

TABLE 2 Lead concentration in spices by country of purchase.

	Number of Samples	Percent (%)	Lead concentration percentiles (ppm)					Geometric mean (GSD) of samples with detectable lead	Percentage of samples with lead concentration above (>) a reference				
			Median, all samples	75th	90th	95th	Maximum		Above detection limit (%)	> 1 ppm (%)	> 2 ppm (%)	> 5 ppm (%)	> 10 ppm (%)
Grand Total	1,496	100	0.4	4.0	330.0	1,200.0	48,000.0	9.5 (20.2)	53	38	31	23	19
<i>Country of Purchase</i>													
Unknown	185	^a 12	ND	1.0	4.4	317.0	4,400.0	4.1 (12.6)	36	25	16	9	7
United States	519	^a 35	ND	0.8	3.2	14.0	21,000.0	1.9 (6.4)	40	21	13	8	6
<i>Store Survey</i>	102	^b 20	ND	0.6	4.0	14.0	21.0	1.0 (3.9)	49	17	13	8	6
<i>Case Investigation</i>	417	^b 80	ND	0.8	3.0	18.2	21,000.0	2.3 (7.1)	38	22	14	9	6
Foreign Country	792	^a 53	1.3	35.8	920.0	2,835.0	48,000.0	20.2 (23.3)	66	53	45	36	30
South Asia	412	^c 52	1.1	12.8	596.0	886.0	7,100.0	14.1 (15.4)	62	51	42	30	26
<i>Bangladesh</i>	275	^c 35	2.5	69.0	700.0	922.0	2,000.0	16.8 (14.4)	73	63	54	39	33
<i>India</i>	76	^c 10	ND	ND	3.3	23.0	690.0	3.3 (7.5)	24	17	13	5	5
<i>Pakistan</i>	51	^c 6	0.5	2.4	940.0	2,500.0	7,100.0	10 (25.7)	55	37	25	20	20
<i>Nepal</i>	10	^c 1	1.0	205.8	2,510.0	-	2,700.0	16.6 (35.8)	60	50	30	30	20
Georgia	210	^c 27	13.5	925.0	10,860.0	17,450.0	48,000.0	58.6 (31.1)	90	77	70	61	52
Mexico	39	^c 5	ND	0.7	6.4	10.0	17.0	2.4 (4.1)	31	21	18	10	3
Morocco	21	^c 3	1.4	6.6	56.6	113.8	120.0	5.2 (5.5)	67	52	48	24	19
Jamaica	12	^c 2	ND	ND	0.4	-	0.4	0.4 (1.2)	17	0	0	0	0
Other Countries (N=32)	98	^c 12	0.1	1.7	230.0	3,800.0	33,000.0	6.6 (30.4)	51	28	23	21	15

Abbreviations: GSD, geometric standard deviation; ppm, parts per million.

^aRepresents percentage of the grand total.

^bRepresents percentage of the samples purchased in the United States.

^cRepresents percentage of the samples purchased in foreign countries.

^dRepresents row percentage.

Note: Countries were included if, on average, at least one sample per year was reportedly purchased there between 2008 and 2017.