

GRANT COUNTY

1987

FARM

INJURY

STATISTICS



Grant County Nurses Office

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INTRODUCTION

Grant County is the most Southwestern County in Wisconsin. It borders Illinois on the south, and Iowa on the west. The 1987 estimated population was 51,231. Grant County is the 10th largest county in the state with a geographical area of 1,169 square miles.

More than 600,000 acres are in farmland. This is the most farm acres of any county in the state. Grant County is also second among counties in the total number of farms. The average farm in the county is 264.6 acres.

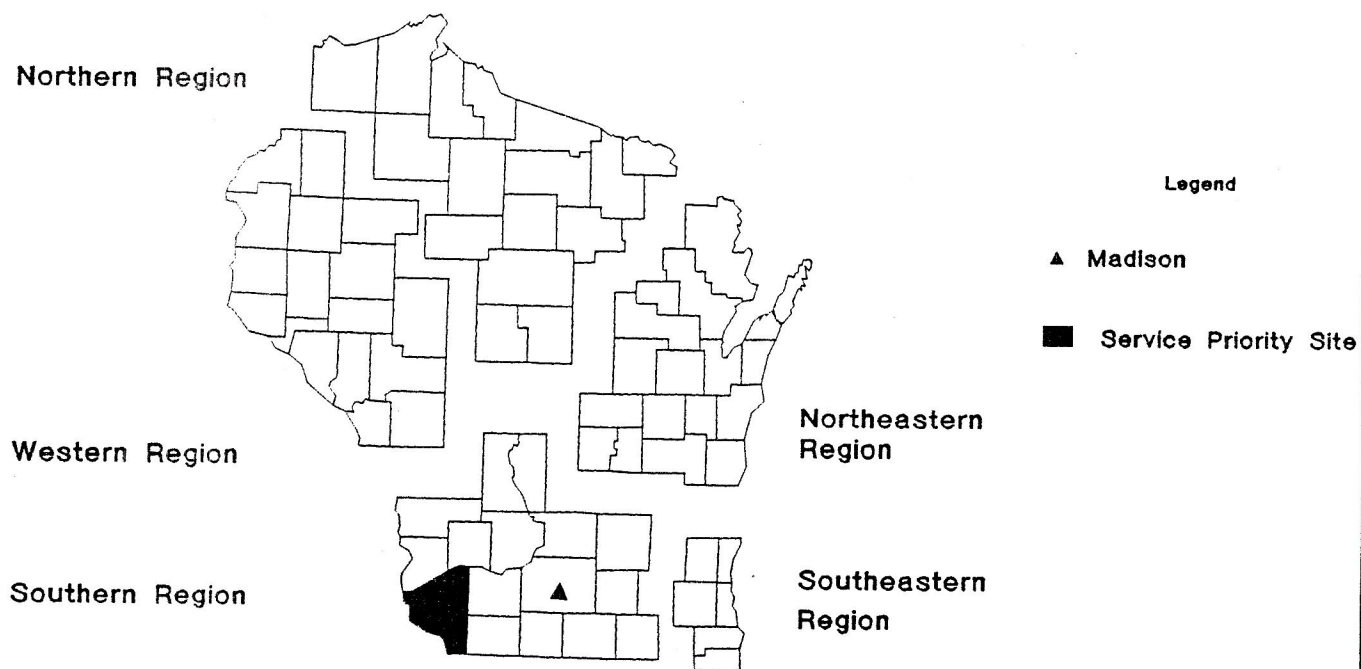
The number of persons living and working on the 2,570 farms in the county is estimated at 7,967. This is a conservative estimate as there is no way of determining the number of parttime farmhands who live in the towns and villages in the area since they do not receive unemployment etc. when they are not working. These additional numbers also increase during the "busy seasons" and decrease in the winter. Many times, high school and younger aged children assist farmers for a few hours or days during haying season and other harvest times.

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the average per capita income in the county for 1984 was \$10,476.00 compared to \$12,378.00 for the State of Wisconsin.

In persons age 25 years and over, 32.5% of the residents of the county have less than a 12th grade education. The University of Wisconsin-Platteville and Southwest Technical School in Fennimore are both in Grant County contributing to 13.8% of population having at least 16 years of schooling.

These statistics demonstrate that Grant County is dominantly a rural, farm orientated county. Injuries reported in the following research may be a good indicator of what type of injuries are occurring on farms in Wisconsin.

Grant County, Wisconsin Farm Injury Surveillance April - November, 1987



Graphs Prepared by: The Wisconsin Comprehensive Child Injury Prevention Program

METHOD

This research was funded by a Maternal Child Health Grant through the Wisconsin Division of Health. Under the Injury Control Theme, farm injuries to children ages 1-12 years were the priority. To address farm injuries more thoroughly for our county, all ages would be included in this research.

Prior to the authorization of this Grant, the three county hospitals were contacted about their possible support for a surveillance study. All were in agreement that this would be beneficial, and would cooperate in collecting data.

After the Grant was approved, we contacted clinics throughout the county. Emergency care during the day is many times channeled through the clinics. The same doctors staff the clinics and hospitals in rural areas. The close proximity of the clinics to the hospital facilitate any transfers that are necessary to the hospital. All the clinics contacted agreed to participate in the research.

A meeting with the hospital personnel was held to establish a reporting form. It was decided that the emergency room record form, contained all the necessary information. This included date, time, age, sex, diagnosis, assessment of how the injury occurred, and if they were discharged or admitted. The name, address and telephone number would be deleted. The hospital would keep an original and if further follow-up would be necessary, a release of information form would be sent to those people involved. The specific information we needed was then sent to the fourteen clinics so they could devise their own form. Some clinic forms were typed with the appropriate categories and the information was handwritten next to the correct heading. Other clinics had no specific form, but hand wrote the information on notebook paper. Out of 136 injuries reported, there were 21 omissions in various categories. For instance, one report may have all the data except for the time. The percent of omissions was not great enough in any one category to make that portion of the study invalid.

We conducted the research for 30 weeks, April 20, 1987 through November 15, 1987. Clinics that had not sent any information were contacted by phone about midway through the study. Three clinics stated they did not have any farm injuries. This held true for the remainder of the study. They continued to be alert for farm injuries and in this way contributed to this research.