

# Kids & ATVs

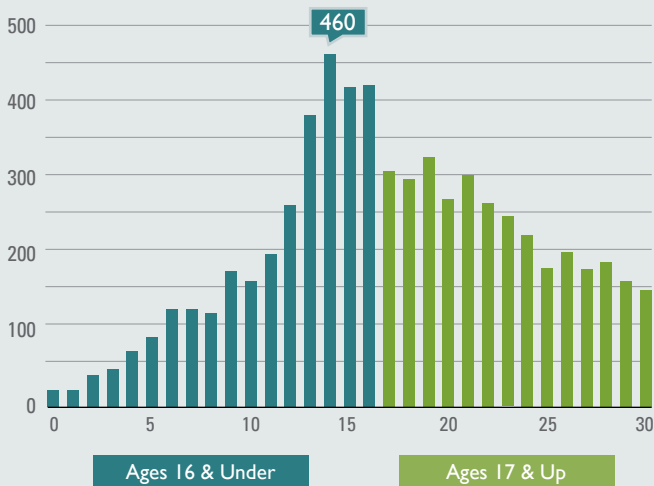


What Parents Should  
Know to Keep Their  
Kids Safe

A Safety Brochure by

Concerned Families for ATV Safety

## Reported ATV Fatalities By Age (1982-2008)



Source: United States Consumer Product Safety Commission

## Did You Know?

- From 1982-2008, nearly one-third of the 9,633 ATV-related deaths in the government's database were children under 16.
- While some people claim kids are safer when they ride so-called "child-sized" models, there is actually no evidence to support this claim.
- Meanwhile, these accidents also come at great financial burden. According to a study by Dr. Jim Helmkamp, PHD, West Virginia, the medical costs associated with child ATV accidents increased 196% between 2000-2004.
- ATV driving has the highest risk of hospitalization of 33 sports and activities in which children routinely participate — including bike-riding, snowboarding, skate-boarding and wrestling.

# The Problem

ATVs are important to many lifestyles, both for recreation and work. However, nationwide, ATVs seriously injure and kill over 40,000 children under 16 every year.

And, the problem is only getting worse. Over the past decade, the number of children in off-road vehicle accidents increased by 88%.



Injuries and deaths resulting from ATV crashes are a growing problem. The high costs to families and society at large, underscores the need to enact common sense safety standards that keep children under age 16 from driving these powerful vehicles.

Voluntary standards agreed to by the industry have not worked.

According to Dr. Mary Denise Dowd, MD, MPH, FAAP, of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the number of kids killed in ATV crashes between 1982 and 2006 was the equivalent of five 747 jets full of children, or 35 fully loaded school buses. She also noted that in 2006, 39,300 children were treated in emergency departments for ATV-related injuries, and since 1990, over 485,000 children—or roughly the entire population of Atlanta, Georgia—have been treated for ATV-related injuries.

# The Solution

Every state should pass laws that prohibit children under the age of 16 from operating or otherwise riding ATVs.

We fully support the position of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) on All-Terrain Vehicle use by Children: "All terrain vehicles are particularly dangerous for children younger than 16 years who may have immature judgment and motor skills. Children who are not licensed to drive a car should not be allowed to operate off-road vehicles."

The ATV industry should join the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the United States Congress in pressing every state to adopt legislation that prohibits the use of ATVs, on- or off-road, by children and adolescents younger than 16 years. An automobile driver's license, and preferable some additional certification in ATV use, should be required to operate an ATV.

**Keep your child safe. Don't allow children under the age of 16 to ride ATVs.**





# About Us

In 2005 three mothers, Carolyn Anderson, Sue Rabe and Carol Keezer founded Concerned Families for ATV Safety. Our children had been killed driving ATVs and we were brought together by shared grief.

We soon discovered over 40,000 families a year were suffering the tragedy of death and serious injuries to their children from ATV accidents. There was very little support for victims and families.

Together we decided to do something and founded our organization. Concerned Families for ATV Safety is now a network of parents dedicated to reducing injuries and deaths among children driving powerful All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs).

We offer support to victim's families and provide families with information to make informed decisions about their children and ATVs.

Through public education we work to raise awareness of the need for adequate, common sense safety standards that keep children under age 16 off ATVs, and for enforcement of existing ATV laws.

For more information about our group, or to find out how to get involved, visit our website:

**[www.atvsafetynet.org](http://www.atvsafetynet.org)**

To Learn More About How to Keep Your Child Safe:  
[www.atvsafetynet.org](http://www.atvsafetynet.org)