

The Miller Consulting Group

New Jersey Rural Injury Questionnaire Summary

June 23, 2011

Table of Contents

Background.....	2
Summary of Rural Injury Questionnaire Responses.....	3-4
Rural Injury Questionnaire Responses (All Counties)	5-6
Rural Injury Questionnaire Responses Introduction (By County).....	7
Atlantic County	8-9
Burlington County	10-11
Cape May County	12-13
Cumberland County.....	14-15
Ocean County.....	16-17

Background

The New Jersey State Office of Rural Health (NJSORH), as part of its on-going effort to gain additional insight into health issues of residents living in rural areas of the state; sought feedback on their perceptions regarding the health and safety surrounding rural injuries to youth under the age of 19. A series of questions were developed focusing on four areas of interest - All Terrain Vehicles, Traumatic Brain Injury, Motor Vehicle Crashes and Workplace Injuries.

The NJSORH determined that one way to reach some of the target population, and to get feedback from several rural areas of the state was to include these questions as part of the existing five county Rural Health Focus Group Project (Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, Cumberland and Ocean Counties). Although, the participants were not screened for having an interest, knowledge or experiences with rural injuries to youth, the NJSORH felt that gaining overall perceptions surrounding the subject from an interested, health care conscious group of New Jersey rural residents was viable.

The Rural Health Focus Group Project had 81 total participants (over a five county area). All participants were asked to complete the Rural Injury Questionnaire which some did not fully complete. In three of the five focus groups the moderator was able to gather some limited verbal feedback from the participants that was generally reflective of the responses supplied on the questionnaire (compiled responses are included herein). Many of the participants did not have any youths in their household and therefore it should be noted that their answers might be reflective of their current life situation.

Summary - New Jersey Rural Injury Questionnaire

The New Jersey Rural Injury Questionnaire focused on four areas of interest:

- All Terrain Vehicles (ATV)
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Motor Vehicle Crashes
- Workplace Injuries

All Terrain Vehicles

Based on the responses to the questionnaire, 59 of the participants (81 total) indicated that *few* or *none* of the young people (19 and younger) they know ride ATVs. Additionally, 42 responded saying *few* or *none* of those riding ATVs wear helmets. These responses align with the verbal feedback received from the participants. Although the majority did not know a significant number of ATV riders, participants were very frustrated regarding the lack of enforcement of the regulations for those youths that are riding ATVs. Many thought the police ignored riders who rode on streets, riders without helmets and underage riders. This feedback was especially evident in Cape May County and Cumberland County. Steven from Cape May County said:

Concerning ATVs, over the years I called the mayor's office and the state police and they may not have a legal place to drive them but they still drive them on the back streets...These people ride them down the street. No license, no insurance. And worse than that, no helmet and the police will not respond most of the time.

Bernard, another Cape May County resident added:

I used to be a public defender in the county and the police actually refused to follow an ATV. We have a problem at the airport with ATVs running up and down the runway. I looked out my window one day, I live on Washington Avenue, which is the main drag in town, there are kids doing wheelies down the middle of the street. It has gotten do bad that I've actually seen mothers and fathers teaching their kids how to ride illegally. I mean we're talking about six or eight-year old kids riding.

Otelia, a Cumberland County resident said:

And they're riding them on the road. They don't have insurance. They're not wearing their helmets. And it's really sad.

Cheryl, from Cumberland County described a scenario near her home:

Across the street from our house, that's where they ride in the bushes. Years ago, the cops would chase them and give them tickets, and I see them take the bikes from them and everything. But no, last week or the week before, the cop was standing there in his field, and he was watching them...Now they let them do it.

