Public Health Laboratory Systems Survey 2014 (State Version)

BACKGROUND

In 2010 the US Department of Health and Human Services Healthy People 2020 (HP2020) Plan was released. A new objective, HP2020 Public Health Infrastructure (PHI) 12 regarding the performance of “public health laboratory systems” was included:

“Increase the proportion of public health laboratory systems (including State, Tribal, and local) which perform at a high level of quality in support of the 10 Essential Public Health Services.”

In 2012, the APHL Laboratory Systems and Standards Committee, in collaboration with CDC, devised this Public Health Laboratory Systems Survey (PHLSS) to measure PHI-12. PHLSS was created using the Laboratory System Improvement Program (L-SIP) “Key Elements” document, which identifies capacities that should be in place in a state public health laboratory system in order for that system to be functioning at a high level in support of the 10 Essential Public Health Services.

This survey is brief and uses Likert scale responses. We hope that the public health laboratory community will give this survey the same strong support and high response rate that it has given to the CLSS. Publicly-shared PHLSS results will use aggregate data and be de-identified.

INTRODUCTION

Before completing this survey, respondents should review the following definition of a State Public Health Laboratory System:

“An alliance of laboratories and other partners within a state that supports the ten essential public health services under the aegis of the state public health laboratory. The system members and stakeholders operate in an interconnected and interdependent way to facilitate the exchange of information, optimize laboratory services, and help control and prevent disease and public health threats.”

For a more complete definition of the State Public Health Laboratory System, please visit:

This survey is designed around the 10 Essential Public Health Services. After an initial general question, the survey continues with one or more measurements around public health laboratory systems and their support of each specific essential service. After the general question, the subsequent questions are outlined as follows:

- Measurement
- Optimal condition
- Statement and response options
1. Does your State Public Health Laboratory System have a mission statement that supports the 10 Essential Public Health Services?
   ○ Yes
   ○ No

Healthy People 2020 PHI-12 Objective: Increase the proportion of public health laboratory systems (including State, Tribal, and local) which perform at a high level of quality in support of the 10 Essential Public Health Services

Essential Service #1: Monitor Health Status to Identify and Solve Community Health Problems

2. **Measurement:** Level of State Public Health Laboratory System partner participation.

   **Optimal condition:** System partners regularly participate in health initiatives and collaborate to identify health events.

   **Question:** Indicate the level of frequency that applies to the following statement “My State Public Health Laboratory System partners participate in health initiatives and collaborate in the identification of health events and in surveillance activities.”
   ○ Almost always
   ○ To a considerable degree
   ○ Occasionally
   ○ Seldom

3. **Measurement:** Existence and functionality of a system-wide laboratory information management system which supports data storage, analysis, reporting and exchange of information among laboratory system partners.

   **Optimal condition:** A well-defined laboratory-based surveillance system is in place.

   **Question:** How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement “My State Public Health Laboratory System has a well-defined, secure, integrated and comprehensive data/information system which is used by all partners within the system”
   ○ Strongly agree
   ○ Agree
   ○ Disagree
   ○ Strongly disagree
Essential Service #2: Diagnose and Investigate Health Problems and Health Hazards in the Community

4. **Measurement**: Capability and capacity of the state public health laboratory system to provide the services needed to diagnose health problems and to contribute to the investigation of health problems and health hazards.

   **Optimal condition**: Partners within your state are engaged in assuring that the capability and capacity for laboratory services are available, that there is a system in place to evaluate process improvement and that the laboratory system fulfills a consultative function.

   **Question**: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement “My State Public Health Laboratory System has the capability and capacity to provide testing and respond to health problems and hazards in an effective and high quality manner”

   - Strongly agree
   - Agree
   - Disagree
   - Strongly disagree

5. **Measurement**: Existence and functionality of a public health emergency response plan that clearly defines roles of appropriate system partners.

   **Optimal condition**: Partners within your state are actively participating in the development of emergency response plans.

   **Question**: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement “My State Public Health Laboratory System has a public health emergency plan that clearly defines roles for system partners in public health emergency response activities, and that plan is evaluated for effectiveness”

   - Strongly agree
   - Agree
   - Disagree
   - Strongly disagree

6. **Measurement**: Level of the capacity, authority and readiness of the State Public Health Laboratory System to respond to a public health emergency has been exercised and demonstrated to be effective.

   **Optimal condition**: Partners within your state have the capacity and are authorized to respond to public health emergencies. System partners are engaged in evaluating their readiness to respond to public health emergencies.

   **Question**: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement “My State Public Health Laboratory System has the capacity and readiness to assure a rapid and effective response to public health emergencies, including disease outbreaks”

   - Strongly agree
   - Agree
   - Disagree
   - Strongly disagree
Essential Service #3: Inform, Educate, and Empower People about Health Issues

7. **Measurement**: The efficacy of outreach and communication is identified and targeted for both incoming and outgoing laboratory information for health and non-health partners in the community to improve health education initiatives with community and system partners.

**Optimal condition**: Partners within your state are actively engaged in creating and distributing accurate and relevant information about laboratory issues to health and non-health partners, and soliciting feedback on a regular basis.

