

Summary of Off-Highway Vehicle Engagement Results

Introduction

Public and stakeholder engagements on potential *Traffic Safety Act* amendments were held in September 2016. One of the purposes of the engagement was to collect input from Albertans to inform decisions regarding mandatory helmets for off-highway vehicle (OHV) riders.

OHVs are all vehicles designed for cross-country travel on land, snow, ice, and other natural terrain. Common types of OHVs are quads, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), dirt bikes, side-by-side vehicles, utility-terrain vehicles, and snowmobiles. In Alberta, farm and construction machinery (e.g. tractors) are not OHVs.

In this engagement, it was made clear that any OHV helmet laws being considered would not apply on private land. For the purposes of the engagement, private land was defined as: any land that is privately held, crown land leased for agricultural purposes, and First Nations Reserve and Metis Settlement lands.

During this engagement, OHV use for farm and ranch work was explicitly exempted.

Methodology

Prior to the engagement, telephone surveys with a few groups to ensure the questions to be asked were appropriate. From September 8 to 25, 2016 there was an online public survey, and online OHV stakeholder survey, and an in-person facilitated session with enforcement agency representatives. Approximately 600 groups were invited to participate in the OHV stakeholder survey, including municipalities, indigenous communities, OHV recreational clubs, public health organizations, and industries using OHVs. These groups were encouraged to distribute the public survey to their members and the stakeholder survey to other groups who may be directly impacted by any changes.

Survey respondents are only those who chose to respond and may not represent all potential views in Alberta.

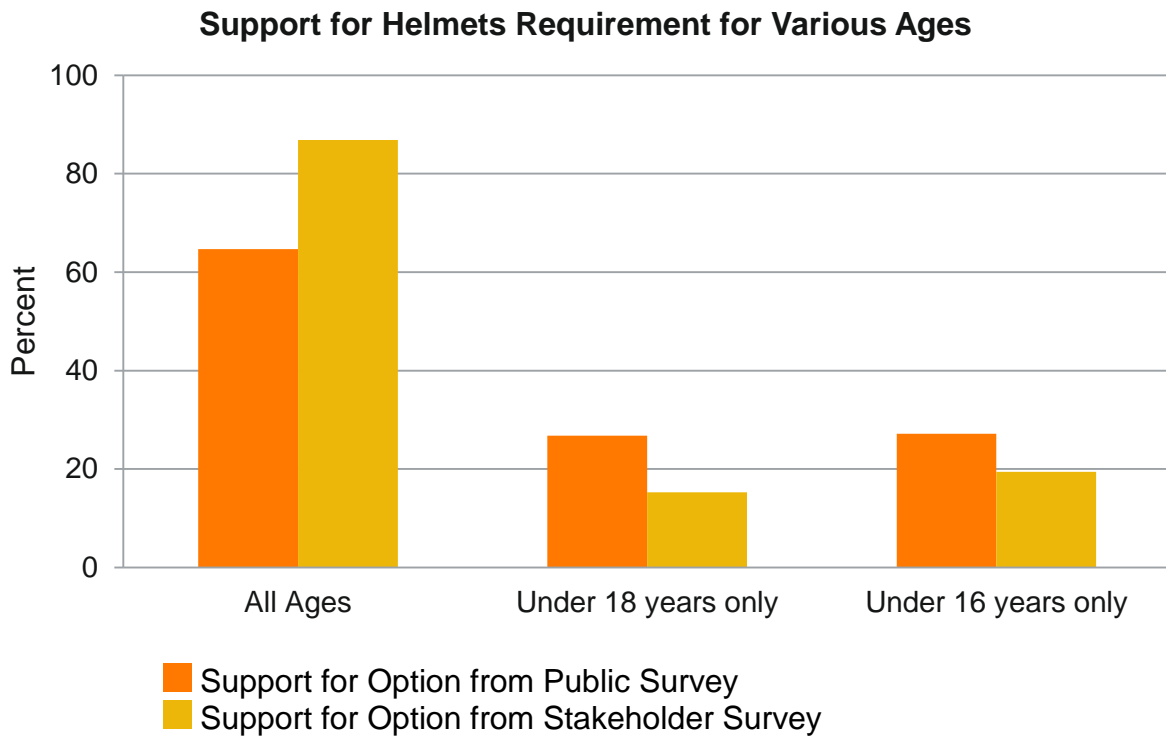
Results

Alberta Transportation received over 2,200 responses to the OHV public survey, over 70 responses to the online OHV stakeholder survey, and representatives from nine enforcement agencies from across Alberta attended the in-person session. Participants were asked about the ages of Albertans an OHV helmet requirement should apply to, where the requirement should apply, and if additional exemptions were necessary.