Traumatic Brain Injury

The overwhelming majority of participants would seek medical attention for bumps on the head with loss of consciousness, bleeding or nausea. The area where there was some dissension, was the topic of bumps on the head with no cut or bleeding; no loss of consciousness. Twenty-eight participants indicated they would not seek medical attention for this kind of injury. Some of the reasons the participants gave for not seeking attention include:

- Prior personal experience

- Because I would have to go to the emergency room and pay out of pocket and wait
- First aid training
- Not every bump will require a doctor's attention
- I would be in the doctor's office or emergency room all day everyday
- Went to Mexico and did not seek medical attention
- Could not afford it
- Lack of coverage

Motor Vehicle Crashes (this section was not included on the questionnaire for Ocean County participants)

Forty of the participants (of 61 total participants) indicated that they *Strongly Agree* or *Agree* with the statement '*Do you feel Motor Vehicle Crashes are a problem among young people (19 and younger) in your community.*' When asked about death and severe injury to youth resulting from motor vehicle crashes, 21 participants responded that they knew someone that had been severely injured and 17 participants knew someone who had been killed.

On the subject of cell phones and texting while driving, 55 responded that *All* or *Most* young people talk on a cell phone while driving, while 50 participants indicated that this was a problem among young drivers in their community. Surprisingly, although most of the participants felt that youths were using cell phones while driving, the majority of participants felt that most youths used seat belts as driver, but used them less when riding as a passenger.

Workplace Injuries

Workplace injuries did not appear to be a problem as the majority of participants (64), responded *No* or *Don't Know* when asked '*Do you know of any 14-19 year old young people who were injured at work?*' This could be a result of the lack of job opportunities for youth as expressed by several participants. The 12 respondents who said they did know someone who was injured, only one indicated they sought out medical attention for that injury.

Rural Injury Questionnaire Responses (All Counties)

Rural Injury Question	Atlantic	Burlington	Cape May	Cumberland	Ocean	Total						
Number of Participants <i>(all participants may not have answered each question)</i>	12	16	22	11	20	81						
1. All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Use:												
A. Do you know young people (19 and younger) in your community who ride All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)?												
<i>All of the young people I know do</i>	1					1						
<i>Most of the young people I know do</i>	3	2			2	7						
<i>Half of the young people I know do</i>		1	5	2	1	9						
<i>Few of the young people I know do</i>	6	7	10	5	8	36						
<i>None of the young people I know do</i>		5	6	4	8	23						
B. Of these young people (19 and younger) who ride All Terrain Vehicles, how many wear helmets?												
<i>All of the young people I know do</i>	2	3	1	1	1	8						
<i>Most of the young people I know do</i>	2	3	1		2	8						
<i>Half of the young people I know do</i>			1	1	1	3						
<i>Few of the young people I know do</i>	3	4	8	7	4	26						
<i>None of the young people I know do</i>	1	3	7		5	16						
2. Traumatic Brain Injury (a brain injury resulting from when the head suddenly and violently hits an object):												
A. Would you seek medical attention (i.e. go to a Doctor or Emergency Room) for your child, 19 and younger for the following?												
Action/Event	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Bump on the head with no cut or bleeding; no loss of consciousness	10		11	5	11	8	2	6	9	9	43	28
Bump on the head with loss of consciousness	10		13	1	18	2	10		17		68	3
Bump on the head with bleeding	10		13	2	18	1	9	1	13	4	63	8
Bump on the head with nausea	10		12	1	18	2	10		16	1	66	4
3. Motor Vehicle Crashes:												
A. Do you feel Motor Vehicle Crashes are a problem among young people (19 and younger) in your community?												
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	6		5		10		1		*			22
<i>Agree</i>	3		5		4		6		*			18
<i>Neutral</i>			5		3		3		*			11
<i>Disagree</i>					2		1		*			3
<i>Strongly Disagree</i>									*			
B. Do you know of any young people in the past five years (19 and younger) in your community who were severely injured or killed in a Motor Vehicle accident?												
<i>Severely Injured</i>		11	7	9	9	11	5	6	*	*	21	37
<i>Killed</i>	2	8	6	6	3	15	6	4	*	*	17	33
C. Do you think that young people (19 and younger) talk on cell phones while driving?												
<i>All of the young people I know do</i>	8		3		4		5		*			20
<i>Most of the young people I know do</i>	1		11		7		6		*			25

