

# Analysis of greyhound racing injuries

1 January – 31 March 2025



## Foreword

The NSW Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission has published data since 2018 about injuries sustained by greyhounds while racing in NSW.

Reports are published:

- Quarterly, providing timely updates
- Annually, providing analysis of long-term trends

Together, these reports contribute to a growing body of evidence which can assist the industry in making evidence-based decisions with the aim of reducing the incidence and severity of greyhound racing injuries.

In keeping with this, in February 2023, the Commission convened a Summit comprising all key greyhound racing industry stakeholders to develop strategies for reducing serious racing injuries.

As a result of the Summit, the NSW Greyhound racing industry has committed itself to piloting a range of race injury reduction strategies. Those strategies and the timeframes for implementation are set out within the industry's Race Injury Reduction Action Plan which can be found at:

<https://www.gwic.nsw.gov.au/welfare/race-injury-reduction-action-plan>. The Commission will publish the statistical results of the pilots conducted.

Injury reporting is guided by the Standards for Reporting Greyhound Racing Injuries.

<https://www.gwic.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-10/Standards-for-reporting-greyhound-racing-injuries-Revised-April-2022-.pdf>

*This report may be republished with slight adjustments to figures after further auditing of data.*

## Key comments

- Injury rates in all categories were lower than in the same summer quarter in 2024, and all show decline or stability over the last 2-4 quarters.
- Category E injuries (which result in death or euthanasia at the track) remain low, as they have been since mid-2023.
- Thirteen mortalities in the reporting period were related to a serious Category D track injury either in the reporting period (8 cases) or earlier than the reporting period (5 cases). Six of those mortalities occurred within 7 days of the injury, and 12 of 13 involved euthanasia by a private veterinarian. The 12 greyhound injured in a race were eligible for veterinary treatment under the Greyhound Care Scheme.

# Key data

## Injuries sustained in races

Table 1: Injuries in races this quarter					
REPORTING PERIOD		1 January – 31 March 2025			
Race meetings		307			
Races		3,383			
Starts (times a greyhound has started a race)		24,383			
Individual greyhounds raced		4,435			
Average starts per greyhound		5.5			
Injury category	Incapacitation period (days)	Number of injuries	% injured per injury category	Cumulative total of injury category	Injuries per 1,000 starts
Category A	none	121	12%	12%	5.9
Category B	1-10	351	35%	48%	14.4
Category C	11 - 27	285	29%	76%	11.7
Category D	28 - 90	234	23%	99%	9.6
Category E	Euthanased/died	5	1%	100%	0.2
Total		996			40.8
Category F	*	83	8%		3.4
Category G	+	913	92%		37.4

\* Category F includes all Category E incidents as well as those within Category D that are deemed to be of a particularly serious nature. Please refer to [Standards for reporting greyhound racing injuries](#) further information.

+ Category G Includes any injury in Categories A to C and those in Category D that do not fit the definition of a serious injury (i.e. Category F).

## Related mortalities

The Commission's veterinarians follow up with trainers about the outcomes for greyhounds which have suffered a serious Category D race injury. Instances of euthanasia by a private veterinarian or sudden death away from the race track which are related a serious injury at a race track are counted in Table 2.

Table 2: Track related mortality not as part of a race meeting <sup>1</sup>	
Reporting Period	1 January – 31 March 2025 <sup>2</sup>
Reported euthanased by private veterinarian or died off-track as a result of injury at race meeting	12
Reported euthanased or sudden death after sustaining injury in unofficial trial at race track <sup>3</sup>	1
Reported euthanased or sudden death after sustaining injury in official trial at race track	0

<sup>1</sup> Evidence from treating veterinarians and euthanasia notifications submitted by participants has been reviewed, and the classification of these mortalities confirmed, by the Commission's Chief Veterinary Officer.

<sup>2</sup> These mortalities occurred in the reporting period but the injury may have occurred earlier.

<sup>3</sup> Unofficial trials (club trials) are not monitored by the Commission and injuries are only recorded in rare circumstances where a Commission veterinarian may be present.

