

## LC SI: LeadCare Situation Investigation

## Anatomy of the LeadCare Product Recall

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# ESA LeadCare Analyzer

- A portable device for measuring blood lead (BPb) levels.
- Based on Anodic Stripping Voltammetry (ASV).
- Uses disposable screen-printed electrodes
- Requires blood to be “treated” with a reagent that decomplexes lead bound to proteins.
- Takes around 3-4 minutes per analysis



# ESA LeadCare

- Calibration using an electronic button.
- Buttons are specific to each batch of sensors
- Blood specimens are treated with reagent for 1 minute.
- Treated blood deposited on the sensor



## ESA LeadCare



- Advantages:
  - Moderately complex but easy to use.
  - Dr's office use
  - Rapid results (3-4 m)
  - Low cost device (~\$2K)
  - \$7 a test
  - Can operate @ 9V

## ESA LeadCare

- Limitations:
  - Blood must be fresh (<24 hrs old)
  - Cannot refrigerate blood
  - Response is affected by glutathione
  - Sensor lots may vary
  - Temperature sensitive



## WI Proficiency Program

- Bureau of Maternal and Child Health sponsors the PT program
- Our cows are dosed with lead, so it is biologically bound
- The samples are aliquoted and stored frozen until shipment
- Mailed to participants, who analyze the samples and report results back, which are then graded

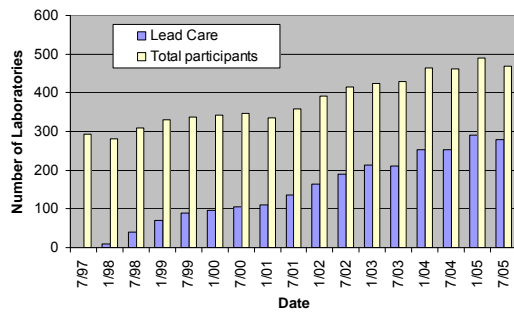


## WI Proficiency Program

- Target values are determined by a group of referee laboratories
- LeadCare targets are determined by participant mean
- Currently there ~600 labs in the program, about half are LeadCare
  - ~40 International labs
- Offer two types of Programs
  - Regulatory Program
  - Monthly Blood Lead Program



Number of Labs Reporting Blood Lead



## LeadCare Recall Chronology

- In May 1997, data<sup>1</sup> was presented comparing the LC prototype with a reference method. It was concluded that it was accurate for screening children
- In September, the LeadCare is commercially introduced
- In October, LeadCare users begin to enroll in the WI PT Program

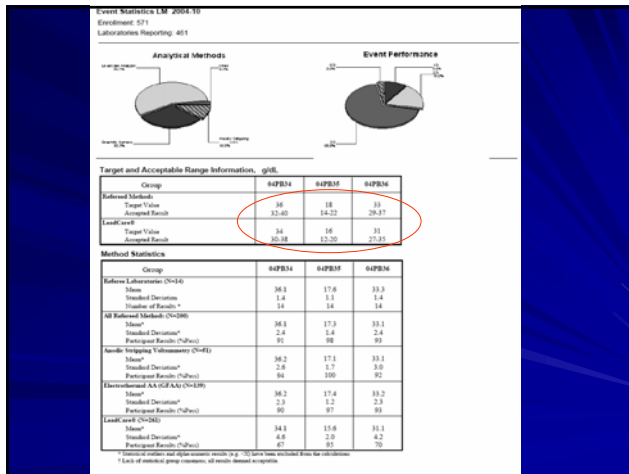
1. Shannon M and Rifai N. The Accuracy of a Portable Instrument for analysis of Blood Lead in Children. Amb Child Health 1997;3:249-254

## LeadCare Recall Chronology

- It was expected that the samples would exhibit a positive bias, relative to other methods
  - Due to specimen prep and absence of glutathione
- This positive bias was observed in early PT events
- Consequently, in December 1997, it was decided that LeadCare results should be evaluated as a separate group

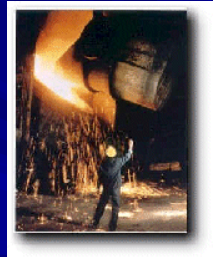
## LeadCare Recall Chronology

- In January 2000, our enrollment had grown from 9 to approximately 100 and the positive bias had disappeared
- The LeadCare now exhibited a low bias compared to other methods
- Despite several cooperative efforts by ESA and WI, the reason for this trend was not determined



## LeadCare Recall Chronology

- In June 2001, Taylor, Jones, et al, report that a comparative study of occupationally exposed adults demonstrated a modest positive bias for the LC compared to a referee method<sup>2</sup>



2. Taylor L, Jones RL, Kwan L, Daddens JA, Ashley K, and Sanderson WT. Evaluation of a portable blood lead analyzer with occupational exposed populations. Am J Ind Med 2001;40:354-362