Rural Injury Question	Atlantic		Burlington		Cape May		Cumberland		Ocean		Total	
<i>Half of the young people I know do</i>			2		3					*		5
<i>Few of the young people I know do</i>			2		1					*		3
<i>None of the young people I know do</i>					3					*		3
D. How frequently do you see young people (19 and younger) talking on cell phones or texting on cell phones while driving?												
<i>Always</i>	9		7		5		5			*		26
<i>Sometimes</i>			10		13		6			*		29
<i>Never</i>					3							3
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
E. Do you see this as a problem among young drivers in your community?	9	1	14	2	17	4	10		*	*	50	7
F. Do you think they use seat belts when they are driving or are passengers?												
<i>Driver</i>	3	7	12	3	18	2	7	3	*	*	40	15
<i>Passenger</i>	3	6	9	6	14	7	5	5	*	*	31	24
4. Workplace Injuries:												
A. Do you know of any 14-19 year old young people who were injured at work?												
<i>Yes</i>	4		4		1					3		12
<i>No</i>	5		7		12		5			12		41
<i>Don't Know</i>	1		5		8		5			4		23
B. If yes, did they seek medical attention?												
<i>Yes</i>										1		1
<i>No</i>	2		1		1					2		6
<i>Don't Know</i>												

* These questions were not included in the questionnaire completed by the Ocean County participants. See Ocean County Responses for details on questions.

Rural Injury Questionnaire Responses (by County)

The following provides the demographics and compiled responses by county (total number of responses for each question) from the rural injury questionnaire that each participant of the rural health focus group completed. Participants may not have provided an answer to each question and some may have given more than one answer to an individual question. Therefore the number of responses to any question may not equal the number of participants for that group.

Atlantic County

The Atlantic County rural health focus group was held on May 18, 2011, in Hammonton. The group was made up of entirely Spanish speaking farm workers who reside either seasonally or full-time in Hammonton, and who were primarily of Mexican and Guatemalan heritage. A translator was used to facilitate group participation in the session and to assist in completing the questionnaire since many were not able to read Spanish and, therefore, did not fully complete the form. The following provides an overview of the demographics of the participants:

Atlantic County Focus Group Demographics	
Total Number of Participants	12
Male	11
Female	1
Spanish First Language	12
Age 18 -40	4*

* Not all participants supplied age - by observation none appeared to be over 40 years old

Atlantic County Rural Injury Questionnaire - Responses

1. All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Use:

A. Do you know young people (19 and younger) in your community who ride All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)?

All of the young people I know do	1
Most of the young people I know do	3
Half of the young people I know do	
Few of the young people I know do	6
None of the young people I know do	

B. Of these young people (19 and younger) who ride All Terrain Vehicles, how many wear helmets?

All of the young people I know do	2
Most of the young people I know do	2
Half of the young people I know do	
Few of the young people I know do	3
None of the young people I know do	1

2. Traumatic Brain Injury (a brain injury resulting from when the head suddenly and violently hits an object):

A. Would you seek medical attention (i.e. go to a Doctor or Emergency Room) for your child, 19 and younger for the following?

Action/Event	Yes	No
Bump on the head with no cut or bleeding; no loss of consciousness	10	
Bump on the head with loss of consciousness	10	
Bump on the head with bleeding	10	
Bump on the head with nausea	10	

If you answered No, to any of the above questions, please tell us why.

3. Motor Vehicle Crashes:

A. Do you feel Motor Vehicle Crashes are a problem among young people (19 and younger) in your community?

Strongly Agree	6
Agree	3
Neutral	
Disagree	
Strongly Disagree	

B. Do you know of any young people in the past **five** years (19 and younger) in your community who were severely injured or killed in a Motor Vehicle accident?

