

Regulatory Veterinary Intervention Rate (“RVI”)

Background: The industry is seeking ways to address the small handful of participants who account for a disproportionate share of regulatory and on-track incidents which detract from or call into question the integrity of our product.

Without objective data, it can be legally challenging for operators to exclude such individuals or for regulators to suspend, revoke, or deny an occupational license.

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- Any action a regulatory veterinarian takes in his or her official capacity to remove an unsound horse from competition, musculoskeletal injury or fatality occurring during a pari-mutuel event, training fatality, and any medication violation for a horse in that trainer’s care -- divided by that trainer’s total number of starts.

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Many scratches or Equine Injury Database entries are beyond a trainer’s control (“sick” scratches, flipped in gate, etc.) and must be backed out of the analysis.

It is for this reason that the existing EID module cannot be used to calculate RVI. Localized knowledge is required to make both the track aggregate and individual data meaningful.

RVI Set-Up and Implementation

- Step 1: Retrospective assessment of the track's baseline RVI for a defined period of time (year, meet, etc.)
- Step 2: Retrospective assessment of each individual trainer's RVI
- Step 3: Statistical analysis
- Step 4: Real-time assessment going forward
- Step 5: Review outliers; consider action

Uses

- An operator may wish to review whether a trainer's entries or stall application continue to be welcome. Objective data have been produced to show that horses in this trainer's care, custody, and control require regulatory veterinary intervention at a much higher than expected rate. As a result, the safety and welfare of all participants at the track may be unfairly jeopardized and the integrity of the wagering product may be called into question. A trainer with a very high RVI compared to baseline is essentially a liability to the track.
- A commission could potentially use this information when considering fitness for licensure or as an aggravating (or mitigating) factor in certain types of relevant hearings. At a minimum, a trainer with a very high RVI could be called in to meet with the stewards or chief veterinarian for educational purposes.
- A trainer's RVI compared to baseline should be included as part of any safety review committee review following an on-track fatality.

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As one racetrack operator said to me:

“We can spend all the money in the world creating and maintaining the safest racing surface in the world, but the one thing we still won’t have control over is the quality of horses that set foot upon it.”

Pilot Racetrack Example

- Seasonal meet; retrospective study
- Baseline RVI: 1.83 %
- 108 of 111 trainers (97.3%) had RVIs within 3 standard deviations of baseline
- The 3 outliers were collectively responsible for **43 %** of the medication rulings and **31%** of the racing fatalities that meet