## LeadCare Recall Chronology

- In August 2004, the Blood Lead PT program administered by NY State reports a low bias in LeadCare results compared to other methods
  - NY provides fresh whole animal blood
  - Directly compare LeadCare with other methods
- Failure rates of 69% and 38% for the previous two PT events
  - Failure rates had previously been below 10%
- In November, there continues to be a low bias and NY gave the directive to report only qualitative results ( $\geq 10 \mu\text{g/dL}$  or  $< 10 \mu\text{g/dL}$ )

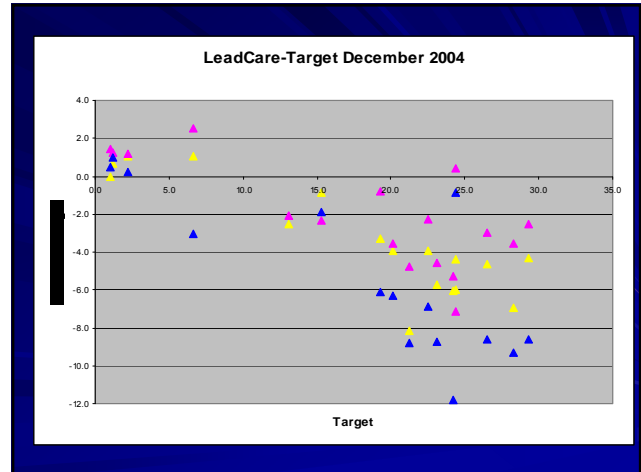
## Is the Bias Real?

- Artifact of Animal Blood?
- Artifact of the processing?



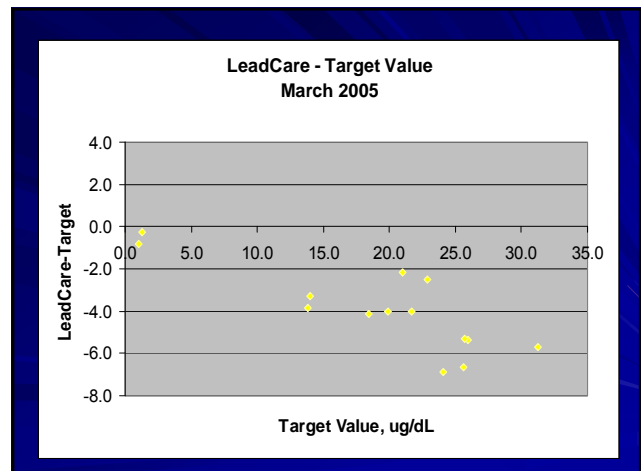
## LeadCare Recall Chronology

- In December 2004, WSLH and ESA initiate a cooperative evaluation study using fresh human blood from occupationally exposed workers
- Three sensor lots were examined and all three demonstrated a low bias



## What happened next?

- ESA reviewed data and requested additional studies...
- WSLH conducted a second study, using fresh human blood from exposed workers
  - The blood was placed in reagent at WSLH and shipped to ESA for analysis
  - A fourth sensor lot was used
  - Shipped to ESA in Feb. 2005



## Spring 2005

- WI shared data with representatives from NY and CDC seeking comment
- Contacted Bureau of Maternal & Child Health (MCH) about the bias and shared data
  - Conference call was held with MCH, ESA, WI, and CDC to discuss issue

## Spring 2005, cont'

- Correspondence from the CDC, that more data is needed, especially since the results were from occupationally exposed adults and not children
- Noted a CDC publication regarding positive bias on adult blood

## Spring 2005, cont'

- Beginning in April we started asking our participants in the PT program to provide us with their sensor lot code for further investigations
- There were 2 labs using a new lot, and their results were higher than the other LeadCare labs and the referee targets
- Shared this data with ESA

## Spring 2005, cont'

- May 3, WI receives the newest lot of LC sensors to evaluate.
- ESA indicates that this new lot should read higher than other lots on the PT specimens, but not on patient specimens
  - This is attributed to “different glutathione sensitivity”



## Spring 2005, cont'

- May 12, Testing of the new lot is completed. And as anticipated, results on the PT specimens were higher
- May 12, WI concludes that the bias is real and recommends that LeadCare users should be notified and contacts MCH