	Yes	No
Severely Injured		11
Killed	2	8

C. Do you think that young people (19 and younger) talk on cell phones while driving?

All of the young people I know do	8
Most of the young people I know do	1
Half of the young people I know do	
Few of the young people I know do	
None of the young people I know do	

D. How frequently do you see young people (19 and younger) talking on cell phones or texting on cell phones while driving?

Always	9
Sometimes	
Never	

E. Do you see this as a problem among young drivers in your community?

Yes	9
No	1

F. Do you think they use seat belts when they are driving or are passengers?

	Yes	No
Driver	3	7
Passenger	3	6

4. Workplace Injuries:

A. Do you know of any 14-19 year old young people who were injured at work?

Yes	4
No	5
Don't Know	1

B. If yes, did they seek medical attention?

Yes	
No	2
Don't Know	

If you answered No, please explain why.

** Went to Mexico and did not seek medical attention*

Burlington County

The Burlington County rural health focus group was held on March 19, 2011, in Pemberton Township. All participants reside in one of the designated rural areas of the county. The following provides an overview of the demographics of the group:

Burlington County Focus Group Demographics	
Total Number of Participants	16
Male	6
Female	10
Age 18 - 40	2
Age 41 - 55	5
Age 56 +	9

Burlington County Rural Injury Questionnaire - Responses

1. All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Use:

A. Do you know young people (19 and younger) in your community who ride All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)?

All of the young people I know do

Most of the young people I know do 2

Half of the young people I know do 1

Few of the young people I know do 7

None of the young people I know do 5

B. Of these young people (19 and younger) who ride All Terrain Vehicles, how many wear helmets?

All of the young people I know do 3

Most of the young people I know do 3

Half of the young people I know do

Few of the young people I know do 4

None of the young people I know do 3

2. Traumatic Brain Injury (a brain injury resulting from when the head suddenly and violently hits an object):

A. Would you seek medical attention (i.e. go to a Doctor or Emergency Room) for your child, 19 and younger for the following?

Action/Event	Yes	No
Bump on the head with no cut or bleeding; no loss of consciousness	11	5
Bump on the head with loss of consciousness	13	1
Bump on the head with bleeding	13	2
Bump on the head with nausea	12	1

If you answered No, to any of the above questions, please tell us why.

* I would be in the doctor's office or emergency room all day everyday.

* Could easily be better by the next day.

3. Motor Vehicle Crashes:

A. Do you feel Motor Vehicle Crashes are a problem among young people (19 and younger) in your community?

Strongly Agree 5

Agree 5

Neutral 5

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

B. Do you know of any young people in the past **five** years (19 and younger) in your community who were severely injured or killed in a Motor Vehicle accident?

	Yes	No
Severely Injured	7	9
Killed	6	6

C. Do you think that young people (19 and younger) talk on cell phones while driving?

All of the young people I know do	3
Most of the young people I know do	11
Half of the young people I know do	2
Few of the young people I know do	2
None of the young people I know do	

D. How frequently do you see young people (19 and younger) talking on cell phones or texting on cell phones while driving?

Always	7
Sometimes	10
Never	

E. Do you see this as a problem among young drivers in your community?

Yes	14
No	2

F. Do you think they use seat belts when they are driving or are passengers?

	Yes	No
Driver	12	3
Passenger	9	6

4. Workplace Injuries:

A. Do you know of any 14-19 year old young people who were injured at work?

Yes	4
No	7
Don't Know	5

B. If yes, did they seek medical attention?

Yes	
No	1
Don't Know	

If you answered No, please explain why.

