

# Child Passenger Safety and All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

## ATV Crash Information and Risk Factors

In the United States, **500 children** younger than age 16 **died in ATV crashes between 2016-2024**.<sup>1</sup> During the same time, there were an estimated **235,998 ATV-related non-fatal injuries** for children in the same age group.<sup>2</sup>



From 2016-2024, there were **179 ATV-related deaths** reported among all age groups in Texas.<sup>1</sup>



**Major risk factors** for ATV crashes involving children younger than 18 include:

- Operating adult-size vehicles
- Lack of protective equipment
- Riding on public roads



Approximately **60% of ATV deaths occurred on public roadways**, both paved and unpaved.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Consumer Federation of America. Off-Highway Vehicle Safety and Fatality Data. [consumerfed.org/off-highway-vehicle-safety](https://consumerfed.org/off-highway-vehicle-safety). Accessed January 2026.

<sup>2</sup>Consumer Product Safety Commission. National Electronic Injury Surveillance System 2005-2024 on NEISS Online Database, released April, 2025. Generated at [cpsc.gov/cgi-bin/NEISSQuery/home.aspx](https://cpsc.gov/cgi-bin/NEISSQuery/home.aspx) on February 3, 2026.

<sup>3</sup>American Academy of Pediatrics. ATVs Are Not Safe for Children: AAP Policy Explained. [healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-play/Pages/ATV-Safety-Rules](https://healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-play/Pages/ATV-Safety-Rules). Accessed January 2026.



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
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Texas Department of State  
Health Services

# Child Passenger Safety: ATV Safety Tips

## Best Practice by Age Group

- Under Age 6** ▶ **Never** allow children in this age group to operate or ride as a passenger on an ATV.
- Ages 6-11** ▶ Children in this age group should not operate ATVs. They should **wait until they are older** before operating or riding ATVs because of their physical, mental, and reasoning abilities. The safety of youth ATV models for this age group is unknown.
- Ages 12-15** ▶ Only allow children in this age group to drive **youth ATV models**. 98% of deaths or injuries in this age group happen on adult vehicles. Children should follow all safety rules even when driving youth models.
- Over Age 16** ▶ Youth in this age group should **follow all safety rules** below.

## American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Safety Rules

- Never ride with passengers.**
- Get training on ATVs.** Check [ATVsafety.org](http://ATVsafety.org) or call 1-800-887-2887.
- Always supervise children** and make sure they follow the rules.
- Wear safety gear**, such as a Department of Transportation-approved motorcycle helmet, face shield/goggles, chest protector, long sleeves, long pants, over-ankle boots, and gloves.
- Use age and size-appropriate ATVs with speed limiter.** For an ATV speed limiter chart, visit [healthychildren.org](http://healthychildren.org) and see the AAP guide.
- Add safety features to the ATV** like lights, flags, and reflectors.
- Avoid riding at night.**
- Avoid driving on paved and public roads** when riding an ATV. ATV tires are designed for rough terrain, not smooth pavement.

**Car seats are not built to be used on ATVs.**

Texas Department of State Health Services

**Safe Riders**

Child Passenger Safety Education and Training Program



**Save a Life**

Texas Department of Transportation

## Resources:

- **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:** [nhtsa.gov/motorcycle-safety/choose-right-motorcycle-helmet](http://nhtsa.gov/motorcycle-safety/choose-right-motorcycle-helmet)
- **Consumer Product Safety Commission:** [cpsc.gov/safety-education/safety-education-centers/atv-safety-information-center](http://cpsc.gov/safety-education/safety-education-centers/atv-safety-information-center)
- **Safe Kids Worldwide:** [safekids.org/safetytips/field\\_risks/atvs](http://safekids.org/safetytips/field_risks/atvs)

- **HealthyChildren.org:** [healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-play/pages/atv-safety-rules](http://healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-play/pages/atv-safety-rules)
- **Safe Ride News:** [saferideneews.com/macps/harmonized](http://saferideneews.com/macps/harmonized)
- **Texas Department of Licensing & Regulation:** [tdlr.texas.gov/mot](http://tdlr.texas.gov/mot)
- **Safe Riders Child Passenger Safety:** [dshs.texas.gov/injury-prevention/safe-riders](http://dshs.texas.gov/injury-prevention/safe-riders)