



News Release

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DLEG Provides Tips for Enjoying Carnival-Amusement Rides Safely

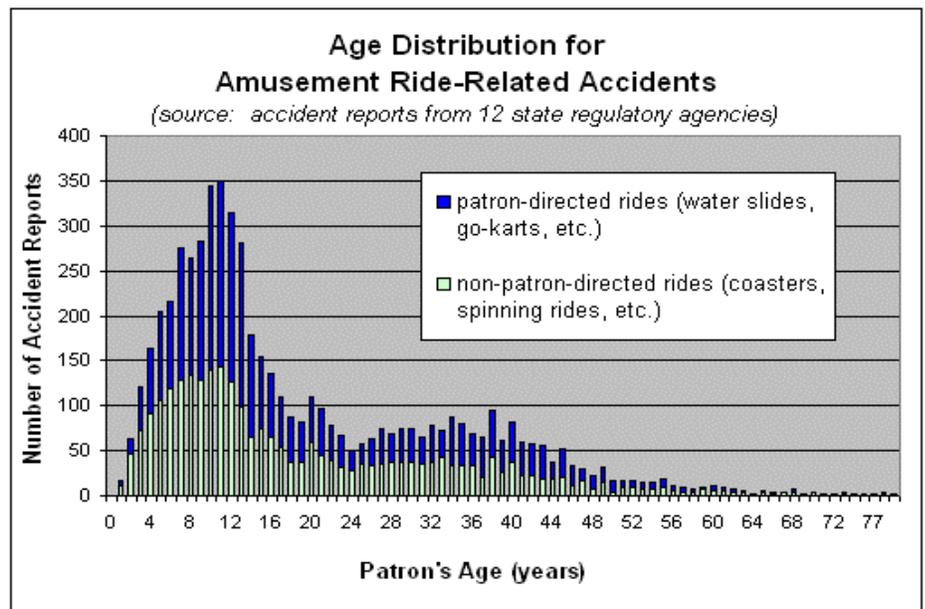
May 26, 2005 – With the arrival of Memorial Day, the Carnival and Amusement season begins in earnest, so Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG) Director David C. Hollister offers some tips to help keep families safe while having fun.

The DLEG Bureau of Commercial Services and its Michigan Carnival-Amusement Safety Board are responsible for the inspections of approximately 900 rides located at traveling shows, amusement parks and fixed locations. The regulated rides include kiddie rides and major rides as well as waterslides, go-karts, roller coasters, simulators and a summer aerial tramway.

In Michigan, like the rest of the country, there has been a trend to fewer accidents and injuries that has settled to a nearly constant, low level. “Like last year at this point,” Hollister said, “We have had four accidents reported and we want to keep that figure as low as possible to protect the safety of our families. Most accidents are the result of rider error rather than mechanical failure so it’s important for people to follow simple, common-sense rider safety requirements to protect themselves and the safety of those around them.”

“Half of all reported amusement related injuries occur to children 13 years old or younger,” Hollister said.

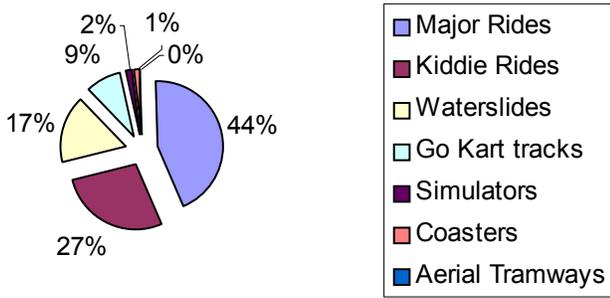
Adults should also take an active role in choosing rides that are appropriate for children. State law requires parents and guardians to make the judgment that their children meet the rider restrictions and are physically able to ride.



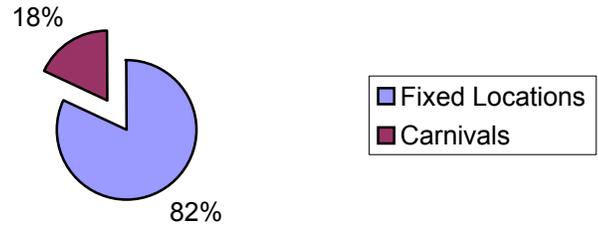
Saferparks

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Regulated Rides by Type



Regulated Rides by Carnival v. Fixed



“Parents should watch a ride and its operation before deciding if their children should ride,” Hollister said. “Safety experts advise that one adult chaperone accompany every two children so he or she can closely supervise their activities. It is also important to stop going on rides before getting tired.”

