

# Variability of Reference Data

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# Introduction

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- Data from guideline studies are used by regulatory agencies to make decisions about chemical classification and labeling
- In vivo guideline studies have been the reference upon which alternative method performance is often assessed
  - Do we reproduce the same outcome (sufficiently sensitive alternatives)?
  - Affects our confidence and context for interpreting results
- Better characterizing the in vivo guideline study reproducibility could provide additional insight to set an appropriate expectation for alternatives
- Reproducibility evaluation has been conducted for 3 regulatory endpoints:
  - Eye Irritation, Skin Sensitization, and Acute Oral Toxicity



# Evaluating Reproducibility

## Assessing Impact on Categorical Endpoints

- Many guideline studies are interpreted by hazard category classification
- Variability cannot be assessed quantitatively (e.g., by standard deviation)
- Instead, reproducibility is evaluated to determine how often the same category is identified across replicate studies

Chemical X

Study 1: category 3

Study 2: category 2

Study 3: category 2

Study 4: category 1

| Prior type | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4 | Total Studies |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|---|---------------|
| 1          | 25% | 50% | 25% | - | 1             |
| 2          | 25% | 50% | 25% | - | 2             |
| 3          | 25% | 50% | 25% | - | 1             |
| 4          | -   | -   | -   | - | 0             |



# Reproducibility of Categorical Outcomes

## Rabbit Draize Eye Test

### GHS Classification

- **Category 1:** Effects on the cornea, iris or conjunctiva that are not expected to reverse or that have not fully reversed within 21 days.
- **Category 2A:** Effects on the cornea, iris or conjunctiva that fully reverse within 21 days.
- **Category 2B:** Effects on the cornea, iris or conjunctiva that fully reverse within 7 days.



| Prior type | 1    | 2A    | 2B    | NC    | Total Studies |
|------------|------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|
| 1          | 73%  | 16.1% | 0.4%  | 10.4% | 46            |
| 2A         | 4.2% | 32.9% | 3.5%  | 59.4% | 138           |
| 2B         | 0.2% | 4%    | 15.5% | 80.2% | 86            |
| NC         | 1.1% | 3.5%  | 1.5%  | 93.9% | 400           |

- ECHA database evaluation
- GHS hazard categories
- 491 substances with at least 2 Draize eye studies



# Reproducibility of Categorical Outcomes

## Acute Dermal Skin Irritation/Corrosion

|              |                                                       | Irritant                                                |                                         | Non-irritant                      |  |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| EPA          | Category I                                            | Category II                                             | Category III                            | Category IV                       |  |
| PDII         | Corrosive                                             | >5.0                                                    | 2.1-5.0                                 | 0-2.0                             |  |
| Signal Word  | DANGER                                                | WARNING                                                 | CAUTION                                 | CAUTION                           |  |
| PPE Required | Coveralls worn over long-sleeved shirt and long pants | Coveralls worn over short-sleeved shirt and short pants | Long-sleeved shirt and long pants       | Long-sleeved shirt and long pants |  |
|              | Socks; chemical-resistant footwear                    | Socks; chemical-resistant footwear                      | Socks; shoes                            | Socks; shoes                      |  |
|              | Waterproof or chemical-resistant gloves               | Waterproof or chemical-resistant gloves                 | Waterproof or chemical-resistant gloves | No minimum                        |  |

- ECHA database evaluation
- EPA hazard categories
- 425 substances with at least two studies

| Prior type    | I (Corrosive) | II    | III   | IV    | Total Studies |
|---------------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|
| I (Corrosive) | 86.3%         | 4.2%  | 7.1%  | 2.5%  | 207           |
| II            | 14.1%         | 44.9% | 20.5% | 20.5% | 35            |
| III           | 6.9%          | 5.2%  | 53.6% | 34.3% | 133           |
| IV            | 0.9%          | 2.0%  | 9.1%  | 88.0% | 690           |



# Reproducibility of Categorical Outcomes

## Rat Acute Oral Toxicity

### EPA Categories



Hazard



I ( $\leq 50$  mg/kg)

II ( $>50 \leq 500$  mg/kg)

III ( $>500 \leq 5000$  mg/kg)

IV ( $>5000$  mg/kg)

| Prior type | I     | II    | III   | IV    | Total Studies |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|
| I          | 57.9% | 34.5% | 6.2%  | 1.3%  | 446           |
| II         | 5.7%  | 66.5% | 27.5% | 0.4%  | 1694          |
| III        | 0.5%  | 11%   | 79.8% | 8.7%  | 4646          |
| IV         | 0.1%  | 0.6%  | 44.7% | 54.6% | 788           |

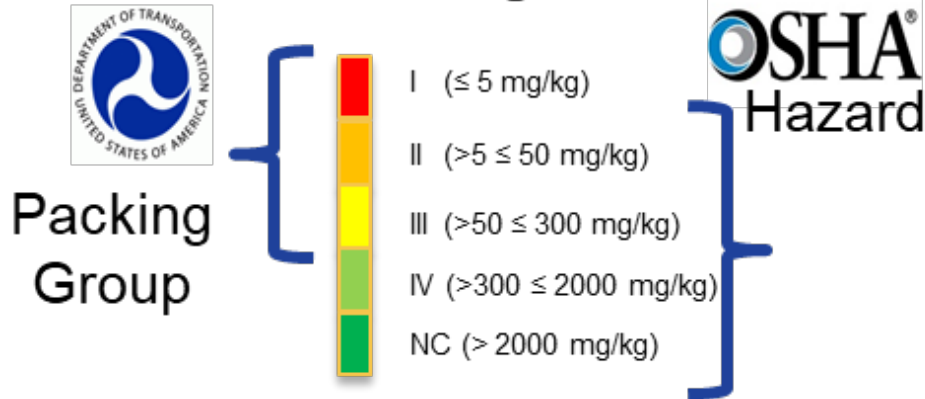
- Comprehensive compilation of data from multiple global resources
- Data heavily curated manually
- Includes limit tests and point estimate data



