

Washington, D.C. 20515
Testimony by Matt F. Iuliano
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The Jockey Club
House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection
HR 1754 Horseracing Integrity Act
Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Dear Chair Schakowsky, and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers,

This testimony is offered in support of the Horseracing Integrity Act of 2019, H.R. 1754 and provides citations from peer-reviewed scientific studies that demonstrate the rate of fatal racing injury per 1,000 starts in the United States is approximately 2.5 to five times greater than that seen in international racing jurisdictions.

The detailed 10-year trends of racing fatalities per 1,000 starts in the United States can be found at http://jockeyclub.com/pdfs/eid_10_year_tables.pdf and is summarized below:

Thoroughbred Only										
Calendar Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Rate	2.00	1.88	1.88	1.92	1.90	1.89	1.62	1.54	1.61	1.68

United Kingdom and Australia:

Epidemiology of Racetrack Injuries in Racehorses, Tim D.H. Parkin, BSc, BVSc, PhD, MRCVS, Vet Clin Equine 24 (2008) 1–19:

"...In flat racing the risk of fatality has been calculated as 1.4 horses per 1000 starts in Kentucky [27], 1.7 per 1000 starts in California [28], and between 0.8 and 0.9 per 1000 starts in the United Kingdom [29,30]. In Victoria, Australia, there have been two studies that have reported the risk of fatality at 0.33 per 1000 starts between 1986 and 1993 [31], and 0.44 per 1000 starts, between 1989 and 2004 [32]...."

Australia:

Thoroughbred fatality and associated jockey falls and injuries in races in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, Australia: 2009–2014, C.E. Wylie, P. McManus, C. McDonald, S. Jorgensen, P. McGreevy, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tvjl.2017.06.008>:

"...The overall incidence for the 161 horse fatalities that occurred following an official start was 0.59 deaths/1000 starts (95% CI 0.50–0.68)...."

Great Britain:

Descriptive epidemiology of veterinary events in flat racing Thoroughbreds in Great Britain (2000 to 2013), S. M. ROSANOWSKI, Y. M. CHANG, A. J. STIRK and K. L. P. VERHEYEN, Equine Veterinary Journal ISSN 0425-1644 DOI: 10.1111/evj.12592:

"...The incidence of fatality was 0.76 per 1000 starts (Table 1). ..."

United States and Canada with references to the United Kingdom and Australia:

Risk factors associated with fatal injuries in Thoroughbred racehorses competing in flat racing in the United States and Canada, Georgopoulos, Stamatis P., Parkin, Tim D.H., JAVMA Vol 249 No. 8, October 15, 2016

“....The incidence rate of fatal injuries in Thoroughbred racehorses competing in flat racing at 89 tracks in the United States and Canada during the 5-year period from 2009 to 2013 was 1.9/1,000 race starts.....the incidence rates of fatal injuries in Thoroughbred racehorses in the United States appear to be much higher than those for racehorses in the United Kingdom^{13,34,35} (0.38 to 0.9 fatal injuries/1,000 race starts) and Australia^{36,37} (0.3 to 0.44 fatal injuries/1,000 race starts)....”