



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

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

In 2008, there were an estimated 86,834 farms operated by racial minorities in the United States, increasing 64 percent since 2000. Agriculture-related injuries to youth under 20 years of age on these farms have decreased from 12.4 injuries per 1,000 farms in 2000 to 6.0 injuries per 1,000 farms in 2008. In 2000, there were 654 injuries to youth who lived on, worked on, or visited a racial minority-operated farm in the U.S., compared to 627 injuries in 2003, and 516 injuries in 2008. These findings are based on a series of 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 youth less than 20 years of age 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.

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

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

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	52,907	533,682	10.1	654	1.2	12.4
2003	56,967	736,436	12.9	627	0.9	11.0
2008	86,834	819,877	9.4	516	0.6	6.0
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	52,907	43,357	0.8	245	5.7	4.6
2003	56,967	45,739	0.8	228	5.0	4.0
2008	86,834	67,556	0.8	194	2.9	2.2

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

² Total youth population on 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.

For 2008, injuries most often occurred on farms operated by Native-Americans (9.4 injuries per 1,000 farms) and operators of Multiple Races (9.1 injuries per 1,000 farms). As shown in the following table, injuries per 1,000 farms for Native American and Multiple Race-operated farms were lower than seen in 2003. Injuries per 1,000 farms also decreased for Asian- and Black- operated farms. Comparisons of the 2003 and 2008 results to those found in 2000 for Multiple/Other Races cannot be made due to changes in the definition of these race categories.

Estimates of Agricultural-Related Injuries to Youth Under 20 Years Old On Minority-Operated Farms by Race of the Farm Operator - United States: 2000, 2003, and 2008

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

Working and non-working youth					
Minority group	Year	Total youth ²	Total injuries ³	Injuries per 1000 youth	Injuries per 1000 farms
Asian	2000	50,818	55	1.1	6.7
	2003	70,154	35	0.5	3.7
	2008	81,812	23	0.3	1.9
Black	2000	212,521	143	0.7	6.4
	2003	322,676	89	0.3	3.1
	2008	230,023	75	0.3	2.6
Native American	2000	154,373	321	2.1	27.8
	2003	230,964	395	1.7	25.5
	2008	372,666	314	0.8	9.4
Other/Multiple ¹	2000	115,970	133	1.1	12.3
	2003	112,642	107	0.9	14.0
	2008	135,376	110	0.8	9.1
Working youth					
Minority group	Year	Working youth ⁴	Work injuries	Injuries per 1000 Youth	Injuries per 1000 farms
Asian	2000	5,970	14	2.3	1.7
	2003	5,865	29	4.9	3.3
	2008	3,453	⁵		
Black	2000	12,526	58	4.6	2.6
	2003	16,130	30	1.9	1.1
	2008	13,856	36	2.6	1.2
Native American	2000	14,892	117	7.9	10.1
	2003	17,094	126	7.4	8.7
	2008	42,662	124	2.9	3.7
Other/Multiple ¹	2000	9,970	56	5.6	5.2
	2003	6,649	44	6.6	6.1
	2008	7,586	⁵		

¹ Data from 2000 not comparable to 2003 and 2008 because of changes in definition of "Other " and "Multiple" Races

² Total youth population on 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.

⁵ Estimate is not reportable or is suppressed because of a non-reportable cell.

Youth living on the farm operation accounted for 421 injuries in 2000, 412 injuries in 2003, and 291 injuries in 2008. In each year hired youth experienced less than 10 percent of all injuries. In 2008 and 2003 males accounted for 60 percent and 62 percent of all injuries, and 72 percent of all injuries in 2000. Youth less than 10 years of age were the injured youth in 31 percent of events in 2000, 30 percent in 2003, and 28 percent in 2008. Youth 10-15 years of age accounted for most of the injuries in all three years. In 2000 youth 10 to 15 years of age incurred 284 injuries, decreasing to 247 injuries in 2003 and 218 injuries in 2008. Youth aged 16 to 19 years incurred 159 injuries in 2000, 150 injuries in 2003, and 137 in 2008.

In each year, less than 40 percent of the childhood injuries occurring on these farm operations were classified as non-work-related. In 2000, 245 injuries (37 percent) were work-related while 228 injuries (36 percent) were work-related in 2003 and 194 injuries (37 percent) were reported to be work-related in 2008. In 2003 and 2008, approximately 70 percent of all work-related injuries occurred to male youth, compared to 87 percent in 2000. Most work injuries were to youth 16 to 19 years of age; forty-three percent in 2000, 37 percent in 2003, and 48 percent in 2008.

Among youth living on the farm (household youth), males accounted for 70 percent of all injuries in 2000, 58 percent in 2003, and 61 percent in 2008. Most injured household youth were 10 to 15 years of age. Youth in this age range incurred 195 injuries (46 percent) in 2000, 160 injuries (39 percent) in 2003, and 126 injuries (43 percent) in 2008. Approximately 40 percent of injuries to youth living on the farm were work-related in each of these years: 245 work-related injuries in 2000, 227 in 2003, and 192 in 2008.

NIOSH sponsored this survey to better understand the magnitude and scope of working agricultural-related injuries to youth on racial-minority 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, USDA/NASS at (202) 690-2389.

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