



# General Aviation and Part 135 Activity Survey: USHST Briefing

May 19, 2021

Peg Krecker

GA and Part 135 Survey, Project Manager



# Topics

- What is the GA Survey and what data are produced
- Why rotorcraft participation is critical
- How we reduce participant burden
- How we protect data confidentiality
- How the survey data are used

# What survey data is available?

Current Year Estimates	Cross-classifications	Trends & Special Reports
Fleet size	Aircraft type	10-year trends
Flight hours	Region	Fleet size
Purpose of flight	Year of Manufacture	Hours flown
Fuel consumption	Primary use	Purpose of flight
Landings		Make-model
Avionics		Air-cargo only
		Targeted geographies and uses

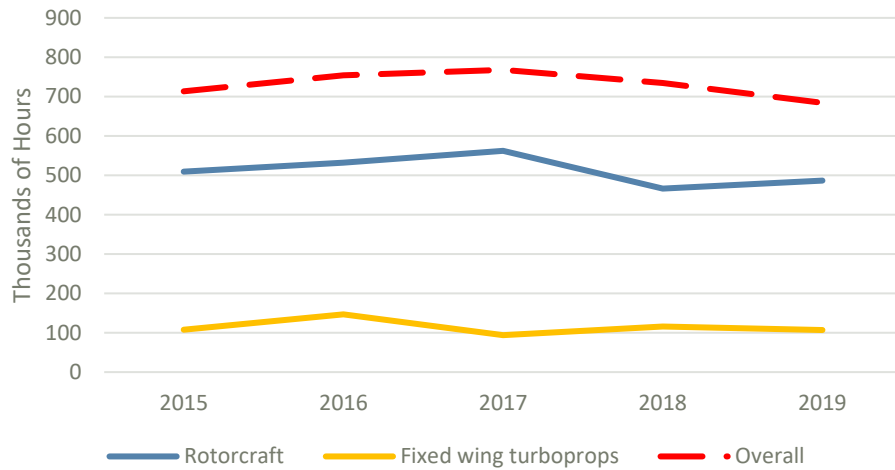
*The GA Survey is the primary source of data on the size, activity, and characteristics of the general aviation and part 135 fleets.*

## Why rotorcraft participation is critical

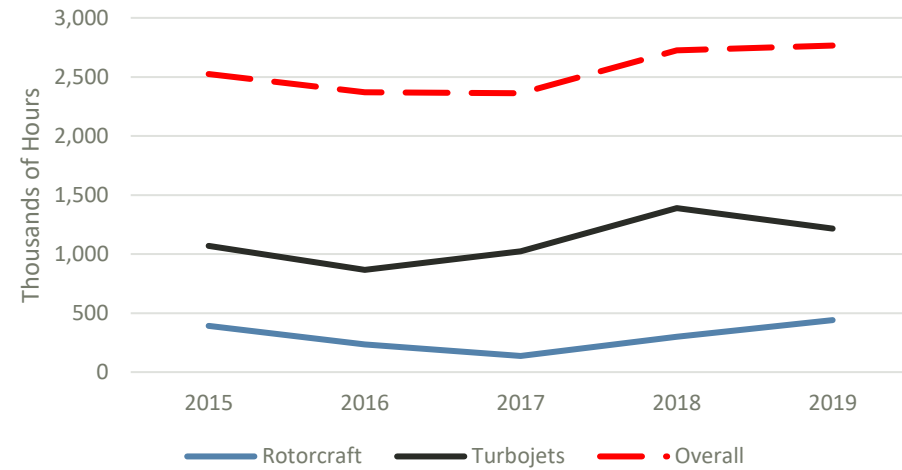
- Account for most activity in key mission areas—air medical, air tours, aerial observation. Plus, instructional (piston), air taxi
- Activity varies by type of rotorcraft
  - Estimates for piston, 1- and multi-engine turbine
  - Relatively small populations
- Since 2004, all rotorcraft are surveyed every year

