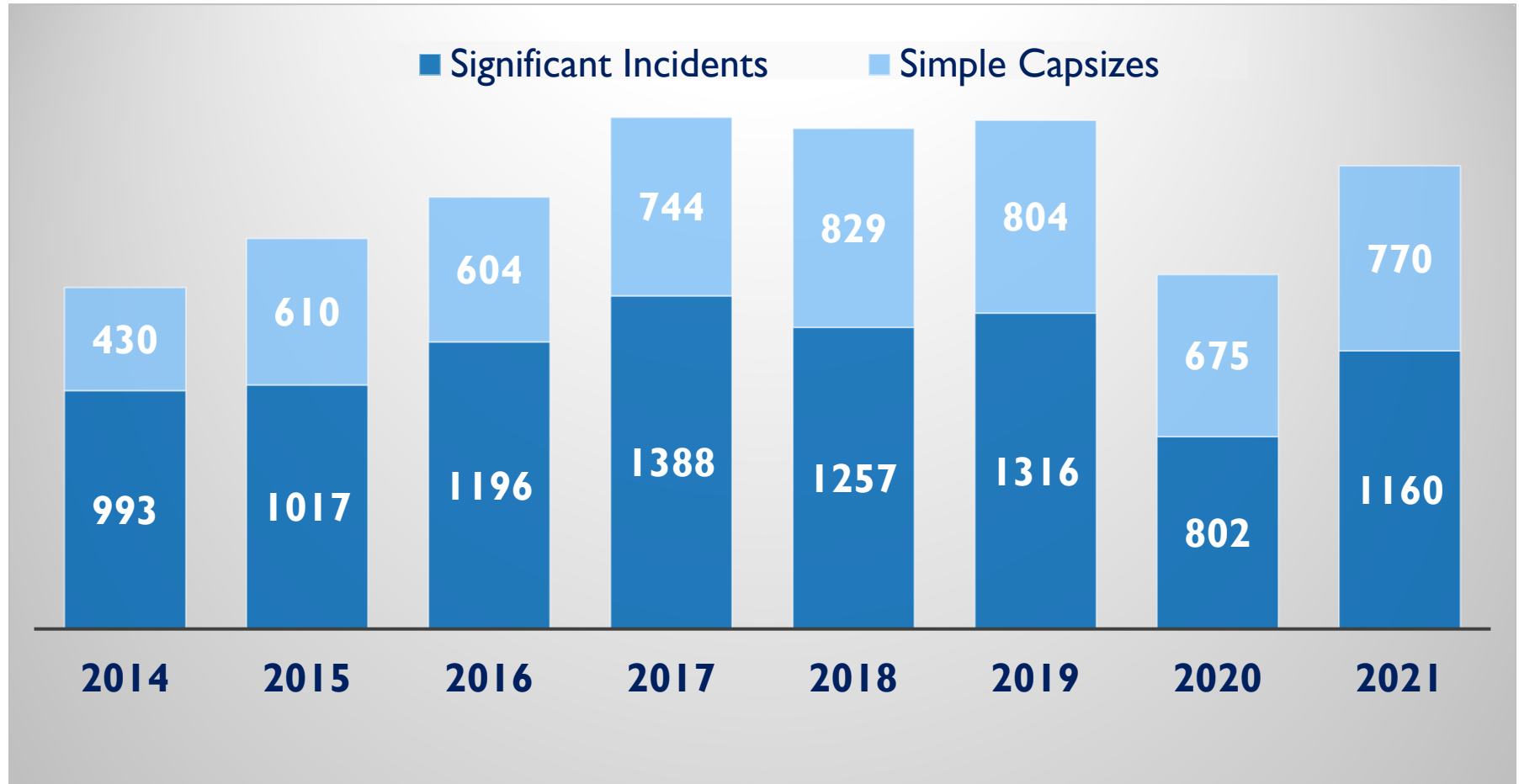


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All Incidents

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All Incidents



**Significant incidents = all except simple capsizes
(most result in collisions or near collisions)**

Reported Incidents in 2020

The number of Reported Incidents in 2020 reflects the strange circumstances we were living in. It is pleasing to see that the level of reporting remains high, given that:

- we were locked down for 7 – 8 weeks in the Spring
- the lockdown was followed by weeks of rowing in singles and household doubles during what would be the busiest period of the year
- later in the year further restrictions were imposed on a regional basis

The proportion of Simple Capsizes is higher this year reflecting the fact that:

- during part of the summer only singles and household doubles were permitted
- the long lockdown meant that scullers lost some of their skills
- many sweep rowers started to scull for the first time or not having sculled for some years

