



**ANNUAL METRICS REPORT
2023**



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On behalf of the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA), I am pleased to present our inaugural annual metrics report. This report sets forth key data collected in 2023 as part of HISA's Racetrack Safety Program.

HISA is focused on making U.S. Thoroughbred racing safer for its equine and human athletes. I am proud of the progress we have made in this regard, as evidenced by the metrics summarized in this report.

In particular, racing-related equine fatalities at racetracks subject to HISA's regulations decreased to 1.23 per 1,000 starts in 2023, as compared to 1.25 fatalities per 1,000 starts reported in 2022 by The Jockey Club's Equine Injury Database ("EID"). Significantly, the 2023 rate is also lower than two other key metrics reported by the EID for 2023—the national rate of Thoroughbred racing fatalities (1.32 per 1,000 starts), which accounts for all tracks running Thoroughbred races, and the national rate at tracks not subject to HISA regulations (1.63 per 1,000 starts).

Our Racetrack Safety Program has instituted a myriad of national uniform practices that have gotten us to this point, including pre-race veterinary inspections, treatment records that follow horses throughout their racing careers, availability of horses' full medical and workout histories, monitoring and reporting of racing surface conditions and a rule that requires claims to be voided if a horse dies, is euthanized, is vanned off the track or is placed on the veterinarian's list.

The success of these interventions relies on continued coordination and cooperation among the many stakeholders—tracks, trainers, riders, owners, veterinarians and regulators—who comprise the sport. I feel much optimism about the strides we will continue to make by recognizing that protecting the health and safety of our horses and jockeys is a collective, urgent, responsibility.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. I look forward to working alongside you, our partners in racing, for years to come.

Sincerely,

Lisa Lazarus
HISA CEO

HISA HISTORY AND MISSION

In 2020, following a series of high-profile equine fatalities and doping scandals, Congress enacted the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act (the “Act”) to promote the wellbeing of the equine and human athletes, and to create a level playing field for all participants, in U.S. Thoroughbred racing. This was the first time the sport, previously subject to a patchwork of state-by-state regulations, would be governed by uniform rules.

The Act vests in the Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”) exclusive authority to promulgate rules following a public notice-and-comment period, based primarily on standards that HISA, a private non-profit corporation, proposes. Civil sanctions imposed by HISA for violations of its rules may be appealed to an Administrative Law Judge of the FTC.

The Act required HISA to establish a Racetrack Safety Program and an Anti-Doping and Medication Control (“ADMC”) Program, which went into effect on July 1, 2022 and May 22, 2023, respectively.

The **Racetrack Safety Program** includes safety rules and national racetrack accreditation standards that seek to enhance equine welfare and minimize equine and jockey injuries. The Racetrack Safety Program’s national accreditation standards and safety regulations include, among other safety measures:



- Expanded veterinary oversight;
- Surface maintenance and measurement standards;
- Enhanced reporting requirements;
- Collection and analysis of medication, treatment, injury and fatality data;
- A voided claim rule;
- A uniform riding crop rule;
- The transfer of horses’ treatment records; and
- Jockey health and safety protocols, including concussion testing and medical care reporting.

The **ADMC Program** establishes a centralized testing and results management process that applies uniform penalties for violations efficiently and consistently across the U.S. Thoroughbred racing jurisdictions operating under HISA’s rules. Pursuant to the terms of the Act, an independent enforcement agency, the Horseracing Integrity and Welfare Unit (“HIWU”), oversees testing, educating stakeholders on the ADMC Program, laboratory accreditation, investigation of potential violations and prosecution of any such violations. HIWU will soon release a separate metrics report summarizing 2023 ADMC Program data.

HISA-REGULATED RACETRACKS AND THEIR ACCREDITATION STATUS

HISA regulates Thoroughbred racing at 50 racetracks in 20 states.

In 2023, HISA completed accreditation visits at 21 tracks, as denoted by an asterisk in the graphic. The accreditation visits afford HISA staff the ability to conduct an in-depth and in-person review of a racetrack's operations to determine its level of compliance with the Racetrack Safety Program and to provide training on how best to meet ongoing reporting requirements. HISA will conduct accreditation visits at the remaining tracks in 2024.