# Hours flown by use category (2015-2019)

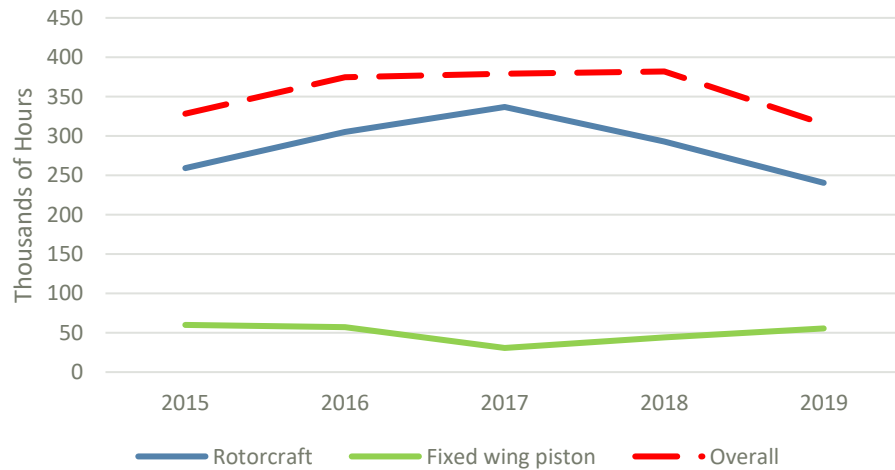
### Part 135 Air Medical



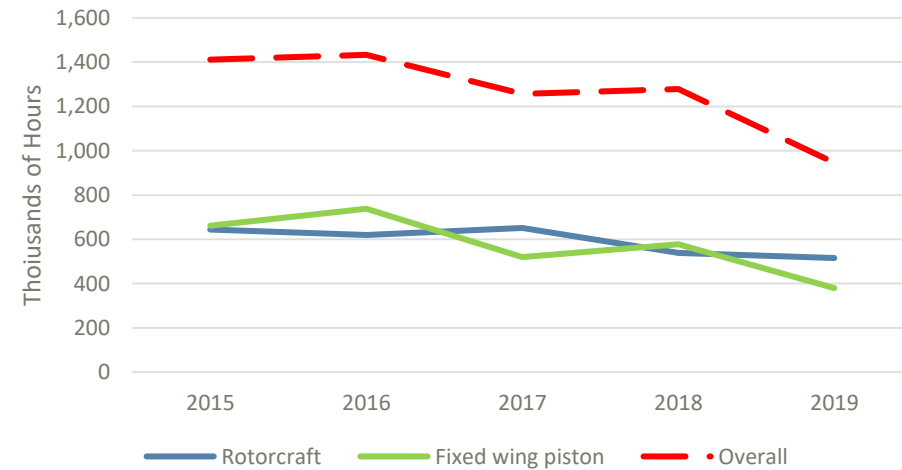
### Air Taxi



### Air Tours

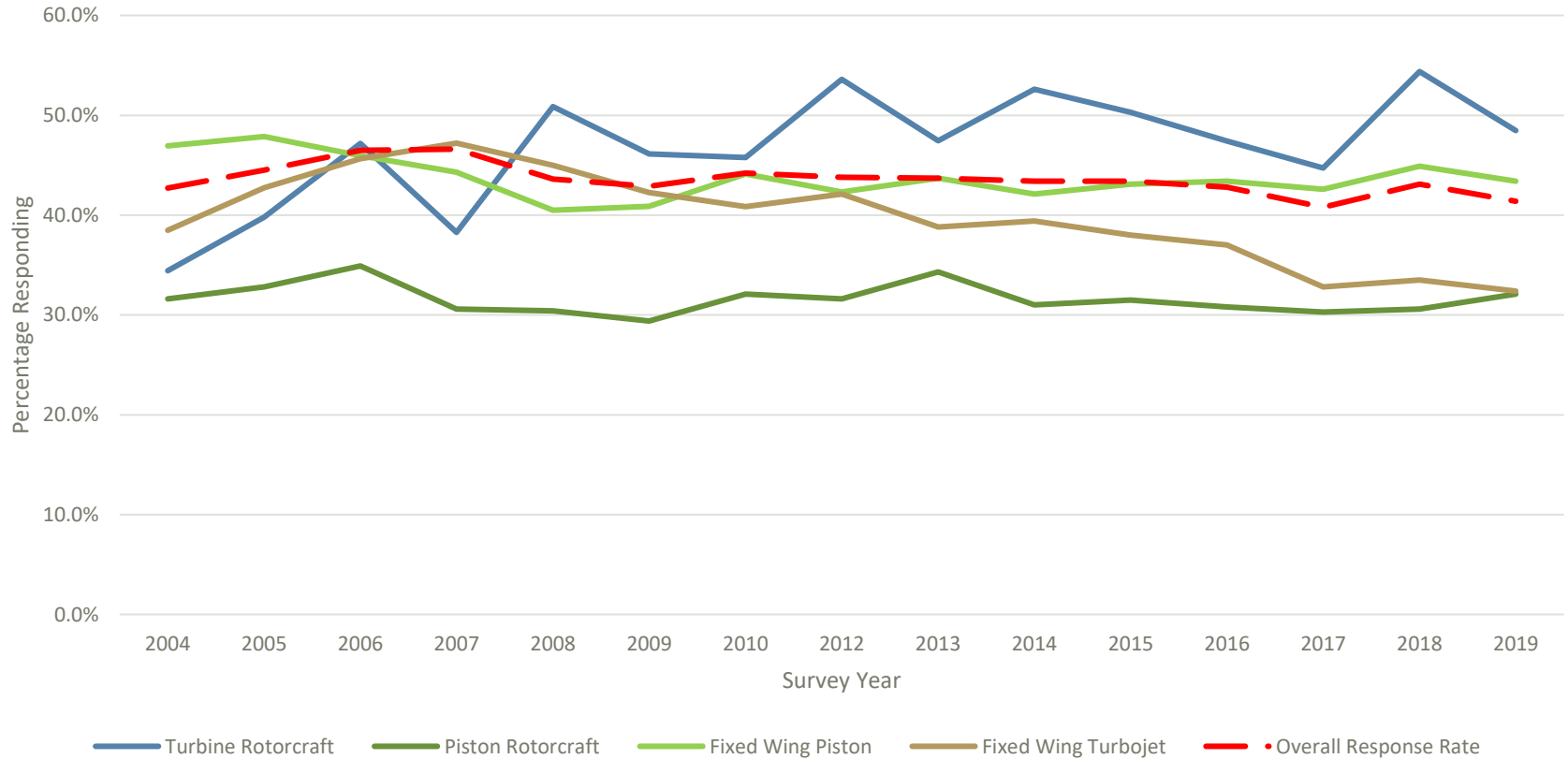


### Aerial Observation



# Survey Response Rates, 2004-2019

## GA Survey Response Rates, by Type of Aircraft (2004-2019)



## How we reduce participant burden

- Use data from the FAA's HAA survey
  - Requires permission from the operator
  - Only covers air medical
- Abbreviated form for fleets (8 questions, by major aircraft type)
  - ***N aircraft***, state, ***hours flown***, landings, fuel consumption, fractional ownership, public use, ***purpose/how flown*** (e.g., air medical, air tours, instructional)
- Need help? Call us!
  - 800-826-1797
  - [infoaviationsurvey@tetratech.com](mailto:infoaviationsurvey@tetratech.com)

*Identifying fleets is critical to reduce burden. But sources available to group aircraft are limited.*

## How we protect data confidentiality

- Data reports are highly-aggregated
  - Estimates are suppressed for small cell counts
- Data collected and stored on secure servers
  - Secure online surveys (SSL)
  - Paper surveys destroyed
  - Data access restricted to project analysts
  - Confidentiality statements required for project staff

*Individually-identifiable data are not shared with anyone, ever—not the FAA or any other organization.*



# Annual estimates published online by FAA

Survey years 1999 – 2019 available