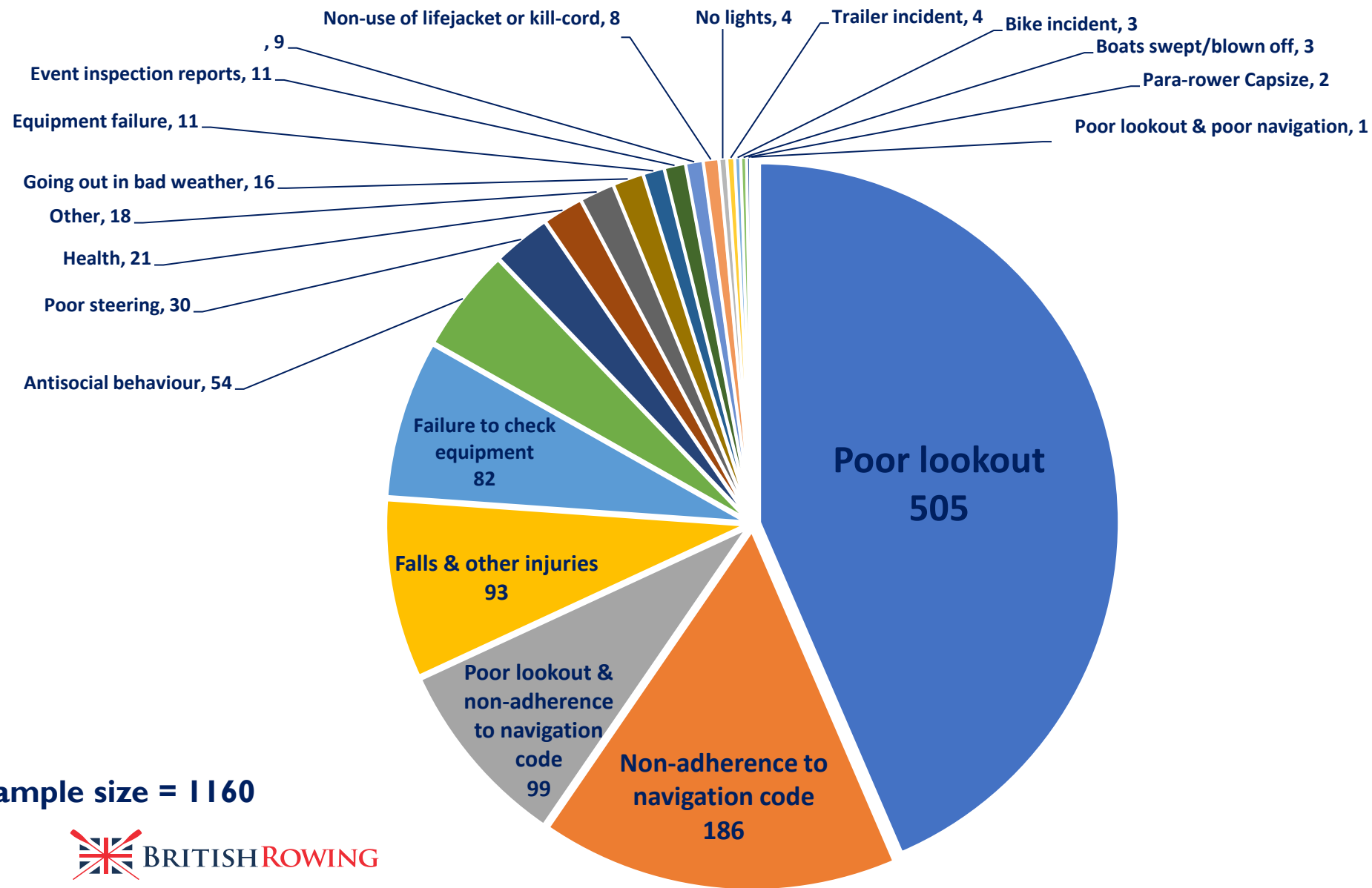


All Significant Incidents

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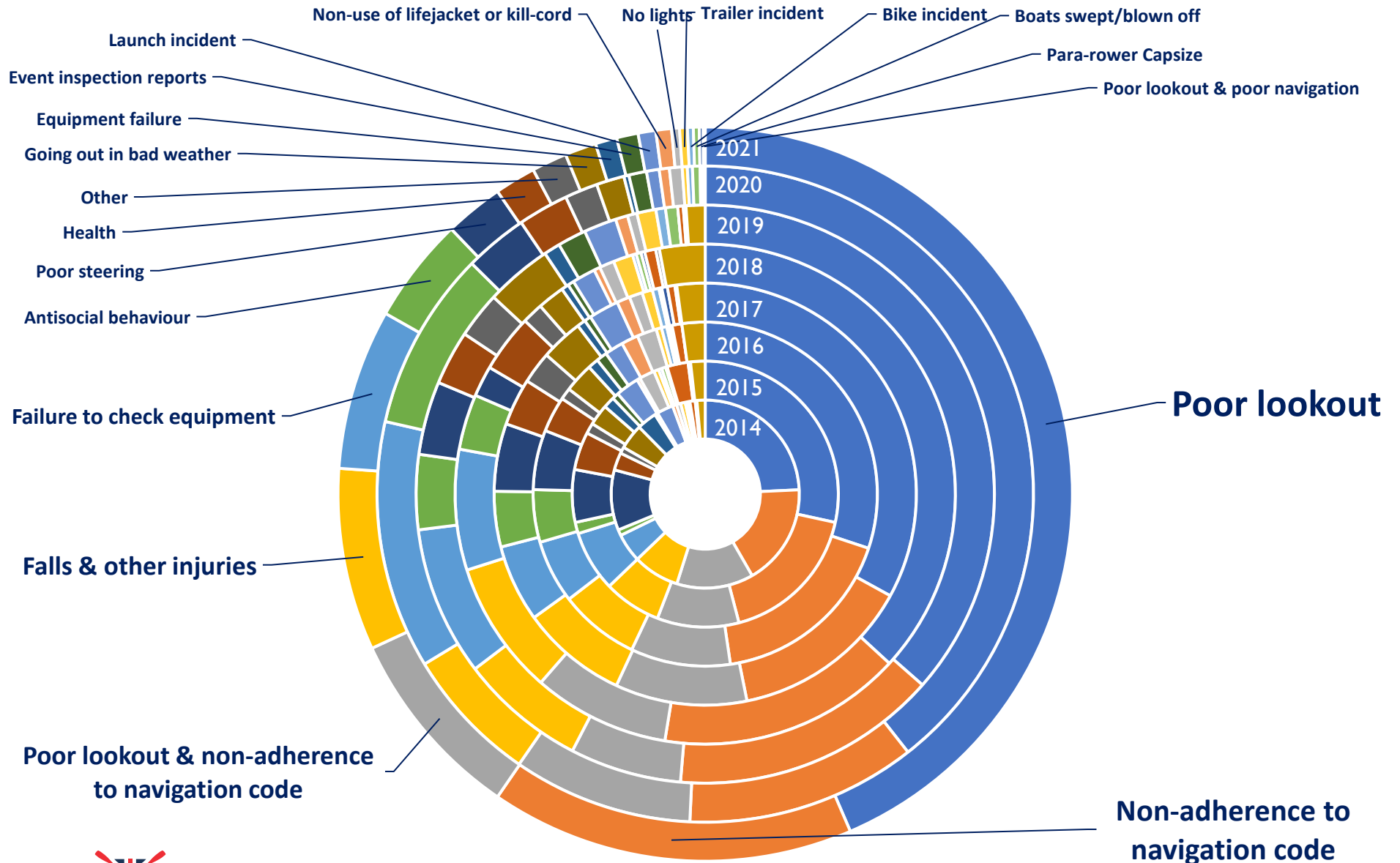
Analysis of Significant Rowing Incidents by Cause - 2021

Significant accidents = all except simple capsizes (most result in collisions or near collisions)



Sample size = 1160

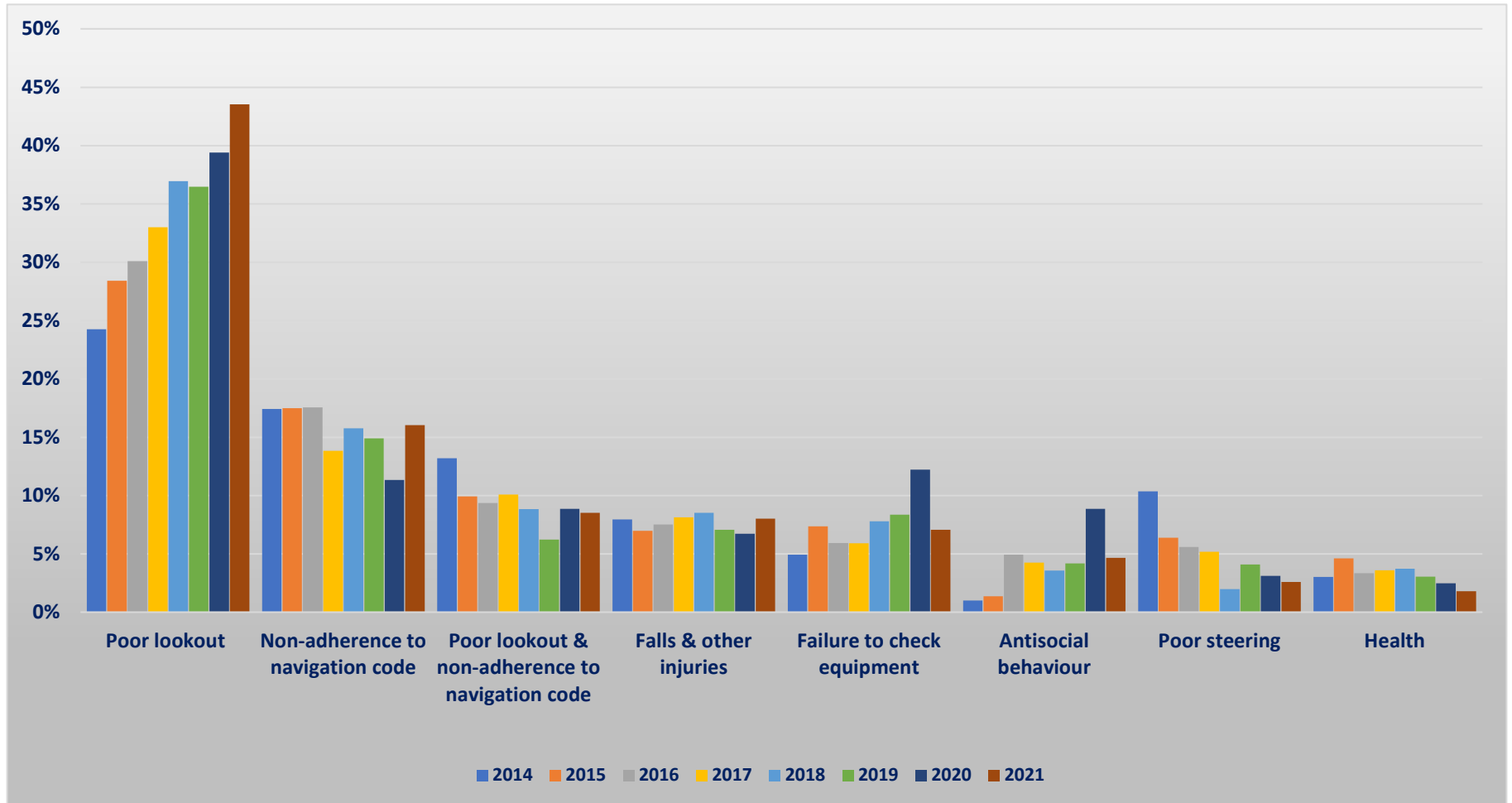
Comparison with previous years



Trends in common causes of Significant Incidents

Causes of Incidents – Percentage by Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Poor lookout	24%	28%	30%	33%	37%	36%	39%	44%
Non-adherence to navigation code	17%	18%	18%	14%	16%	15%	11%	16%
Poor lookout & non-adherence to nav. code	13%	10%	9%	10%	9%	6%	9%	9%
Falls & other injuries	8%	7%	8%	8%	9%	7%	7%	8%
Failure to check equipment	5%	7%	6%	6%	8%	8%	12%	7%
Antisocial behaviour	1%	1%	5%	4%	4%	4%	9%	5%
Poor steering	10%	6%	6%	5%	2%	4%	3%	3%
Health	3%	5%	3%	4%	4%	3%	2%	2%

Trends in common causes of Significant Incidents



Causes of Reported Incidents in 2020

The causes of incidents varies from previous years because:

- skills such as keeping a good lookout ahead and checking equipment were forgotten during lockdown
- rowers who had taken up sculling were not used to looking ahead or keeping to the correct side of the river
- paddle-boards became very popular with people who had not gone afloat before, they did not understand rowing boats and the “rules of the road” and were not skilled enough to manoeuvre
- motor boats were also very popular and drivers had forgotten, or did not understand, the need to keep a good lookout and follow the local navigation code

Significant Incidents by Cause	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Poor lookout	241	289	360	458	463	480	316	505
Non-adherence to navigation code	173	178	210	192	198	196	91	186
Poor lookout & non-adherence to nav. code	131	101	112	140	111	82	71	99
Falls & other injuries	79	71	90	113	109	93	54	93
Failure to check equipment	49	75	71	82	98	110	98	82
Antisocial behaviour	10	14	59	59	45	55	71	54
Poor steering	103	65	67	72	25	54	25	30
Health	30	47	40	50	47	40	20	21
Other	11	13	13	34	17	34	13	18
Going out in bad weather	43	26	33	45	22	49	11	16
Equipment failure	34	14	12	9	6	12	2	11
Event inspection reports	5	8	12	7	5	21	7	11
Launch incident	28	29	21	32	19	24	5	9
Non-use of lifejacket or kill-cord	7	4	19	14	5	9	4	8
No lights	7	19	22	14	12	7	5	4
Trailer incident	8	6	6	11	16	14	2	4
Bike incident	1	4	6	7	3	7	2	3
Boats swept/blown off	4	5	3	3	4	9	3	3
Para-rower Capsize	3	2	3	6	3	0		2
Poor lookout & poor navigation	9	26	11	8	9	4	1	1
Clothing	3	3	0	2	3	2	1	
Non-adherence to nav. code & poor supervision	14	18	26	30	37	14		
Total Significant Incidents	993	1017	1196	1388	1257	1316	802	1160

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Poor lookout & non-adherence to nav. code	131	101	112	140	111	82	71	99
Falls & other injuries	79	71	90	113	109	93	54	93
Failure to check equipment	49	75	71	82	98	110	98	82
Antisocial behaviour	59	45	55	71	54	71	54	54
Poor steering	72	25	54	25	30	25	30	30
Health	50	47	40	20	21	40	20	21
Other	34	17	34	13	18	17	13	18
Going out in bad weather	43	26	33	45	22	49	11	16
Equipment failure	34	14	12	9	6	12	2	11
Event inspection reports	5	8	12	7	5	21	7	11
Launch incident	28	29	21	32	19	24	5	9
Non-use of lifejacket or kill-cord	14	5	9	4	8	5	9	4
No lights	14	12	7	5	4	12	7	5
Trailer incident	11	16	14	2	4	16	14	2
Bike incident	7	3	7	2	3	3	7	2
Boats swept/blown off	3	4	9	3	3	4	9	3
Para-rower Capsize	6	3	0	2	6	3	0	2
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Red = Cause is Behaviour related

But some of the others can also be related to Behaviour

Behaviour

In each of the years, more than 92% of significant incidents could have been **avoided by safer behaviour**.

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
92%	92%	94%	93%	94%	92%	95%	95%

The proportion of significant incidents that could have been **avoided by**:

- **Keeping a good lookout**
- **Adhering to the navigation code and**
- **Doing both of the above at the same time**

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
55%	56%	57%	57%	62%	58%	60%	68%

Common Behaviour-related Causes of Incidents

The most common behaviour related incidents continue to be:

- Not keeping a good lookout (on land as well as on water)
- Failure to check equipment
- Not adhering to the navigation code
- Antisocial behaviour

In 2020 these accounted for 87% of incidents, compared with 77% in 2019.

