



# Houston Forensic Science Center

## INTEROFFICE MEMO

**To:** Jackeline Moral, Quality Director

**From:** Callan Hundl, Quality Specialist  
Maddisen Neuman, Quality Associate

**Date:** October 31, 2023

**Re:** 2023 Quarter III Blind QC Report

The Houston Forensic Science Center facilitates a blind quality control (QC) program to ensure continuous quality improvement, test the company's entire quality management system, strengthen the proficiency testing program, add confidence to staff testimony, and evaluate the competence and performance of staff. All of this in return confirms to HFSC's stakeholders that we provide accurate and reliable results in normal casework.

The table below shows the number of blind QC cases that have been created by the HFSC's Quality Division, dropped into the system like normal casework, and completed by the analysts as blind tests between July 1 and September 30, 2023. During the third quarter of 2023, all cases except for one firearms case were completed without analysts knowing they were working a blind case.

Section	Dropped	Completed	Satisfactory	No. Completed Blind
<b>Toxicology (BAC/Drugs)</b>	42	29/11	29/10**	29/11
<b>Seized Drugs</b>	21	36	36	36
<b>Biology (screening/DNA)</b>	12	13/9	13/9	13/9
<b>Firearms</b>	3	3	3	2
<b>Firearms Blind Verification</b>	3	2	2	n/a
<b>Latent Print Processing</b>	3	1	1	1
<b>Latent Print Comparison</b>	0	2^	2	2
<b>Latent Print Comparison Blind Verification</b>	8	10	10	n/a
<b>Multimedia</b>	3	2	0*	2

\*\*One drug confirmation toxicology blind QC is pending review for satisfaction.

\*The two multimedia blinds completed this quarter are pending review for satisfaction. Two multimedia blinds that were completed in the first quarter were reviewed during this quarter and were deemed satisfactory.

^The two completed latent print comparison blind QCs were worked because of two previously submitted latent print processing blind QCs that resulted in possible suitable latents for comparison.

The tables below depict the names or initials of staff members who have participated in blind QCs in this quarter.

**Toxicology**

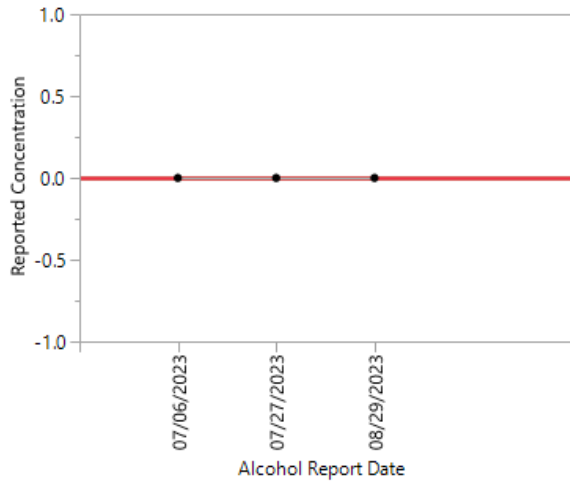
Alcohol Batches with Blind QCs	Headspace Used	Hamilton Pipette Used
ALC_20230614_EC	2	1742
ALC_20230614_EC	2	1742
ALC_20230620_AAJ	2	7903
ALC_20230628_HM	2	7903
ALC_20230711_ASG	2	7903
ALC_20230712_HM	2	7903
ALC_20230714_CLR	2	7903
ALC_20230718_EP	2	7903
ALC_20230727_EC	2	7903
ALC_20230727_AAJ	3	7903
ALC_20230808_EP	2	7903
ALC_20230815_ASG	2	7903
ALC_20230829_JLA	2	7903
ALC_20230828_CLR	2	7903
ALC_20230830_AAJ	2	7903
ALC_20230906_HM	3	1742
ALC_20230913_CLR	3	1742
ALC_20230614_EC	2	1742
ALC_20230614_EC	2	1742
ALC_20230620_AAJ	2	7903
ALC_20230628_HM	2	7903
ALC_20230711_ASG	2	7903

**Note:** Some alcohol analysis batches may have contained more than one blind QC sample.

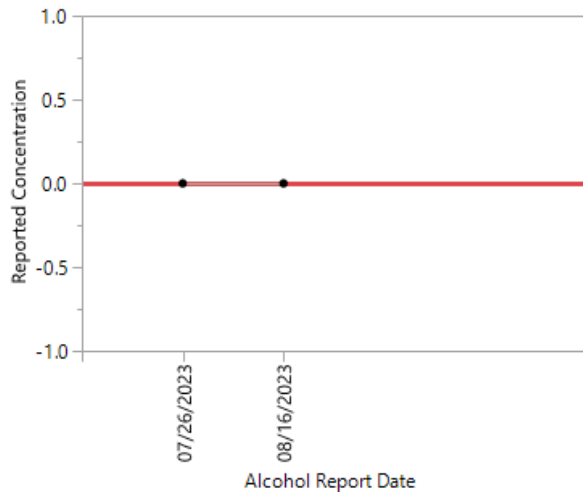
**Control Charts for Blood Alcohol Analysis**

The first control chart below depicts the “Negative” (for drugs and alcohol) control sample. The control chart for sample “E” is negative for alcohol but positive for a drug. The drug concentration results for this sample will be depicted in the drug confirmation section control chart as “Drug C”, if applicable.

