



Every year, **TENS OF THOUSANDS OF KIDS** are severely injured or even killed in ATV accidents, some at a very young age.

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THE FACTS ABOUT WHY ATVs AND CHILDREN DON'T MIX

ATVs are important to many lifestyles, both for recreation and work. However, pediatricians and leading medical groups say young children haven't developed the strength, coordination or judgment needed to safely handle these powerful machines.

Nationwide, ATVs seriously injure and kill over 40,000 of children under age 16 every year. The following facts highlight a growing problem and the very real costs to families and society at large, and underscore the need to enact common sense safety standards that keep children under age 16 from driving these powerful vehicles.

America's Doctors Believe ATVs Too Dangerous for Children Under 16

- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons (AAOP) have adopted formal policies recommending that children under age 16 not drive ATVs.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics states: "Laws should prohibit the use of ATVs, on- or off-road, by children and adolescents younger than 16 years. An automobile driver's license, and preferably some additional certification in ATV use, should be required to operate an ATV. The safe use of ATVs requires the same or greater skill, judgment, and experience as needed to operate an automobile." (*AAP, Policy Statement, All-Terrain Vehicle Injury Prevention: Two-, Three-, and Four-Wheeled Unlicensed Motor Vehicles, 2000*)
- The American Academy of Pediatrics also describes child ATV use as "the perfect recipe for tragedy." (*AAP press release, July 13, 2005*)
- The American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons explains: "***In light of statistics that show an inordinate number of injuries and deaths resulting from the use of ATVs, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons considers ATVs to be a significant public health risk. . . The minimum age of 16 for operating an ATV on or off the road should be enforced.*** Children under the age of 12 generally possess neither the body size and strength, nor the motor skills and coordination necessary for the safe handling of an ATV. Children under age 16 generally have not yet developed the perceptual abilities or the judgment required for the safe use of highly powered vehicles."(emphasis in original) (*AAOS, Position Statement, All-Terrain Vehicles, 1992*)



Deaths

- Over the past decade, the number of children killed in off-road vehicle accidents increased by 88%. (*Consumer Product Safety Commission, 2005 and 1995 Annual Report of All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)-Related Deaths and Injuries*)
 - 120 children died in off-road vehicle accidents in 2005 compared to 64 in 1995. (*Consumer Product Safety Commission, 2005 Annual Report of All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)-Related Deaths and Injuries*)
- Between 1995 and 2005, ATVs killed at least 1,218 children under age 16. These children account for 27 percent of all ATV-related deaths during this period. (*Consumer Product Safety Commission, 2005 Annual Report of All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)-Related Deaths and Injuries*)



Serious Injuries

- Over the past decade, the number of children hospitalized increased by 109%. (*Consumer Product Safety Commission, 2005 Annual Report of All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)-Related Deaths and Injuries*)
 - More than 44,000 children were hospitalized due to accidents on ATVs in 2005 compared to 19,300 in 1995. (*Consumer Product Safety Commission, 2005 Annual Report of All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)-Related Deaths and Injuries*)
- Children under 16 accounted for 30% of all off-road vehicle injuries in 2005. (*Consumer Product Safety Commission, 2005 Annual Report of All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)-Related Deaths and Injuries*)
- Not surprisingly, the injury RISK for children drivers (7.6) is much higher than for drivers over the age of 16 (5.1). (*Fiscal Year 2005 CPSC Briefing Package, pg. 13*)
- The vast majority of children who were injured (63%) were driving at the time of the accident. 37% of those injured were passengers. (*Fiscal Year 2005 CPSC Briefing Package, pg. 2*)

ATV Injuries More Severe than Other Recreational Activities

- The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) concludes that nine percent of injuries children receive from ATVs result in hospitalization compared to two percent of injuries caused by the 15,000 other consumer products over which the Commission has jurisdiction. (*Fiscal Year 2005 CPSC Briefing Package pg. 70*)
- With respect to other recreational activities and many common sports, **ATV driving has the highest risk of hospitalization of 33 sports and activities in which children routinely participate**, including riding a bike, snowboarding, skateboarding, wrestling, basketball and scooter riding. The risk of serious injury associated with driving ATVs is 61 percent greater than the activity with the next highest risk (football). (*Fiscal Year 2005 CPSC Briefing Package pg. 158-9*)



Costs to Society

- For children under 16, CPSC estimates that ATV-related injuries requiring emergency room treatment cost society \$2.5 billion annually in medical and economic costs and emotion trauma. (*Fiscal Year 2005 CPSC Briefing Package pg. 123*)
- Child ATV deaths and associated financial costs increased from \$493 million in 1999 to \$723 million in 2003 (Helmkamp, JC And Lawrence, BA. The Economic Burden Of All-Terrain Vehicle-Related Pediatric Deaths In The United States. Pediatrics, Vol 119 No 1 January 2007, Ppg 223-225.)



