

Are Slides in Atlanta too Steep?

Abstract

Introduction

Kids injury rates in Atlanta are increasing. They are increasing by 35% due to steep slides. It has increased over the years, compared to all other states. Over 50% of girls, become injured more than boys due to the steep slides. Children ranging from 4 to 10 years of age, have been to the emergency room because of playground injuries. A furious mother even notified the playground company about multiple cases of injured children. These slides are located in most of the major parks in Metro Atlanta. Many reports from Grady Memorial Hospital have showed that most of the injuries have been broken appendages. Many parents have sued the playground companies due to the emotional distress from the playground injuries. There has been multiple complaints about the injured children but the playground companies have not made it their business to fix the problem, so parents have begun protesting. The purpose of this study is to further prevent injuries to children from steep slides. The prevention of injuries is much needed due to the increasing, month by month hospital reports. Parents are upset about these injuries because their children are suffering. The city of Atlanta has to use extra money to put towards park renovations. Previous research shows, that playgrounds are even losing business due to these injuries. Parents are worried that their medical rates will increase due to the repeat occurrences of injuries. Mayor Kasim Reed, has started a fundraiser to help all parents of children injured by the steep Atlanta slides, to help pay for medical bills. If something is not done about these steep slides, the Board of Atlanta has threatened to close major Atlanta parks. If the parks are closed, this will result in a major economic decline. Councilmen C.T. Martin is also working with Mayor Kasim Reed to develop a plan to decrease injuries. If slides heights were redesigned, then playground injuries will decrease.

Materials and Methods

The parks used in this study are, Ronald Bridges Park, Creel Park and Piedmont Park. First, the slide height must be taken using a measuring tape. The heights for each slide then will be recorded in the log book. Then 5 children will be assigned to each park and recorded. The three cameras will be set, hidden in a tree, under a branch, for each park. A research volunteer will then observe the children behaviors on the slide. The volunteer will then log those injuries or falls into a data table. This study will be conducted within a 3 month time period.

Results

Discussion

Conclusion

Works Cited