



JA:2021-25. Increasing Efficiency and Reliability of Agricultural Injury and Fatality Coding with Standard Operating Procedures: Lessons Learned from AgInjuryNews.org

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agricultural safety and health centers including the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health (GPCAH), the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH), the Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (CS-CASH), and the National Farm Medicine Center are collaborating on a translation activity to convey the story of agricultural safety. While statistics and numbers are important to identify injury trends and emerging issues related to workplace health and safety, the Telling the Story Project (TTS) takes a closer look, creating injury prevention messages that highlight personal stories based on first-hand experiences.

Methods: Research indicates that farmers are more open to safety messages after reading about a traumatic farm incident, and farmers generally consider other farmers and agricultural publications to be trusted sources of information. Telling the Story Project provides a platform for agricultural workers, and those impacted by fatal and non-fatal agricultural workplace injuries (workers, family, and community members), to share their stories. Told in their own words, these experiences teach about what went wrong and how to prevent or avoid similar incidents.

Results: A website was created and serves as a platform for the personal narratives www.tellingthestoryproject.org. A monthly rural radio program has emerged from this project as another means to deliver this content effectively. Links to safety and health information provide resources for those visiting the website. Evaluation of stakeholder impact is ongoing.

Practical Application: To further the reach of these stories, teachers' guides have been created as additions to the curriculum for FFA and agricultural safety instructors.

KEYWORDS



Agricultural safety; injury; health; narrative; storytelling

Disclosure statement

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: News media reports of agricultural injuries can be useful to better inform safety and health stakeholders and prevention efforts. These data are particularly useful for youth incidents, since the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health discontinued their survey-based agriculture surveillance program in 2015, leaving a gap in reliable, consistent data on both youth and adult agricultural injuries and fatalities. In this study we describe how coding data derived from news reports, with a detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and refined inclusion/exclusion criteria, can lead to more efficient workflows to capture and code agricultural injury data.

Methods: To capture quality data and improve inter-rater reliability we employ a multi-coder process. The first coder enters primary data into the

Case Report Form (CRF), and a second coder reviews these data points for agreement. While reviewing for agreement, the second coder diverges into two other occupational/agricultural injury coding schemas (Occupational Illness and Injury Classification System [OIICS] and Farm and Agricultural Injury Classification [FAIC]) and employs an additional multi-coder and interrater reliability process, adding to the multifaceted workflow and detailed data output. This secondary coding schema and reliability ratings are discussed in a separate manuscript. Any discrepancies from the initial review are then discussed and settled between first and second coders. All CRFs are sent to another team member who reviews >10% and publishes the reports for public use on AgInjuryNews.org. International cases endure a similar process, but without OIICS or FAIC coding. In partnership with the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association, our team began Canadian injury report capture and coding in the fall of 2019.

Findings: We developed a structured and detailed SOP for coding agricultural data obtained from news reports. Use of the SOP and refined inclusion/exclusion criteria were crucial when: 1) onboarding additional coders; 2) employing multiple coders; 3) refining search terms in data collection; 4) coding of emerging technologies and trends; and 5) improving the efficiency and quality of the data.


Translation: Coders' ability to reference a thoroughly vetted SOP and inclusion/exclusion criteria may lead to improved data coding for agricultural injuries and fatalities.

KEYWORDS

Injury surveillance; coding; safety; injury prevention; agriculture

Conflict of Interest

We have no personal or financial conflicts of interest to disclose.

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JA:2021-26. Protecting and Promoting the Health of Young Agricultural Workers through Supervisor Training

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: Young workers in agriculture (under 25-years-old) are at increased risk for occupational injuries. In addition to traditional workplace hazards, fatigue, substance use, and distracted behaviors are risk factors for injury. While supervisors can play an active role in protecting young workers, there are currently no interventions targeting this group. An online training for supervisors was developed using a Total Worker Health™ framework. The training was evaluated among those who hire, teach, or supervise young agricultural workers.

Methods: People who hire, teach, or supervise young workers were invited to participate in the online training and research study via email, conference handout, or word-of-mouth. Participants were asked to complete a 1-hour training and surveys at baseline, directly following the training, and 3 months after the training. Demographics, workplace factors, and knowledge of training topics were assessed at all three time points.

Results/Findings: To date, 102 participants completed the training and 3-month follow up, representing 22 states and 2 U.S. territories. Over half (58%) were agricultural educators; the remainder were farmers/producers, agricultural supervisors, and health and safety professionals. Two-thirds (69%) had supervised young workers for 5 or more years. Knowledge scores were high, and at the conclusion of the study, over half (61%) of participants indicated they would definitely recommend the training to others. When asked to indicate how the training most helped them, 29% of participants cited using a method of training young workers called “Teach Back.”