

A young child is riding a black and green four-wheeled All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) in a field. The child is wearing a bright orange and black helmet, a dark jacket with orange accents, and camouflage pants. The ATV has large, muddy tires and a front headlight. The background is a blurred field under a clear sky. A red banner is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the title and a vertical label.

# All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Safety

ALL-TERRAIN  
VEHICLE SAFETY



# ATV Safety

## HOW DOES THIS AFFECT THE UNITED STATES?

- From 1982-2014, 13,617 people died as a result of ATV-related injuries. Of these deaths, 3,098 (23%) were children younger than 16 years of age.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2014, an estimated 93,700 people were treated in United States Emergency Departments (EDs) for ATV-related injuries. About 26 percent of those treated for injuries were children younger than 16 years of age.<sup>1</sup>
- Eighty-one percent of ATV riders who were fatally injured in 2014 were not wearing helmets.<sup>2</sup>
- From 1982-2014, deaths of ATV riders on public roadways have increased more than nine fold; from 35 deaths in 1982 to 323 deaths in 2014.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2014, 85 percent of the 323 ATV riders killed were on rural roads.<sup>2</sup>
- From 2001-2010, the number of ATVs in use in the United States doubled; from 4.9 million in 2001 to 10.6 million in 2010.<sup>3</sup>

## HOW DOES THIS AFFECT MARYLAND?

- From 1982-2011, ATV-related crashes accounted for 91 deaths in Maryland.<sup>1</sup>
- From 2001-2006, more than 9,000 individuals were injured in off-road vehicle incidents (including ATVs) and required treatment in Maryland EDs; about one-third of those treated in EDs were younger than 15 years.<sup>4</sup>
- Among all ATV-related trauma patients for whom helmet use was known, approximately two-thirds were not wearing a helmet when the crash occurred.<sup>4</sup>

## HOW DO WE ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM?

- Helmet use reduces the risk of fatal head injury by 42 percent and the risk of non-fatal head injury by 64 percent.<sup>5</sup>
- In the event of a crash, un-helmeted ATV riders are much more likely to suffer a serious traumatic brain injury and much more likely to suffer significant injuries to the face and neck compared to helmeted riders.<sup>6</sup>
- A Maryland ATV Safety Task Force (2008; SB 28 and HB 114) recommended several safety strategies, including prohibiting use by those under 6 years, requiring use of approved helmet and eye protection, prohibiting passengers unless the ATV was designed for passenger use, requiring safety training for all youth riders, and improving data collection of ATV-related injuries.<sup>7,8</sup>
- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that children younger than 16 years of age not be allowed to operate ATVs.<sup>9</sup>
- Crashes involving children often occur when riding adult-sized ATVs; ATV dealers continue to sell adult-sized ATVs for use by children. A GAO report recommends strategies to effectively enforce the age recommendations set forth by the Consumer Product Safety Commission.<sup>10</sup>

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Consumer Product Safety Commission, ATV Safety: [www.atvsafety.gov](http://www.atvsafety.gov)
- Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy: [www.jhsph.edu/InjuryCenter](http://www.jhsph.edu/InjuryCenter)
- National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC: [www.cdc.gov/injury](http://www.cdc.gov/injury)
- National Safety Council: [www.nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org)

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