

# Safeguarding Children in Agriculture: International Perspectives

Overview of Global Situations

Barbara Lee, PhD  
14 November, 2023



**National Children's Center**  
for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety



- Injuries and deaths are not *“Accidents”*
- Data related to child agricultural injury/death
- Agriculture-related injuries/deaths/illness
  - Agricultural & environmental types & causes
  - Social/cultural factors
  - Adult roles
  - Costs
- Protective strategies
- *Frontiers in Public Health – International perspectives*

***Fatal and Nonfatal  
Injuries are NOT  
“Accidents”***



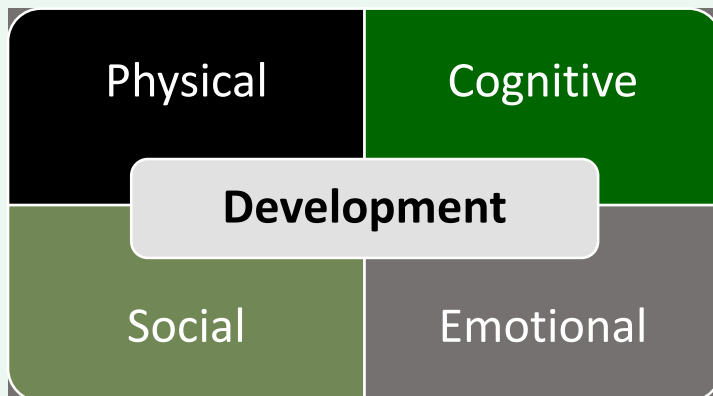
***Injuries are  
Predictable and  
Preventable***



**National Children's Center**  
for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety



- Age, Gender, Attributes



- Working Status



## Not Working

- Bystander
- Observer
- Trainee



## Working

- Family Farm Youth
- Hired  
(non family farm)



- Agricultural, Environmental Conditions

## Commodity-Specific

- Tasks
- Hazards
- Exposures
- Work pace

## Economic Impacts

- Weather
- Market prices
- Global trade requirements

## Rural Location

- Health care
- Education
- Day care
- Internet access

- Social & Cultural Conditions

## Traditions

- Farming practices
- Family expectations
- Family needs

## Cultural Influences

- Work tasks
- Gender roles
- Status: child/family
  - Migrant
  - Religion

## Others

- Consumer influence on role of children in producing food for sale
- Peer pressure



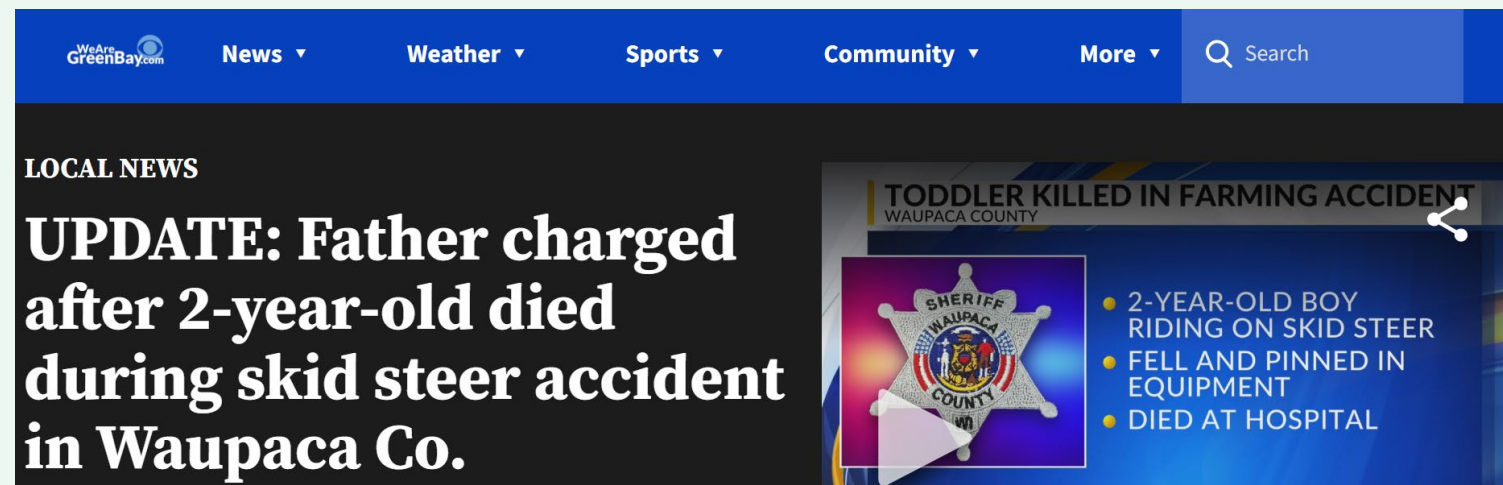
- Minor injuries
  - Less than 4 hours of inactivity
- Major injuries
  - More than 4 hours of inactivity to life-altering disabilities



