



National Children's Center  
for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety

# Fact Sheet

## Childhood Agricultural Injuries

### Population at Risk

Farms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2004, there were approximately 2.11 million farms in the United States.<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>
Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An estimated 1,075,760 youth lived in farming households during 2001.<sup>2</sup></li> <li>More than half of all household youth performed work or chores on the farm in 2001.<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>
Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Safety Council's 2005-06 edition of <i>Injury Facts</i> ranks agriculture as our nation's most dangerous industry with 29.2 deaths per 100,000 adult workers.<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>

### Toll of Childhood Agricultural Injuries

Deaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Between 1995 and 2000, an estimated 695 youth died on US farms (9.3 fatalities per 100,000 youth); with most fatalities occurring among youth 16-19 years of age.<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>
Nonfatal Injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2001 there were an estimated 22,648 agricultural injuries (1.4 injuries per 100 farms) to youth under the age of 20. Nearly two-thirds (16,851) of these injuries occurred to youth living on the farm.<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Approximately 6,138 injuries (32%) among youth living on farms occurred to children under 10 years of age.<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Two-thirds (63%) of injured children were not actively working when the injury occurred.<sup>4</sup></li> </ul>
Injury Rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth living on livestock operations had a significantly higher rate of injury (19.2 injuries/ 1,000 youth) compared to their counterparts in crop operations (12.1 injuries/1,000 youth).<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>
Comparisons of Injury Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over a three year period (1998-2001) the number of children living on farms decreased by 15 %, the number of injuries declined 29%; while the rate of injuries only dropped 3.1% during the three-year period.<sup>5</sup></li> </ul>

### Characteristics of Injured Children

Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2001, the majority of all childhood injuries occurred in the Midwest (48%) and South (31%) regions.<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>
Nature of Injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Almost two-thirds of nonfatal injuries resulted in broken bones and fractures.<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Nearly two-thirds of childhood agricultural deaths involve head injuries.<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>

### Description of Agricultural Injury

Source of Injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Between 1995 and 2000, the majority of childhood farm related deaths were due to machinery (25%), motor vehicles (17%) and drowning (16%).<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>
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## Minority Operated Farms

Population at Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ In 2000, an estimated 416,000 youth were living on 47,658 racial minority (excluding Hispanic) operated farms.<sup>6</sup></li><li>▪ In 2000, an estimated 288,000 youth lived on 27,717 Hispanic-operated farms.<sup>6</sup></li></ul>
Injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ During 2000, there were 530 agricultural injuries to youth under 20 years of age on a racial minority (excluding Hispanic) operated farm. An additional 366 agricultural-related injuries occurred to youth on Hispanic operated farms.<sup>6</sup></li><li>▪ Native American operated farms had the highest average of working youth per farm and the highest rate of injury at 9.2 injuries per 1,000 farms.<sup>6</sup></li></ul>

## Roadmap for Preventing Childhood Agricultural Injuries

- National Committee for Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention. Children and Agriculture: Opportunities for Safety and Health: A National Action Plan (1996). [http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc/pages/default.aspx?page=nfmc\\_reports\\_action\\_plan](http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc/pages/default.aspx?page=nfmc_reports_action_plan)
- Migrant and Seasonal Hired Adolescent Farmworkers: A Plan to Improve Working Conditions (2001). [http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc/pages/default.aspx?page=nccrahs\\_adol\\_farmworkers](http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc/pages/default.aspx?page=nccrahs_adol_farmworkers)
- Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention: Progress Report and Updated National Action Plan from the 2001 Summit (2002). <http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc/Pages/Proxy.aspx?Content=MCRF-Centers-NFMC-nccrahs-reports-summitreport.1.pdf>

## Childhood Agricultural Fatality Investigation Reports

- NIOSH Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention Initiative. *Childhood Agricultural Fatality Investigation Reports*. <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/childag/ChildAgFACErpts.html>

## References

1. USDA-National Agricultural Statistics Service (2005). *Statistical Highlights of U.S. Agriculture: 2004-2005*. Available at: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/stathigh/2005/stathighnar.htm>
2. National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (2004) *Injuries Among Youth on Farms -2001*. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2004-172/>
3. National Safety Council (2006). Injury Facts 2005-2006 Edition. Available at: <http://www.nsc.org/injuryfacts/demo/NSCInjuryFacts2005-06.pdf> (membership required)
4. USDA-National Agricultural Statistics Service (2004). *2001 Childhood Agricultural-Related Injuries*. Available at <http://jan.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/other/injury/injr0104.pdf>
5. Hendricks, K.J., Layne, L.A., Goldcamp, E.M., Myers, J.R. (2005). "Injuries to Youth Living on U.S Farms in 2001 with Comparison to 1998." *Journal of Agromedicine*. vol. 10 (4) 2005.
6. USDA-National Agricultural Statistics Service (2002). *2000 Childhood Agricultural Injuries on Minority-Operated Farms*. Available at: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/other/injury/injr1202.pdf>

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