Blood Irradiators in ABC Member Centers

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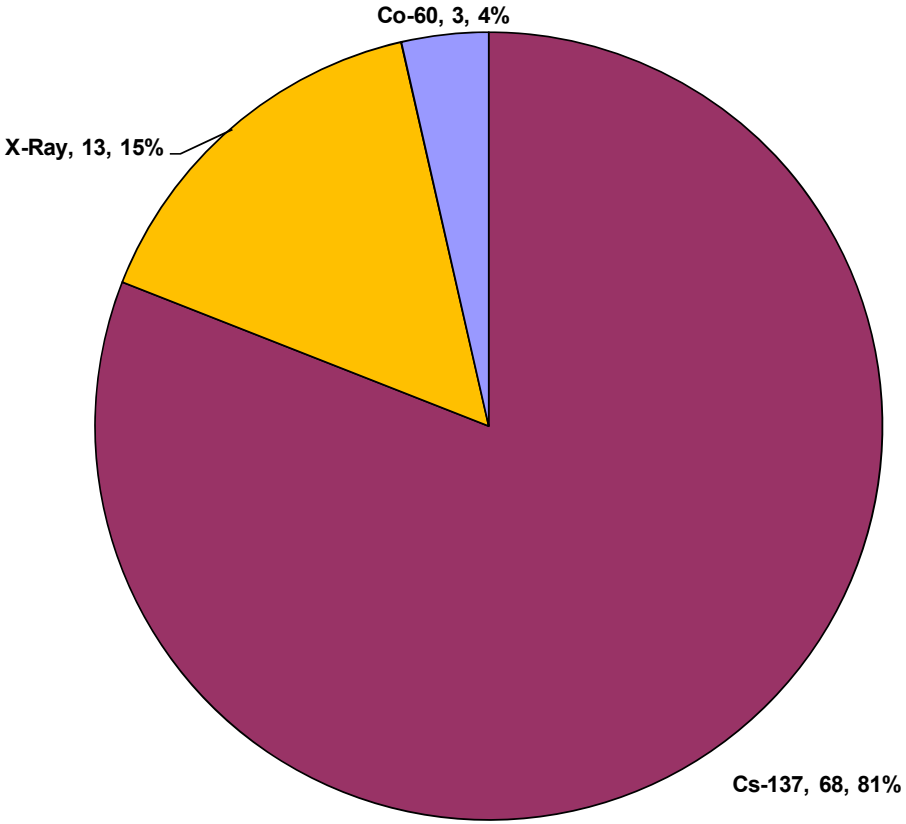
America's Blood Centers
It's About Life.

America's Blood Centers

- Founded in 1962, America's Blood Centers is North America's largest network of community-based, ***not-for-profit*** blood programs
- 76 blood programs serving nearly 180 million people in 45 U.S. states and Québec, Canada
  - > 9 million donations ranging 10,000 to 844,000 units/yr
  - >600 blood donor centers
  - Over 2.5 million blood recipients at 3,500 US hospitals
  - Half the U.S., and 25% of Canada's volunteer donor blood supply

