

2001 Childhood Agricultural-Related Injuries

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There were 22,648 agricultural-related injuries which occurred to children or adolescents under the age of 20 who lived on, worked on, or visited a farm operation in 2001. The injuries occurred at a rate of 1.4 injuries per 100 farms. The findings are based on a telephone survey of 50,000 randomly selected farms conducted by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), an agency of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Farm operators were asked questions about injuries to youth less than 20 years of age that occurred on their farm during 2001. An injury was defined as any condition occurring on the farm operation resulting in at least 4 hours of restricted activity.

Nearly 63 percent of all childhood injuries that occurred on the farm operation were classified as non-work-related, while 37 percent were classified as work-related. The majority of these injuries happened to males. Just over 14,000 injuries occurred to males compared to about 8,500 injuries to females. Approximately 31 percent of all youth injuries happened to children under age 10, about 46 percent to children age 10-15, and 23 percent to adolescents age 16-19.

Most injuries during 2001 happened to youth who were part of the farm household. Results from the survey showed that 16,851 injuries happened to youth who were part of the farm household, for an injury rate of about 15.7 injuries for every 1,000 youth. Of these injuries, approximately 32 percent happened to children under age 10, about 49 percent to children age 10-15, and 19

percent to adolescents age 16-19. Approximately 34 percent of the injuries to household youth were classified as work-related injuries which happened at a rate of 10.9 injuries per 1,000 youth while working. About 66 percent of the injuries to household youth were classified as non-work-related injuries and happened at a rate of 10.3 injuries per 1,000 youth.

A total of 3,801 injuries occurred to youth visiting the farm. About 77 percent of these injuries were classified as non-work-related while 23 percent were work-related. Results showed about 1,900 injuries occurred to youth hired to work on the farm, for a rate of 4.7 injuries per 1,000 youth.

Of all childhood injuries in 2001, just over 48 percent occurred in the Midwest, while 31 percent occurred in the South, 15 percent in the West, and 6 percent in the Northeast. The regional rates of injury for all household and hired youth combined were as follows: 13.2 injuries per 1,000 youth for the Midwest, 12.7 injuries per 1,000 youth for the South, 12.3 injuries per 1,000 youth for the West, and 10.3 injuries per 1,000 youth for the Northeast.

NIOSH sponsored this survey to better understand the magnitude and scope of childhood agricultural-related injuries. The survey was conducted as part of the NIOSH Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention Initiative. For further information, contact John Meyers, NIOSH, at (304) 285-6005 or Mark Aitken, NASS, at (202) 720-6146.

U.S. Childhood Agricultural-Related Injuries, 2001

Region ¹	Total Injuries	Injuries per 100 Farms ²	All Household and Hired Youth		
			Population ³	Total Injuries	Injuries per 1000 Youth
Northeast	1,386	1.5	112,998	1,164	10.3
South	6,847	1.0	450,154	5,721	12.7
Midwest	10,959	1.7	679,129	8,992	13.2
West	3,456	1.5	233,690	2,875	12.3
U.S.	22,648	1.4	1,475,971	18,752	12.7

¹ Northeast: CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, PA, RI and VT.

South: AL, AR, DE, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA and WV.

Midwest: IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD and WI.

West: AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA and WY.

² Injury ratios based on adjusted farm counts from 1997 Census of Agriculture.

³ Indicated population from the survey of household youth and hired youth combined.

