



Agricultural Safety: 2008 Injuries to Adults on Racial Minority-Operated Farms

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Occupational Injuries to Adults on Racial Minority Farms in the United States, 2003 and 2008

In 2003, an estimated 1,639 work-related injuries occurred to adults 20 years of age and older working on 56,900 racial minority-operated farms in the United States, for a rate of 2.9 injuries per 100 farms. These injuries occurred to farm operators, farm family members, hired farm workers, and unpaid adult visitors working on the farm operation in 2003. In 2008, while the estimated number of injuries increased to 2,053 on 85,250 racial minority-operated farms, the injury rate declined to 2.4 injuries per 100 farms. These findings are based on two separate telephone surveys of racial minority-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 adults 20 years of age and older working on their farms in both surveys. 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.

Males accounted for the majority of the injuries reported in both surveys: 1,160 agricultural-related work injuries occurred to males in 2003, while 1,471 injuries occurred to males in 2008. In both years, adults 45 to 54 years of age incurred the greatest proportion of the injuries: 24 percent in 2003 and 31 percent in 2008. Individuals under the age of 35 years incurred less than 15 percent of all adult farm injuries on these racial minority-operated farms in both survey years.

By specific racial categories, farms operated by Native Americans reported the highest number of injuries in both 2003 (574 injuries) and 2008 (1,062 injuries). Overall, the number of injuries per 100 farms decreased from 2003 to 2008 for each of the four racial categories examined. Asian-operated farms had the largest decline going from 5.6 injuries per 100 farms in 2003 down to 2.5 injuries per 100 farms in 2008.

For both 2003 and 2008, adults living in the farm household accounted for most of the reported injuries. In 2003 household adults account for 68 percent of all work-related injuries, while in 2008 household adults accounted for almost 78 percent of these injuries. In 2003, household adults were injured at a rate of 8.1 injuries per 1,000 household adults (981 total injuries). In 2008, the rate of injury for household adults increased to 10.2 injuries per 1,000 household adults (1,527 total injuries). Of the household adult injuries in 2003, 26 percent were to adults 45 to 54 years of age, with 30 percent occurring to people 55 years of age and older. The age distribution for the injuries to household adults in 2008 was 34 percent for adults 45 to 54 years of age, with an additional 47 percent occurring to those 55 years of age and older.

NIOSH sponsored this survey to better understand the magnitude and scope of working agricultural-related injuries to adults working on racial minority-operated farms. The survey was conducted as part of the NIOSH Occupational Injury Surveillance of Production Agriculture project. For further information, contact John Myers, NIOSH, at (304) 285-6005 or Mark Gutierrez, USDA/NASS, at (202) 690-2389.

Adult Agricultural-Related Injuries on Racial Minority-Operated Farms - United States: 2003 and 2008

[Estimates may not add due to rounding]

Operator race ¹	Year					
	2003			2008		
	Total injuries	In business farms ²	Injuries per 100 farms	Total injuries	In business farms ²	Injuries per 100 farms
Black	418	26,565	1.6	313	28,162	1.1
Native American	574	14,566	3.9	1,062	33,279	3.2
Asian	359	8,596	4.2	291	11,799	2.5
Multiple races	288	7,174	4.0	387	12,011	3.2
Total	1,639	56,900	2.9	2,053	85,250	2.4

¹ Operators of Hispanic Descent could also have potentially been reported under any of the listed racial groups.

² Farm counts are benchmarked to the 2007 Census of Agriculture.

Adult Agricultural Work-Related Injuries on Racial Minority-Operated Farms - United States: 2003 and 2008

[Estimates may not add due to rounding]

Operator race ¹	Year					
	2003			2008		
	Population ²	Total injuries	Injuries per 1000 adults	Population ²	Total injuries	Injuries per 1000 adults
Black	153,747	418	2.7	160,130	313	2.0
Native American	106,178	574	5.4	191,594	1,062	5.5
Asian	64,125	359	5.6	116,538	291	2.5
Multiple races	50,221	288	5.7	82,543	387	4.7
Total	374,272	1,639	4.4	550,805	2,053	3.7

¹ Operators of Hispanic Descent could also have potentially been reported under any of the listed racial groups.

² Indicated populations from the survey of household adults, working visiting adults, and hired adults combined.

Household Adult Agricultural Work-Related Injuries on Racial Minority-Operated Farms - United States: 2003 and 2008

[Estimates may not add due to rounding]

Operator race ¹	Year					
	2003			2008		
	Population ²	Total injuries	Injuries per 1000 adults	Population ²	Total injuries	Injuries per 1000 adults
Black	54,744	300	5.5	41,593	252	6.1
Native American	30,388	380	12.5	63,285	858	13.6
Asian	20,632	71	3.4	19,446	123	6.3
Multiple races	14,848	231	15.6	20,622	294	14.2
Total	120,612	981	8.1	144,947	1,527	10.2

¹ Operators of Hispanic Descent could also have potentially been reported under any of the listed racial groups.

² Adults 20 years of age and older living on the farm.

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