

1998 Childhood Agricultural Injuries

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Approximately 32,800 agricultural-related injuries occurred to children or adolescents under the age of 20 who lived on, worked on, or visited a farm operation in 1998. The injuries occurred at a rate of 1.7 injuries per every 100 farms. The findings are based on a random telephone survey of 50,000 farm operations conducted by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), an agency of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Farm operators were asked questions on any injuries to youth less than 20 years of age that occurred on their farm in 1998. An injury was defined as any condition occurring on the farm operation resulting in at least 4 hours of restricted activity.

About 56 percent of all childhood injuries that occurred on the farm operation were classified as non-work-related, while 44 percent were classified as work-related injuries. The majority of these injuries happened to male youth. Males were about four times more likely to suffer an injury than females. About 26,140 injuries occurred to male youth compared to 6,660 injuries to female youth. Approximately 34 percent of all youth injuries happened to children under age 10, about 39 percent to children age 10-15, and 27 percent to adolescents age 16-19.

Most injuries during 1998 happened to youth who were part of the farm household. Results from the survey show that 23,640 injuries happened to youth who were part of the farm household, for an injury rate of about 1.9 injuries for every 100 youth. Of these injuries, approximately 37 percent happened to children

under age 10, about 42 percent to children age 10-15, and 21 percent to adolescents age 16-19. Approximately 43 percent of the injuries to household youth were classified as work-related injuries which happened at a rate of 1.4 injuries per 100 youth. About 57 percent of the injuries to household youth were classified as non-work-related injuries and happened at a rate of 1.1 injuries per 100 youth.

A total of 7,040 injuries occurred to youth visiting the farm. About 69 percent of these injuries were classified as non-work-related injuries while 31 percent were classified as work-related injuries. Results showed about 2,130 injuries occurred to youth hired to work on the farm, for a rate of 0.3 injuries per 100 youth.

Of all childhood injuries in 1998, about 50 percent occurred in the Midwest, while 27 percent occurred in the South, 16 percent in the West, and 7 percent in the Northeast. The regional rates of injury for all household and hired youth combined were as follows: 1.3 injuries per 100 youth for the Midwest, 1.4 injuries per 100 youth for the South, 1.4 injuries per 100 youth for the West, and 1.2 injuries per 100 youth for the Northeast.

NIOSH, an agency of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, sponsored this survey to better understand the magnitude and scope of childhood agricultural injuries. 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 Kevin Barnes, NASS, at (202) 720-4028.

U.S. Childhood Agricultural-Related Injuries, 1998

Region ¹	Total Farms ²	Total Injuries	Injuries per 100 Farms	All Household and Hired Youth		
				Population ³	Total Injuries	Injuries per 100 Youth
Northeast	110,886	2,458	2.2	165,640	1,995	1.2
South	787,412	8,810	1.1	556,871	7,569	1.4
Midwest	749,041	16,443	2.2	905,251	12,040	1.3
West	264,520	5,097	1.9	302,544	4,174	1.4
U.S.	1,911,859	32,808	1.7	1,930,306	25,778	1.3

¹ Northeast: CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI and VT
 South: AL, AR, DE, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA and WV
 Midwest: IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD and WI
 West: AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA and WY

² 1997 Census of Agriculture

³ Estimated population of household and hired youth combined.

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