There was a considerable increase in the number of incidents caused by:

- Failure to Check Equipment and
- Antisocial Behaviour

Reported Near Misses

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
155 (16%)	174 (17%)	272 (23%)	180 (13%)	186 (15%)	154 (12%)	101 (13%)	184 (16%)

Note: These incidents are included in various categories of reported Significant Incidents

Near Misses include:

- Near Collisions due to
 - Poor lookout
 - Non-adherence to navigation code
 - Poor steering
- Creating excessive wash
- Verbal abuse
- Not wearing a lifejacket or kill-cord
- Event inspections



Harm resulting from Significant Incidents

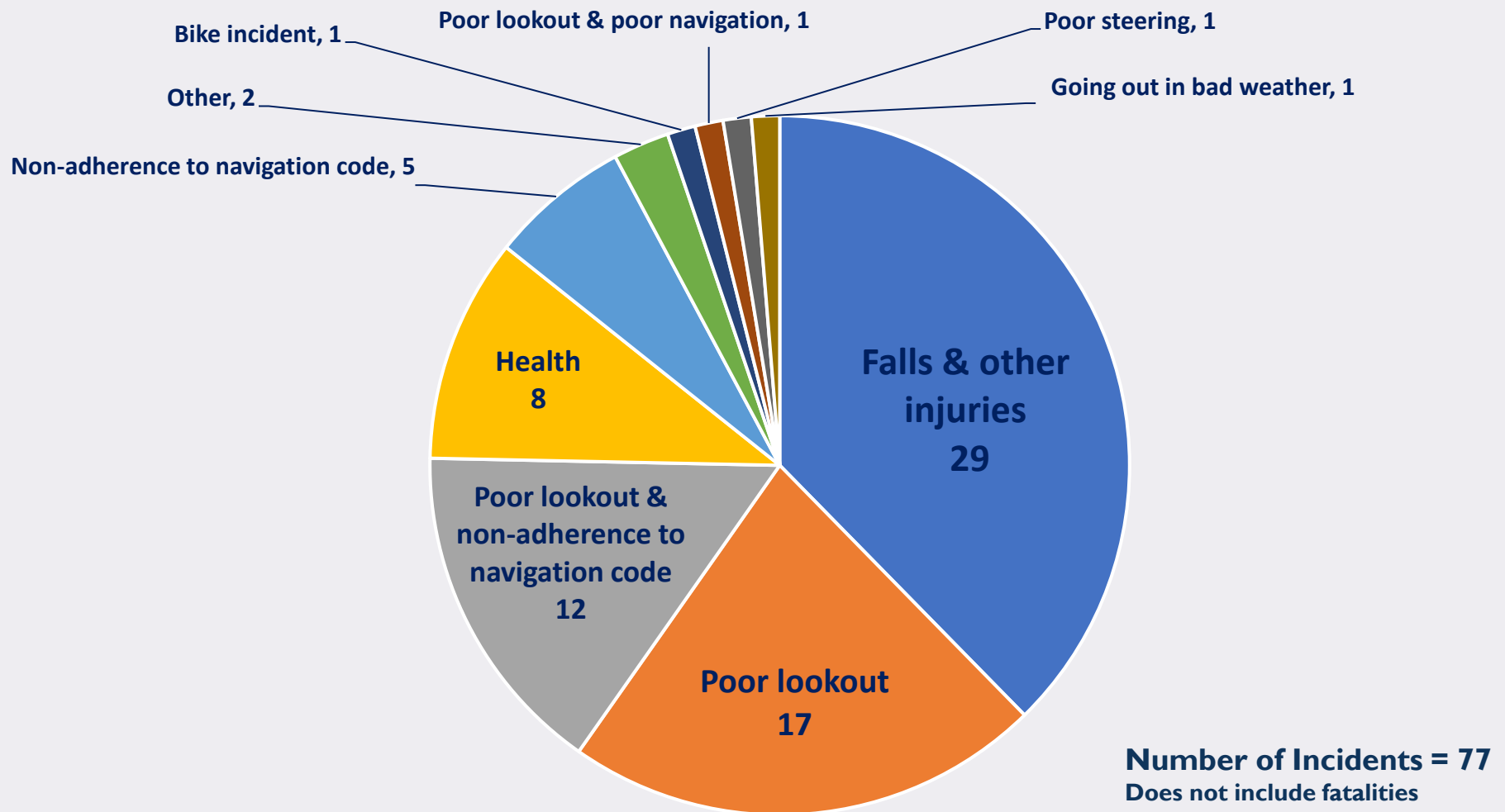
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Harm caused to people

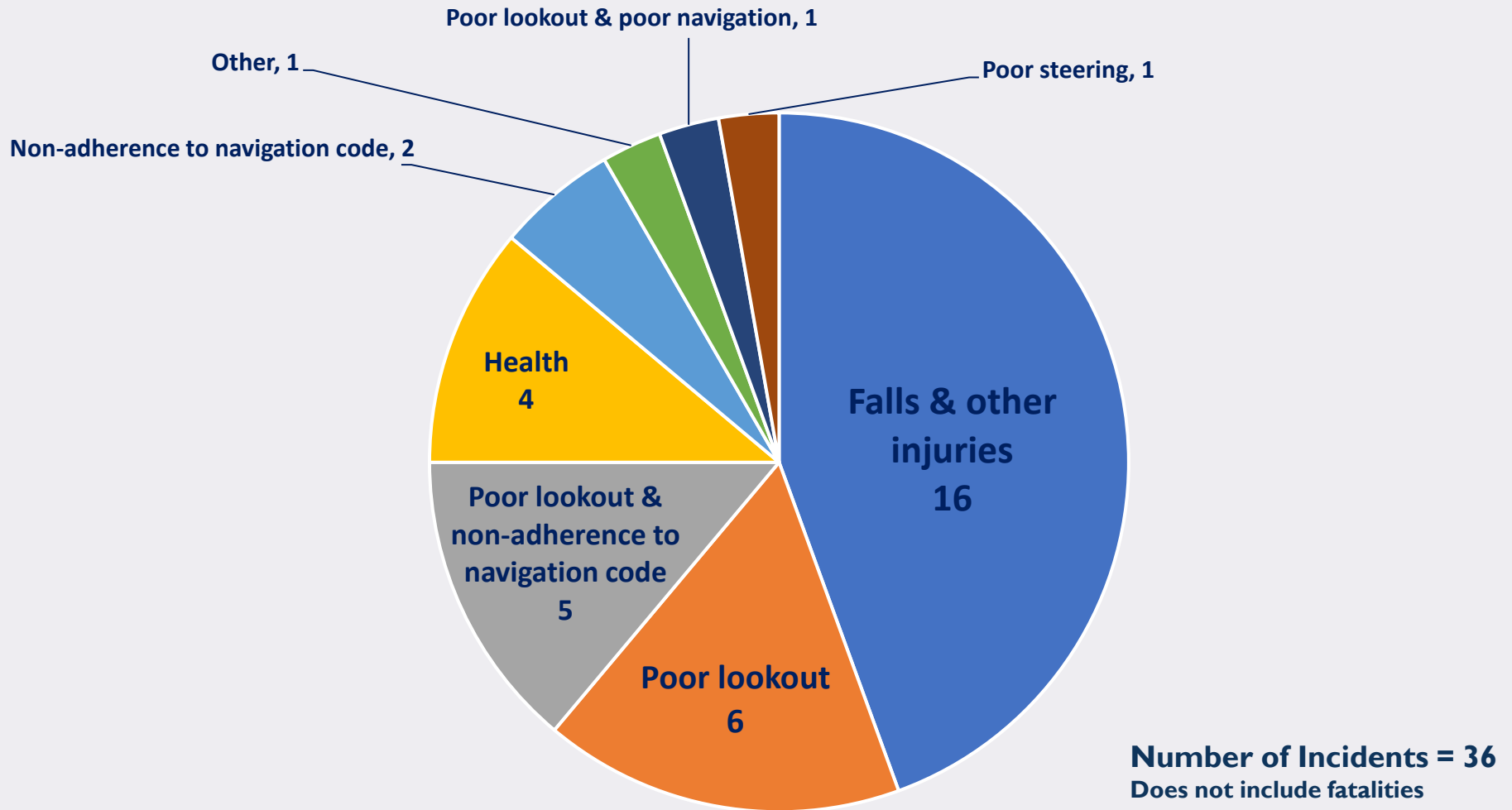
Harm to People caused by Significant Incidents	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
No harm	821	823	989	1131	1010	1112	695	942
Minor injuries such as cuts and bruises	75	82	104	124	85	89	60	139
Significant injuries - few days off rowing	64	60	57	61	101	46	21	41
Serious injuries - week or more off rowing inc. concussion & broken bones	33	51	42	67	59	67	25	36
Fatalities		1	4	1	2	2	1	2
Total	993	1017	1196	1384	1257	1316	802	1160

The fatalities in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 were all tragic health related incidents and one accidental death not related to rowing.

