



FACTS ABOUT INJURIES TO CHILDREN RIDING ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES

As bigger and faster all-terrain vehicles have been introduced to the market over the past decade, ATV-related deaths and injuries have increased substantially in every age group. In 2003 children accounted for nearly one-third of all ATV-related injuries.

- In 2003, at least 111 children under the age of 16 died as a result of ATV-related injuries.
- In 2003, an estimated 38,600 children under the age of 16 were injured in all-terrain vehicle-related incidents.
- ATV-related injuries commonly occur due to rollovers, collisions with stationary objects and falls from the vehicles.
- The annual cost of all-terrain vehicle-related injuries among children ages 14 and under is more than \$3.3 billion.

ATVs are inherently difficult to operate, and children under the age of 16 do not have the cognitive and physical capabilities to operate these vehicles safely.

- Children under the age of 16 riding ATVs are four times more likely than ATV operators over 16 to experience an injury requiring emergency room treatment.
- Currently, 27 states have a minimum age requirement for operation of an ATV. Of these, only three states (Missouri, New Hampshire and Virginia) require ATV operators to be 16 or older.
- A recent study suggests that current legal and regulatory standards have a low probability of decreasing ATV-related deaths among children and that states should restrict the use of ATVs by children under the age of 16.
- In 1988, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission banned the manufacture of three-wheeled ATVs, required warning labels to be placed on ATVs and issued engine-size regulations for ATVs designed for use by children under the age of 16.
- In 1998, ATV manufacturers assumed the responsibility of self-regulation, a method that relies on fine print in advertisements, warning labels, offers of training and voluntary policies restricting the sale of adult-sized ATVs for use by children under the age of 16.

Safe Kids recommends that children under the age of 16 should never ride or operate ATVs of any size, including youth-sized ATVs.