



Agricultural Safety: 2008 Injuries to Youth on Hispanic-Operated Farms

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Injuries to Youth on Hispanic-Operated Farms in the United States, 2000, 2003, 2008

In 2008, there were an estimated 53,897 Hispanic-operated farms in the United States, an increase of 82 percent from 2000 (Table 1). Agriculture-related injuries to youth under 20 years of age on these farms have decreased from 14.7 injuries per 1,000 farms in 2000 to 4.8 injuries per 1,000 farms in 2008. In 2008, there were 257 injuries to youth who lived on, worked on, or visited a Hispanic-operated farm in the U.S. compared to 434 in 2000 and 542 injuries in 2003. These findings are based on a series of telephone surveys of Hispanic-operated farms conducted by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Farm operators were asked questions about injuries to youth less than 20 years old that occurred on their farms in three separate surveys covering the years 2000, 2003, and 2008. An injury was defined as any condition occurring on the farm operation resulting in at least 4 hours of restricted activity or requiring professional medical attention.

For all three years, male youth accounted for most of these injuries: 72 percent in 2000, 52 percent in 2003, and 60 percent in 2008. Youth 10 to 15 years old accounted for the highest number of injuries in all three years: 162 injuries in 2000, 276 injuries in 2003, and 106 injuries in 2008. Youth less than 10 years of age were the injured youth in 156 events in 2000, 157 of the events in 2003, and 84 events in 2008. Youth aged 16 to 19 years incurred 110 injuries in 2000, 103 injuries in 2003, and 62 in 2008.

In each year, less than 40 percent of childhood injuries occurring on these farm operations were classified as work-related. In 2000, 167 injuries (39 percent) were work-related while 204 injuries (38 percent) were work related in 2003 and 81 injuries (32 percent) were work-related in 2008. In each year, hired youth accounted for less than 10 percent of all injuries. In 2000 and 2008, approximately 75 percent of all work-related injuries occurred to male youth, compared to 63 percent in 2003. In 2000 and 2003, most work-related injuries were to youth 16 to 19 years of age; forty-seven percent in 2000 and 58 percent in 2003. In 2008, 59 percent of work-related injuries were to youth 10 to 15 years of age.

Youth living on the farm operation (household youth) accounted for 307 injuries in 2000, 335 injuries in 2003, and 144 injuries in 2008. Males accounted for 73 percent of these household youth injuries in 2000, 56 percent in 2003, and 52 percent in 2008. Most injured household youth were 10 to 15 years of age. Youth in this age range incurred 133 injuries (43 percent) in 2000, 179 injuries (53 percent) in 2003, and 64 (45 percent) in 2008. Over 40 percent of injuries to youth living on the farm were work-related in each of these years: 136 work-related injuries in 2000, 139 in 2003, and 59 in 2008.

NIOSH sponsored this survey to better understand the magnitude and scope of working agricultural-related injuries to youth on Hispanic-operated farms. The survey was conducted as part of the NIOSH Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention Initiative. For further information, contact John Myers, NIOSH, at (304) 285-6005 or Mark Gutierrez, at USDA/NASS (202) 690-2389.

Estimates of Agricultural-Related Injuries to Youth Under 20 Years Old On Hispanic-Operated Farms - United States: 2000, 2003, and 2008

Year	Working and non-working youth					
	In-business farms ¹	Total youth ²	Total youth per farm	Total injuries ³	Injuries per 1000 youth	Injuries per 1000 farms
2000	29,554	343,636	11.6	434	1.3	14.7
2003	47,201	683,573	14.5	542	0.8	11.5
2008	53,897	500,983	9.3	257	0.5	4.8

Year	Working Youth					
	In-business farms ¹	Working youth ⁴	Working youth per farm	Work injuries	Injuries per 1000 youth	Injuries per 1000 farms
2000	29,554	27,323	0.9	167	6.1	5.7
2003	47,201	43,162	0.9	204	4.7	4.3
2008	53,897	30,115	0.6	81	2.7	1.5

¹ Estimated number of farms still in business based on the minority farm operator youth farm injury study.

² Total youth population on Hispanic minority-operated farms, including hired youth, visitors and relatives, whether working or non-working.

³ Includes work-related and non-work-related injuries.

⁴ Total working youth on minority-operated farms, including relatives.

Estimates of Agricultural-Related Injuries to Youth Under 20 Years Old Living On Hispanic-Operated Farms - United States: 2000, 2003, and 2008

Year	Working and non-working household youth					
	In-business farms ¹	Total household youth ²	Total household youth per farm	Total injuries to household youth ³	Injuries per 1000 household youth	Injuries per 1000 farms
2000	29,554	21,631	0.7	307	14.2	10.4
2003	47,201	34,495	0.7	335	9.7	7.1
2008	53,897	26,184	0.5	144	5.5	2.7

Year	Working Household Youth					
	In-business farms ¹	Working household youth	Working youth per farm	Work injuries to household youth	Injuries per 1000 working household youth	Injuries per 1000 farms
2000	29,554	9,468	0.3	136	14.4	4.6
2003	47,201	15,571	0.3	139	8.9	2.9
2008	53,897	10,776	0.2	59	5.5	1.1

¹ Estimated number of farms still in business based on the minority farm operator youth farm injury study.

² Total youth population living on Hispanic minority-operated farms, whether working or non-working.

³ Includes work-related and non-work-related injuries.

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