* *Could not afford it*

Cape May County

The Cape May County rural health focus group was held on April 28, 2011, in Woodbine Borough. All participants reside in Woodbine Borough. The group was comprised of English and Spanish speaking participants; who were primarily of Puerto Rican heritage. A translator was used to facilitate their participation in the session. The following provides an overview of the demographics of the participants:

Cape May Focus Group Demographics	
Total Number of Participants	22
Male	4
Female	18
Spanish First Language	9
Age 18 - 40	5
Age 41 - 55	8
Age 56+	5

Cape May County Rural Injury Questionnaire - Responses

1. All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Use:

A. Do you know young people (19 and younger) in your community who ride All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)?

All of the young people I know do	
Most of the young people I know do	
Half of the young people I know do	5
Few of the young people I know do	10
None of the young people I know do	6

B. Of these young people (19 and younger) who ride All Terrain Vehicles, how many wear helmets?

All of the young people I know do	1
Most of the young people I know do	1
Half of the young people I know do	1
Few of the young people I know do	8
None of the young people I know do	7

2. Traumatic Brain Injury (a brain injury resulting from when the head suddenly and violently hits an object):

A. Would you seek medical attention (i.e. go to a Doctor or Emergency Room) for your child, 19 and younger for the following?

Action/Event	Yes	No
Bump on the head with no cut or bleeding; no loss of consciousness	11	8
Bump on the head with loss of consciousness	18	2
Bump on the head with bleeding	18	1
Bump on the head with nausea	18	2

If you answered No, to any of the above questions, please tell us why.

* *You observe the person for a while and no further problems arise*

* *Depends on whether it is a sharp blow*

3. Motor Vehicle Crashes:

A. Do you feel Motor Vehicle Crashes are a problem among young people (19 and younger) in your community?

Strongly Agree	10
Agree	4
Neutral	3
Disagree	2
Strongly Disagree	

B. Do you know of any young people in the past **five** years (19 and younger) in your community who were severely injured or killed in a Motor Vehicle accident?

	Yes	No
Severely Injured	9	11
Killed	3	15

C. Do you think that young people (19 and younger) talk on cell phones while driving?

All of the young people I know do	4
Most of the young people I know do	7
Half of the young people I know do	3
Few of the young people I know do	1
None of the young people I know do	3

D. How frequently do you see young people (19 and younger) talking on cell phones or texting on cell phones while driving?

Always	5
Sometimes	13
Never	3

E. Do you see this as a problem among young drivers in your community?

Yes	17
No	4

F. Do you think they use seat belts when they are driving or are passengers?

	Yes	No
Driver	18	2
Passenger	14	7

4. Workplace Injuries:

A. Do you know of any 14-19 year old young people who were injured at work?

Yes	1
No	12
Don't Know	8

B. If yes, did they seek medical attention?

Yes	1
No	
Don't Know	

If you answered No, please explain why.

Cumberland County

The Cumberland County rural health focus group was held on May 3, 2011, in Bridgeton City. All participants reside in one of the designated rural areas. The following provides an overview of the demographics of the group:

Cumberland County Focus Group Demographics	
Total Number of Participants	11
Male	0
Female	11
Age 18 - 40	2
Age 41 - 55	4
Age 56+	5

Cumberland County Rural Injury Questionnaire - Responses

1. All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Use:

A. Do you know young people (19 and younger) in your community who ride All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)?

All of the young people I know do	
Most of the young people I know do	
Half of the young people I know do	2
Few of the young people I know do	5
None of the young people I know do	4

B. Of these young people (19 and younger) who ride All Terrain Vehicles, how many wear helmets?

All of the young people I know do	1
Most of the young people I know do	
Half of the young people I know do	1
Few of the young people I know do	7
None of the young people I know do	

2. Traumatic Brain Injury (a brain injury resulting from when the head suddenly and violently hits an object):

A. Would you seek medical attention (i.e. go to a Doctor or Emergency Room) for your child, 19 and younger for the following?

Action/Event	Yes	No
Bump on the head with no cut or bleeding; no loss of consciousness	2	6
Bump on the head with loss of consciousness	10	
Bump on the head with bleeding	9	1
Bump on the head with nausea	10	

If you answered No, to any of the above questions, please tell us why.