HISA's Racetrack Safety standing committee, comprised of four independent members and three industry members selected to represent equine constituencies, reviews each accreditation report, provides recommendations regarding safety improvements to each track and ultimately makes a recommendation to the HISA Board of Directors as to whether to grant accreditation to the track and for how long. All accreditation decisions must be ultimately approved by the HISA Board of Directors.

These accreditation visits have led to many significant safety improvements where necessary, including investing in new and more advanced track surface maintenance equipment, taking daily measurements related to track surface conditions (as required under HISA regulations), updating stable gate in/out procedures and convening safety committees to review incidents and to identify risk mitigation strategies. In other cases, the accreditation visits have identified protocols or practices that can be shared among tracks, inform HISA's future rulemaking or simply confirm the track's effective compliance program.

Outside of the accreditation process, HISA representatives also visited Churchill Downs, Laurel Park and Saratoga Race Course as part of HISA's reviews of clusters of equine fatalities at those tracks in 2023. HISA released reports summarizing those reviews, which are available on its website.

STATE	HISA TRACKS
AR	Oaklawn Park
AZ	Arizona Downs
AZ	Rillito
AZ	Turf Paradise
CA	Del Mar
CA	Ferndale CARF
CA	Fresno CARF
CA	Golden Gate Fields
CA	Los Alamitos Race Course
CA	Pleasanton CARF*
CA	Sacramento CARF*
CA	Santa Anita Park
CA	Santa Rosa*
CO	Bally's at Arapahoe Park*
DE	Delaware Park*
FL	Gulfstream Park
FL	Tampa Bay Downs*
IA	Prairie Meadows*
IL	Fanduel Sportsbook and Horse Racing
IL	Hawthorne*
IN	Horseshoe Indianapolis
KY	Churchill Downs*
KY	Ellis Park
KY	Keeneland
KY	Kentucky Downs
KY	Turfway Park





HISA'S DATA PLATFORM

STATE	HISA TRACKS
MD	Laurel Park
MD	Pimlico
MD	Timonium
MN	Canterbury Park
NJ	Monmouth Park
NJ	Monmouth at Meadowlands
NM	Downs at Albuquerque*
NM	Ruidoso Downs*
NM	Sunland Park
NM	Zia Park*
NY	Aqueduct
NY	Belmont Park
NY	Finger Lakes*
NY	Saratoga Race Course
OH	Belterra Park*
OH	Mahoning Valley Race Course
OH	Thistledown*
OK	Remington Park*
OK	Will Rogers Downs*
PA	Parx Racing*
PA	Penn National*
PA	Presque Isle Downs*
VA	Colonial Downs
WA	Emerald Downs*

HISA's data collection processes rely on the HISA Portal, a proprietary platform where racing participants subject to HISA's rules report a variety of information, including equine treatment and other health records.

As of December 31, 2023, the HISA Portal has been integrated with eight leading software platforms used by horsemen, veterinarians and racetracks, with more coming soon. These integrations help racing participants comply with HISA's rules, give them the option of continuing to use platforms they are familiar with and simplify the recordkeeping process.

HISA also launched two new apps in 2023: the "MedEnt app" and "Lasix app," which enable veterinarians to streamline entry of treatment and Lasix information, respectively, into the HISA Portal. Both apps store entered data when a veterinarian is in a barn treating a horse and upload the data when the veterinarian regains cellular or Internet connectivity.

Racing Participant Registration

As of December 31, 2023, approximately 33,000 Covered Persons and 55,000 Covered Horses, were registered with HISA via the HISA Portal.

The Act mandates that HISA require the registration of all trainers, owners, breeders, jockeys and racetracks. As a prerequisite to examining, diagnosing, treating or prescribing for Covered Horses, a veterinarian must register with HISA; as of December 31, 2023, approximately 1,000 veterinarians actively involved in the daily and specialized care of equine athletes were registered.

HISA's rules also require Covered Persons to ensure that "Covered Horses" for which they are responsible are registered. The Act states that a horse becomes a Covered Horse on the date of the horse's first timed and reported workout at a track participating in covered horse races or at a training facility.

During 2023, of all workouts completed each month, the percentage of timed and reported workouts per HISA rules that were completed by unregistered horses oscillated from a low of 1.34% in February to a high of 2.90% in October.