**Question**: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement “The partners in my State Public Health Laboratory System provide information about laboratory-related health issues that are communicated to providers and the general public in a timely fashion”

- ⭕️ Strongly agree
- 🔴 Agree
- 🚫 Disagree
- ☠️ Strongly disagree

Essential Service #4: Mobilize Community Partnerships to Identify and Solve Health Problems

8. **Measurement**: The existence of a group of key system partners that collaborate and communicate on a regular basis to address health issues dependent on laboratory services.

**Optimal condition**: A collaborative group made up of key State Public Health Laboratory System partners exists. This group meets regularly to develop a plan for information sharing and collaboration to discuss issues that affect the laboratory response to solving health problems in a collaborative way with the sharing of resources where possible.

**Question**: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement "A collaborative group of laboratory system partners exists in my state that meets regularly to discuss and solve health problems that are dependent on laboratory services”

- ⭕️ Strongly agree
- 🔴 Agree
- 🚫 Disagree
- ☠️ Strongly disagree

Essential Service #5: Develop Policies and Plans that Support Individual and Community Health Efforts

9. **Measurement**: The degree to which laboratory system partners provide data in support of health policy development.

**Optimal condition**: The laboratory community has input into the development of evidenced-based public health policy.

**Question**: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement “My State Public Health Laboratory System partners provide data that is used to assure the development of health policy”

- ⭕️ Strongly agree
- 🔴 Agree
- 🚫 Disagree
- ☠️ Strongly disagree
Essential Service #6: Enforce Laws and Regulations that Protect Health and Ensure Safety

10. **Measurement:** Level of participation of State Public Health Laboratory System partners in review and revision of laws and regulations that pertain to laboratory practice.

**Optimal condition:** Partners within your state are engaged in assuring that appropriate review of applicable laws and regulations is completed, and there is a system in place to evaluate the effectiveness of existing regulations.

**Question:** How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement “My State Public Health Laboratory System members contribute to the review and revision of health and safety related laws and regulations that pertain to laboratory practice”

- [ ] Strongly agree
- [ ] Agree
- [ ] Disagree
- [ ] Strongly disagree

11. **Measurement:** Level of participation with applicable laboratory accreditation, certification and compliance programs by State Public Health Laboratory System members.

**Optimal condition:** All laboratory partners within your state participate in laboratory accreditation, certification and compliance programs that include evaluation and oversight of laboratory testing.

**Question:** How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement “Laboratories in my State Public Health Laboratory System participate in applicable laboratory accreditation, certification and compliance programs”

- [ ] Strongly agree
- [ ] Agree
- [ ] Disagree
- [ ] Strongly disagree

Essential Service #7: Link People to Needed Personal Health Services and Assure the Provision of Healthcare When Otherwise Unavailable

12. **Measurement:** Varied laboratory services are identified within the state system and access to those laboratory services is made available to communities in need.

**Optimal condition:** Partners within your state are routinely engaged in assuring laboratory service needs and resources and collaborate to fill gaps and plan for future capacity needs.

**Question:** How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement “My State Public Health Laboratory System partners collaborate to assure that essential laboratory services are available to all communities in the state”

- [ ] Strongly agree
- [ ] Agree
- [ ] Disagree
- [ ] Strongly disagree
Essential Service #8: Assure a Competent Public Health and Personal Healthcare Workforce


Optimal condition: System partners are in agreement to a standard competency level of the laboratory workforce with the availability of a standard tool to assess the competency.

Question: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement “My State Public Health Laboratory System has the means to assure that the laboratory workforce is competent”

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

14. Measurement: The system is working collaboratively to assure that the workforce is adequate and can respond to all demands of laboratory service.

Optimal condition: The laboratory system is an active participant in laboratory personnel workforce activities within the state. In addition, the laboratory system promotes a positive work environment and resource allocation to support adequate workforce numbers.

Question: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement “My State Public Health Laboratory System takes an active role with key workforce partners to assure an adequate supply of laboratorians”

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Essential Service #9: Evaluate Effectiveness, Accessibility and Quality of Personal and Population-Based Services

15. Measurement: The laboratory system participates in the evaluation of the effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of laboratory services needed in the community.

Optimal condition: Members of the State Public Health Laboratory System have a mechanism in place to measure and evaluate services and operations in the system to assure that the needs of the community continue to be met, the quality of services provided are high, and changes are made when quality and access objectives are not met.

Question: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement “The partners and stakeholders within my state routinely collaborate to evaluate the effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of laboratory services within the system”

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
16. **Measurement**: State Public Health Laboratory System partners collaborate in identifying laboratory-related health problems that can be evaluated through research.

**Optimal condition**: Research activities are a routine part of the system’s operations. System partners routinely engage the academic community to identify appropriate research projects, conduct the necessary studies, and disseminate the findings.

**Question**: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement “My State Public Health Laboratory System regularly uses collaborative research approaches to identify, evaluate and address health problems”

- [ ] Strongly agree
- [ ] Agree
- [ ] