

***Getting to the Heart of the Story: A Qualitative Look at injuries and Close Calls Reported by Children and Adults***

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**Purpose/Objective:**

The purpose of this presentation is to describe injuries and close calls as reported via open-ended responses by children who attended Progressive Agriculture Foundation (PAF) Farm Safety Day programs and their parents. Etiology of the events and concordance between parent and child reports will be discussed.

**Methods/Efforts:**

Children attending PAF farm safety days in the REACCH study, and their parents, were interviewed via telephone 6 months following the safety days. Participants were asked directly if the child had experienced any injuries or close calls during the 6-month period, then prompted to provide greater detail about such events through open-ended questions. Responses to the open-ended questions were sorted within four categories large animals, chemicals, water, and other. The first three categories correspond to the study's target areas. All other injury hosts were grouped in the other category. Events were coded to determine if they occurred on a farm, a rural setting, or other place. Descriptions were analyzed for appropriateness as an injury or close call and reclassified as necessary. After reclassifications, injuries were coded by type of injury. Comparisons between childrens responses and their parents responses were also included as part of the analyses.

**Results/Findings:**

685 children and their parents completed the 6-month survey. Children reported four times the number of injuries compared to parents, but upon analysis of the qualitative data and reclassification, children and their parents reported nearly identical number of injuries in the three targeted areas (29; 28 respectively). The majority of those injuries were from large animals. Nearly twice as many males reported injuries than females; farm children reported a higher percentage of injuries compared to non-farm children. Of the 183 injuries initially reported by children, thirty occurred in the projects targeted areas. The majority of injuries were animal-related followed by water, sports, and bicycles. Sport/recreational injuries constituted the most serious types of injuries. Within the targeted areas 27% of the children stated they were alone when the injury occurred.

**Application to Field/Research:**

Self-reported data are often suspect. Little comparison between data reported by children versus adult proxy has been done. Results from this study show that if children are allowed to tell their story they provide robust and valid data. Findings from these qualitative data can help target and shape future injury prevention strategies and refine methods for data collection. Given the limited time to provide farm safety instruction the inclusion of real stories of injury to children may make the intervention more realistic for the target audience. This strategy has proven beneficial for adult audiences and teens and has great potential for younger groups.

Deborah Reed is a Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Kentucky College of Nursing. She has conducted occupational health research since 1991. Her program of research includes both children and aging farmers. Her clinical work focuses on farmers with disabilities and public health.