- Adult accountability – who bears responsibility?
- Cost of injuries – medical, rehabilitation
- Emotional toll

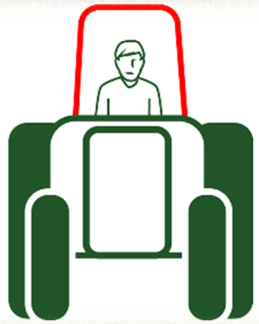


- Fatal injuries
  - Immediate death
  - Delayed death
- Adult accountability
  - Who bears responsibility?
  - Any legal consequences?
- Costs of death
  - Financial
    - Immediate costs
    - Long-term losses
  - Emotional toll





## **Machinery Motor Vehicles Livestock Drowning Weather/Climate**







## Zoonotic & Other Diseases



## Mental Illness



## Dust &

## Molds

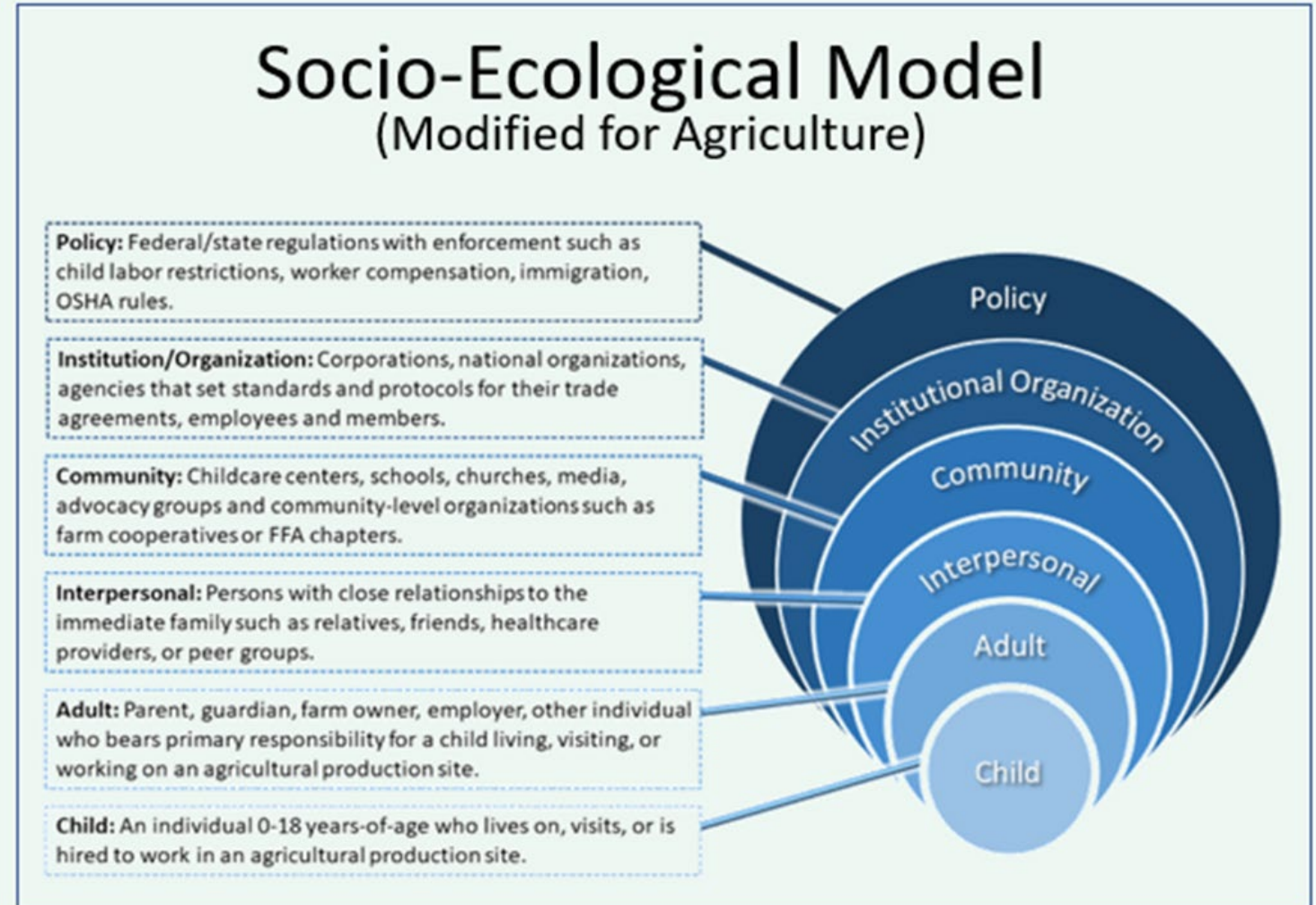


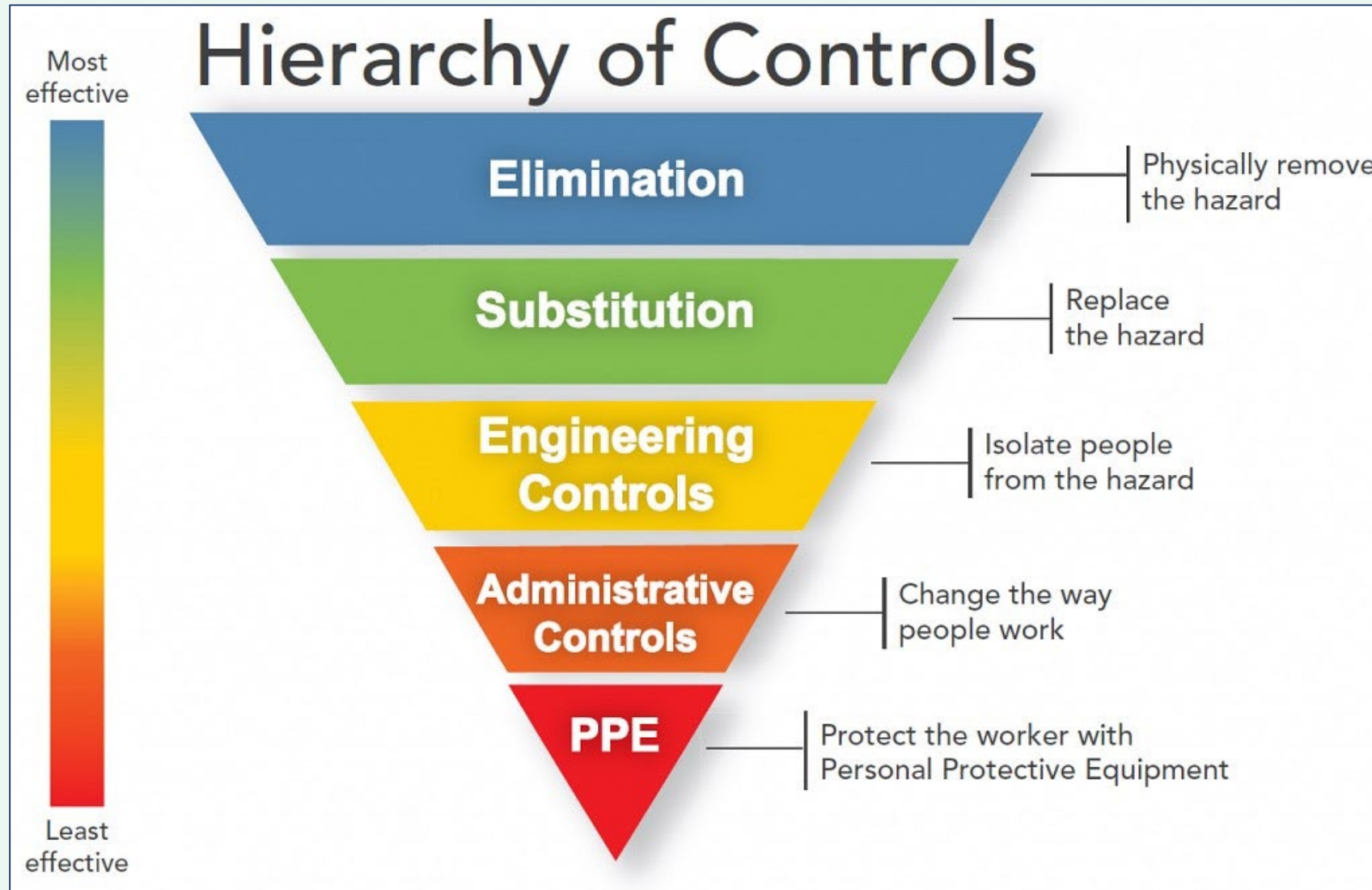
## Noise





- Public policy
  - Regulations, labor laws
  - Federal, state, local
- Organizational policy
  - Trade requirements
  - Safety protocols at farm level





Source: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health



## Released September 2023

- 29 papers
- 8 international perspectives
- 13 countries
- 57 authors
- FREE online

 frontiers | Research Topics

### Safeguarding youth from agricultural injury and illness: International experiences

**Edited by**

Barbara Christine Lee, Bryan Weichelt, Florence Becot, Casper Bendixsen,  
Peter Lundqvist, Andrea Swenson and Richard Franklin

**Coordinated by**

Christopher Benny

**Published in**

Frontiers in Public Health  
Frontiers in Communication







## Connect with us!

- [nccrahs@marshfieldresearch.org](mailto:nccrahs@marshfieldresearch.org)
- 1-800-662-6900
- [marshfieldresearch.org/nccrahs](http://marshfieldresearch.org/nccrahs)
- [cultivatesafety.org](http://cultivatesafety.org)



@FarmMedicine

@nccrahs

@umash\_umn