Causes of 2021 Significant Incidents resulting in any time off rowing



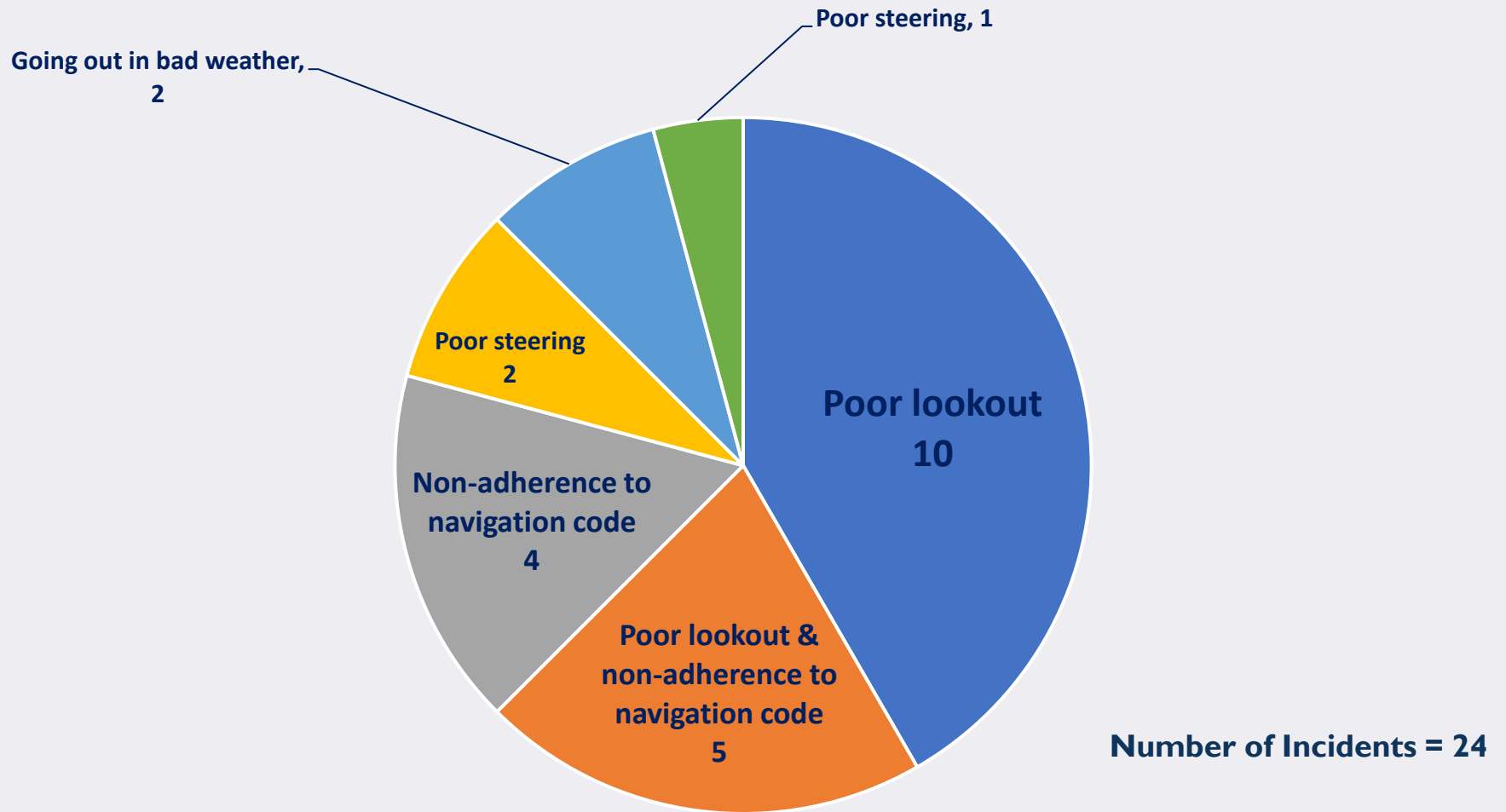
Causes of 2021 Incidents resulting in one week or more off rowing



Damage caused to property

Damage to Property caused by Significant Incidents	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
No damage	691	754	830	928	870	941	633	827
Repairs less than £100	119	89	86	143	150	92	73	100
Repairs £100 - £1000	114	124	233	277	212	246	77	209
Repairs over £1000	63	42	40	33	21	31	17	21
Loss of boat	6	7	6	3	2	6	2	3
Damage to cars, boathouse etc.		1	1		2			
Total Significant Incidents	993	1017	1196	1384	1257	1316	802	1160
Total Value of damage	£290k	£230k	£270k	£225k	£245k	£230k	£109k	£177k

Causes of 2020 Incidents resulting more than £1000 damage



Note about costs of repairs

The reduction in the cost of damage in 2020 (53% lower than 2019) is greater than the reduction in the number of incidents (40% lower than 2019).

This could be because:

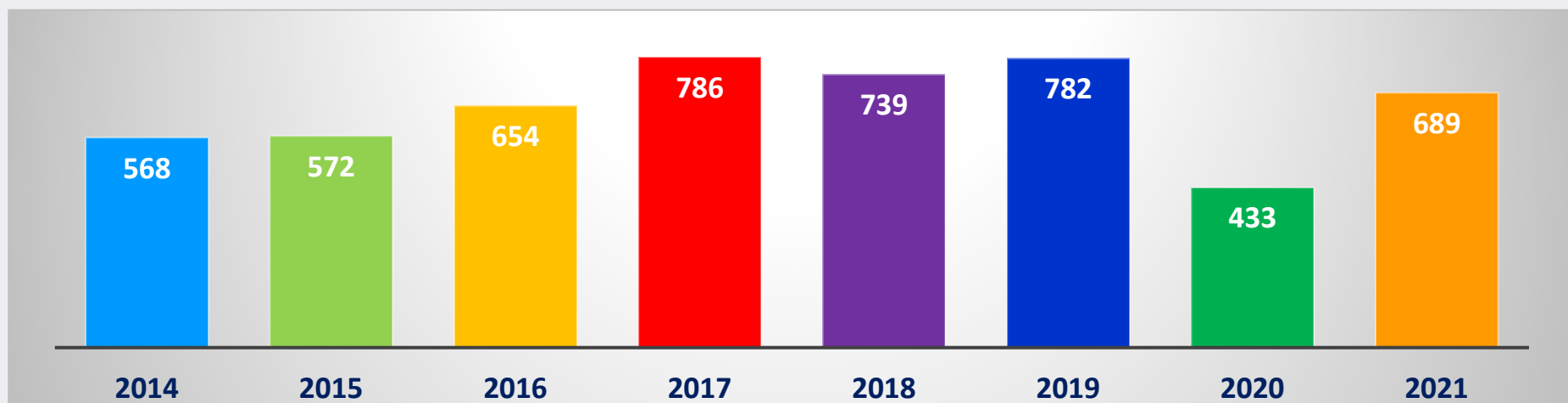
- most rowing was done in smaller less expensive boats
- there were fewer collisions between larger, faster, more expensive boats
- there were virtually no competitions and probably less training



Collisions

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Collisions



Collisions were with	2021	2020
Other rowing boats	384	197
Powered craft	67	30
Trees/Bushes/Reeds	39	40
Submerged Objects inc. Grounding	36	12
Moored boat	32	13
Unpowered craft	31	14
Buoy	30	26
Bank	20	15

	2021	2020
Bridge/Barrage	13	21
Weeds	11	19
Log/Floating Debris	10	17
Pontoon	7	10
Post	3	4
Swans/Geese/Dog	3	5
Other	2	5
Fishing lines	1	5

Injuries resulting from Collisions – 2020 & 2019

Harm to People caused by Collisions	2021	2020
No harm	582	389
Minor injuries such as cuts and bruises	71	33
Significant injuries - few days off rowing	21	8
Serious injuries - week or more off rowing (includes concussion & broken bones)	15	3
Total	433	433

Damage resulting from Collisions – 2020 & 2019

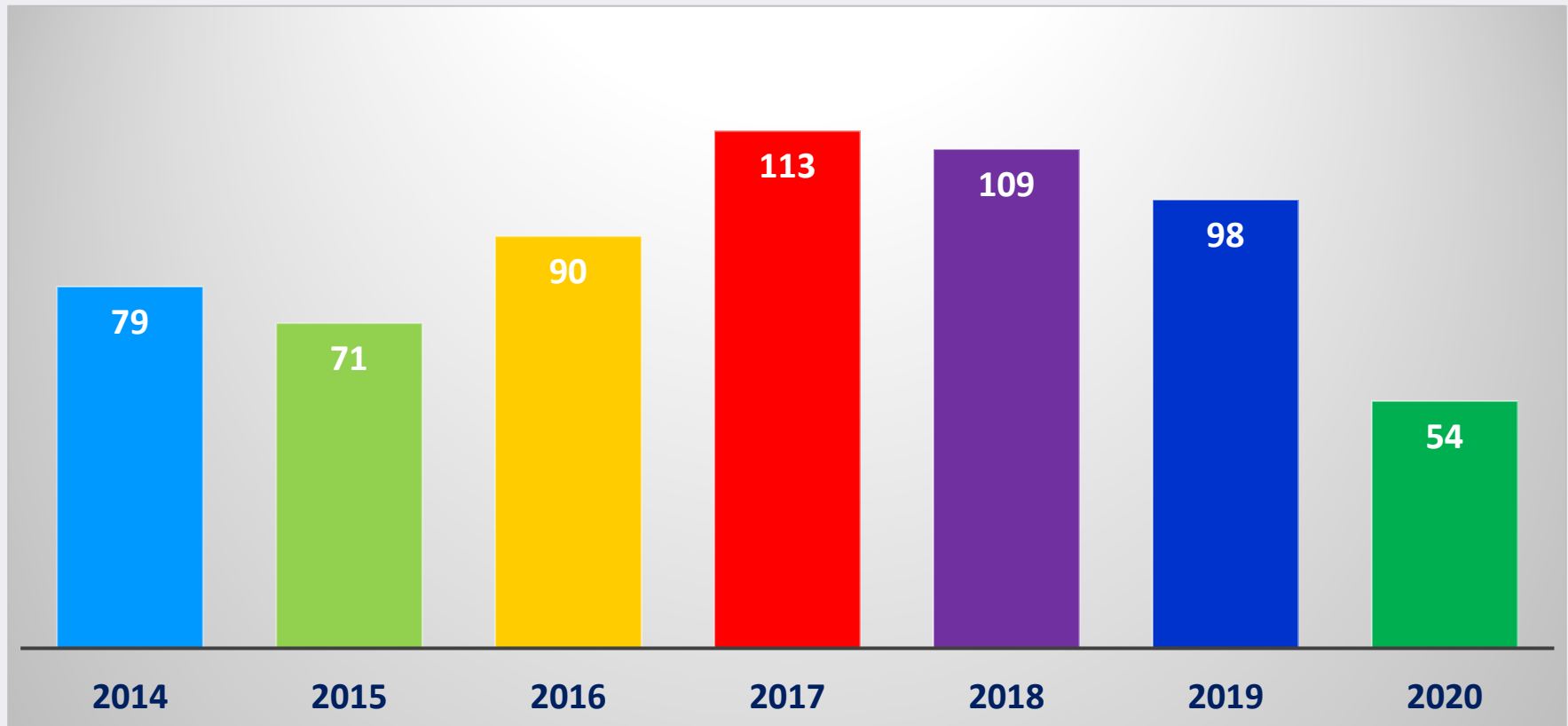
Damage to Boats caused by Collisions	2021		2020	
	Value	Number	Value	Number
No damage	£0	398	£0	291
Repairs costing less than £100	£5,888	88	£4,757	65
Repairs costing £100 to £1000	£79,285	181	£24,195	61
Repairs costing over £1000	£49,100	19	£52,100	14
Loss of boat	£25,000	3	£12,000	2
Total	£159,273	689	£93,052	433



Falls and Other Injuries

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Trends in Falls and Other Injuries



Falls and Other Injuries

Injury Type	No Harm	Minor Injuries	Significant – few days off rowing	Serious – >1 week off rowing	Total
Cuts & Bruises		17	9	1	27
Trauma Muscular			1	3	4
Broken Bones				4	4
Sprains & ligament injuries				3	3
Trauma Skeletal				1	1
Other	12	2		1	15
Total	12	19	10	13	54

Falls and Other Injuries – where the 13 serious injuries occurred

Where they occurred	Number
Pontoon/Boating area	4
Land training	4
Handling boats on land	3
On water	1
Launch handling on land	1
Total	13

4 serious incidents resulted in broken bones, 2 of these incidents occurred in the boating area and 2 occurred whilst land training inside.

