



## **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.**