
Farm Related Injuries Reported in the Australian Print Media 2012

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 2012 to 31st December 2012.

Deaths

There were approximately 3,708 print media articles received by the NFIDC from Media Monitors Australia during January to December 2012. A total of 50 on-farm deaths were reported for this period:

- Thirteen (26%) of the 50 reported on-farm deaths were children aged 14 years and under.
- Quad bike related deaths (n=10) were reported most frequently, followed by tractor incidents (n=9).
- Media monitoring also captures all non-farm quad bike related fatality. There were an additional seven fatal injury events that occurred off-farm that were reported in print media for this period, plus a further case where location could not be determined. The total number of on- and off-farm deaths involving quad bikes was 18.

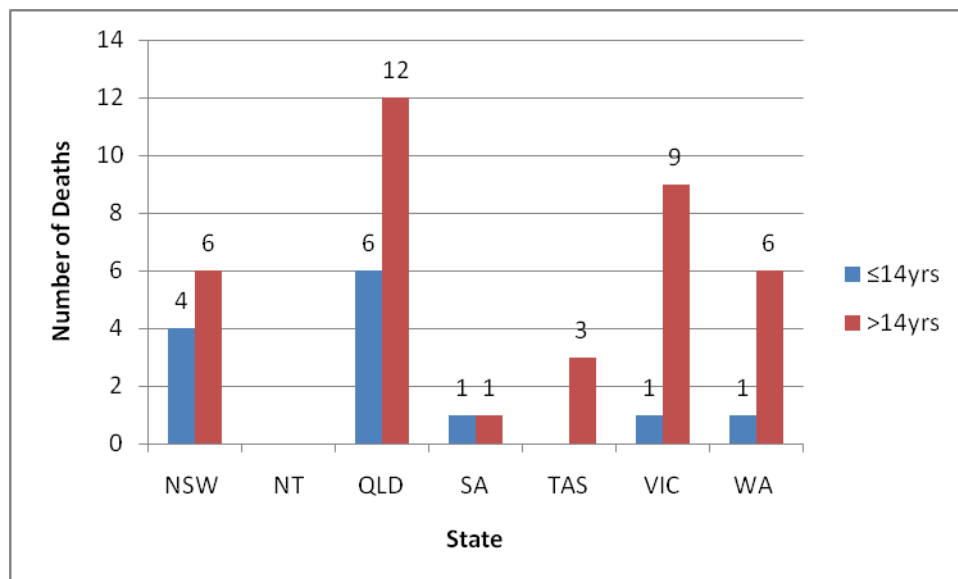


Figure 1: On-farm deaths reported in Australian print media by age and state, 2012.

Table 1: Agents of injury causing death as reported in Australian print media by age, 2012.

Category	Agent	≤14yrs	>14yrs	Total
Farm Vehicle	Aircraft		1	1
	Utility	2	3	5
	Quad bike	4	6	10
	Motorcycle 2 wheel	1		1
	Helicopter		1	1
	Truck		1	1
	Trailer		1	1
	Farm Vehicle NEC*	1		1
Farm Chemicals	Pesticide		1	1
Materials	Materials other NEC		3	3
Mobile Farm Machinery/Plant	Tractor		9	9
	Grain Auger		2	2
	Earth Moving Equipment	1		1
	Mobile Farm Machinery/Plant NEC		1	1
	Harvesting Machine		2	2
Farm Structure	Dam	3		3
	Irrigation Channel	1		1
	Silo		1	1
Animal	Cattle		1	1
	Horse		1	1
Working Environment	Trees being felled		2	2
Other	Firearm		1	1
TOTAL		13	37	50

*NEC: Not Elsewhere Classified

Non-fatal Injury

There were an additional 87 non-fatal on-farm injury events reported in the Australian print media for the January 1 to December 31, 2012 period.

- Twelve (14%) of the 87 injured persons were children aged 14 years and under.
- Quad bike related injury (n=38) was most frequently reported, followed by tractor (n=7) and cattle (n=7) related incidents.
- There were also 29 quad bike related injuries that occurred off-farm, with a further 11 events where location of incident could not be determined.

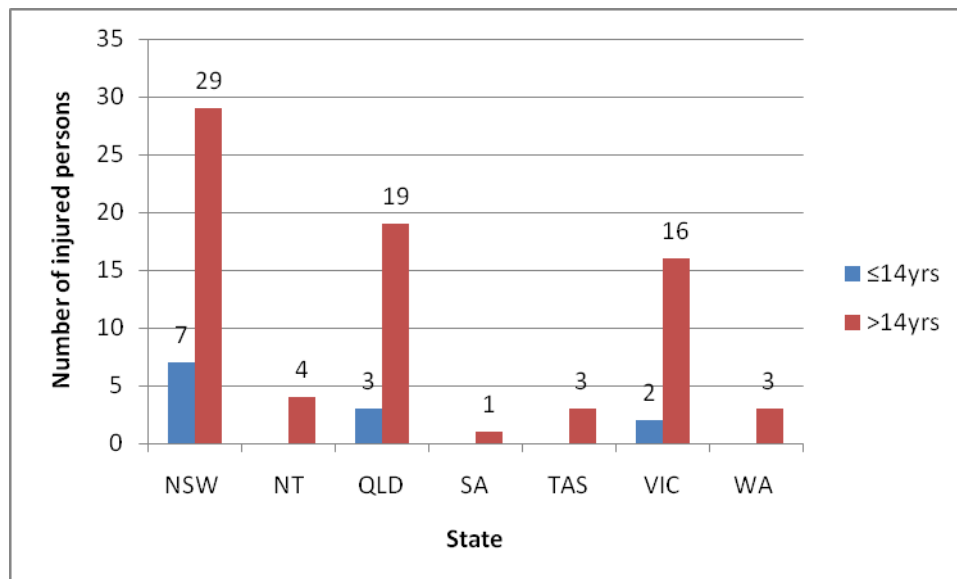


Figure 2: On-farm non-fatal injury events reported in Australian print media, 2012

Table 2: Agents of on-farm non-fatal injury as reported in Australian print media, 2012.

Category	Agent	≤14yrs	>14yrs	Total
Animal	Cattle		7	7
	Horse	2	2	4
Farm Chemicals	Pesticide NEC*		2	2
Farm Structure	Windmill		1	1
	Fence		1	1
Farm Vehicle	Quad bike	9	29	38
	Utility		3	3
	Car		3	3
	Side by Side Vehicle (SSV)	1	2	3
	Trailer		1	1
Fixed Plant/ Equipment	Module Builder		1	1
	Fixed Plant/ Equipment NEC		1	1
Hand tools	Chainsaw		1	1
Materials	Hay bales other		1	1
Mobile Farm Machinery/Plant	Auger		2	2
	Tractor		7	7
	Harvesting Machine		4	4
	Earth Moving Equipment		2	2
	Mobile Farm Machinery/ Plant other NEC		3	3
Working Environment	Fire/Smoke/Flame		1	1
	Tree/ stick, branch		1	1
TOTAL		12	75	87

*NEC: Not Elsewhere Classified