

March 10, 2017

Statement by New York State Equine Medical Director Scott E. Palmer, VMD on The Jockey Club's Equine Injury Database Fatal Injury Rate's 4th Consecutive Decrease

The Jockey Club today [announced](#): *"An analysis of data from the Equine Injury Database (EID) has shown a reduction in the rate of fatal injury for a fourth consecutive year and a 23 percent drop since 2009... When comparing 2016 statistics to 2015 statistics across all surfaces, ages, and distances, the rate dropped from 1.62 per 1,000 starts in 2015 to 1.54 per 1,000 starts in 2016. The overall rate of 1.54 per 1,000 starts is the lowest since the Equine Injury Database started publishing annual statistics in 2009."*

In response to the announcement, New York State Equine Medical Director Scott E. Palmer, VMD, said:

"This sustained progress shows that horses in North America now race with decreased risk of fatal musculoskeletal injury. Widespread industry efforts to encourage racing stakeholders to reduce risk to horses are proving effective.

"Future progress in equine safety will be linked to our ability to help stakeholders make increasingly more informed decisions regarding identification of horses at increased risk of injury and management of minor injuries before they become catastrophic.

"Tactical research, continuing education of stakeholders and improved diagnostics will be the cornerstones of these efforts."

In New York State, the Thoroughbred racing fatality rate has consistently been (and continues to be) below the national average as determined by The Jockey Club:

2013: NYS Rate: 1.66 per 1,000 starts / The Jockey Club EID Rate: 1.9 per 1,000 starts
2014: NYS Rate: 1.81 per 1,000 starts / The Jockey Club EID Rate: 1.89 per 1,000 starts
2015: NYS Rate: 1.2 per 1,000 starts / The Jockey Club EID Rate: 1.62 per 1,000 starts
2016: NYS Rate: 1.4 per 1,000 starts / The Jockey Club EID Rate: 1.54 per 1,000 starts

###