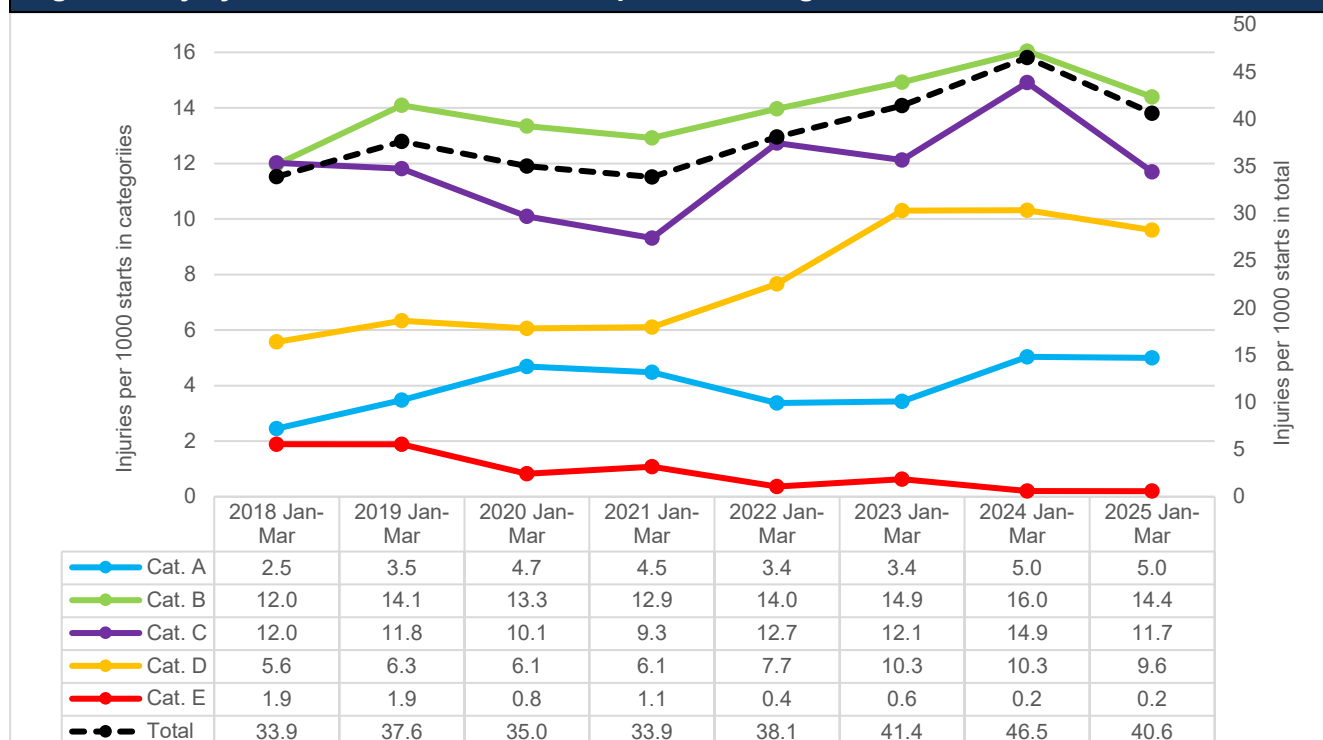
# Trends

## Controlled for seasonal variation.

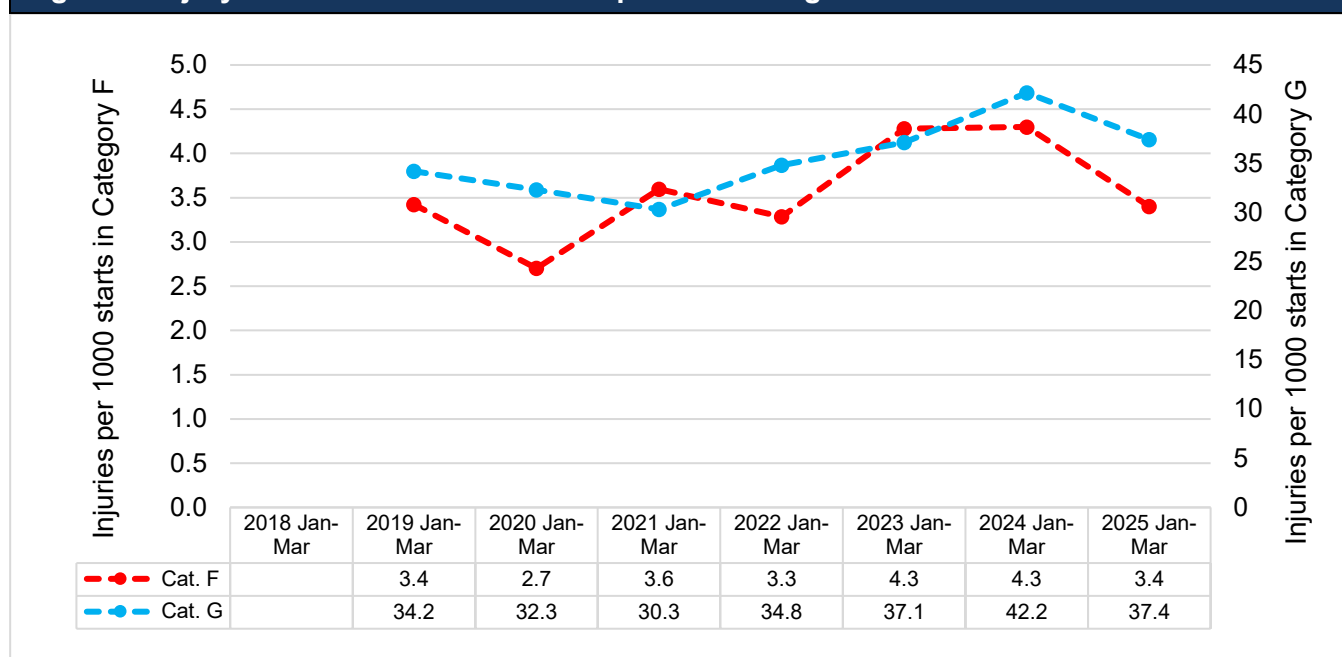
Injury rates are correlated with season, with hotter quarters 1 and 4 in each year usually having higher injury rates than cooler quarters 2 and 3. Comparing this quarter with the same quarter in previous years reduces the influence of season and provides a more accurate picture of long-term trends in injury rates.

