CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT RISK WITHIN RURAL ENVIRONMENTS

Farm Safety 4 Just Kids
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Living in the Country

Doesn’t always mean tranquility!!!!!!!!!!
Rural Hazards

• Physical
  – Pain and Suffering
    (death and injuries)

• Financial
  – Costs (Medical, lost salary, etc.)

• Emotional
  – Grief, sorrow, and loss

Each impact each other
Young Children at Risk

- Curious
- Lack strength
- Lack size
- Lack knowledge
- Unaware of dangers
- Uncoordinated
Youth at Risk

- Risk takers
- Peer pressure
- Impulsive
- Experimenters
- Authority resistant
- Lack training
- Lack knowledge
- Feeling of Invincibility
Children and Youth on the Farm

- Males 5.6 fold higher rate of death
- Farm machinery accounted for 1/3 deaths
- Tractors account for 1 in 5 injuries
- ATV incidents rising
## Farm Household Youth < 20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Farm Household Youth &lt; 20</th>
<th>Farm Household Youth Injuries</th>
<th>Injuries /1000 Household Youth</th>
<th>Farm Injuries Youth &lt; 20</th>
<th>Injuries/1000 Farms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>1,460,000</td>
<td>27,321</td>
<td><strong>18.8</strong></td>
<td>37,774</td>
<td><strong>16.6</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1,350,000</td>
<td>22,144</td>
<td><strong>16.4</strong></td>
<td>29,277</td>
<td><strong>14.0</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>1,260,000</td>
<td>18,800</td>
<td><strong>15.0</strong></td>
<td>27,590</td>
<td><strong>13.1</strong></td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>1,120,000</td>
<td>11,700</td>
<td><strong>10.4</strong></td>
<td>22,900</td>
<td><strong>10.4</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>1,040,221</td>
<td>10,251</td>
<td><strong>9.8</strong></td>
<td>15,012</td>
<td><strong>6.8</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Represents a 59% decline in the rate of childhood agricultural injuries

NIOSH [2010] Trends in Childhood Agricultural Non-fatal Injury Rates
Why the Decline?

• Legislation
• Funding and support
• Education and community support
Farm Hazards

• Machinery - Most Fatalities
  – Tractors, PTOs, Augers, Combines, etc.
  – Grain Transport and Storage
  – ATVs
  – Lawn Mowers
Farm Hazards

• Rural Roads
• Livestock (often leading cause of injury)
• Chemicals
• Health Related Issues
  – Noise
  – Respiratory hazards
  – Sun exposure
Your Role in Injury Prevention

- Appropriate supervision
- Age appropriate training and guidance
- Provide personal protective equipment
- Find child care when adults are working
- Provide boundaries between children and hazards
- Keep equipment in good repair
- Role model safe behavior

- Conduct a farm safety and health program in your community
Child Labor Laws

- Haven’t changed for past 40 years
- Proposed Department of Labor changes made in September 2011
- Comment period ended Dec 1, 2011
- Unsure what or when implemented
Proposed Changes

• Impact only 14 & 15 year old working youth
  – Does not remove family farm exemption

• Certification program
  – 90 hours of instruction (up from 24 hour)
  – Taught within schools
Proposed Changes (cont.)

• Specific H.O. (Hazardous Orders) changes
  – Remove reference to >20 hp tractors
  – Tractors must have ROPS and seat belts
  – Expand working with animal prohibitions
  – Change elevation restrictions from 20 to 6 feet
  – No pesticide handling
  – Prohibit electronic devices
  – No tobacco production