- * *It is just a bump!*
- * *But I would keep a close eye on him and if he begins to act different then I would take him to the emergency room.*
- * *No loss of consciousness and no bleeding*
- * *A bump on the head may not be serious enough to require medical attention.*
- * *Lack of coverage*

3. Motor Vehicle Crashes:

A. Do you feel Motor Vehicle Crashes are a problem among young people (19 and younger) in your community?

Strongly Agree	1
Agree	6
Neutral	3
Disagree	1
Strongly Disagree	

B. Do you know of any young people in the past **five** years (19 and younger) in your community who were severely injured or killed in a Motor Vehicle accident?

	Yes	No
Severely Injured	5	6
Killed	6	4

C. Do you think that young people (19 and younger) talk on cell phones while driving?

All of the young people I know do	5
Most of the young people I know do	6
Half of the young people I know do	
Few of the young people I know do	
None of the young people I know do	

D. How frequently do you see young people (19 and younger) talking on cell phones or texting on cell phones while driving?

Always	5
Sometimes	6
Never	

E. Do you see this as a problem among young drivers in your community?

Yes	10
No	

F. Do you think they use seat belts when they are driving or are passengers?

	Yes	No
Driver	7	3
Passenger	5	5

4. Workplace Injuries:

A. Do you know of any 14-19 year old young people who were injured at work?

Yes	
No	5
Don't Know	5

B. If yes, did they seek medical attention?

Yes	
No	
Don't Know	

If you answered No, please explain why.

Ocean County

The Ocean County rural health focus group was held on February 16, 2011, in Plumsted Township. All participants in the group reside in Plumsted Township. The following provides an overview of the demographics of the participants:

Ocean County Focus Group Demographics	
Total Number of Participants	20
Male	7
Female	13
Age 18 - 40	0
Age 41 - 55	10
Age 56+	10

Ocean County Rural Injury Questionnaire - Responses

1. Regarding All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Use:

A. Do you know young people (19 and younger) in your community who ride All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)?

All of the young people I know do	
Most of the young people I know do	2
Half of the young people I know do	1
Few of the young people I know do	8
None of the young people I know do	8

B. Of these young people (19 and younger) who ride All Terrain Vehicles, how many wear helmets?

All of the young people I know do	1
Most of the young people I know do	2
Half of the young people I know do	1
Few of the young people I know do	4
None of the young people I know do	5

2. Regarding Traumatic Brain Injury (a brain injury resulting from when the head suddenly and violently hits an object):

A. Would you seek medical attention (i.e. go to a Doctor or Emergency Room) for your child, 19 and younger for the following?

Action/Event	Yes	No
Bump on the head with no cut or bleeding; no loss of consciousness	9	9
Bump on the head with loss of consciousness	17	
Bump on the head with bleeding	13	4
Bump on the head with nausea	16	1

If you answered No, to any of the above questions, please tell us why.

** Because I would have to go to the emergency room and pay out of pocket and wait.*

** Prior personal experience*

** First aid training*

** Without other symptoms, would not. Children bump their head all of the time.*

** I would watch the child if sleepy or any other systems before taking any measure to bring in. A bump does not always warrant a doctor's visit.*

** Not every bump will require a doctor's attention.*

** With the bump on head with no cut or bleeding, I would continue to watch. With just bleeding it would depend on how much bleeding and how large an area was bleeding.*

** Would observe the person closely*

3. Regarding Unintentional Injury

A. Do you think that young people (19 and younger) use cell phones or text while driving

Yes	18
No	1

B. Do you think they use seat belts?

Yes	13
-----	----

No	6
4. Regarding Occupational Injury:	
A. Do you know of any 14-19 year old young people who were injured at work?	
Yes	3
No	12
Don't Know	4
B. If yes, did they seek medical attention?	
Yes	1
No	2
Don't Know	

If you answered No, please explain why.

* *They were afraid that they would lose their job.*