Note: reporting prior to Q3 2018 was by GRNSW and is not directly comparable due to differences in data definitions and recording.

**Figure 1: Injury trends for same seasonal quarter - Categories A to E and total**



**Figure 2: Injury trends for same seasonal quarter – Categories F and G**



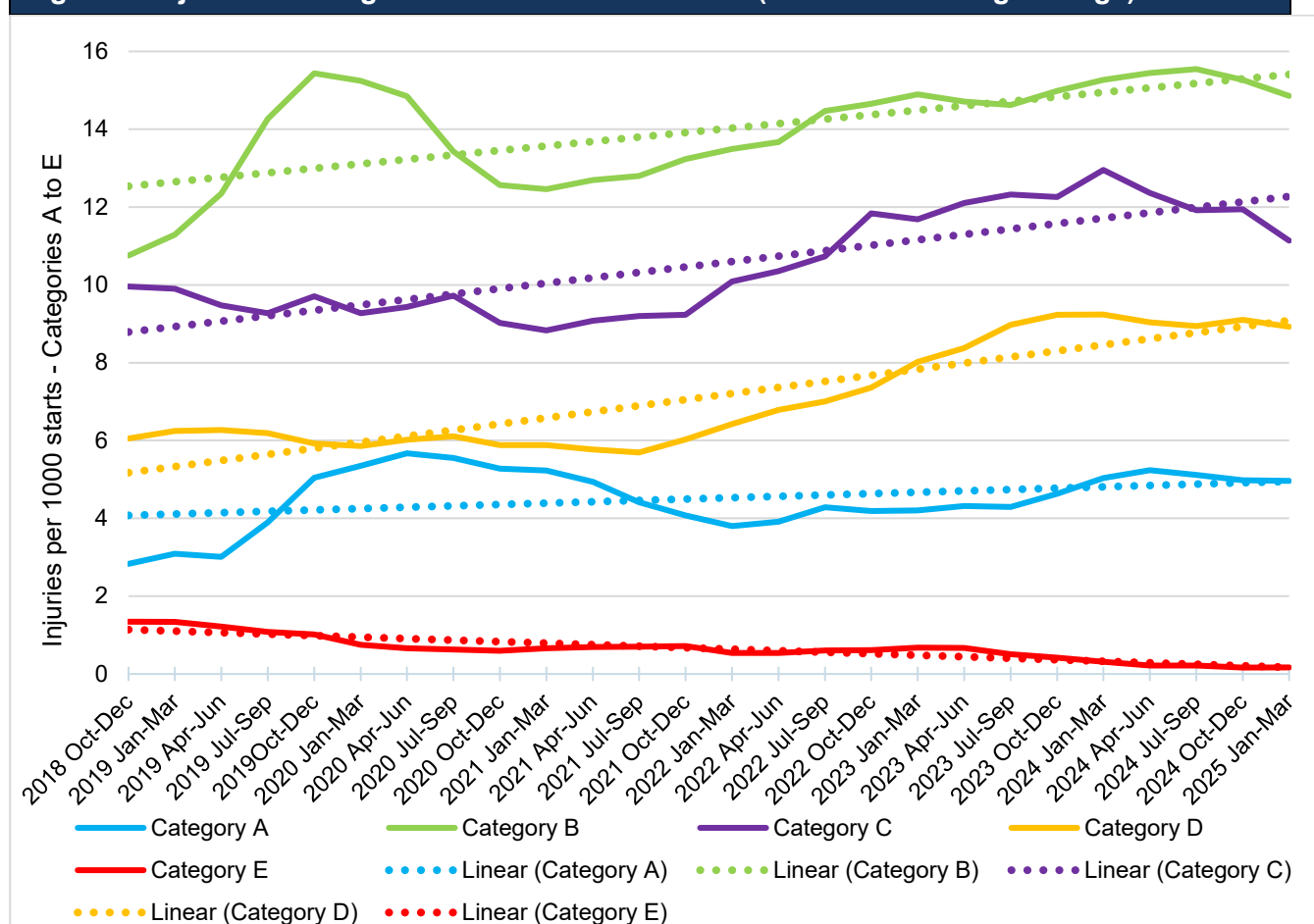
**Table 3: This quarter compared to the same quarter in previous years**

