



National Children's Center  
for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety

# 2010 Fact Sheet

## Childhood Agricultural Injuries

### Population at Risk

Farms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In 2009, there were approximately 2.2 million farms in the United States.<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>
Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Over 1.12 million youth lived on farms in 2006.<sup>2</sup></li> <li>▪ More than half of all household youth performed work or chores on the farm in 2006.<sup>3</sup></li> <li>▪ An additional 307,000 youth (youth not living on farms) were hired to do work on US farms in 2006.<sup>2</sup></li> <li>▪ Only 30% of farm households with children younger than eight years reported having an enclosed, fenced off play area in 2006.<sup>4</sup></li> </ul>
Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The National Safety Council's 2008 edition of <i>Injury Facts</i> ranks agriculture as our nation's most dangerous industry with 28.7 deaths per 100,000 adult workers.<sup>5</sup></li> </ul>

### Toll of Childhood Agricultural Injuries

Deaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Between 1995 and 2002, an estimated 907 youth died on US farms (43 fatalities per 100,000 youth); with most fatalities occurring to youth 16-19 years of age.<sup>6</sup></li> <li>▪ Of the leading sources of fatal injuries to youth on U.S. farms, 23% percent involved machinery (includes tractors), 19% involved motor vehicles (includes ATVs), and 16% were due to drowning.<sup>6</sup></li> <li>▪ According to the National Consumers League, working in agriculture is the <u>most</u> hazardous summer jobs for teens.<sup>7</sup></li> </ul>
Nonfatal Injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In 2006, an estimated 3,601 household youth were injured while performing farm work.<sup>2</sup></li> <li>▪ According to data from 2006, approximately 3,026 injuries (26%) occurred to children under 10 years of age living on farms.<sup>3</sup></li> <li>▪ Two-thirds (63%) of injured children were not actively working when the injury occurred.<sup>8</sup></li> </ul>
Injury Rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In 2001, youth living on livestock operations had a significantly higher rate of injury (19.2 injuries/1,000 youth) compared to their counterparts in crop operations (12.1 injuries/1,000 youth).<sup>8</sup></li> </ul>
Injury Trend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Over the eight years from 1998 to 2006, the rate of childhood agricultural injuries per 1,000 farms (includes youth who live on, visit, and are hired to work on farms) declined by 36% (from 16.6 to 10.4). The rate of injuries per 1,000 household youth (those living on farms) declined by 44% (from 18.8 to 10.4) during that same period.<sup>4</sup></li> </ul>

Childhood Agricultural Injury Estimates of Youth Farm Injuries<sup>4</sup>

Year	Farm Injuries Youth < 20	Injuries/1000 Farms	Farm	Farm	Injuries/1000 Household Youth
			Household Youth < 20	Household Youth Injuries	
1998	37,774	16.6	1,460,000	27,321	18.8
2001	29,277	14.0	1,350,000	22,144	16.4
2004	27,590	13.1	1,260,000	18,800	15.0
2006	22,900	10.4	1,120,000	11,700	10.4

## Minority Operated Farms

Population at Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ In 2003, an estimated 27,400 youth were living on 57,000 racial minority (excluding Hispanic) operated farms and an additional 34,500 youth were living on 47,200 Hispanic operated farms.<sup>9,10</sup></li></ul>
Injuries/Fatalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ During 2003, there were 630 agricultural injuries to youth under 20 years of age on a racial minority (excluding Hispanic) operated farm. An additional 540 agricultural-related injuries occurred to youth on Hispanic operated farms.<sup>7,8</sup></li><li>▪ Between 1995 and 2002, there were 81 minority youth fatalities and 77 Hispanic youth fatalities.<sup>9,10</sup></li></ul>

## Roadmap for Preventing Childhood Agricultural Injuries

- National Committee for Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention. Children and Agriculture: Opportunities for Safety and Health: A National Action Plan (1996). [http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc/pages/default.aspx?page=nfmc\\_reports\\_action\\_plan](http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc/pages/default.aspx?page=nfmc_reports_action_plan)
- Migrant and Seasonal Hired Adolescent Farmworkers: A Plan to Improve Working Conditions (2001). [http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc/pages/default.aspx?page=nccrahs\\_adol\\_farmworkers](http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc/pages/default.aspx?page=nccrahs_adol_farmworkers).
- Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention: Progress Report and Updated National Action Plan from the 2001 Summit (2002). <http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc/Pages/Proxy.aspx?Content=MCRF-Centers-NFMC-nccrahs-reports-summitreport.1.pdf>.

## Childhood Agricultural Fatality Investigation Reports

- NIOSH Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention Initiative. *Childhood Agricultural Fatality Investigation Reports*. <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/childag/ChildAgFACErpts.html>.

## References

1. USDA, NASS publications: Farms, Land in Farms, and Livestock Operations 2009 Summary, February 2010. Available at [http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/FarmLandIn/FarmLandIn-02-12-2010\\_revision.pdf](http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/FarmLandIn/FarmLandIn-02-12-2010_revision.pdf)
2. National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (2009) *Injuries Among Youth on Farm, U.S.-2006*. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2009-117/> .
3. Hendricks, KJ. (2008) "Injuries to Youth Living on Farms in the United States". Technical Paper. National Institute for Farm Safety Conference. June 22-25, 2008. Lancaster, PA.
4. NIOSH. Internal analysis of the CAIS database. Morgantown, WV: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 2007.
5. National Safety Council (2008). Injury Facts 2008 Edition. Available by contacting National Safety Council at 1-800-621-7619 or [www.nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org) .
6. National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (2007) *Injuries to Youth US Farm Operations - 2004*. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2007-161/> .
7. National Consumers League. (2009). *NCL's 2009 Five Worst Teen Jobs*. Available at: <http://nclnet.org/labor/childlabor/jobreport2009.htm>.
8. USDA-National Agricultural Statistics Service (2004). *2001 Childhood Agricultural-Related Injuries*. Available at <http://jan.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/other/injury/injr0104.pdf>.
9. National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (2007) *Injuries to Youth on Hispanic Operated Farms - 2003*. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2007-162/>.
10. National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (2007) *Injuries to Youth on Racial Minority Operated Farms - 2003*. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2007-163/>.

For more information, contact the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety  
Ph: 800-662-6900 • Fax: 715-389-4996 • Email: [nccrahs@mcrf.mfldclin.edu](mailto:nccrahs@mcrf.mfldclin.edu) •  
Website: <http://marshfieldclinic.org/nccrahs/>

Updated: June 2010