Incidents causing broken bones typically result in many weeks off rowing and work.



Capsizes

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Causes of Capsizes

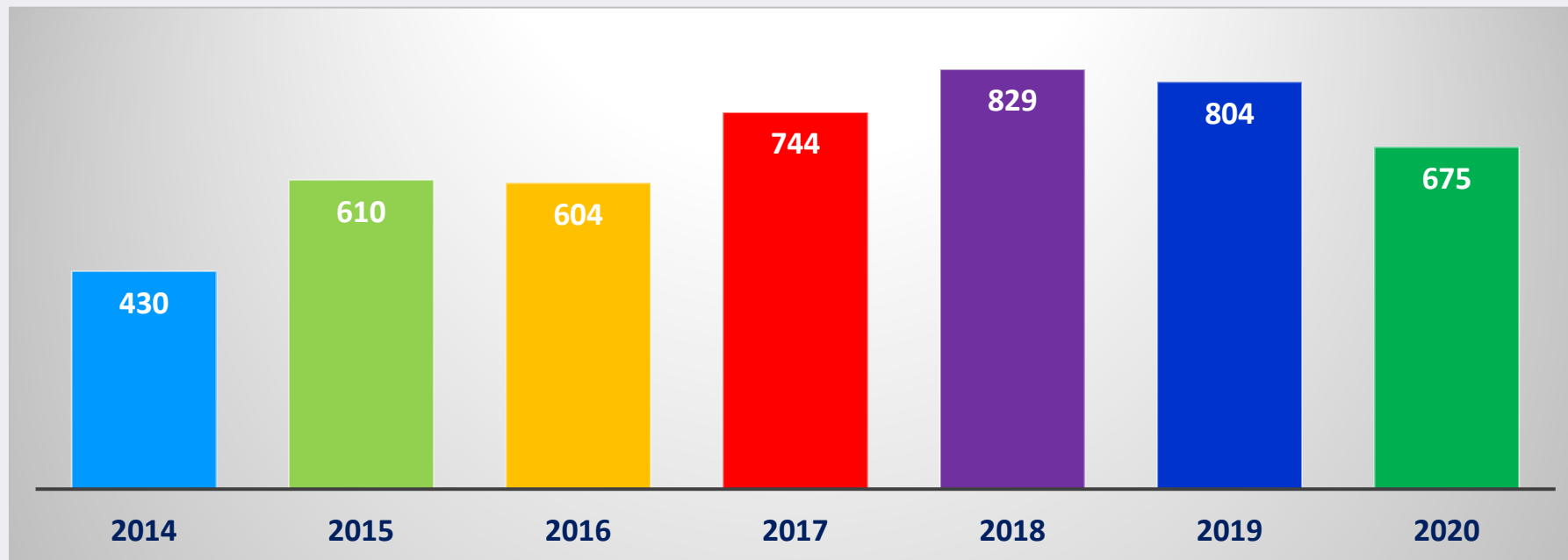
Cause of Capsize	Number
Simple Capsize (does not include Capsize Drills)	675
Failure to check equipment	92
Technique related resulting in damage or injury	4
Health	2
Antisocial Behaviour	1
Clothing	1
Non-adherence to navigation code	1
Poor Lookout	1
Total	777

Simple Capsize is a capsizes due to a simple technique mistake or competence issue.

Simple Capsize does not include Capsizes where there was an external cause (e.g. weed or collision), injury, failure to check equipment, damage to equipment or equipment failure.

Reports should not be made when doing a capsizes drills and the capsizes is expected.

Trends in Simple Capsizes



The most common reasons for Simple Capsizes in 2020 were:

Practising Drills (not including Capsize Drills)	74
Capsizing while boating or landing	55
Turning/Manoeuvring	45



Antisocial Behaviour

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Antisocial Behaviour

It is disappointing to see the increase in the number of incidents caused by antisocial behaviour. The number of incidents in 2020 was 71 (55 in 2019) accounting for 9% of Reported Incidents (4% in 2019).

Type of Behaviour	Number
Covid related	16
Verbal abuse	15
Excessive Wash	15
Items thrown	11
Theft, Trespass, Vandalism	5

Covid related incidents included:

- use of changing rooms when not allowed in the guidelines
- mixing between bubbles
- rowing in larger boats than allowed in the guidelines

Items thrown included stones, bottles and a large steel wheelie bin.

Verbal Abuse was mentioned in 27 Significant Incidents, mostly, but not exclusively, from non-rowers to rowers.



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Summary

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A note from the HRSA

“Over the past few years, we have developed an enviable no-blame culture concerning incidents. Our members willingly report incidents and share experiences in order to help to make our sport safer. This is very pleasing.

All types of incidents are reported, from ones which result in serious injury and major damage, to seemingly trivial incidents like simple capsizes and those resulting in no injury or damage.

A willingness to report is demonstrated by these light-hearted remarks:

- *Capsized trying to be better than I am so that when X sees me next she will be impressed and we can be happy ever after - Stop thinking about X and concentrate on rowing*
- *During 2nd session, fell in 6 times. By the end of the session had worked out how to not fall in*
- *Fell in the water while stationary. Bambi learns to row.*

Please continue to report incidents.

Thank you,

Stephen”

Top 12 Clubs reporting Incidents in 2020

Position	Club	Incidents reported
1	Marlow RC	54
2	Putney Town RC	41
3	Lea RC	34
4	Latymer Upper School BC	32
4=	Leicester RC	32
4=	Worcester University RC	32
7	Warrington RC	31
8	Maidenhead RC	30
9	Durham ARC	29
10	Avon County RC	28
10=	Gloucester RC	28
12	Lincoln Rowing Centre	26

Further Analysis

This presentation provides a summary of the data collected in 2020 in the British Rowing Incident Reporting system.

Further analysis can be provided. If you require more detailed analysis on any topic, e.g. regional analysis, please ask and, if possible, it will be provided.

