
Farm Related Injuries Reported in the Australian Print Media 2011

Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety

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Background

Australian print media provides an avenue to highlight the prevalence of farm related deaths and injuries. The process of media monitoring has been used by the National Farm Injury Data Centre (NFIDC) since 2005 to assist in the collection of information on farm injury events (fatal and non-fatal). This report focuses specifically on data involving on-farm injury events reported in Australian print media for the period 1st January 2011 to 31st December 2011.

Deaths

There were approximately 3150 print media articles received by the NFIDC from Media Monitors Australia during January to December 2011. A total of 59 on-farm deaths were reported for this period:

- Eight (14%) of the 59 reported on-farm deaths were children aged 15yrs and under
- Quad bike related deaths (n=18) were reported most frequently. There was one additional quad bike related death that was reported in the media however location of the event could not be determined.
- Media monitoring also captures non-farm quad bike related fatality. There were four fatal injury events that occurred off-farm that were reported in print media for this period. The total number of on- and off-farm deaths involving quad bikes was 23.

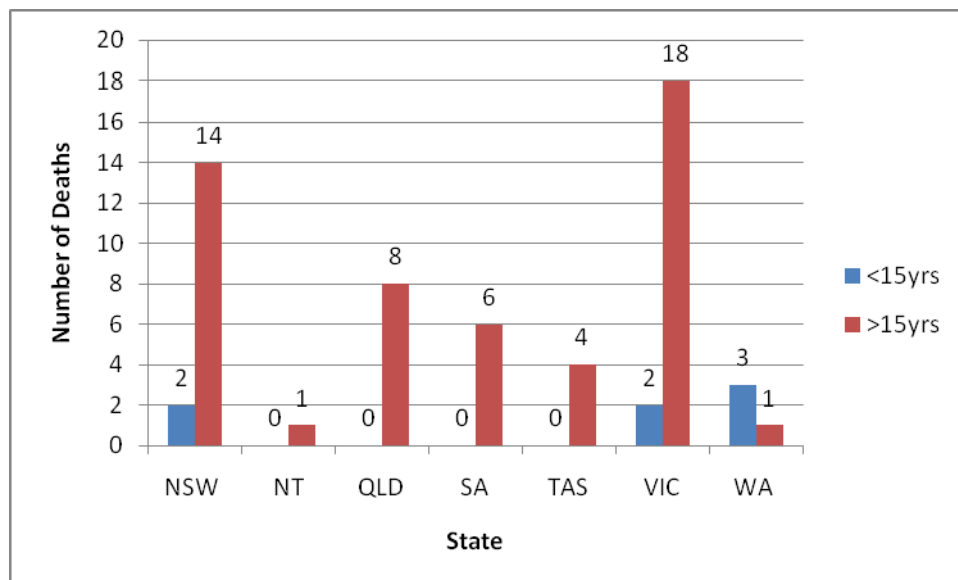


Figure 1: On-farm deaths reported in Australian print media by age and state, 2011.

Table 1: Agents of injury causing death as reported in Australian print media by age, 2011

Category	Agent	<15yrs	>15yrs	Total
Farm Vehicle	Truck		2	2
	Utility		2	2
	Motorcycle 4 wheel	4	14	18
	Motorcycle 2 wheel		2	2
	Aircraft		1	1
	Helicopter		1	1
	Farm Vehicle NEC	1	3	4
Mobile Farm Machinery/Plant	Tractor	1	9	10
	Harvesting Machine		1	1
	Hay Baler		2	2
	Cherry Picker		2	2
	Slasher		1	1
	Earth Moving Equipment		1	1
	Mobile Farm Machinery/Plant NEC		1	1
Farm Structure	Dam	1		1
	Swimming Pool	1		1
	Other farm Structure NEC		1	1
Animal	Cattle		3	3
Working Environment	Fire/Smoke/Flame		1	1
	Trees being felled		2	2
Other	Firearms		1	1
	Unknown		1	1
TOTAL		8	51	59

Erratum: Fatalities from 4 wheel motorcycles (quad bikes) presented in Table 1, have been updated from the initial version of this report. The total number (n=18) of fatalities has remained the same, however there were 4 fatalities (<15 years) and 14 (>15 years).

