

***A Quantitative Look at Injuries and Close Calls Reported by Children Who
Attended a Farm Safety Day***

**Shannon Murphy, Debra M. McCallum, Deborah B. Reed, Deborah T. Claunch,
Ashley French-Holt, and Debbie R. Snyder**

University of Alabama

Purpose/Objective:

The purpose of this presentation is to report quantitative data regarding water, animal, chemical, and other injuries in addition to close calls as reported by children who attended Progressive Agriculture Foundation (PAF) Farm Safety Day programs. Half of the children who attended were exposed to an enhanced curriculum while half received the standard PAF curriculum; additionally, half were sent a booster packet in the mail 3-5 months after their attendance, and again 9-11 months after the safety day; the other half received no booster.

Methods/Efforts:

Children attending PAF farm safety days in the REACCH study were interviewed via telephone at 6 months and then at 12 months following the safety days. Children were asked directly if they had experienced any injuries related to water, animal, chemical (collectively referred to as WAC injuries), or other injuries, and if they had any close calls for injuries during the 6-month period preceding the survey. Children's responses to the 6-month and 12-month survey were coded on a scale of 0-3 for WAC injuries and 0-5 for all injuries and close calls. At both time points, a child could have a minimum of zero injuries (no injuries in any category or any close calls) and maximum of three (one in each WAC category) or five injuries (one injury in each WAC category, one other injury, and a close call), respectively.

Results/Findings:

463 children completed both the 6-month and 12-month survey. There was a significant interaction between time point and booster in that children receiving a booster reported a decrease in injuries from the 6-month to the 12-month time point, but there was no decrease for children who did not receive a booster. There was also a significant interaction between time point and farm status. Children who live on a farm reported more injuries at the 6-month time point than those who do not live on a farm, but their injuries decreased, and they reported similar rates of injuries at the 12-month time point. There were no significant interactions for gender or curriculum. Both girls and boys, and children who received the basic and enhanced curriculum, reported similar amounts of injuries at both time points.

Application to Field/Research:

Evaluations of farm safety programs for children have tended to focus on knowledge, attitude, and behavior change. The data presented expand previous studies by investigating the changes in injury rates among children who attended a PAF Farm Safety Day programs with different presentation formats and follow up efforts across a one year period of time. These data support the conclusions of previous research that farm safety day programs have a positive impact on the children who attend, and that all children benefit from their participation, although some do benefit more than others.

Shannon Murphy is a Ph.D. student in the Social Psychology program at the University of Alabama and a Graduate Research Assistant in the University's Institute for Social Science Research.