# Reproducibility of Categorical Outcomes

## Rat Acute Oral Toxicity

### GHS Categories

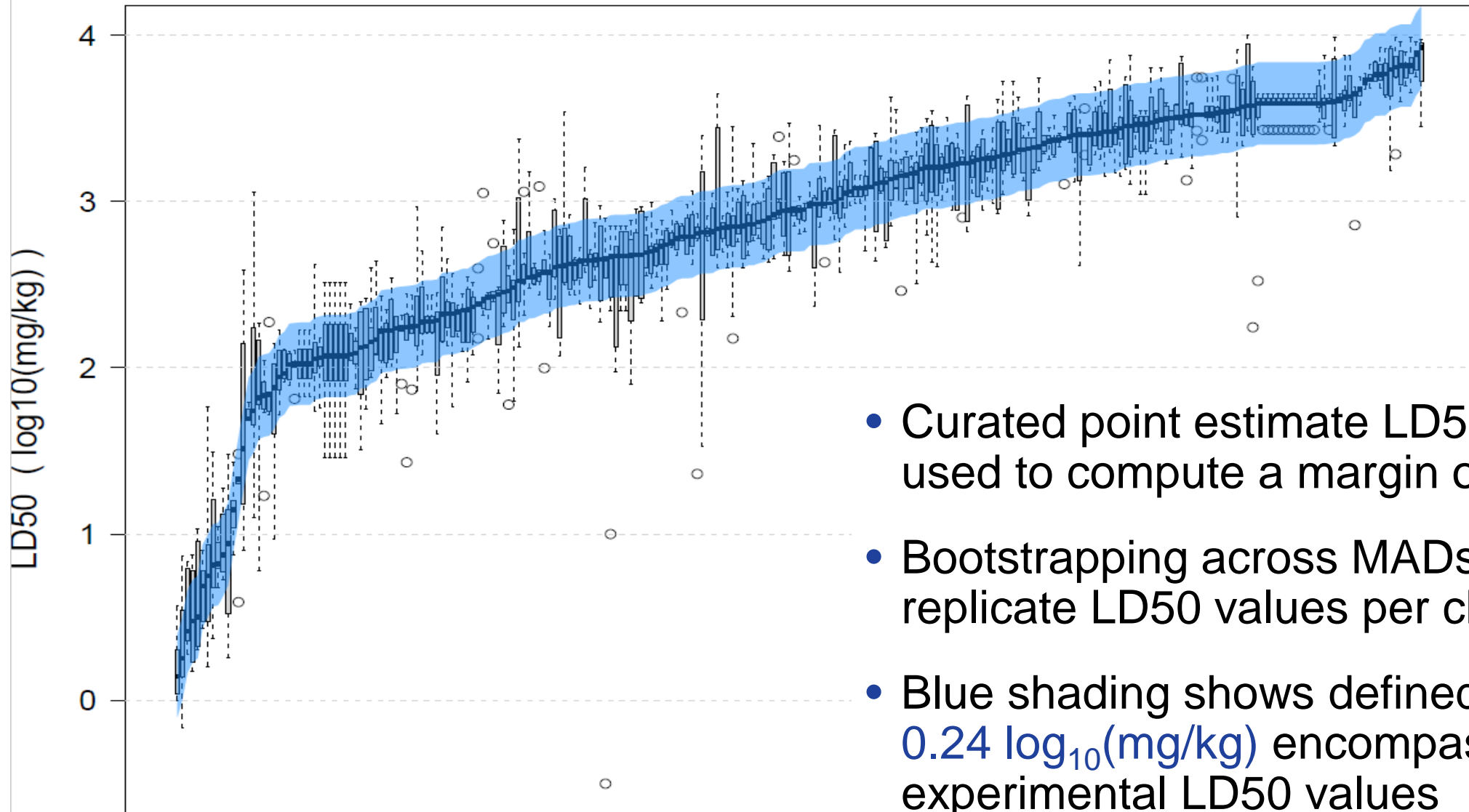


| Prior type | 1     | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     | Total Studies |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|
| 1          | 53.3% | 34.9% | 1.5%  | 5.1%  | 5.1%  | 104           |
| 2          | 7.7%  | 48.9% | 33.2% | 8.9%  | 1.3%  | 342           |
| 3          | 0.2%  | 7.1%  | 61.9% | 28.9% | 1.9%  | 1166          |
| 4          | 0.1%  | 1%    | 11%   | 66.1% | 21.8% | 3095          |
| 5          | 0%    | 0.2%  | 1%    | 23.8% | 75%   | 2867          |

- Comprehensive compilation of data from multiple global resources
- Data heavily curated manually
- Includes limit tests and point estimate data



# Defining a Margin of Uncertainty



- Curated point estimate LD50 values were used to compute a margin of uncertainty
- Bootstrapping across MADs derived from replicate LD50 values per chemical
- Blue shading shows defined range  $0.24 \log_{10}(\text{mg/kg})$  encompasses most experimental LD50 values





# Summary

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- Replicate study data are available for many guideline in vivo studies
- Evaluating variability and reproducibility across existing in vivo studies can:
  - Provide context on existing guideline studies to better characterize reference data
  - Help set expectations for evaluating new alternative methods
  - Define a margin of uncertainty which can be applied to *in silico* predictions and alternative methods



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