Rotorcraft	Aircraft Population Size	Estimated Number Active	Percent Standard Error	Estimated Percent Active	Percent Standard Error	Estimated Total Hours Flown	Percent Standard Error	Estimated Average Hours	Percent Standard Error
Piston	4,089	3,089	0.8	75.6	0.8	627,925	2.7	203.3	2.0
1 Eng: Turbine	5,825	5,262	0.3	90.3	0.3	1,812,565	1.6	344.4	1.4
Multi-Eng: Turbine	2,083	1,847	0.3	88.7	0.3	556,041	2.3	301.1	2.0
Turbine: Total	7,908	7,109	0.3	89.9	0.3	2,368,607	1.3	333.2	1.2
Rotorcraft: Total	11,997	10,199	0.5	85.0	0.5	2,996,531	1.3	293.8	1.1

[https://www.faa.gov/data\\_research/aviation\\_data\\_statistics/general\\_aviation/and Part 135 Activity Surveys \(faa.gov\)](https://www.faa.gov/data_research/aviation_data_statistics/general_aviation/and_Part_135_Activity_Surveys_(faa.gov))

(or search “FAA GA and Part 135 Survey”; often one of the first links)

## How the survey data are used

- Calculate fatal accident rates (exposure)
- Forecasts of fleet size and activity
- Assess economic impact of aviation on local regional economies
- Anticipate demands on the National Airspace System infrastructure
- Understand impacts of policy (e.g., fuel types, avionics)

# Questions?

Other resources:

Appendix A – Survey methodology

Appendix B – Data collection materials

Results published online (1999 to 2019):

[https://www.faa.gov/data\\_research/aviation\\_data\\_statistics/general\\_aviation/](https://www.faa.gov/data_research/aviation_data_statistics/general_aviation/)