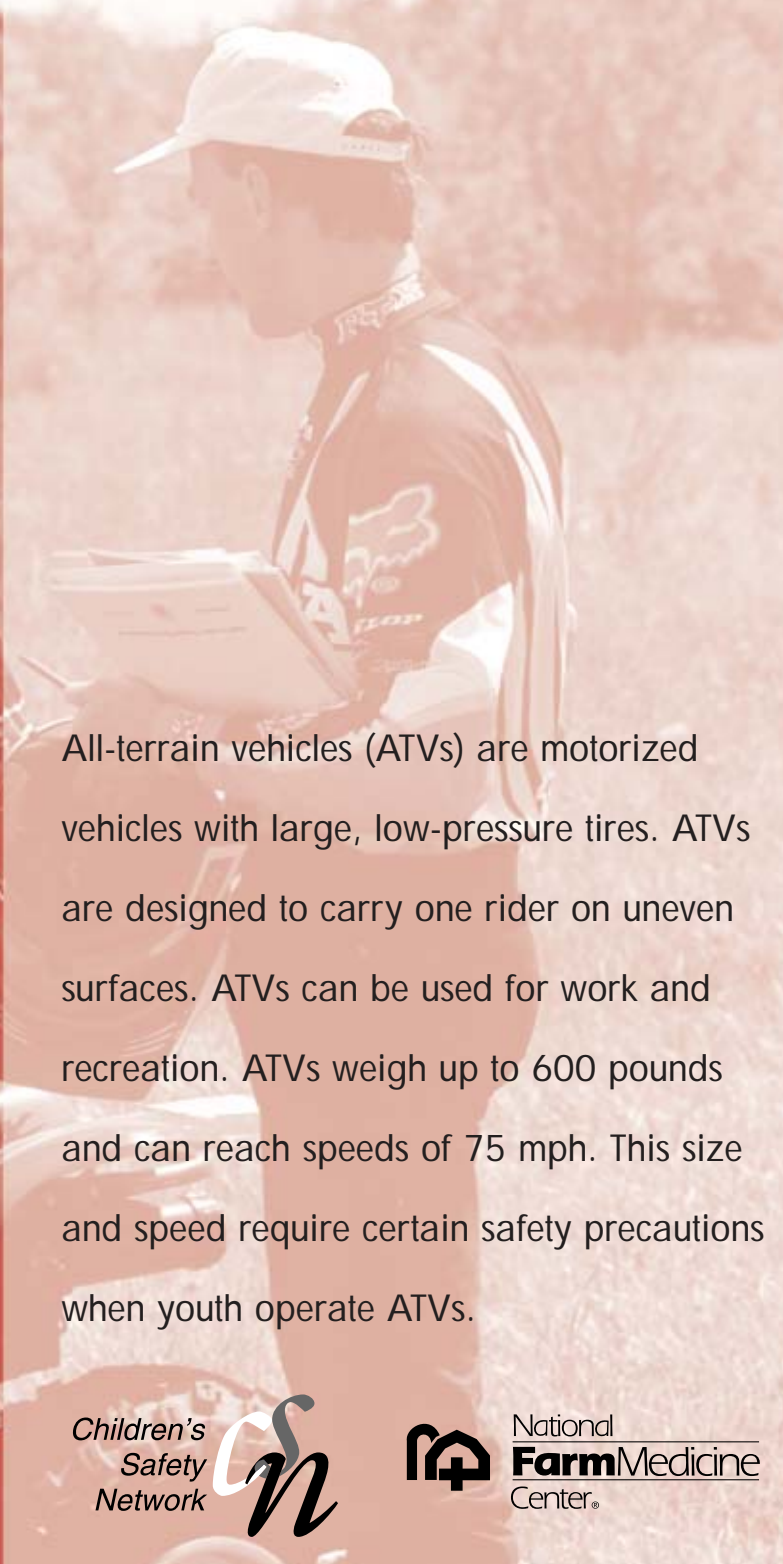




# A *All-Terrain Vehicle Safety*



All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are motorized vehicles with large, low-pressure tires. ATVs are designed to carry one rider on uneven surfaces. ATVs can be used for work and recreation. ATVs weigh up to 600 pounds and can reach speeds of 75 mph. This size and speed require certain safety precautions when youth operate ATVs.

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# All-Terrain Vehicle Safety



## What are the injury facts for youth on ATVs?

Youth under 16 years operating an ATV are four times more likely to experience an injury requiring an emergency department visit.

Injuries commonly occur in rollover crashes, collisions with stationary objects and falling off the ATV.

The majority of fatalities are injuries to the head and neck.

Non-fatal injuries commonly include fractured bones and head injuries.

## What factors are key to safe ATV use?

- Wearing a DOT-approved helmet with face protection
- ATV appropriate to the size of operator
- Single operator and no passengers
- Supervision based on developmental skill
- Parental knowledge and approval
- Ability skills to operate ATV

## What developmental factors must youth possess to operate an ATV?

- The physical size, strength, coordination, and physical motor skills to operate an ATV
- The cognitive capacity to anticipate, recognize and react to potential hazards
- Good judgment to act responsibly, minimize risks, and react to potential hazards

## What strategies help promote safe ATV operation?

- Follow manufacturers recommendations matching operator age with ATV size
- Operate the ATV on only trails and at an appropriate speed
- Supervision should be based upon developmental and skill level
- Personal equipment that includes: DOT-approved helmet with face protection, long sleeve shirt, long pants, non-skid boots, gloves
- Be aware of other ATV traffic

## What role do child safety advocates play in addressing youth ATV safety?

- Be responsible operators and a good role model
- Promote safe use based on current practices and risk of injury
- Evaluate effectiveness of prevention practices
- Monitor childhood injury reports/data
- Inform parents about ATV safety and supervision
- Promote safety education for operating ATVs

## Where can I go to learn more about ATV safety and youth?

Additional information and links on ATV-related safety for youth can be found on the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety Web site <http://research.marshfieldclinic.org/children/Resources/ATV/atv.htm>. Information available includes a comprehensive listing of resources, a list of other organizations working on ATV-related safety, developmental guidelines for youth ATV-related activities, and a fact sheet. For technical assistance on youth ATV-related injury prevention call 1-888-924-7233.

The National Children's Center strives to enhance the health and safety of all children involved in agricultural work and living in rural settings. The center is a program of the Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation.



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*This publication was produced by CSN under its contract with the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration, Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.*



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