






**What about the Rest of
Them? Fatal Injuries Related
to Production Agriculture
Not Captured by the Bureau
of Labor Statistics (BLS)
Census of Fatal Occupational
Injuries (CFOI)**





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ABSTRACT

Surveillance of injuries in production agriculture is necessary to inform stakeholders about workplace hazards and risks in order to improve and advance injury prevention policies and practices for this dangerous industry. The most comprehensive fatal injury surveillance effort currently in the United States is the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), which covers occupational fatalities in all U.S. industries, including production agriculture. However, this surveillance does not include many categories of fatalities that occur during agricultural work or on production agriculture worksites. To better capture the human cost of production agriculture, the authors of this paper call for the collection of additional data with a broader scope that supplements, not replaces, the current CFOI. This paper describes challenges in surveillance, highlights key procedural gaps, and offers recommendations for advancing national surveillance of fatal traumatic injuries associated with production agriculture.





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Census for Fatal Occupational Injury

- Focuses on fatal injuries to people performing “work”
- Difficult to apply in production agriculture because children and non-working individuals are also exposed to farm work activities and worksite hazards
- Many people working in production agriculture are primarily employed in other industries with agricultural work serving as a part-time or secondary form of employment
- Some fatalities that occur on farms and ranches are excluded from the CFOI count

A large, conical haystack of golden-brown straw stands in the center of a rural landscape. The foreground shows green grass and a field of crops. The background features rolling hills, a line of trees, and a distant building under a sky with scattered white and grey clouds. The overall scene is a typical agricultural setting.

The CFOI alone does not tell the full story of lives lost due to agricultural activities

Issue 1: Who is working, and does it matter?

Youth workers and non-workers often underreported

- 2 y/o female fatally injured when struck by a skid steer as a 12 y/o was operating it to feeding hay. She was not expected to have been in the work area
- 7 y/o female fatally injured and 5 y/o male non-fatally injured when playing on a farm trailer and they came in contact with faulty electrical wires and were electrocuted

Issue 2: What are the boundaries of the agricultural workplace?

Public Roads

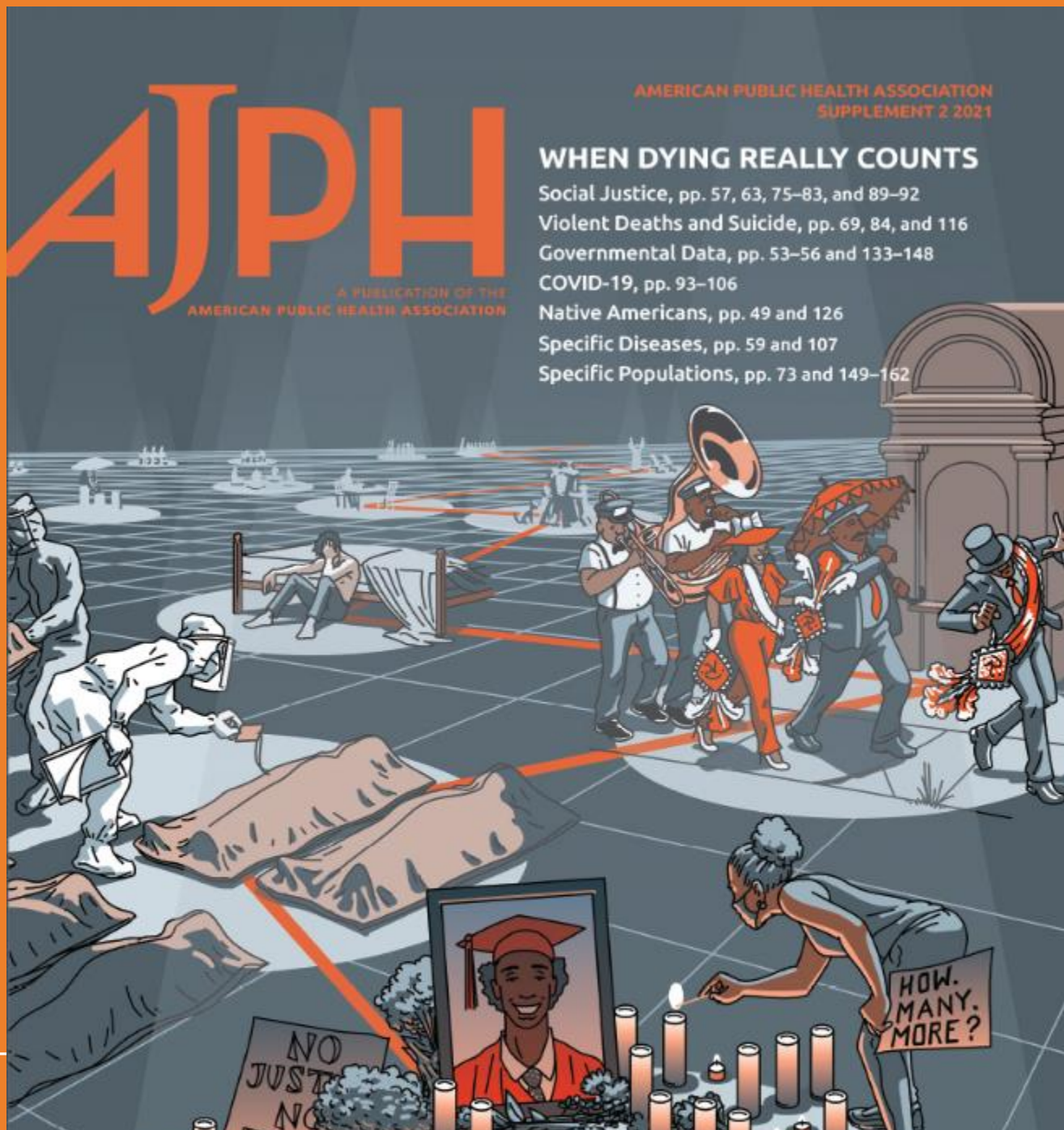
- 45 y/o female non-fatally injured and a 9 y/o female fatally injured when a passenger vehicle attempted to pass a tractor operating on a public roadway and pulling a grain cart but struck the rear corner of the tractor
- 67 y/o female fatally injured when the passenger vehicle she was riding in rear-ended a tractor pulling farm equipment on a public roadway



Issue 3: If a tractor operator dies, does it matter whether or not farm work was involved?

“Non-Work” Equipment Use

- 60 y/o male fatally injured while driving a tractor on a public roadway and he was struck from behind by a dump truck
- 74 y/o male fatally injured when the tractor he was operating was struck by a passenger vehicle on a public roadway



...Need to improve the quality of mortality data and routine surveillance...to learn from mortality incidents to delay or reduce their occurrence

...Inaccuracies in mortality data have real consequences for the public health mission. The extensiveness of missing data or inaccurate classifications...

...comprise a unique public health resource. Funeral directors, coroners, and medical examiners play a critical role in recording deaths accurately and in providing an essential interface between medical systems, legal institutions, and families of the deceased.

Alternative Sources of Data (Fatal & Non-Fatal)

- News Clippings
- Administrative Datasets
 - Hospital
 - ED
 - Inpatient
 - Outpatient
 - Trauma
 - Pre-Hospital Care Reports (PCR)
 - Workers' Compensation
 - Transportation Records
 - Law Enforcement
 - Coroner/ME
- Surveys
- SOII
- OSHA reports
- Surveillance Systems for Other Issues
 - NVDRS
- Among others...

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