Injury type	This quarter compared to same quarter in previous years
Category A	Similar to the same summer quarter last year.
Category B	Declined by 10% on the same summer quarter last year.
Category C	Declined by 22% on the same summer quarter last year.
Category D	Declined by 7% on the same summer quarter last year.
Category E	Similar to the same summer quarter last year.
Total	Declined by 13% on the same summer quarter last year.
Category F	Declined by 21% on the same summer quarter last year.
Category G	Declined by 11% on the same summer quarter last year.
<b>Comment</b> The decline in most injury categories may reflect a cooler summer compared to 2024, as well as improvements in track safety features and maintenance.	

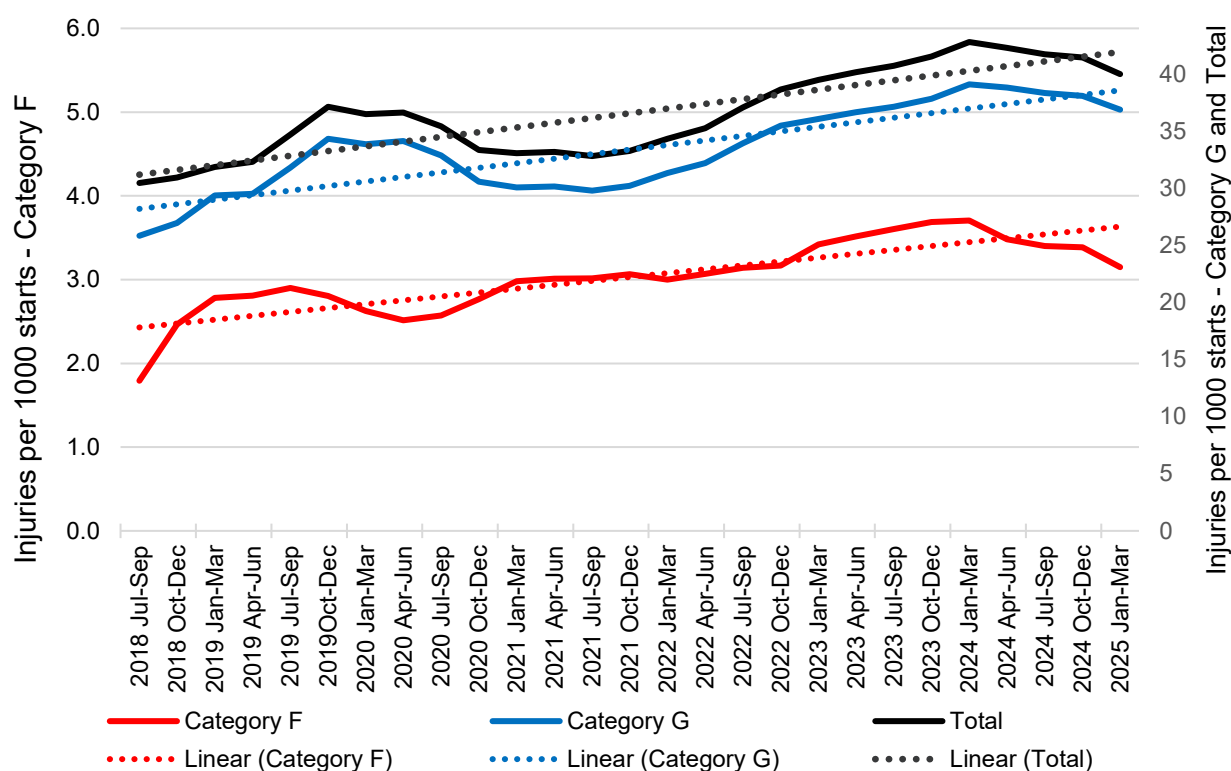
## Long-term trends

Long-term injury trends are presented as 12-month running averages (Figures 3 and 4).

**Figure 3: Injuries in Categories A to E with trendlines (12 month running average)**



**Figure 4: Injuries in Categories F, G and total with trendlines (12 month running average)**



**Table 4: This quarter relative to long term trends (12 months running average)**

Category A	Continued decline for the 3rd quarter in a row.
Category B	Continued decline for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter in a row.
Category C	Continued decline for the 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter in a row.
Category D	Remaining steady for last 12 months
Category E	Remaining steady and low.
Total	Continued decline for the 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter in a row.
Category F	Continued decline for the 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter in a row.
Category G	Continued decline for the 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter in a row.
<b>Comment</b>	
All injury categories have continued to decline or remained steady this quarter	

# Race Injury Review Panel Analysis

There are many causes of injuries in racing greyhounds and the relative importance and interactions of causative factors vary. Causative factors can be divided into:

1. **Greyhound factors:** genetics, nutrition, physical growth and development, fitness, race preparation, racing form and previous injury history.
