

## Concurrent G: Agricultural Safety

37

### THE ECONOMIC BURDEN OF ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE-RELATED ADULT DEATHS IN THE US WORKPLACE, 2003–2006

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**Background** All-terrain vehicles are used in a variety of industries and occupations.

**Objective** To estimate the societal economic burden associated with occupation-related ATV fatalities among civilian persons more than 17 years of age in the USA from 2003–2006.

**Methods** ATV death data were obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' annual Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries. Costs were estimated using a model employing a cost-of-illness method developed by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

**Results** From 2003–2006, 129 occupation-related ATV deaths occurred among persons >17 years of age in the USA, nearly doubling from 20 deaths in 2003–39 deaths in 2006. The collective lifetime cost of the deaths was \$103.6 million (M) with a 4-year mean of \$803 100 and a 4-year median of \$772 100. Decedents aged 35–54 years accounted for one-third of the deaths (n=41) at a cost of \$50.1 M. Montana had the most deaths (13). Fifty-two per cent of the deaths were overturns costing \$48.3 M. Eighty-four (65%) of the deaths were workers in agricultural production at a cost of \$62.3 M.

**Significance** Short-term investment in prevention measures, such as training and helmets for workers, could provide lasting dividends by preventing occupation-related ATV deaths and reducing their economic impact.