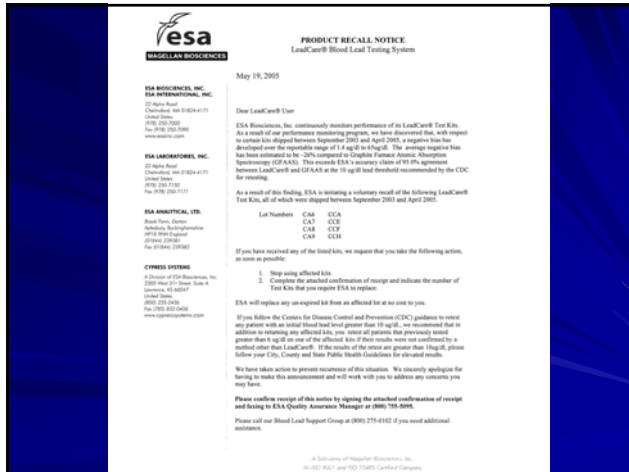
Sample	Lot CCA	Referee	Lot CCJ
#	Average	Targets	Average
0602-01	0.6	1.0	0.7
0602-02	0.9	1.5	1.0
0602-03	20.1	23.9	26.0
0602-04	23.4	26.2	28.1
0602-05	15.4	19.8	20.8
0602-06	12.2	16.2	16.9
0602-07	14.3	19.0	18.1
0602-08	18.4	25.8	26.3
0602-09	38.5	20.3	43.5
0602-10	14.8	22.2	19.3
0602-11	11.4	17.2	15.0
0602-12	11.9	17.8	17.3
0602-13	20.0	26.8	27.7

## Spring 2005, cont'

- May 13, Contacted by ESA that they were voluntarily issuing a recall.
- The recall was prompted by the studies with WI and additional in-house testing


## Spring 2005, cont'

- May 20, WI receives the official recall notice issued by ESA.
- The notice states that a low bias of 26% was detected for sensor lots dating back to September 2003.
- 8 lots were recalled
- Recommendation to retest children with lead levels exceeding 6 ug/dL



## Consequences

- Based on the recommendation to retest children with leads >6 µg/dL...
- State of MA, ~6000 results were affected
- State of CA, ~100,000 suspect results, ~2% will need to be retested
- Nationally ...



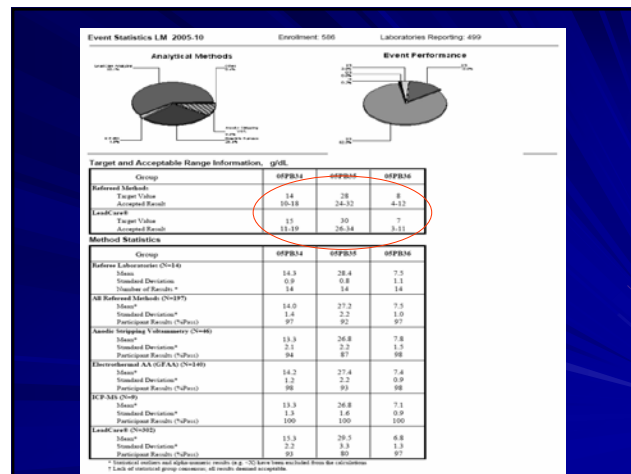
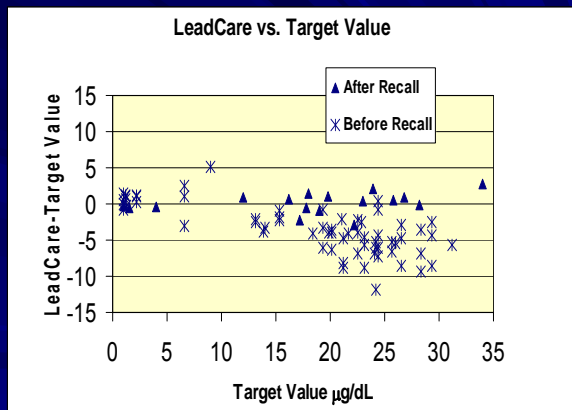
## Notification

- WI agrees to provide a mailing to PT participants that includes the recall letter
- WI will also monitor the sensor lots reported, and provide information back to ESA

## Performance

- Data obtained on the new test kit lots demonstrate much improved comparability on fresh human blood
- Absence of significant bias in the NY program
- Results in the monthly WI program also show a disappearance of the negative bias





## Recent Developments

- Based on recent data on the new sensor lots, NY lifted their qualitative reporting restriction on November 21<sup>st</sup>
- The official closing of the recall by the FDA was anticipated in November 2005
- In WI, the issue in the PT program was resolved by August

## What Did We Learn?

- Value of PT extends beyond the evaluation of individual laboratories
- Changes in performance can provide evidence of widespread analytical issues
- Cooperation between the manufacturer and the PT providers facilitated the investigation and resolution of the problem



## What's on the Horizon?

- Development of a new LeadCare analyzer that will be 'waived'
- Similar to the current LeadCare, but will not have to quantitatively measure the blood
- By being waived, this instrument would not have to participate in PT

## And the bias problem?

- Rooted in human error during the calibration process and not a defect in the sensors themselves
  - An absence of glutathione
- Blood that was used to calibrate was the same as what WI uses in its PT program
  - Need to add glutathione to our blood