To promote compliance with registration requirements, HISA began, in January 2024, issuing a daily report to racetracks that flags the minority of horses that have completed a workout but have not yet been registered with HISA and, in February 2024, HISA staff began visiting racing offices to help horsemen complete the registration process. The InCompass Solutions Track Manager platform (a software and consulting service that tracks use to view a variety of relevant data) has provided tools that enable racing offices to identify horses that have completed a workout, but have not registered with HISA, more efficiently. InCompass Solutions integrated this feature on a pro bono basis, with no fees for the programming.

At the time of registration, Covered Persons must identify the location of the Covered Horse and provide equine vaccine and health information. This is to ensure that HISA may quickly locate a Covered Horse if medication testing is required or if a Covered Horse's health and safety becomes a concern. It also enables HISA and racing participants to track health and treatment records, exercise and rest periods, racing information and other data for the life of a horse, which information Responsible Persons (typically the trainer) are required to provide to HISA pursuant to its regulations. Thanks to this unprecedented access to consistent, uniform data, HISA is developing tools informed by machine learning to help flag horses at higher risk of injury.

Veterinarian Treatment Records

HISA requires attending veterinarians to submit records to the HISA Portal within 24 hours of the veterinarian treating or examining a Covered Horse. On average, HISA received approximately 4,700 veterinary treatment reports each day in 2023 and, as of the end of last year, close to two million veterinary treatment records had been uploaded to the HISA Portal since inception of the Racetrack Safety Program.



For the first time in U.S. Thoroughbred racing history, horse's treatment records are available to regulatory veterinarians in any jurisdiction. (Previously, information shared between jurisdictions was limited to regulatory information.) In addition, treatment histories are now available to the new owners, trainers and veterinarians when a horse is transferred, sold or claimed. This information enables all parties to have a more complete picture of a horse's medical and regulatory history to promote continuity of care.

In addition to providing consistent access to Covered Horses' complete medical and regulatory histories, HISA is developing tools to help determine whether certain Covered Horses are at increased risk for injury. One such tool analyzes the robust medical dataset available in the HISA Portal, along with historical entry data and other risk factors (e.g., the length of a horse's previous layoff (if any), term with current trainer, history on the vet's list), to make such an assessment—a process that previously took veterinarians an average of four hours per race card.

EQUINE FATALITIES

Racetracks operating under HISA's rules reported 1.23 racing-related equine fatalities per 1,000 starts in 2023.

Like The Jockey Club's Equine Injury Database ("EID"), and the definition set forth in the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities' "Principles of Good Practice for Monitoring of Racing Injuries and Fatalities," HISA's racing-related equine fatalities metric captures horses that die or are euthanized within 72 hours of a race as a direct result of injuries sustained participating in a race. HISA's metric includes horses experiencing sudden death during a race or within 72 hours thereafter.

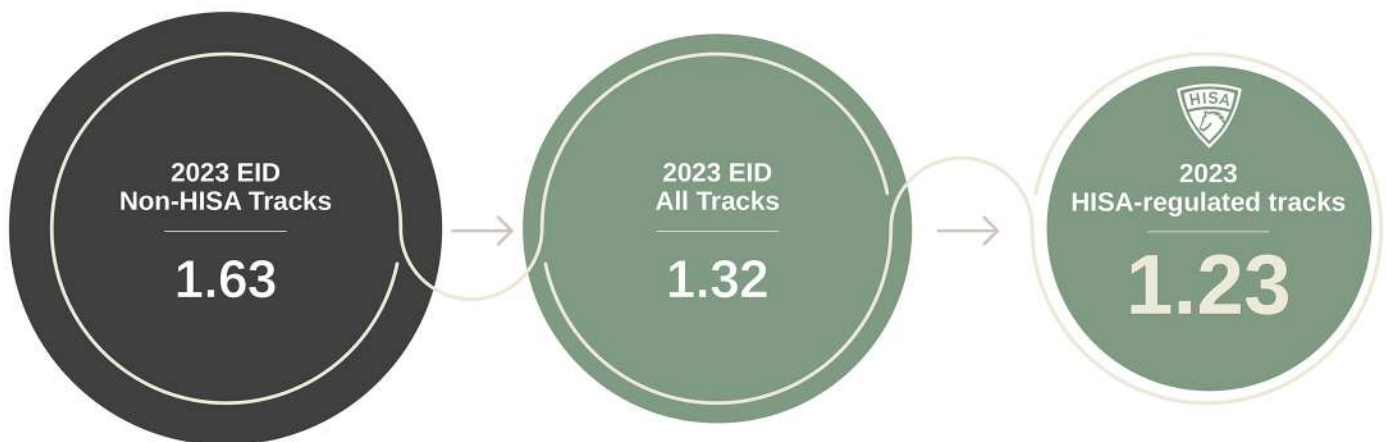
HISA's Racetrack Safety Program requires a "Safety Director" at each racetrack to report to HISA all equine fatalities within 72 hours. HISA collected its data via the HISA Portal. At the end of the year, HISA requested that each Safety Director review and confirm the data reported to HISA for the year, before conducting an extensive quality control process.