ABC Member Irradiator Survey
Sep 2008, Updated Nov 2010

- 68 of 76 Responded
- 89 % of membership
- 93.6 % of member collections



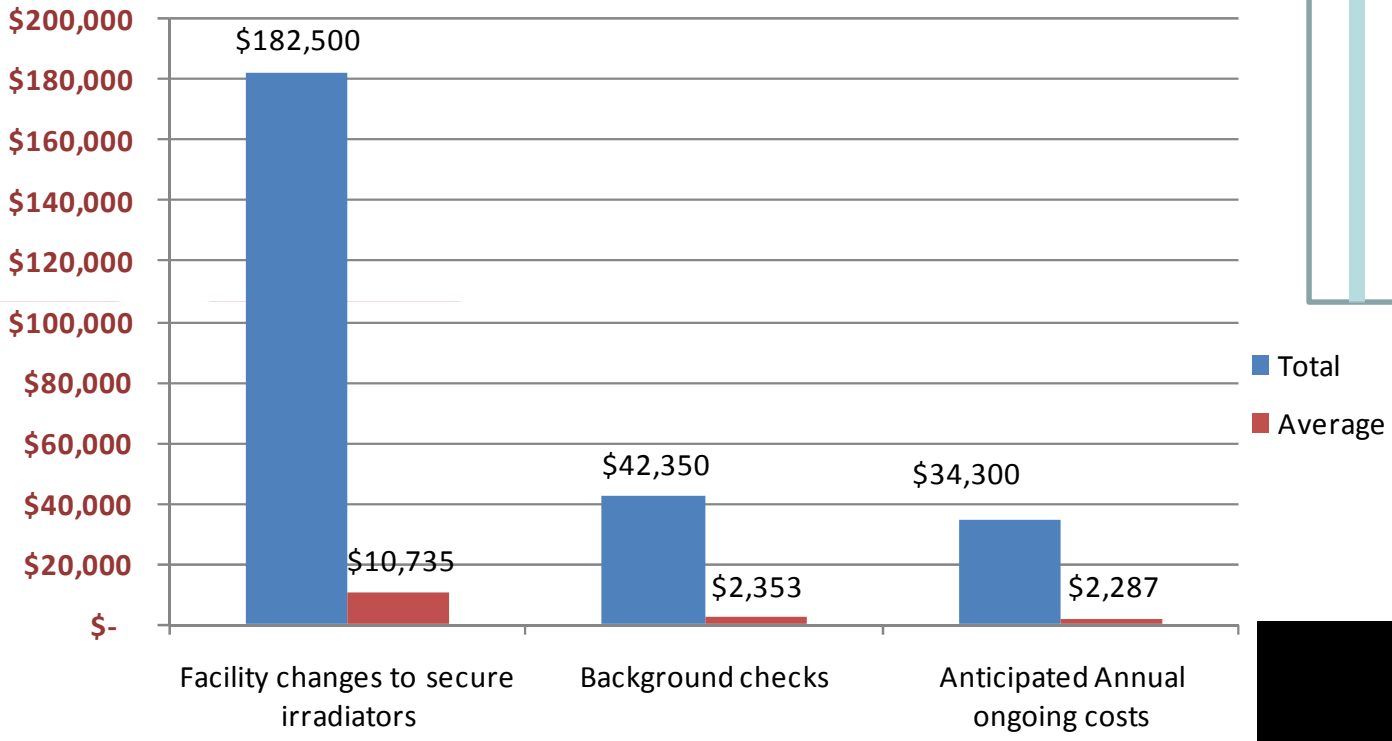
Total 84 Irradiators

Snapshot of ABC Member Irradiators - 2010

- 10 Do *NOT* irradiate in-house
- 58 irradiate >552,000 components annually
- Own 84 irradiators
- Irradiate for 1,464 facilities
- Provide backup irradiation capabilities to 194 facilities
- 1 converting from CsCl to X-ray irradiation due to ICO

Type	Number of Units	Average Year Purchase	Average Purchase Price	Average Operating Costs	Average Anticipated Life Span	Average Years of Life Remaining
n	80	68	47	56	68	68
Cs-137	68	1996	$116,881	$9,116	25	10
X-Ray	13	2005	$149,747	$20,375	10	5
Co-60	3	1993		$6,833	22	5

Increased Control Order (ICO) Costs n=24

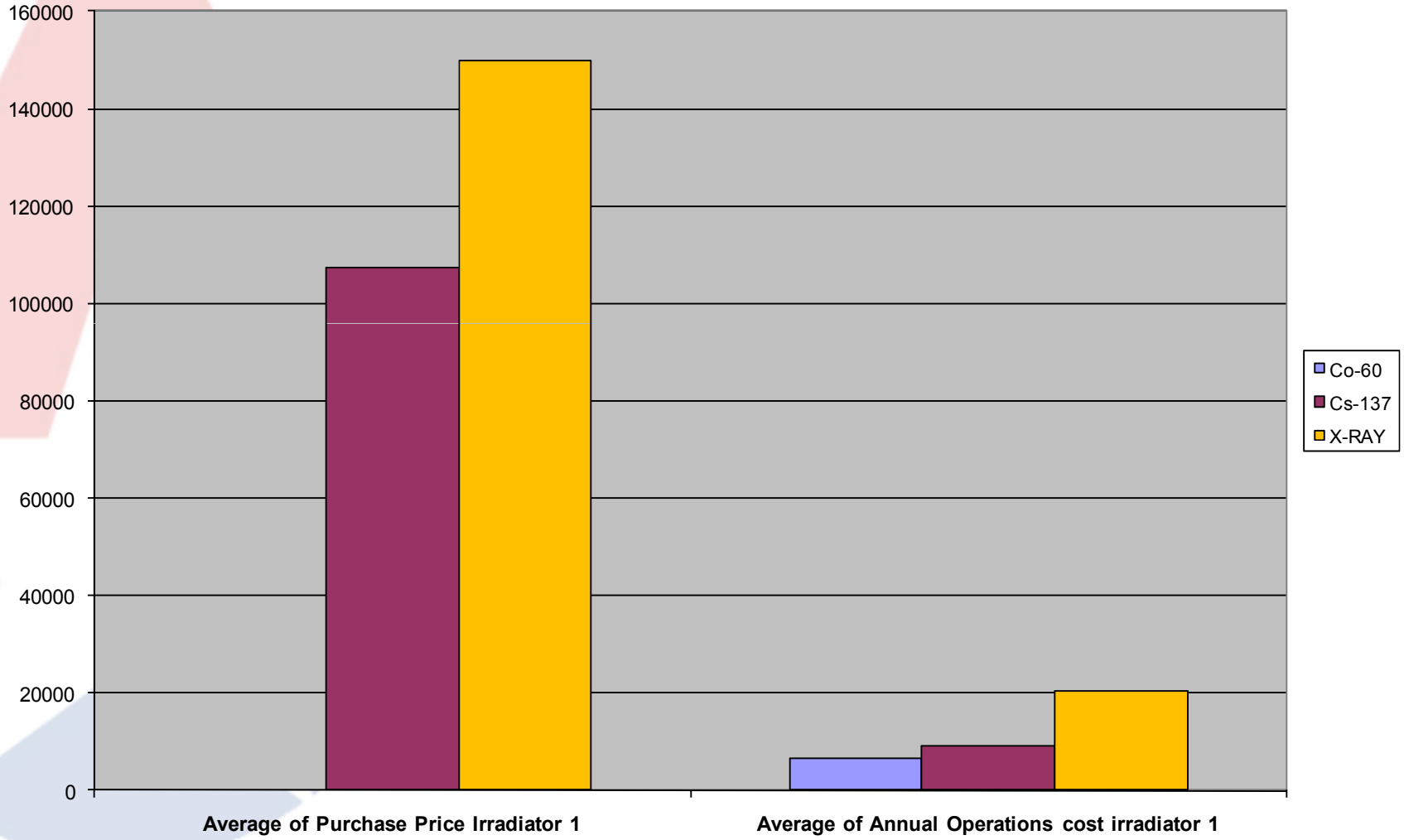


Experiences with ICOs

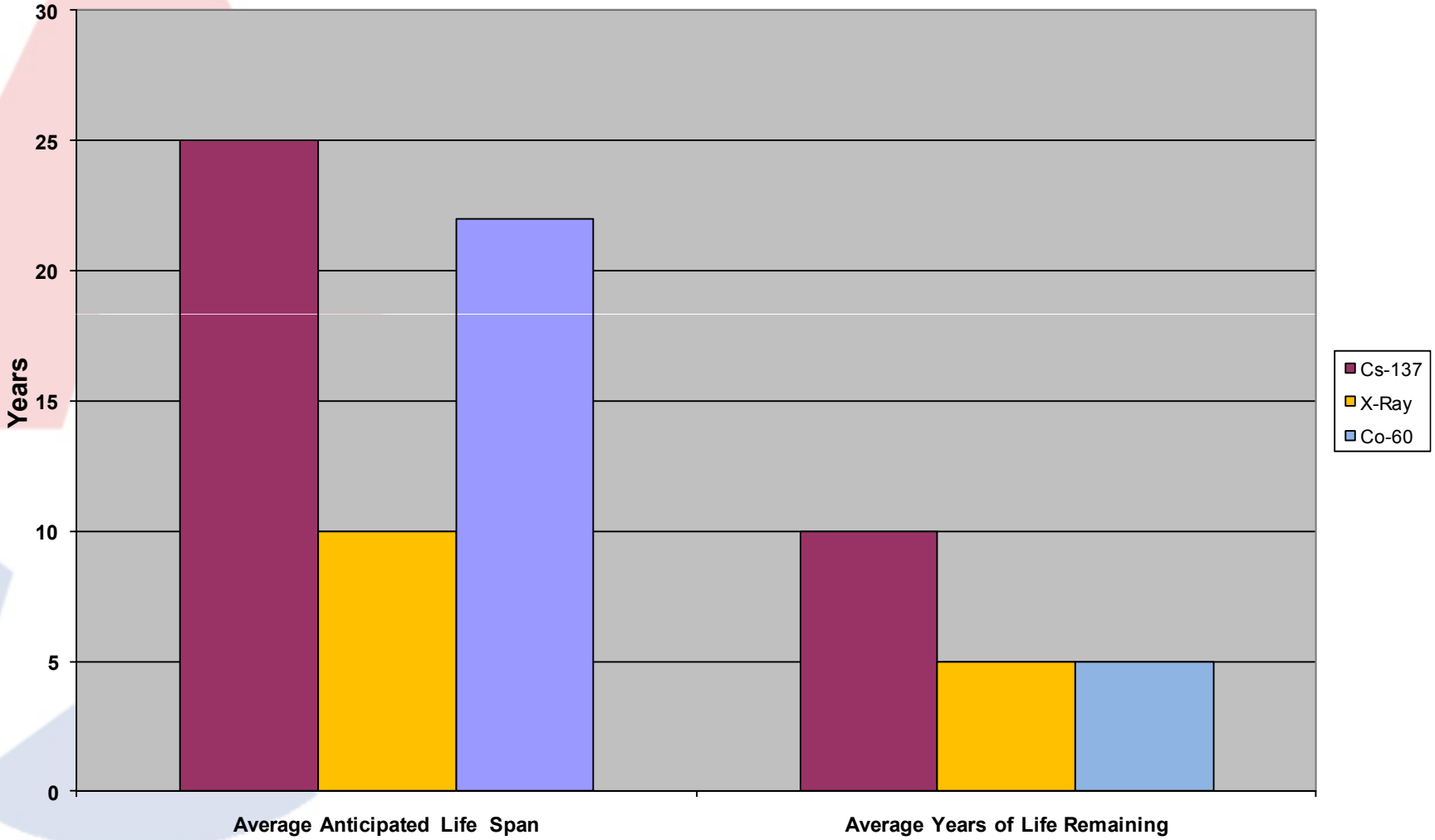
- Delays in background checks from FBI
- Some staff consider invasion of privacy
- Delays and issues with LLEA agreements
- Administrative challenges to manage ICO rqmts
- Inability to recover added expenses
- Lack of specificity of requirements

So why go through the hassle for Cs?

Irradiator Costs by Type



Irradiator Life



Obstacles to Conversion of Methodologies

- Cost difference between technologies
  - Acquisition
  - Operational
- Investment in current technology
  - Justification for premature investment in a replacement
- Burden needs to be on the Manufacturers
  - Design in security enhancements
  - Develop safer, simpler and affordable alternative form of CsCl
- Lack of Perception of Risk

Draft Policy Statement

- ABC concurs with the intent & language to:
  - Continue access to important public health benefit
  - Improve designs to enhance safety/security
  - Find alternative forms of CsCl to reduce risk
  - Develop pathways to safely dispose of CsCl

Concerns Over Proposed Rule

- Lack of uniformity in application of individual aspects of background checks
  - Credit history
  - Local criminal history – what is meant by “local”
  - Character and reputation determination
- ABC Members are not-for-profit organizations lacking experience in conducting such investigations, corroborating information, etc.
- Cost of conducting and repeating such investigations would be onerous and can’t be recouped