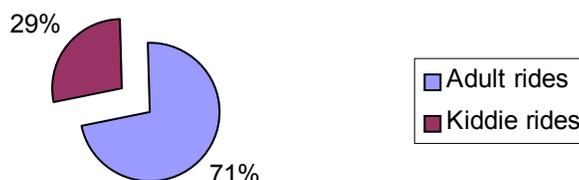
Parents and riders should take note of the rider restrictions that are posted at every ride in the State of Michigan. These signs give instructions and requirements for riders to use the ride. This information comes from the ride’s manufacturers and their design requirements, like the minimum and maximum sizes that can be safely restrained by the ride. Riders should also pay attention to restrictions such as those involving heart and back conditions and pregnancies.

If an injury occurs, it should be reported promptly to the ride owner or operator according to the instructions on the ride signs. The operator will notify the DLEG Carnival-Amusement Safety Unit, but if consumers want to notify DLEG in addition, they can call the DLEG Carnival-Amusement Board Consumer Complaint Hotline: (517) 241-9202.

For a list of 2005 county fairs, a list of mobile operations, and other carnival and amusement information, visit <http://www.michigan.gov/amusement>.

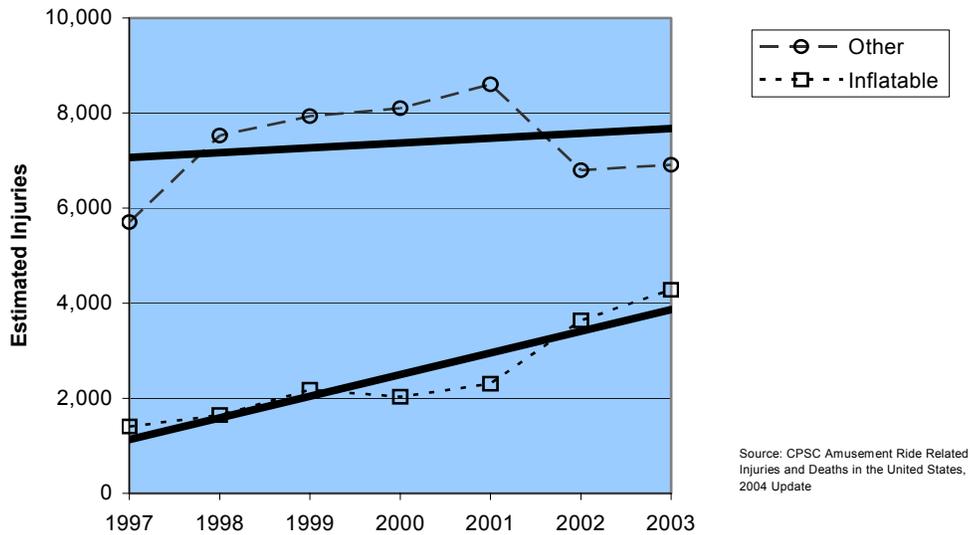
The area where injuries are increasing is with inflatables; the “Moonwalks” and air supported slides are increasingly common. These are not regulated under the Michigan Carnival-Amusement Safety Act and parents and users of these devices should exercise caution and good judgment when using them or when allowing their children to use them.

Regulated Rides by Users



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CPSC Amusement Injury Estimates
Inflatable v. Other Rides



Most accidents on inflatable devices are the result unsafe use and not always is there a trained operator on hand to supervise. Parents and users should be wary of common deficiencies, most often:

- Too many users using a device at the same time.
- Roughhousing.
- Deficient anchorages (either weights or tethers).

Good sources for additional information include:

- <http://www.iipga.com/home.html>
- <http://www.cpsc.gov/LIBRARY/FOIA/FOIA02/os/amusemnt.PDF>
- <http://www.cpsc.gov/LIBRARY/Amus2004.pdf>
- <http://www.saferparks.org>

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