

**Subject:** [Fwd: More stats]

**Date:** Mon, 06 Jun 2005 14:01:17 -0700

**From:** Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

**To:** Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

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**Subject:** More stats

**Date:** Mon, 06 Jun 2005 12:18:36 -0700

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Registered User



Join Date: Nov 2002

Location: Vancouver

Posts: 133



Offline

**Extraordinarily Dangerous**

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**If you suspect the mountain biking is extraordinarily dangerous, you're probably right.** I was discussing this with a doctor at the whistler clinic after breaking my finger at the end of 2003. His statistic was that for skiing, the hospitalization rate is about 8 per 1000 skier days. **In the bike park it was 8 per 1000 RUNS!** You can estimate that this is about 25x more dangerous than skiing. **I pointed out to the doctor that this meant that you'd see ~80 bike victims in hospital on a saturday, and he seemed to think this was reasonable. I also know that lions gate hospital issued some sort of formal protest about the bike park, but evidently it's still going.**

One anecdotal point that reflects the statistics is that almost everyone I know got injured in whistler in 2003. The crazy out of control people got hurt more and worse, but even the highly skilled and careful people got hurt. It doesn't matter if you ride within your limits, you will still get hurt. I actually wouldn't be surprised if the park was a bit safer in 2004 (I didn't ride much last year). The upper trials are probably little less extreme, and I'll bet that the standard of riding may have actually gone up, since the whole bike park thing is still relatively new and people are still learning.

A big problem in whistler is of course the numerator in the fraction. **You take 15 runs a day, instead of one or two on the shore, so you have that many more chances to get hurt. I'll bet the shore is more dangerous on a per run basis though.**

When we had this conversation last year, a lot of people were saying that you just have to accept the risk blah blah. Well you do, but you should be aware that riding in a bike park is about the most dangerous recreational activity you can pay to do.