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for Parents



NO. 20 • FALL 2004

A PROGRAM OF CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER

Staying safe at any speed



Kids are always looking for a means of going faster. One of the more popular means is All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs). ATVs are three- or four-wheeled motorized machines that are specifically designed for off-road travel. As bigger and faster ATVs have been introduced over the past decade, ATV-related deaths and injuries have increased substantially, with nearly 30,300 children under age 15 treated in hospital emergency rooms for ATV-related injuries in 2002. Compared with bicycle-related injuries, ATV-related injuries are six times more likely to result in hospitalization and 12 times more likely to result in death.

The cost of deaths and injuries associated with ATVs is about \$3,500 per ATV sold. The manufacture of three-wheeled ATVs was banned by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission in 1988. Since 1998, ATV manufacturers have been responsible for self-regulation.

In Connecticut, the State of Connecticut requires that all ATVs be registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles. It is against the law to drive an ATV on any public roadway or property. ATVs may be driven on private property.

Below are some tips on how to prevent ATV death and injury:

- Children under 6 should never ride ATVs.
- No child under 16 should operate an adult-sized all-terrain vehicle under any circumstances.
- Nighttime riding should never be allowed.
- If a child operates a youth-sized ATV, it should be only according to the manufacturer's instructions on a machine that is an appropriate size for the child.
- Children should never operate ATVs on public roads or paved surfaces. ATVs should be operated only on designated trails.
- To ensure safe operation, adults should always supervise all children operating ATVs.
- Parents should consider a child's physical, mental and emotional maturity when deciding if the child is ready to operate a youth-sized ATV.
- All youth-sized ATVs should employ throttle limiters and be equipped with ID flags.
- Personal protective equipment for ATV operators should include U.S. Department of Transportation-approved helmet with face protection, goggles (if the helmet does not have face protection), a long-sleeved shirt or long pants, non-skid boots and gloves.
- Never carry passengers on ATVs.
- Children and their parent or guardian should enroll in and successfully complete an approved ATV safety course.

Information courtesy of the National SAFE KIDS Campaign

Slow Down for Safety



Children who live on streets where speed bumps are installed are up to 60 percent less likely to be injured by an automobile than those who live in areas without them, according to a study in the *American Journal of Public Health*. •

Funding Available!



Keep Kids Safe License Plate Grants are available again! Please visit www.ctsafekids.org to download an application. Applications are to be postmarked by October 18th, 2004. •

Thank You!

Connecticut SAFE KIDS would like to thank the Connecticut Elks for their continued support! To work with a Connecticut Elks lodge in your area, please visit www.ctelks.org for a list of lodge locations. •



Multilingual Fire Safety

The U.S. Fire Administration has launched a multicultural fire safety campaign for babies and toddlers. A new Spanish-language website, www.usfa.fema.gov/padres, debuted June 30th. Additionally, at www.usfaparents.gov, fact sheets are available in Chinese, French, Korean, Russian and Japanese. •

Change the time, change your batteries!

Remember to check the batteries in your smoke and CO detectors on October 31. Don't forget! Detectors should *NEVER* be installed in a corner.

For more information, please contact:

Connecticut SAFE KIDS 860-545-9988

or your local SAFE KIDS Coalition

Fairfield County SAFE KIDS 203-853-7115

supported by Danbury Hospital and Greenwich Hospital

New London County SAFE KIDS 860-442-0733

supported by Lawrence & Memorial Hospital

Valley Amity SAFE KIDS 203-888-8843

supported by Seymour Ambulance

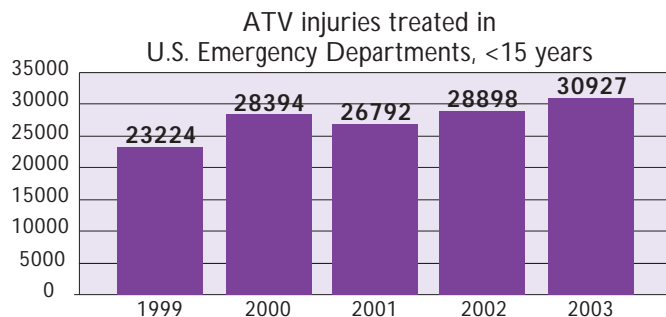
REPORTING ON CHILDHOOD INJURY

ATV injuries continue to climb



*Garry Lapidus, PA-C, MPH, Director,
Injury Prevention Center, Connecticut
Children's Medical Center; Associate Professor of Pediatrics and
Public Health, University of Connecticut School of Medicine*

From 1999 to 2003, ATV (All Terrain Vehicle) injuries increased by 33%. In 2003, there were 30,927 children under 15 years of age treated in U.S. emergency departments for ATV-related injuries. Of these, 7,867 children received injuries severe enough to warrant hospital admission. Injury rates are high for ATVs because they are heavy, lack protection for riders, and overturn easily on rough terrain. Even without turning over, ATVs can cause severe injury; for example, a child may stop with an outstretched foot, allowing the rear wheel to run up the back of the leg and the rider to flip. Riding double is especially hazardous. Helmets offer protection against head injury and should be worn, but cannot prevent spinal cord injury. The U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends that persons under 16 should not ride adult ATVs (with engines larger than 90 cubic centimeters). •



Source: U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission – NEISS database, 1999-2003

Connecticut SAFE KIDS Coalition
Connecticut Children's Medical Center
282 Washington Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(860) 545-9988 TEL • (860) 545-9975 FAX
www.ctsafekids.org



Editor
Karen Brock, MPH
Director, Connecticut SAFE KIDS

Contributor
Garry Lapidus, PA-C, MPH
Director, Injury Prevention
Center, Connecticut Children's
Medical Center

Honorary Chairman
Senator Christopher J. Dodd

