

BACKGROUND

- In the past there was very little comparative data on whether a complete ban or government legislated operator requirements, education and training were the most effective way to deal with this issue. Recently, an analysis by Heiden Associates, a product safety and economic consulting firm based in the U.S.A. found that safety legislation can have a significant impact on the reduction in ATV injuries and fatalities involving youth under 16 years of age.
- So what did the Heiden Associates preliminary research suggest? When they examined fatality rates in three states (Kentucky, New Jersey and Texas) that enacted safety legislation to regulate the use of ATVs by children under the age of 16, they determined there was a significant reduction in injury.
- “Using the most recent data now available, the percent of fatalities in Kentucky sustained by riders under 12 has declined from 26 percent pre-law to 7 percent after the law was enacted.” -- a decrease of 73.07 percent. “The percent of fatalities for riders under 16 declined from 55 percent to 19 percent after the law.” -- a decrease of 65.45 percent.
“Both results are statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level.”
- “In New Jersey, the fraction of fatalities in the state involving riders under 14 declined from 19 percent to 4 percent. The decrease in fatalities involving riders under 16 [went] from 31 percent to 12 percent [which] was statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level.” Those results are declines of 78.95 percent and 61.29 percent respectively.
- “In Texas, the percent of fatalities to riders under 14 declined from 41 percent pre-law to 22 percent after the law. The result in Texas is also statistically significantly at the 95 percent confidence level.” The reduction in Texas was 46.34 percent.

COHV CVHR

Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors Council
Conseil Canadien des Distributeurs de Véhicules Hors Route

- Results achieved by the three states where safety regulations were implemented is very strong evidence that safety and education legislation, proposed by parents and safety experts, could result in very significant improvements in youth safety if provincial governments in Canada were to implement similar regulations.

The **Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors Council (COHV)**, originally founded in 1984, is a national, non-profit, trade association, which represents the responsible interests of the major OHV manufacturers, distributors and retail outlets of OHV-related products and services, and individual owners and riders of off-highway vehicles in Canada.

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