

All-terrain vehicle policy in Canada: Gaps and opportunities for injury prevention

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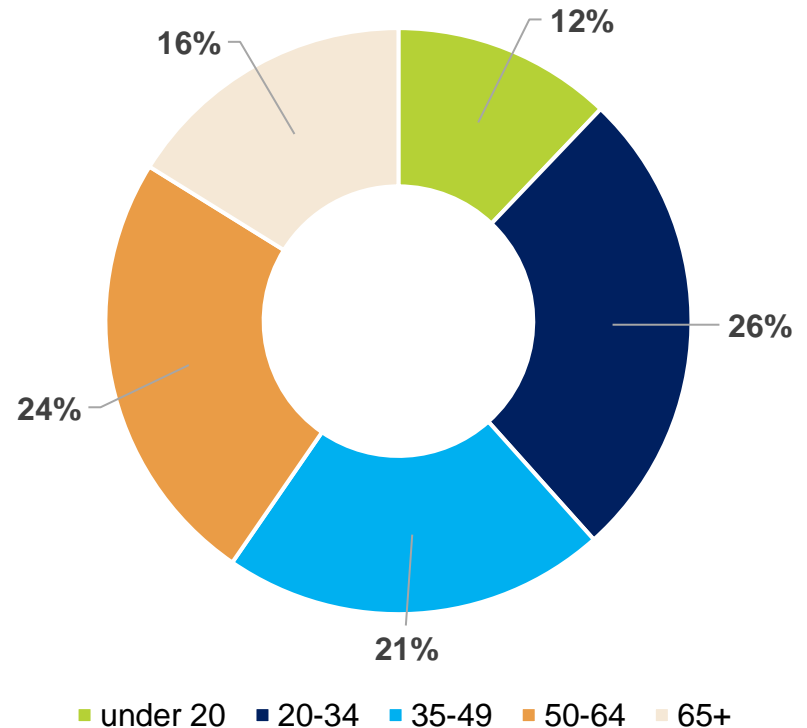
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All-terrain vehicle (ATV) fatalities

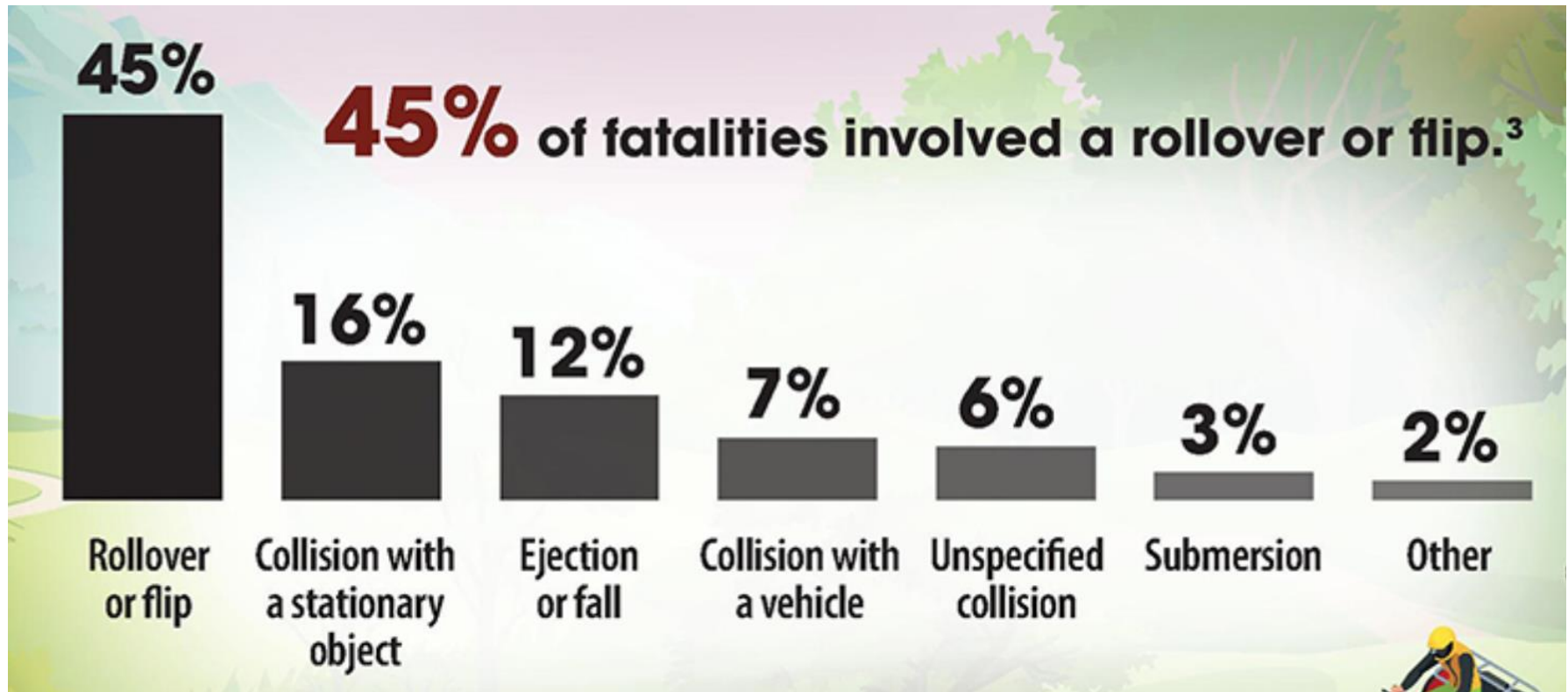
ATV deaths in Canada, 2013 to 2019:

- On average, 100 deaths each year
- 85% male
- All ages affected



Source: Statistics Canada. (2021). *All-terrain vehicle fatalities in Canada, 2013 to 2019*. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-627-m/11-627-m2021052-eng.htm>

ATV fatalities: Mechanisms



Source: Statistics Canada. (2021). All-terrain vehicle fatalities in Canada, 2013 to 2019. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-627-m/11-627-m2021052-eng.htm>

Risk factors

- **Age (<16)**
- **Sex (males)**
- **Machine size**
- **Lack of protective equipment (helmets)**
- **Terrain conditions/location**
- **Substance use**
- **Risky operator behaviours (speed, stunts, nighttime use, multiple passengers)**

Our approach

- Completed a scan of P/T legislation scan
- Reviewed data and literature
- Held 4 multi-sector stakeholder meetings to identify policy priorities and recommendations
- Identified areas for further discussion and research

Summary of recommendations for ATV legislation

1. **Adult supervision:**

Adult supervision for children and youth on ATVs needs to be better defined (quantified).

Recommended definition: The continuous attention of an adult of at least 18 years old who has an unobstructed view and is within sight (maximum 75 meters) of the child and/or youth operating an ATV.

Summary of recommendations for ATV legislation

2. Safety equipment

All provinces and territories should mandate the use of helmets, footwear, gloves, eye protection.

Summary of recommendations for ATV legislation

3. Safety training

All provinces and territories should mandate ATV riders to complete age-appropriate ATV safety training with certified trained instructors.

Training should include knowledge-based and skill-based (practical) components.

Summary of recommendations for ATV legislation

4. Passengers

Operators should only be allowed to carry passengers if the ATV is manufactured for passengers, with the added consideration of young passengers being large enough to fit properly on ATV (i.e., be able to simultaneously reach the foot pegs, grasp the handles and sit down fully in the passenger seat).

Summary of recommendations for ATV legislation

5. Enforcement

Strategies to improve enforcement of ATV safety should be developed and supported, and public awareness of ATV safety should be raised. The impact of enforcement on the effectiveness of legislation should be emphasized.

Summary of recommendations for ATV legislation

6. On-road operation

All provinces and territories should mandate a minimum age to drive on roads and highways where ATVs are permitted that is no less than the age at which a driver license can be awarded in that province/territory.

Summary of recommendations for ATV legislation

7. Speed

All provinces and territories should mandate that ATV riders ride only on designated roads and trails at specified speed restrictions.

Summary of recommendations for ATV legislation

8. Substance use

All provinces and territories should continue to prohibit the operation of an ATV while under the influence of substances.

Summary of recommendations for ATV legislation

9. Registration

All provinces and territories should mandate ATV registration.

Funds from registration should go toward supporting education, trail improvements, and enforcement.

Summary of recommendations for ATV legislation

10. Driver's license

All provinces and territories should mandate that ATV operators hold a valid driver's license for roads and highways where an ATV is permitted to drive or cross.

Summary of recommendations for ATV legislation

11. Age of operators and passengers

All provinces and territories should:

- prohibit under age 12 from riding an ATV at all;
- mandate a minimum age of 12 to ride as a passenger on an ATV, provided that the operator is 16 or older and the ATV has been manufactured to carry a passenger(s);

Summary of recommendations for ATV legislation

11. Age of operators and passengers

All provinces and territories should:

- mandate a minimum age of 14 to operate an ATV on both private and public land provided they are supervised (as defined in rec #1) and comply with all other safety requirements;

Summary of recommendations for ATV legislation

11. Age of operators and passengers

All provinces and territories should:

- mandate a minimum age of 16 to operate an ATV on both public and private land without supervision provided that they comply with all other safety requirements.

Summary of recommendations for ATV legislation

11. Age of operators and passengers

Provinces and territories should also prohibit operators under the age of 16 from carrying a passenger on both private and public land unless that passenger is an adult of at least 18 years old who has completed safety training and the ATV has been manufactured to carry a passenger(s).

Summary of recommendations for ATV legislation

12. Size of ATVs

All provinces and territories should mandate that the operator of ATVs be comfortably able to reach and operate all controls.

Summary of recommendations for ATV legislation

12. Size of ATVs

Usage categories (ANSI Standard):

- **Y-12+:** children 12 or older* with a maximum speed capacity range of 24 km/h to 48 km/h.
- **T (Transition Model):** operator age 14 or older* with a maximum speed capacity range of 32 km/h to 61 km/h.

**under adult supervision*

Summary of recommendations for ATV legislation

13. Crush protection devices (CPDs)

Policy makers should continue to monitor the state of CPD research as the evidence develops.

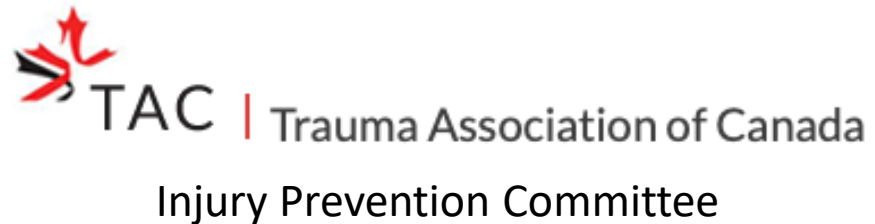
We recommend looking to jurisdictions where CPD installation is mandated for the legal selling of new and used ATVs (e.g., Australia) as hubs of key evidence.

Areas for further investigation

- Separation of off-road vehicle data (ATVs, ORVs, quads and snowmobiles)
- Better sense of the denominator – how many people are using ATVs in Canada?
- How safe are youth-sized ATVs?
- Evaluating effectiveness of training (and what type)
- Further evaluation of crush protection devices (CPDs)

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Thank you



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