

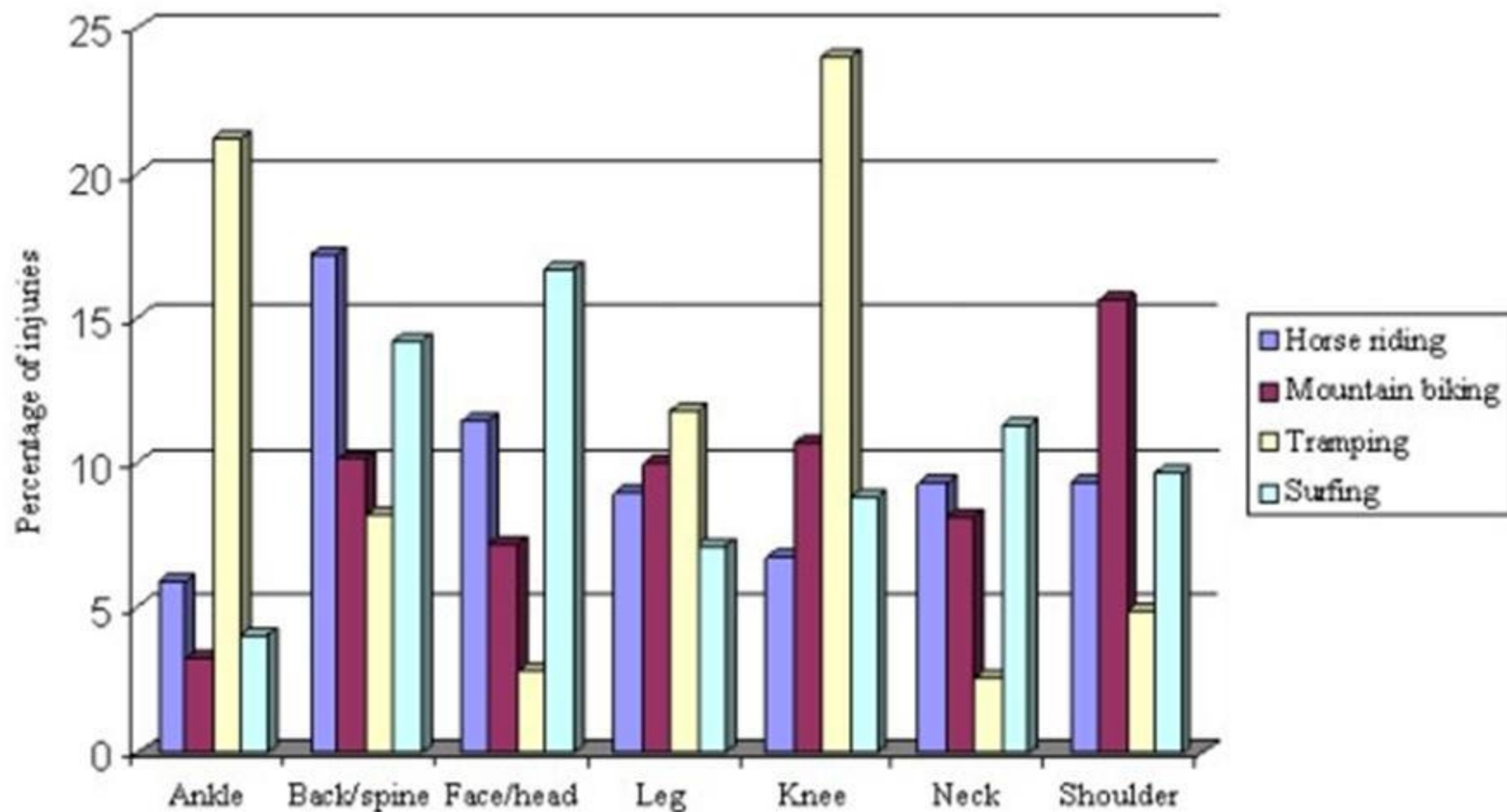
Adventure Sports Injuries in NZ.. What's the Problem?

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Injury 2008

Injury initiation

- Falls = 68%
- Collisions = 10%
- Lifting/carrying (kayaks, etc) = 8%
- etc

Body Region



Limitations in Study

- ACC data does not distinguish tourists from residents.
- ACC may induce a claim culture
- Participation data is incomplete and unreliable
- Injury rates by commercial operators are grossly under-reported
- Preconceptions are apparent in the recommendations
- These recommendations may have caused major damage to NZ's reputation as a tourist destination.

The Future

- Prevention and treatment strategies are best founded on quality data.
- We need to get that data
- A National Trauma System supported by a National Trauma Database will allow rational application of trauma strategies.
- We need to challenge our misconceptions

Intuition

- Adventure sports are dangerous.
- Tourists are being injured or killed.
- New Zealand is a dangerous place.

The Reality

We don't have the data to justify any of these statements

Science

- Data is incomplete, poor quality and uncontrolled
- Are we embarking on realistic strategies for injury prevention and treatment or simply reinforcing our own stereotypes.
- Nothing gets better airtime than an injured tourist. What about the rest
- We have to provide better data and make sensible interpretations

Bentley et al.

NZMJ Dec 2006 Vol 116 No 1247

- Analysis of ACC claims by adults from July 2004 to June 2005.
- 18,697 injuries related to adventure tourism activities and adventure sports.
- Injuries identified by text narrative.
- Participation rates from SPARC(Sport and Recreation NZ) estimates from 1997-2000.

Results

- 27 fatalities
- 70% of all claims in 21-50 age group
- Cost of claim related to age of patient
- 60% male
- 60% from four activities: horse riding, tramping, mountain biking and surfing.

Claims

Activity	# Claims	%	per/1000	Deaths	\$/case
Horse-riding	3810	20.4	28.6	3	\$134
Mountain biking	2618	14.0	14.8	0	\$148
Tramping	2468	13.2	7.6	2	\$127
Surfing	2238	12.0	11.1	0	\$103
Waterskiing	1110	5.9	-	0	\$128
Fishing	980	5.2	1.5	6	\$74
Kayaking	864	4.6	-	0	\$110
Wakeboarding	650	3.5	-	0	\$92
Diving/Snorkel	491	2.6	-	3	\$72

Males

- 91% of hunting injuries were in males
- 84% of fishing injuries
- 81% of surfing injuries
- 77% of mountain-biking injuries
- 65% of snowboarding injuries
- But.. Only 36% of horse riding injuries

Seasonality

