

### What is Regulatory Science?

**Regulatory science** is a field that uses the scientific method to improve the development, review, and oversight of products or tools that require regulatory oversight. Protecting customer safety is one of the core responsibilities of regulatory science. This field of study explores methods and frameworks needed for evaluating the safety, efficacy, and quality of products within regulated industries. **Human services** combine various fields, including law, public policy, data analysis, and risk assessment to inform and guide regulatory decision-making. The goal is to ensure regulatory compliance with licensing requirements crucial for quality standards and safeguarding the well-being of individuals receiving care.

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### Why is Regulatory Science Important?

Without regulatory science imbedded into human service administration, oversight systems are subject to significant risks and consequences:

*Limited Effectiveness:* Monitoring is crucial for evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of human services.

*Lack of Accountability:* Monitoring plays a vital role in ensuring accountability within human service systems.

*Loss of Trust:* Inadequate monitoring erodes public trust in human service systems.

Measurement and monitoring systems are regulatory science tools to development and implementation of evidence-based regulations and policies.

#### Challenges:

- Unique and diverse landscapes
- Evolving practices and technologies
- Limited resources
- Balancing consistency & flexibility
- Engagement & resistance
- Data management & analysis
- Legal and ethical considerations

#### A proactive and adaptive approach:

- Fosters collaboration with impacted parties
- Invests in capacity-building efforts
- Leverages technology for efficient data management
- Engages in continuous evaluation and improvement of their oversight

🔑 The key is determining an **effective and efficient monitoring system** needed to find the path of least resistance in complying with a given set of rules.

It's not about creating **enough** regulations – it's about finding the **right** regulations using scientific methods!

## How Does Regulatory Science Relate to Licensing Systems?

Licensing agencies generate substantial amounts of data that can be analyzed to make informed decisions. Regulators can use regulatory science frameworks to analyze trends, patterns, and performance metrics to identify areas of concern or improvement. Data-driven insights enable regulators to make evidence-based decisions, allocate resources effectively, and prioritize enforcement actions where they are most needed.

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## What if I Want to Know More?

Regulatory science, specific to human care administration, is relatively new. Innovative methods and strategies are emerging yearly. NARA is committed to advancing the field of regulatory science by building on existing scientific evidence and strategies while working with agencies to develop data-driven and evidence-based licensing and assessment tools. Contact NARA if you are interested in learning more, or if you would like your agency to be a part of this important work.

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## References | Additional Reading

NARA offers a wide variety of informational and research articles accessible on our webpage inclusive of regulatory science, differential monitoring, as well as key and quality indicators. Please visit: <https://nara.memberclicks.net/key-indicators>



### About NARA

The National Association for Regulatory Administration (NARA) is an international professional membership association founded in 1976 dedicated to the protection of the health, safety and well-being of children and adults in day or residential human care facilities through strong licensing and other forms of regulation.

**NARA**  
43 Town & Country Drive,  
Suite 119, #121  
Fredericksburg, VA 22405  
1-888-674-7052  
[www.naralicensing.org](http://www.naralicensing.org)

