



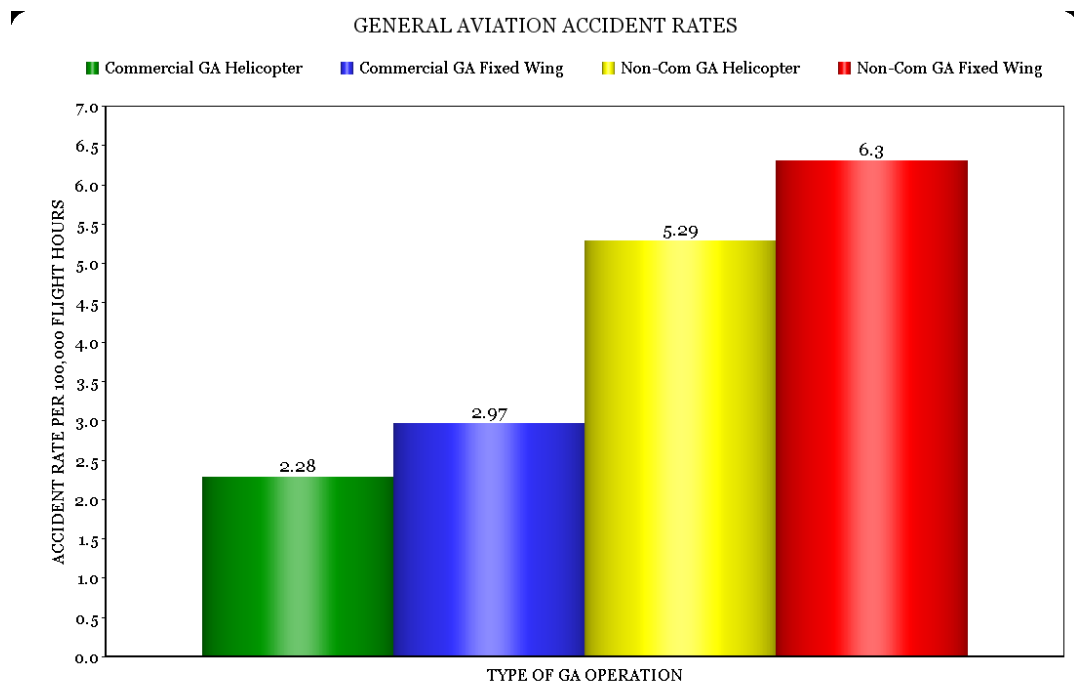
HELICOPTER FACTS

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Accident Rates Differ Between Helicopter and Fixed-Wing Aircraft

The type of operation and the issue of rotor vs. fixed-wing have a varying effect on the number and rate of accidents involving general aviation aircraft in the United States. According to the Air Safety Institute’s Nall Report on safety in the GA community, commercial operations generally have a lower accident rate than non-commercial flights, and helicopters have a comparably lower accident rate than GA fixed-wing planes.

The chart below was created from multiple year data. It shows the lowest GA accident rate for commercial helicopter operations and the highest for non-commercial fixed-wing aircraft. In general, non-commercial operations include personal and instructional flying. The United States Helicopter Safety Team (www.USHST.org) has targeted personal and instructional flying as areas for continuing safety improvements.



The USHST and the International Helicopter Safety Team (IHST) promote safety and work to reduce accidents. The IHST organization was formed in 2005 to lead a government and industry cooperative effort to address factors that were affecting an unacceptable helicopter accident rate.

Prior to 2006, the number of worldwide civil helicopter accidents was rising at a rate of 2.5 percent per year. Since 2006, the number of accidents worldwide has been decreasing by an annual rate of 2 percent.

More information about the IHST, its reports, safety tools, and presentations from its 2014 safety symposium can be obtained at its web site at www.IHST.org and on the IHST Facebook page.