ATV Industry's Role

- The off-road vehicle industry supports a ban on children under age 16 using personal watercrafts, such jet skis, and even help state legislatures draft bills to that effect. Yet, the industry not only opposes a ban on children riding ATVs but also aggressively markets these powerful vehicles to child riders. <http://www.pwia.org/relations/modellegislation.aspx>; <http://www.pwia.org/relations/state/map.aspx>
- Voluntary standards agreed to by the industry have not worked. According to Dr. Jim Helmlkamp of the West Virginia University Injury Control Research Center: "It seems that little has changed in the past 20 years despite continuous, but relatively benign, national efforts to improve ATV safety through a federal decree, voluntary agreements between manufacturers and distributors, safety alerts, public hearings, and a recent top-to-bottom CPSC review of all existing ATV safety standards."



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FACTS ABOUT ATVs VS. BIKES

Thinking about 'upgrading' from a bicycle to an ATV for your child? ATVs are not toys.

The following compares the injuries of 109 child ATV accidents and 994 child bicycle accidents at a level 1 pediatric trauma center between 1991 and 2000 in Cincinnati, Ohio.*

"Our findings clearly show that ATVs are significantly more dangerous than bicycles for children."



Ages of Patients	2-18	1-17
Male-to-female ratio	3.5 - 1	2.8 - 1
Percentage Wearing Helmets	23%	8%
Percentage With Severe Injuries	12%	6%
Percentage With Severe Head Injury	6%	3.5%
Percentage With Multiple injuries	67%	44%
Percentage Requiring an Operation	37%	27%
Percentage With Length of Stay > 7 days	14%	11%
Percentage Resulting in Death	0.9%	0.7%

Key Findings

"Children riding ATVs sustain more serious injuries and are twice as likely to sustain severe injuries."

ATV accidents were almost twice as likely to result in severe head injuries as bicycle accidents.

A greater percentage of ATV accidents resulted in multiple injuries than bicycle accidents.

A greater percentage of ATV accidents required an operation than bicycle accidents.

A greater percentage of ATV accidents required a hospital stay of more than 7 days than with bicycle accidents.

*Brown RL, Koepplinger ME, Mehlman CT, Gittelman M, Garcia VF: All-terrain vehicle and bicycle crashes in children: Epidemiology and comparison of injury severity. *Journal of Pediatric Surgery*, Volume 37, Issue 3, March 2002, Pages 375-380