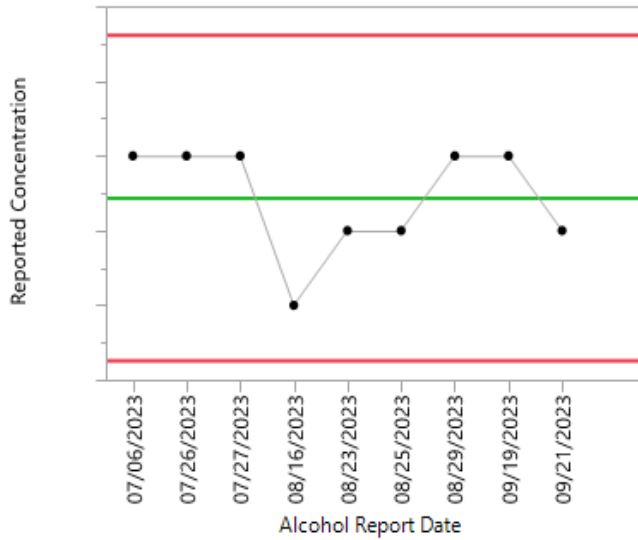
**Control Chart Target Concentration from Vendor = Negative = 0.0000  
Leavey Jennings of Reported Concentration**



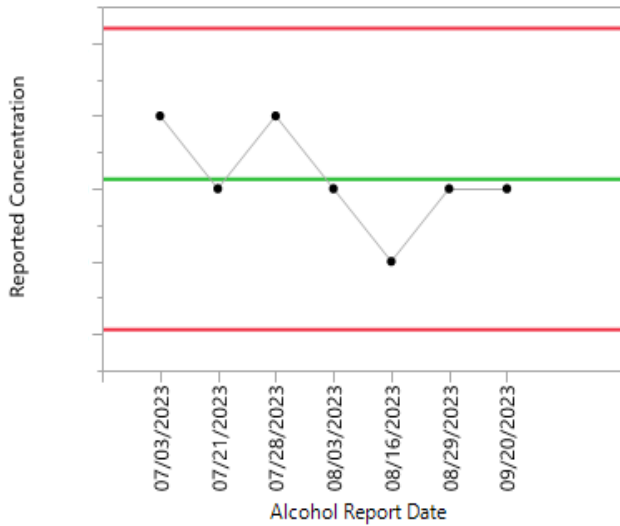
**Control Chart Target Concentration from Vendor = E = 0.0000  
Leavey Jennings of Reported Concentration**



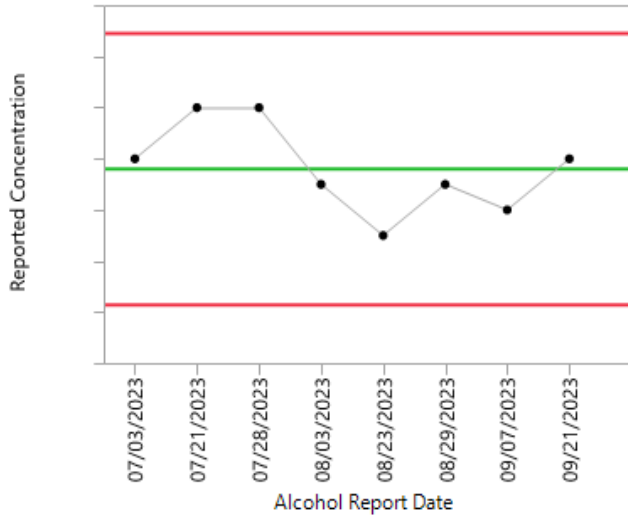
**Control Chart Target Concentration from Vendor = F**  
**Leavey Jennings of Reported Concentration**  
**The Y axis is in increments of 0.0005**



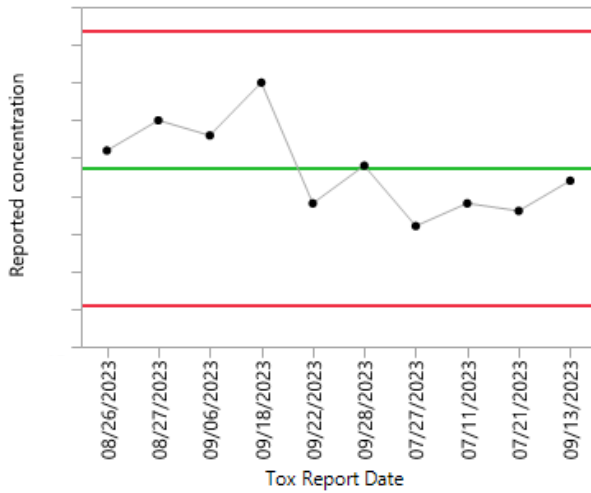
**Control Chart Target Concentration from Vendor = G**  
**Leavey Jennings of Reported Concentration**  
**The Y axis is in increments of 0.0005**