Enforcement agency representatives supported helmets for all ages, applying on public lands and roads, and having no exemptions.

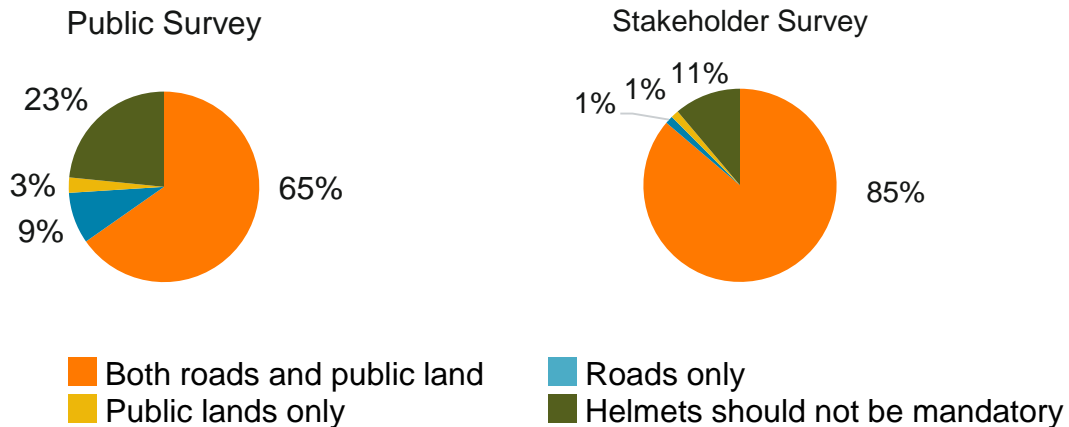
Most public survey respondents (88.5 per cent) indicated support for some type of helmet requirement.

Age: The most common response was that helmets should be mandatory for all drivers and passengers of OHVs. 65 per cent of public survey respondents and 87 per cent of stakeholder respondents supported this option.



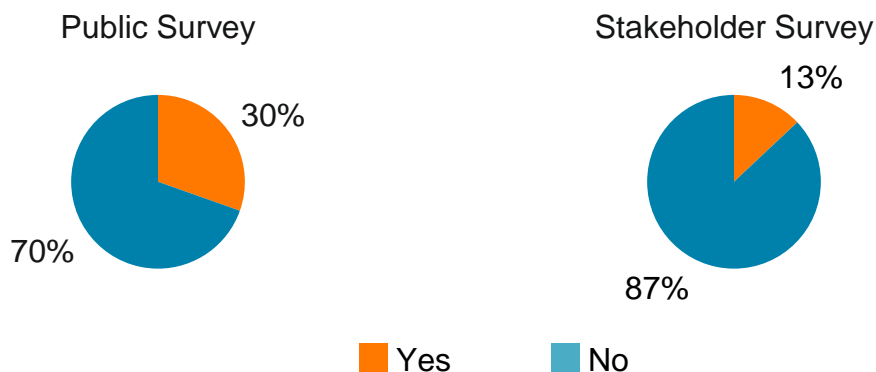
Location: The most common response was that helmets use should be mandatory on both roads and public lands. 65 per cent of public survey respondents and 85 per cent of stakeholder respondents supported this option.

Where Wearing Helmets Should Be Required

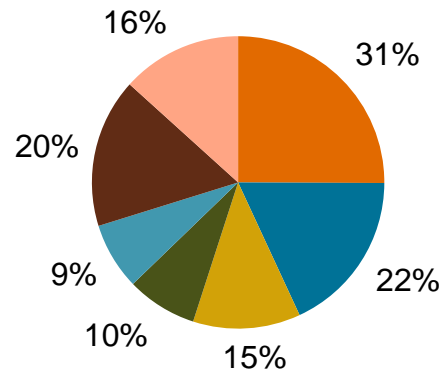


Exemptions: The majority of respondents indicated there should be no additional exemptions. 70 per cent of public survey respondents and 87 per cent of stakeholder respondents supported this option. Of the public respondents indicating additional exemptions were required, the most common reasons were for hunting, fishing, trapping, travelling at low speeds, for work-related uses, and for OHVs with other protective features (e.g. rollover protection and seatbelts). To few exemption types were requested by stakeholder respondents for a separate chart to be provided.

Are Additional Exemptions Needed?



Types of Exemptions Requested



- Hunting/Fishing/Trapping
- Travelling at Low Speeds
- Work - General
- Farming/Ranching
- Other Protective Equipment/OHV Type
- Other Exemptions
- Did not Answer the Question