2. **Track factors:** design and surface characteristics; environmental influences.
3. **Race factors:** race distance, racing incidents (collisions) and number of greyhounds in a race.

Category F injuries which occurred during this quarter were reviewed by the Race Injury Review Panel, continuing work begun in February 2019. The Panel assesses factors that may have contributed to each injury and where possible attributes it to greyhound, track, or race factors. Over time, the data collected will assist in informing prevention strategies and regulatory steps aimed at minimising the incidence of racing injuries.

Table 5 summarises the results of Panel data for this quarter. In some instances, more than one factor may contribute to an injury, such as track and race factors. Where insufficient evidence is available (such as in trials or races where no video footage is available), the possible contributions to the injury are not considered by the Panel, but those greyhounds may be included in counts of the gender, age, distance, location, and race history of injured greyhounds.

Table 5: Review of Category E and F injuries this quarter			
	Category E	Category F minus Category E	Category F
<b>Race Injury Review Panel assessment of contributing factors to injuries</b>			
Greyhound factors	1	37	38
Race factors	4	23	27
Track factors			
Factors not assessed	0	4	4
<b>Gender of injured greyhound</b>			
Female	0	37	37
Male	5	41	46
<b>Age of injured greyhound to nearest 6 months</b>			
1.5 years		1	1
2 years	2	13	15
2.5 years	1	15	16
3 years	1	22	23
3.5 years	1	10	11
4 years	0	12	12
4.5 years	0	2	2
> 5 years	0	2	2
<b>Distance of race in which greyhound was injured</b>			
Under 300m	0	5	5
300-399m	5	40	45
400-499m	0	19	19
500-600m	0	12	12
Over 600m	0	2	2
<b>Location on track at which injury appears to have occurred</b>			
Soon after start	0	4	4
Straight	2	17	19
Turn	2	42	44
After finish but before catching pen	0	4	4
Catching pen	1	5	6
Other			
<b>Race history of injured greyhounds</b>			
Average and range of starts in last 30 days	1.2 (0-2)	2.1 (0-7)	2.1 (0-7)
Average and range of starts in last 60 days	4 (1-13)	5 (0-13)	5 (0-13)
Average and range of career starts	25 (2-105)	39 (1-134)	38 (1-134)