Non-fatal Injury

There were an additional 81 non-fatal on-farm injury events reported in the Australian print media for the January 1 to December 31, 2011 period.

- Sixteen (20%) of the 81 injury events involved children aged 15yrs and under.
- Quad bike related injury (n=27) was most frequently reported. Followed by tractor related incidents (n=14).
- There were 15 additional quad bike related injury events whereby location of incident could not be determined. There was also 18 additional quad bike related injuries that occurred off-farm that were captured by media monitoring.

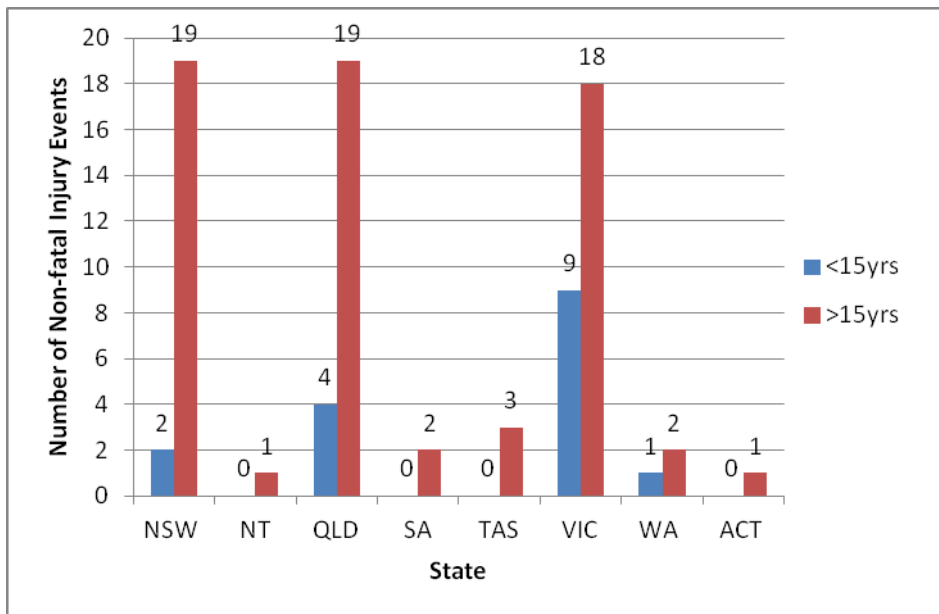


Figure 2: On-farm non-fatal injury events reported in Australian print media, 2011

Table 2: Agents of on-farm non-fatal injury as reported in Australian print media, 2011

Category	Agent	<15yrs	>15yrs	Total
Farm Vehicle	Motorcycle 4 wheel	9	18	27
	Car		1	1
	Motorcycle 2 wheel		2	2
	Farm Vehicle NEC		2	2
	Trailer	1		1
	Utility	1		1
Mobile Farm Machinery/Plant	Tractor		14	14
	Earth Moving Equipment		2	2
	Fertiliser Spreader		1	1
	Hay Baler		1	1
	Grain Auger		1	1
	Harvesting Machine		3	3
	Mobile Farm Machinery/ Plant NEC	2		2
Fixed Plant/Equipment	Fixed Plant/Equipment NEC	1	1	2
Farm Structure	Field Bin		1	1
	Silo		1	1
Materials	Materials other NEC		3	3
Hand tools	Other NEC		1	1
Animal	Cattle	1	3	4
	Horse	1	6	7
Other	Fire/Smoke/Flame		2	2
	Firearm		1	1
	Unknown		1	1
TOTAL		16	65	81