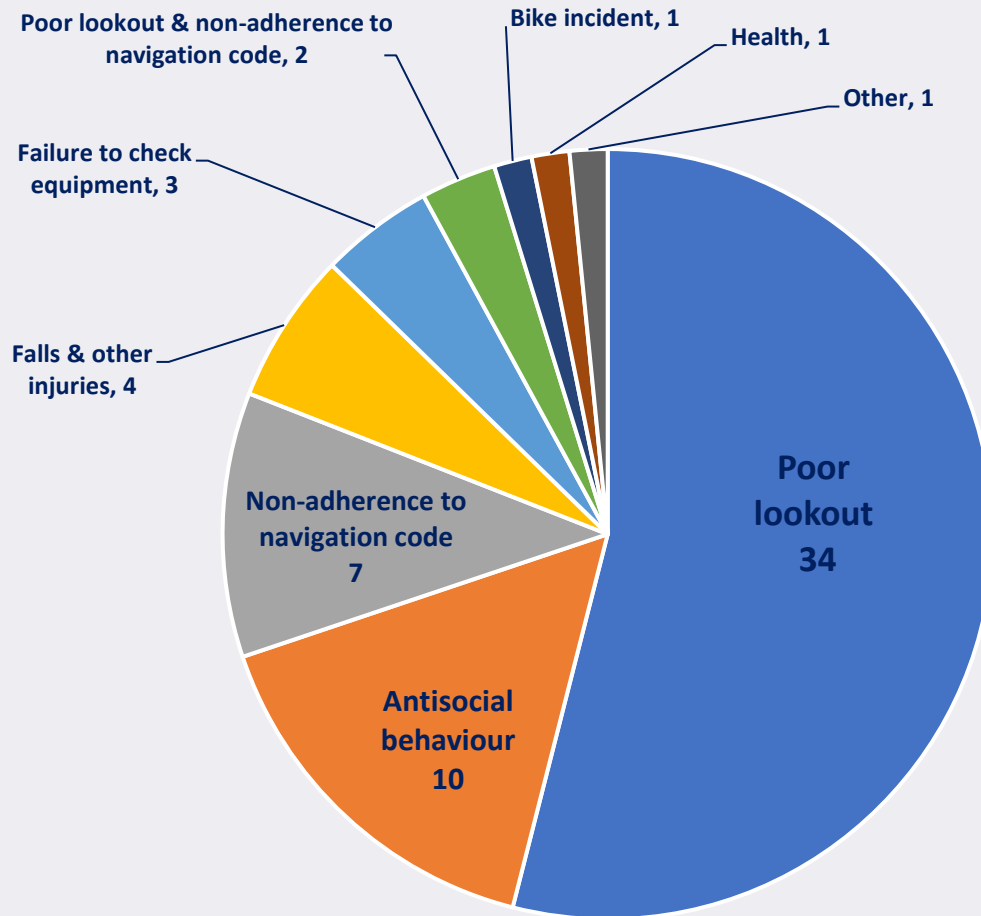
Please email safety@britishrowing.org



Regional Summaries

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East Midlands - 2020

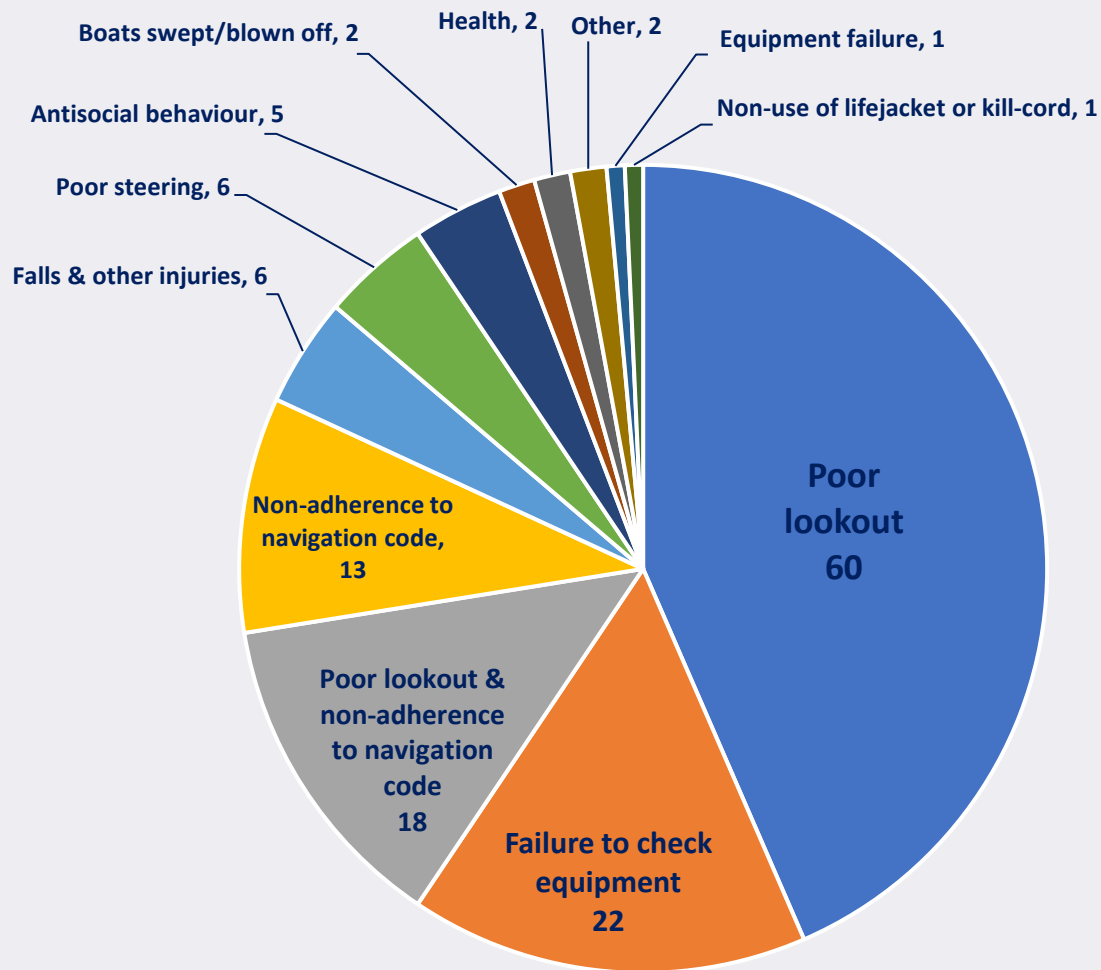


Clubs reporting 5 or more incidents

Leicester RC	32
Lincoln Rowing Centre	26
Loughborough BC	12
Newark RC	6
Burton Leander RC	5
Derwent RC	5
Loughborough Students RC	5

The clubs shown in the table should all be congratulated for reporting 5 or more incidents in 2020

Eastern - 2020

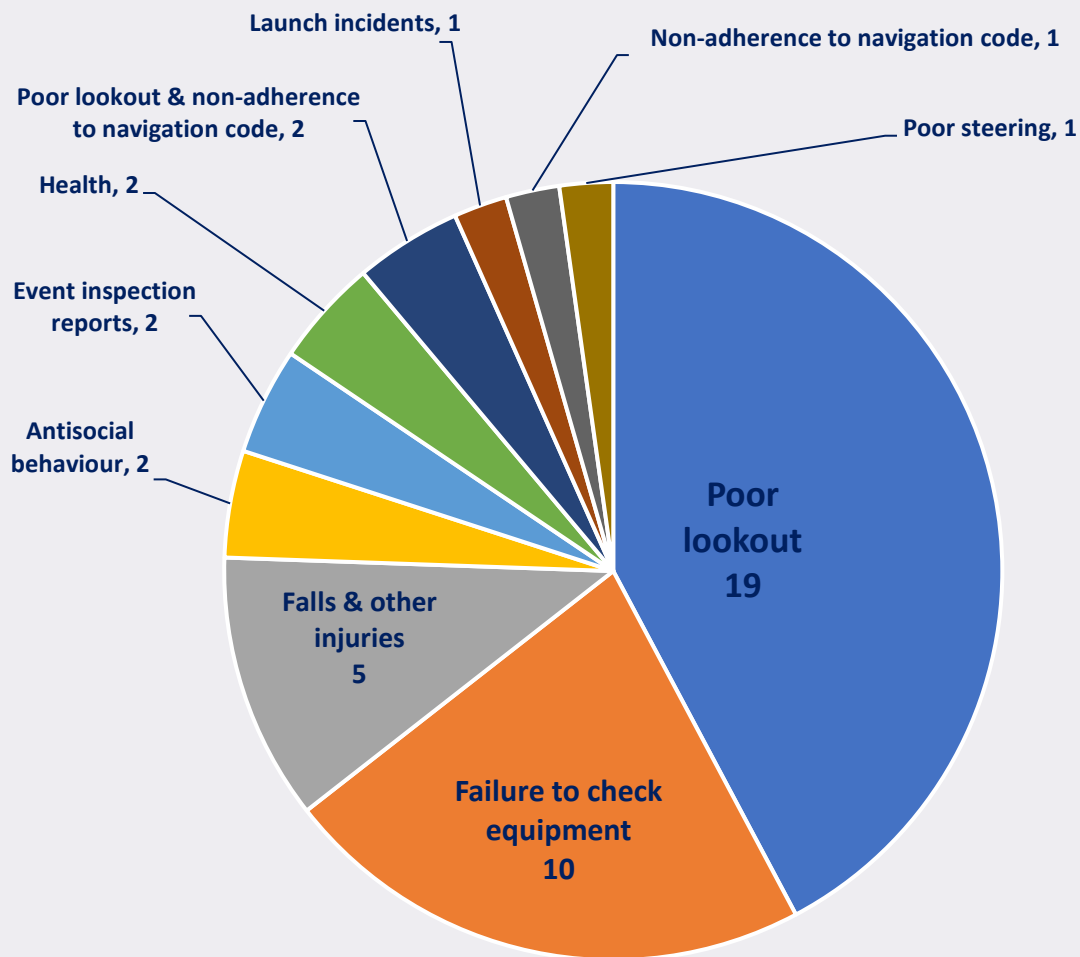


Clubs reporting 5 or more incidents

Lea RC	34
Broxbourne RC	21
St Neots RC	21
Star Club	17
Cambridge 99 RC	13
Bedford RC	12
Camrowers	10
West Norfolk Rowing Club	9
Milton Keynes Rowing Club	7
Bedford Modern School BC	6
Isle Of Ely RC	6
Peterborough City RC	6
St Ives RC	5
Yare BC	5

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North West - 2020

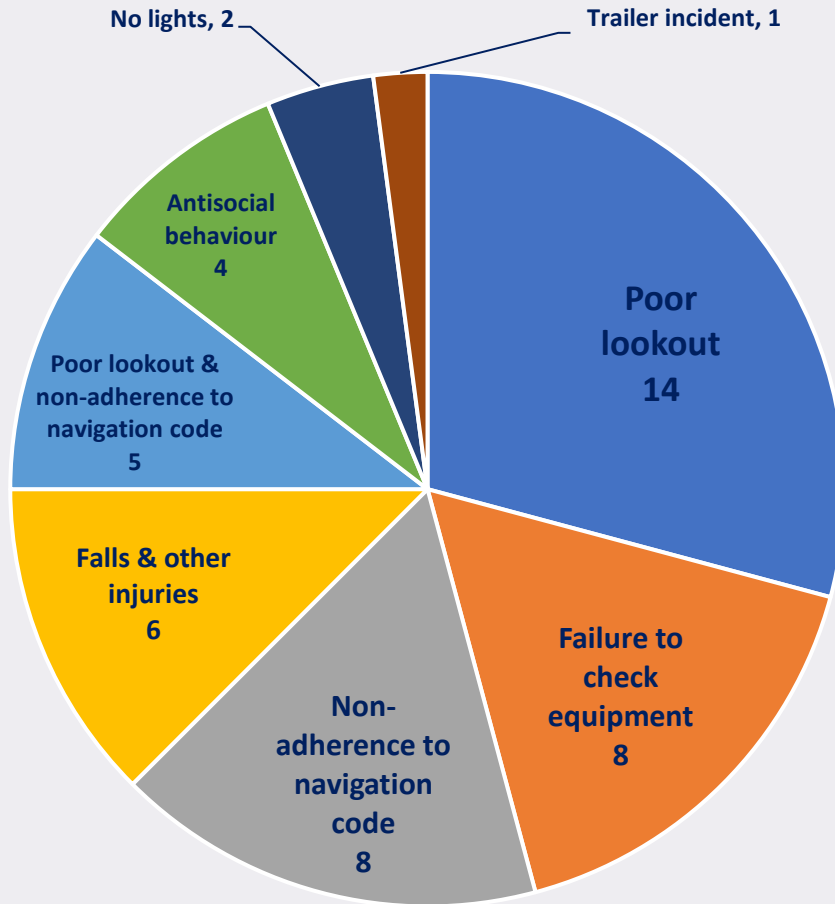


Clubs reporting 5 or more incidents

Warrington RC	31
Kings School Chester RC	11
Runcorn RC	8
Trentham BC	8
Liverpool Victoria RC	7
Northwich RC	7
Lancaster Royal Grammar School BC	5

