

ASSOCIATED PRESS COVERAGE

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Critical injuries down slightly at W.Va. dog track

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) -- The West Virginia Racing Commission and a state veterinarian say catastrophic, career-ending injuries among greyhounds at Wheeling Island Hotel-Casino-Racetrack are down slightly.

While overall injury rates are higher than this time last year, Dr. Lori Bohenko and commission secretary Jon Amores say critical injuries are the ones that matter most.

They tell the Charleston Daily Mail that the track reported 15 critical injuries for January and February. That's two fewer than the same period last year.

Amores says critical injuries can't be hidden by trainers and are the most concerning statistic.

A spike in critical injuries last year prompted Wheeling Island to spend some \$400,000 overhauling the track.

GREY2K USA says injuries will continue as long as dogs are forced to race. The Massachusetts group works to outlaw greyhound racing.

Information from: Charleston Daily Mail, <http://www.dailymail.com>

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