Concerned Families for ATV Safety



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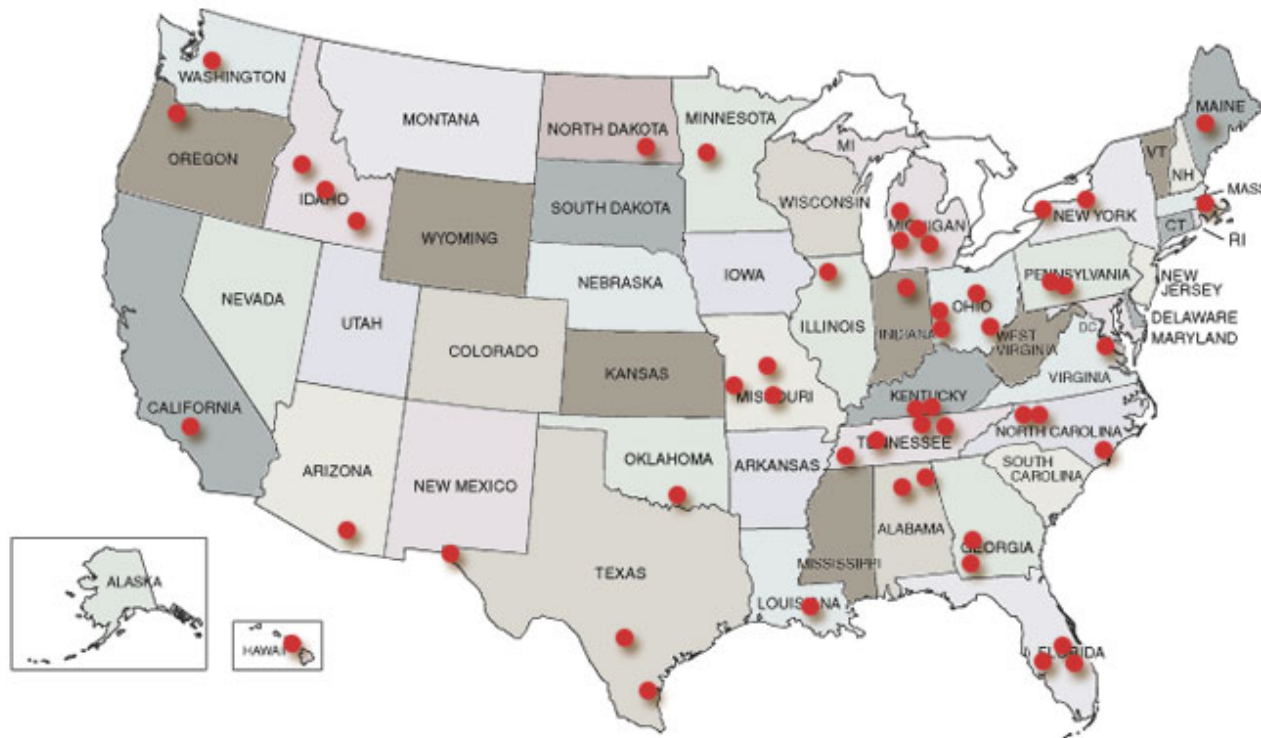
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2006 REPORTED CHILD ATV DEATHS

Click on dots for published account of each death.



This is a sampling of child deaths from ATV accidents in the U.S. for 2006.

[2007 Reported Child ATV Deaths](#) | [2005 Reported Child ATV Deaths](#)

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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 injury 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.

BIOGRAPHIES



Carolyn Anderson

Carolyn Anderson from Brockton, MA is co-founder of Concerned Families for ATV Safety. On August 8th, 2004 the Anderson family received a phone call that would ruin their lives. Their 14 year old, beautiful son James had been killed when the ATV he was driving crashed into a tree. At the time James was vacationing with a friend's family in Errol, NH. The ATV he was driving was a 500cc ATV that could travel highway speeds. He had never ridden anything but a bicycle before that day. We are broken hearted.

[Email Carolyn](#)



Carol Keezer

Carol Keezer of Defiance, Ohio is co-founder of Concerned Families for ATV Safety. Carol has a personal interest in warning others about the dangers of children and ATV's. No matter how experienced the rider, they are still small children on a machine that is too fast and too big for them to handle. Children and ATV's are a bad mix. On May 17, 2003, Carol's precious son, Alex, age 12, was killed while riding an ATV. As a mother, you never "get over" the death of your child. You live with the grief everyday.

[Email Carol](#)



Sue Rabe

Sue Rabe of Turner, Oregon is co-founder of Concerned Families for ATV Safety. On Monday, May 6th, 2002 ten year old Kyle Rabe rode the family ATV across the neighbor's field to have an after school snack with his friend. On his way home the ATV he was riding hit a rut and tipped over on him suffocating him to death. Even though Kyle was a skilled rider and in full gear, he didn't have a chance. The 250cc adult size ATV weighed 500 pounds and Kyle just barely 80 pounds. Sue has been active in ATV safety issues since the tragic death of her son.

[Email Sue](#)

JOIN OUR NETWORK AND RECEIVE UPDATES

We thank the many people who have encouraged, advised and supported us as we formed this group. We need the help of friends in our efforts to prevent children from being killed and seriously injured on ATVs.

If you would like to receive updates about our group via email and join us in discussing ATV safety issues send email to: **[Join Friends of Concerned Families](#)**

To unsubscribe at any time send email to: **[Unsubscribe Friends of Concerned Families](#)**

If you lost a loved one on an ATV and want to talk, please contact one of us directly at: **[Contacts](#)**

We respect the privacy of all individuals and never share personal information of any kind.

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