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Northern - 2020

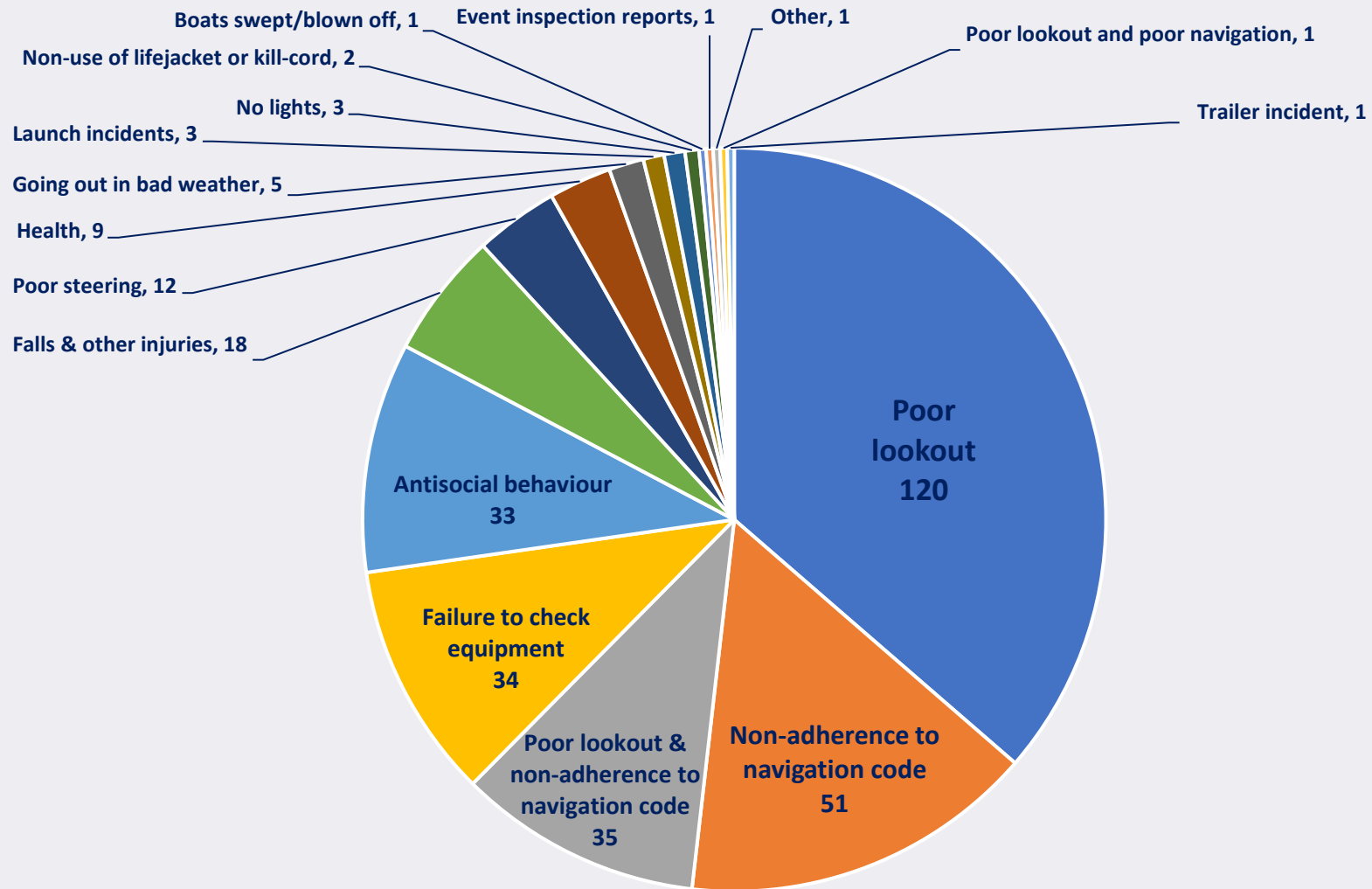


Clubs reporting 5 or more incidents

Durham ARC	29
Tyne Amateur RC	12
Hexham RC	10
Tyne United RC	9
Lakeland Rowing Club	8
Collingwood College BC	6
Talkin Tarn ARC	5
Tees Rowing Club	5

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Thames - 2020



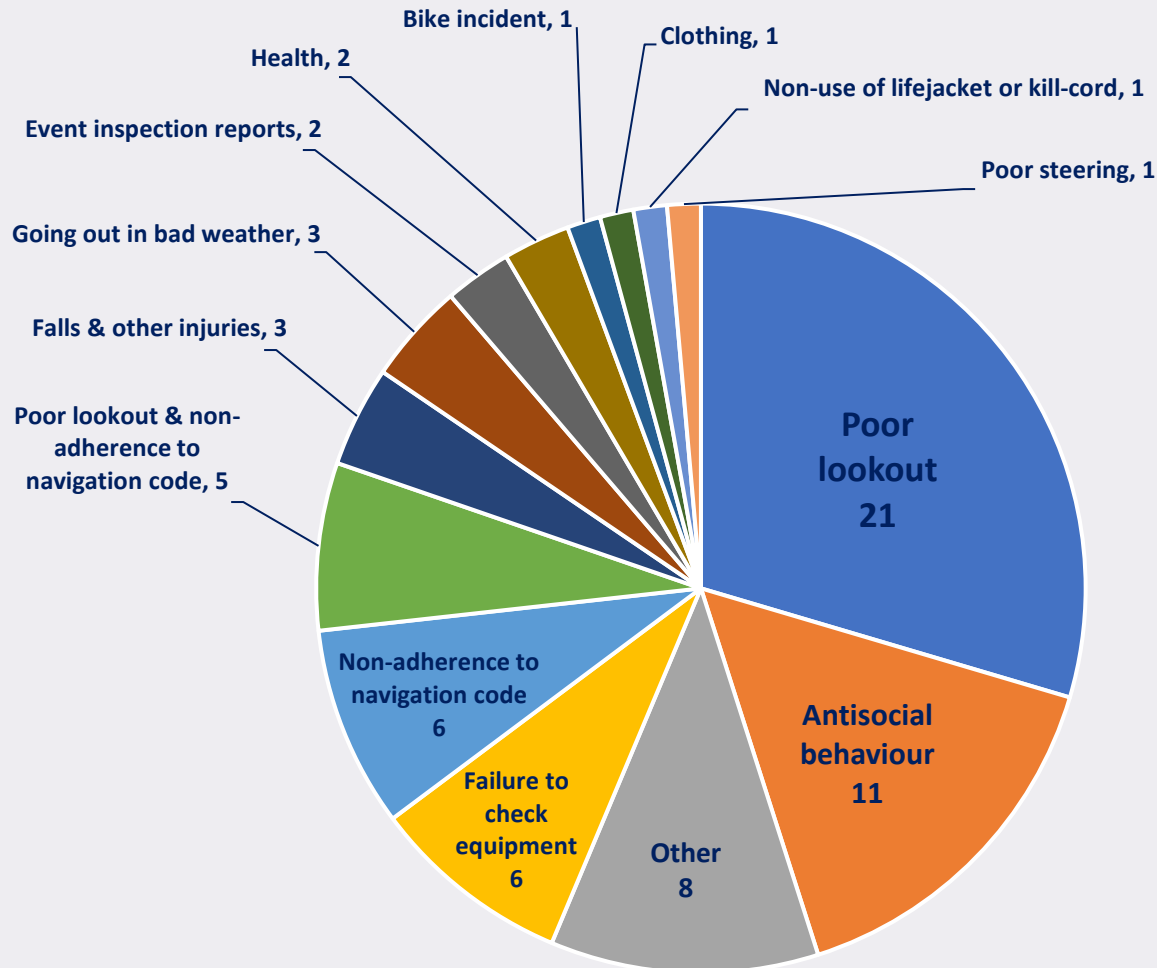
Thames – Clubs reporting 5 or more incidents

Marlow RC	54
Putney Town RC	41
Latymer Upper School BC	32
Maidenhead RC	30
Gravesend RC	18
Kingston RC	17
Oxford Academicals RC	17
Tideway Scullers School	16
London Rowing Club	15
Bewl Bridge RC	13
Maidstone Invicta RC	13
Mortlake Anglian & Alpha BC	13
Team Keane Sculling School	13
Weybridge Ladies ARC	12
Abingdon RC	11
London Youth Rowing	11
City of Oxford RC	10
Vesta RC	10

Emanuel School BC	9
Fulham Reach Boat Club	9
Thames Rowing Club	9
Auriol Kensington RC	8
Burway RC	8
Cygnets Rowing Club	8
Guildford RC	8
Weybridge Rowing Club	8
St Pauls Girls School BC	7
Twickenham RC	7
Barn Elms RC	6
Barnes Bridge Ladies RC	6
Globe Rowing Club	6
Leander Club	6
Reading Rowing Club	6
Queen's Gate Rowing Club	5