**Control Chart Target Concentration from Vendor = H  
 Leavey Jennings of Reported Concentration  
 The Y axis is in increments of 0.001**



**Control Chart Target Concentration from Vendor = Drug C  
 Leavey Jennings of Reported Concentration  
 The Y axis is in increments of 5**



### **Drug Toxicology**

<b>ELISA Batches with Blind QCs</b>
EIA_20220901B_HM
EIA_20221028B_KMY
EIA_20221116B_FB
EIA_20221212B_EP
EIA_20230323B_HM

<b>Analyst</b>	<b>Number of Blinds Completed</b>
Kayla Yang	5
Cassandra Duvall	1
Corissa Rodgers	1
Outsourced	4

**Note:** Some toxicology blind QC samples contain controlled drugs. If the alcohol concentration is below 0.1% the case will move on to drug screening, and if positive at screening will move on to drug confirmation. The analyst(s) that completed drug confirmation on a blind QC case are listed in the chart above. Seven cases were confirmed in house. Six of these were consistent with the expected concentration and one case is pending review at this time. The reported drug concentrations of the four outsourced cases were consistent with the expected concentration. One of the cases that was outsourced was negative for drugs and therefore is not shown in the control chart above.

### **Seized Drugs**

<b>Analyst</b>	<b>Number of Blinds Completed</b>
Angelica Noyola	9
Jazmyne Burren	5
Michael Salazar	11
Patrick Tynan	11

### **Biology – Screening**

<b>Analyst</b>	<b>Number of Blinds Completed</b>
Amber Smith	1
Anha Pham	1
Asusena Renteria	2
Badiyah Hannon	5
Fatima Torres Perez	1
Tran Nguyen	3

### **Biology – Technician**

<b>Analyst</b>	<b>Number of Blinds Completed</b>
Hannah Wines	1
Keegan Breau	1
Sabrina Hagood	1
Rochelle Austen	1
Outsourced	8

**Note:** More than one technician is associated with the blind QC completed in house during this quarter.

### **Biology – DNA Analyst**

Analyst	Number of Blinds Completed
Jisel Luttrell	7
Mary Georges	1

**Note:** DNA cases would have previously been reported as completed for screening. Also, if an HFSC staff member’s DNA is used to create a blind sample, the DNA analyst is expected to discover during report writing that the DNA belongs to staff which ensures the profile is not uploaded into CODIS and proper usage of the elimination database. In these instances, the Quality Division considers the cases complete when the DNA analysts report that the sample(s) matches an elimination database sample and is confirmed to be a blind. These cases are deemed as completed blind because all work up until that point was completed without the screener, technician, and analyst knowing that it was a blind case.

\*One of the cases that was outsourced was determined to be insufficient for DNA therefore no further testing was done.

### **Firearms**

Primary Examiner	Second Examiner
Jill Dupre	Melissa Nally
Kaitlyn Boydston	Jill Dupre
Kim Downs	Melissa Nall

### **Firearms Blind Verification**

Primary Examiner	Second Examiner	Forensic Case Number	Agency Case Number
Melissa Nally	Chandler Bassett	2022-04084	043126022
Ryan Hookano	Kasi McElfresh	2022-06073	065309522

**Note:** For Firearms blind verifications, the second examiner is aware they are conducting the verification; however, the primary examiner’s conclusions are masked. Therefore, the second examiner is making conclusions separately and independently from the primary examiner’s conclusions. All blind verifications were conducted on actual casework, blind QCs, or proficiency tests.

### **Latent Print Processing**

Analyst	Number of Blinds Completed
Leah Carmichael	1

### **Latent Print Comparison**

Examiner	Number of Blinds Completed as Primary Examiner	Number of Blinds Completed as Verifier
Cassandra Barnes	1	0
Brenda Georgi	0	1
Tyler Kennedy	1	0
Shanaihi Patel	0	1

### **Latent Print Blind Verification**

Primary Examiner	Second Examiner	Forensic Case Number	Agency Case Number
Cassandra Barnes	Brenda Georgi	2023-02661	031966623
Julian Harley	Huyen Vu	2023-06769	148155015
Laurissa Pilkington	Leah Carmichael	2023-03606	040314223

Cassandra Barnes	Laurissa Pilkington	2020-12967	126222220
Julian Harley	Shanaihi Patel	2023-05239	165068922
Huyen Vu	Cassandra Barnes	2023-05856	068150023
Tracy Lipskoch	Tyler Kennedy	2023-05722	068976223
Shanaihi Patel	Jeniffer Molina	2023-08367	096680723
Shanaihi Patel	Tracy Lipskoch	2023-08721	103862523
Octavia Fair	Shanaihi Patel	2023-06205	070676823

**Note:** For Latent Print blind verifications, the second examiner is aware they are conducting the verification; however, the primary examiner's conclusions are masked. Therefore, the second examiner is making conclusions separately and independently from the primary examiner's conclusions. All blind verifications were conducted on actual casework, blind QCs, or proficiency tests.

### **Multimedia**

<b>Analyst</b>	<b>Number of Blinds Completed</b>
Christopher Herring	1
Spencer Ledesma	1