The 1.23 rate is down from the 1.25 per 1,000 starts rate reported in the EID in 2022. It is also lower than the national rate of 1.32 per 1,000 starts reported in the EID for 2023. HISA and The Jockey Club reported identical fatality rates for HISA tracks, using consistent methodologies and criteria. The Jockey Club also reported data from Thoroughbred racetracks in the U.S. operating outside of HISA's regulations in 2022 and 2023. The 2023 EID shows that non-HISA tracks have a fatality rate of 1.63 per 1,000 starts, a 33% increase over the 1.23 per 1,000 starts at HISA-regulated tracks.

The encouraging data reflects that the interventions made under HISA's Racetrack Safety Program already are having an impact (most dramatically on small and mid-sized tracks in states where safety had been historically underfunded or underregulated). The Racetrack Safety Program requires pre-race veterinary inspections and other expanded veterinary protocols.

The Racetrack Safety Program also ensures equine treatment records follow horses throughout their racing careers, makes horses' full medical and workout histories available to regulatory veterinarians around the country, ensures every racetrack is held to the same high standards for facility safety, requires racing surface conditions be monitored and reported to HISA regularly and requires claims be voided if a horse dies, is euthanized, is vanned off the track or is placed on the veterinarian's list.

HISA intends to publish the rates of fatalities per 1,000 starts on a per-state and per-track basis (for each track it regulates) beginning with its 2024 Annual Metrics Report. HISA is also conducting additional analysis of its fatality data and will consider sharing other specific metrics that may be instructive to those working to make the sport safer in 2024 and beyond.



RACING-RELATED FATALITIES PER 1,000 STARTS



FINES ASSESSED

HISA uses amounts collected in fines, for violations of its rules, to reduce the assessments charged to racetracks. HISA has assessed approximately \$804,000 in fines from the inception of each of the Racetrack Safety Program and ADMC Program through December 31, 2023. These fines reflect enforcement actions undertaken by HISA or HIWU that led to admissions or rulings against the violating party or parties. In 2022, HISA assessed approximately \$166,000 in fines under the Racetrack Safety Program, which, as stated above, went into effect on July 1, 2022. In 2023, it assessed approximately \$260,000 in fines under the Racetrack Safety Program and approximately \$378,000 in fines under the ADMC Program, which went into effect on May 22, 2023.

USE OF RIDING CROP VIOLATIONS

HISA regulations provide that a rider may use the crop on a horse's hindquarters a maximum of six times during a race in increments of two or fewer strikes and must allow at least two strides for the horse to respond before using the crop again. Notwithstanding the foregoing restrictions, a rider may use the crop for safety reasons.

Among other restrictions, a rider may not (1) raise the crop with the rider's wrist above the rider's helmet when using the crop, (2) injure the horses with the crop or leave any physical marks or (3) use the crop if the horse has obtained its maximum placing.

In 2023, HISA reported 4.40 crop rule violations per 1,000 starts, which is down from 5.09 violations per 1,000 starts in 2022, thus indicating that jockeys are becoming more accustomed to the rule. However, purse forfeitures (which are levied in connection with crop rule violations that involve a jockey striking a horse four or more times over the limit) remained roughly steady, as there were 0.12 per 1,000 starts in 2023 and 0.11 per 1,000 starts in 2022.

Any stewards' ruling finding a violation may be appealed to the HISA Board of Directors and ultimately to an administrative law judge of the FTC.

