is needed. The presence of others can affect our decision here as well. If people aren’t sure how to provide help, they may be reluctant to help when others are around for fear of being embarrassed or viewed as being incompetent. Given the current legal climate, people may also be afraid of being sued if they make a mistake when they come to another person’s aid. For this reason, many states have enacted Good Samaritan laws that protect those who offer help in an emergency. Here’s an excerpt from a California law:

In order to encourage people to participate in emergency medical services training programs and to render emergency medical services to others, no person who in good faith renders emergency care at the scene of an emergency shall be liable for any act or omission.

Section 1767, Article 4, Chapter 130, California Health and Safety Code

**FIGURE 12.9**
Helping and Group Size
Panel A shows that any given individual is more apt to help when a group is small than when a group is large. Panel B shows that helping occurs more quickly in small groups than in large ones. Panel C shows that the likelihood of receiving help is not influenced by group size.

Source: Darley and Latané (1968).

**B. Summary of Helping in Emergencies**
Darley and Latané’s decision-making model of emergency intervention stimulated a good deal of research and received a good deal of empirical support. The research also exemplified the social psychological approach to understanding behavior. Drawing