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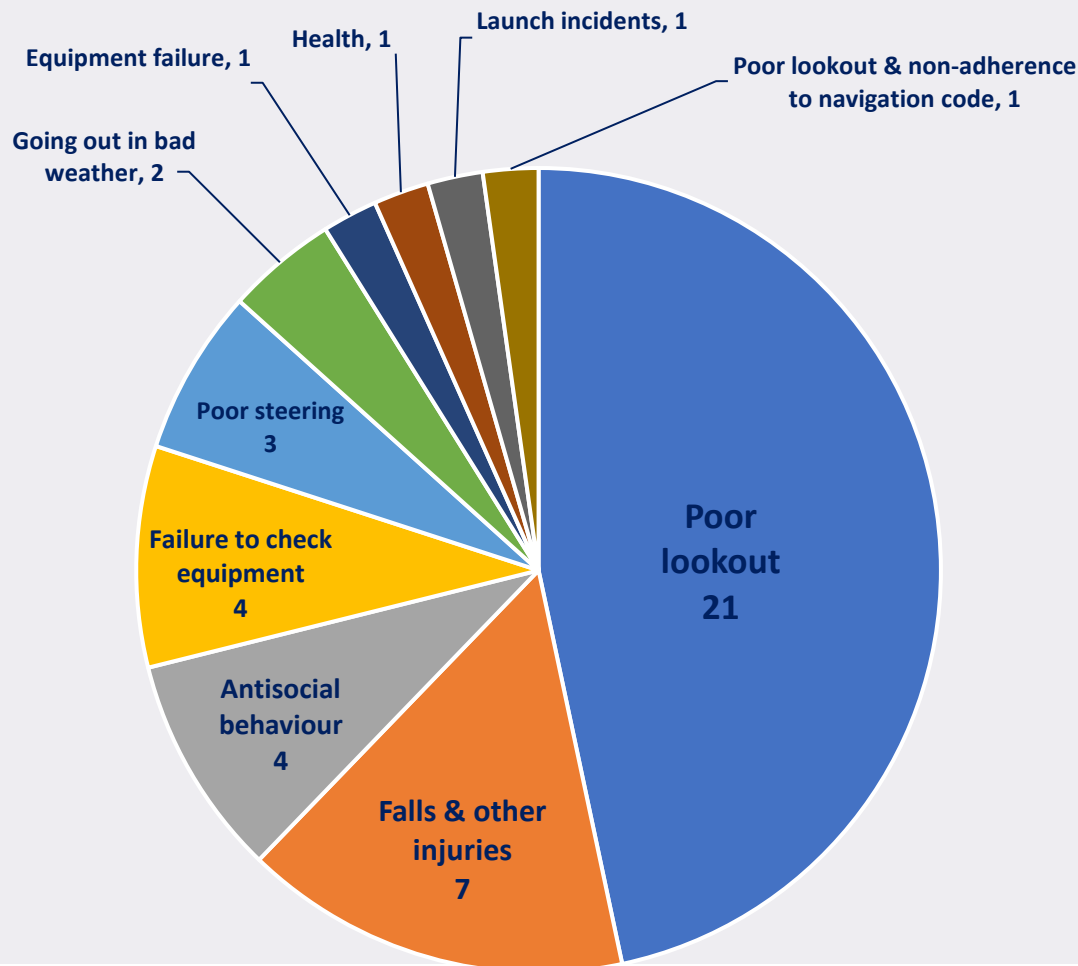
WAGS - 2020



Clubs reporting 5 or more incidents	
Avon County RC	28
Gloucester RC	28
City of Bristol Rowing Club	18
Minerva Bath RC	14
Taunton RC	9
Cheltenham College BC	6

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Wessex & S.E. Coast – 2020

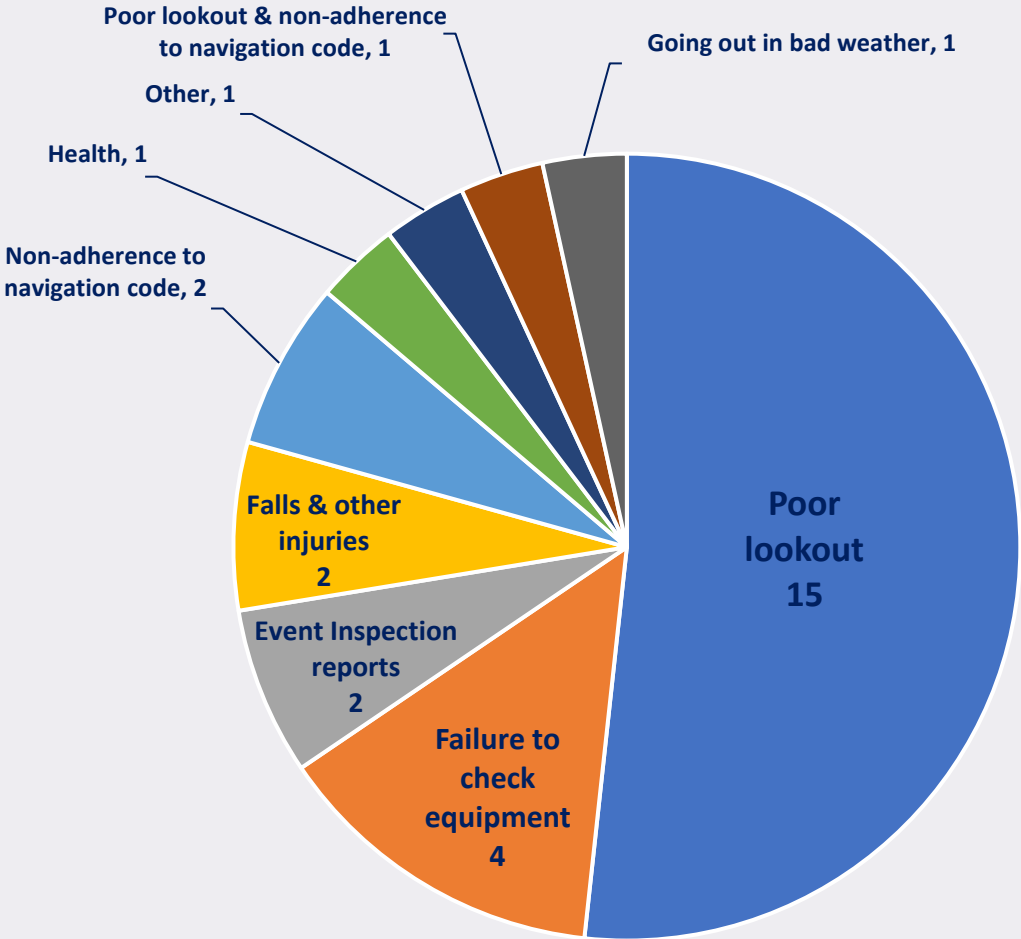


Clubs reporting 5 or more incidents

Christchurch RC	23
Southsea Rowing Club	13
Southampton Coalporters ARC	8
Shoreham RC	6
Southampton ARC	6
Itchen Imperial RC	5
Lymington ARC	5

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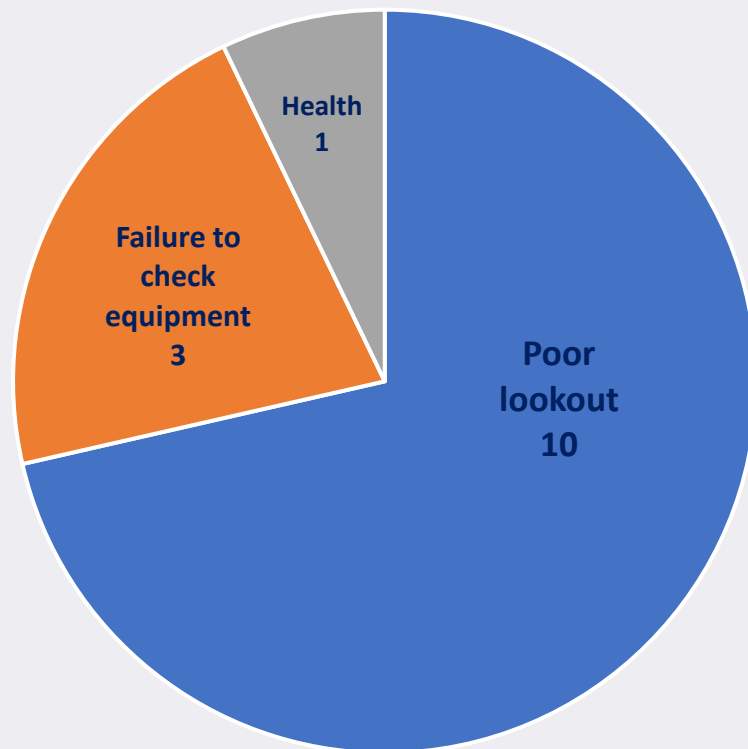
West Midlands - 2020



Clubs reporting 5 or more incidents	
Worcester University RC	32
Warwick Boat Club	9
Stratford-upon-Avon BC	7
Pengwern BC	6
Ross Rowing Club	5
Upton Rowing Club	5

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Western - 2020

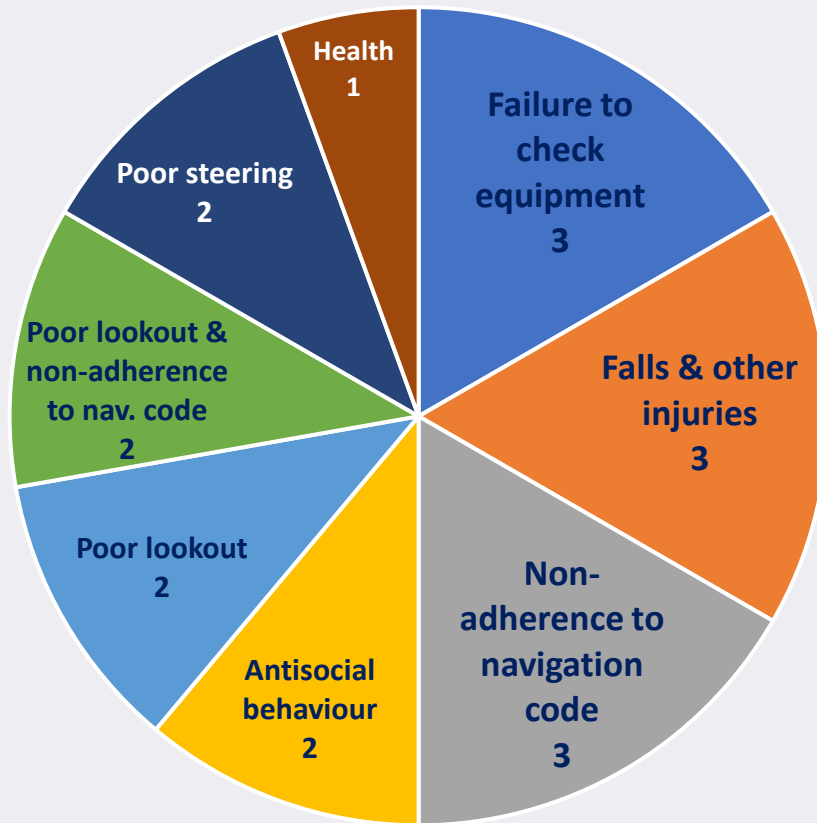


Clubs reporting 5 or more incidents

Greenbank Falmouth RC	8
Dart Totnes RC	5

The clubs shown in the table should all be congratulated for reporting 5 or more incidents in 2020

Yorkshire - 2020



Clubs reporting 5 or more incidents

Bradford ARC	14
York City RC	14
Sheffield City RC	7

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Thank you

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