

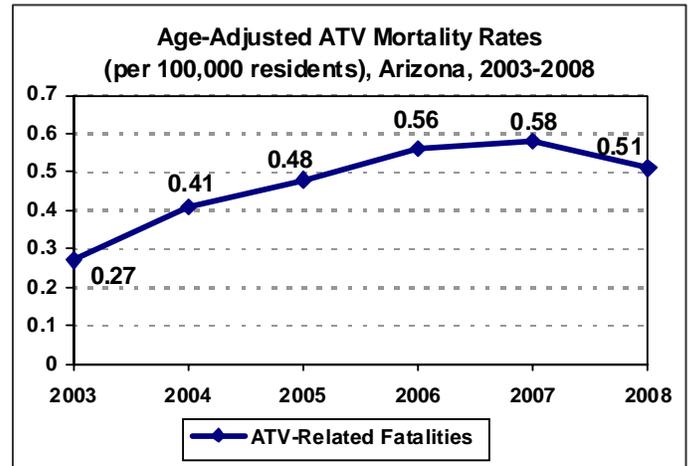
All-Terrain Vehicle-Related Unintentional Injuries Arizona, 2003-2007



Magnitude of the problem:

Unintentional injuries from ATVs are a public health problem impacting the lives of thousands of Arizona residents each year. Between 2003 and 2008, the age-adjusted death rate for ATV-related injuries among Arizonans increased from 0.27 deaths per 100,000 residents to 0.51 deaths per 100,000 residents. **This represents an 89 percent increase in the rate of deaths over six years.**

In addition to 172 ATV-related fatalities between 2003 and 2008, there were 2,224 inpatient hospitalizations and 12,422 emergency department visits due to non-fatal unintentional ATV-related injuries among Arizona residents between 2004 and 2007. Hospitalizations and emergency department visits do not include data from federal or tribal hospitals (Indian Health Services and the Veterans Administration).



Cost of unintentional ATV injuries:

For the 2,224 hospitalizations due to non-fatal unintentional ATV-related injuries among Arizona residents between 2004 and 2007:

- The average length of stay was 3.9 days; the longest hospital stay was 68 days.
- Arizona residents were hospitalized for a total of 8,607 days.
- The average charge per hospitalization was \$38,381.
- Total hospitalization charges were more than \$85.3 million (does not include costs related to physician care, rehabilitation, or long-term disability).
- 23 percent of these hospitalizations were paid for by the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) (n=521, \$21.9 million).

What can be done to reduce the risk of unintentional ATV injuries?

ATV injuries are preventable. The most effective way to prevent injuries is a comprehensive approach that includes all of the following:

- Wear a helmet, protective clothing, and protective eyewear.
- Children should not ride adult-sized ATVs*.
 - Under 12 years old: ride ATVs with 70 cc engines or less
 - 12-16 years old: ride ATVs with 90cc engines or less
- Don't ride double**. Most ATVs are designed for only one rider.
- Take an ATV Riders Safety Course.
 - Contact the Arizona Department of Game & Fish for details.
- Avoid pavement. ATVs are less stable on paved roads.
- Be familiar with your riding environment or ride with a group.



For more information, visit the Arizona Game & Fish Off-Highway Vehicle website

http://www.azgfd.gov/outdoor_recreation/off_highway.shtml

* The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends children who are not licensed to drive motor vehicles should not be allowed to operate off-road vehicles.

**ARS §28-892 prohibits passengers on vehicles designed for use by one rider.

2003-2008 Arizona mortality data with 'V86' as the underlying cause of death and 2004-2007 Arizona hospital discharge data with an external cause of injury code 'E821' were included in this fact sheet.

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