

# Convincing Facts and Empty Tracks

## Why Horse Racing Subsidies Should End in New York State

		1978	2019
<b>Attendance</b> reported at racetracks in NYS	▼ <b>88%</b>	12.6M	1.5M
<b>Taxes</b> on race wagering paid to NYS	▼ <b>87%</b>	\$83M	\$10.4M
<b>Franchise fees</b> paid by NYRA to NYS	▼ <b>100%</b>	\$16M	\$0
<b>Subsidies</b> paid to racing in NYS	▲ <b>\$230M</b>	\$0	\$230M

### Pari-mutuel betting on horse racing ignores its constitutional mandate:

“...pari-mutuel betting on horse races as may be prescribed by the legislature and from which the state shall derive a reasonable revenue for the support of government.” —NYS Constitution

**Rent** paid by NYRA to NYS for Saratoga, Belmont & Aqueduct  
**City of New York General Corporation Tax** paid by NYRA  
**New York State Income Tax** paid by NYRA  
**New York State Sales Tax** paid on ~\$100M in annual horse sales



### New York State racing subsidies are enriching treasuries of other states.

78% of betting on NY horse racing is from outside of NY, allowing those states to tax the wagering —not NY. As NYers shun tracks, taxes on pari-mutuel wagers that go to the state have dropped substantially as have revenues to the tracks themselves. After 18 years of subsidies, horse racing is no closer to self-sufficiency and does not provide “a reasonable revenue in support of the government.” The industry is addicted to \$230 million in annual Video Lottery Terminal profits that should instead fund education. Wealthy owners, breeders and trainers can pay for their own private gambling business, not New Yorkers who are nowhere to be found at most of NY’s 11 tracks. Horse racing must fund itself as New York State businesses should do.

<b>Amount of New York State’s \$2.5B wagering handle</b> not taxed by NYS	<b>\$2B</b>
<b>Effective tax rate</b> racing pays for on-track wagers	<b>1.3%</b>
<b>Average amount Thoroughbred purses</b> are subsidized by NYS	<b>37%</b>
<b>Average amount harness purses</b> are subsidized by NYS	<b>84%</b>
<b>New York State data supporting 19,000 racing jobs</b> claimed	<b>None</b>
<b>New York State data supporting \$3B in economic impact</b> claimed	<b>None</b>
<b>Horses that died</b> at New York State tracks since 2009	<b>1,600</b>
<b>Recent Department of Labor fines</b> for trainers violating labor laws	<b>\$3.5M</b>
<b>Racing subsidies</b> compared to the entire NYS Agriculture budget since 2008	<b>2X</b>
<b>Recent criminal indictments</b> in NY courts for drug usage in racing	<b>27</b>
<b>NYers who say they will never attend racing</b> [2021 Marist Poll]	<b>90%+</b>
<b>Annual amount NYS taxes out-of-state betting platforms:</b> then credits to racing	<b>\$15M</b>



# New York's Empty Horse Racing Tracks

With the exception of the Belmont Stakes day and the 40-day Saratoga Racecourse meet, attendance at most NY tracks is down more than 90% since their heyday. All pictures below were taken during the middle of the race card with no pandemic restrictions. Few employees were noted at any of these locations.



**Aqueduct Racetrack 4/21/22**



**Yonkers Raceway 12/16/21**



**Tioga Downs 7/17/22**



**Monticello Raceway 5/3/22**



**Buffalo Raceway 5/11/22**



**Saratoga Harness 10/18/21**



**Finger Lakes Racing 5/10/22**



**Vernon Downs 6/25/22**



**Belmont Park 5/5/22**

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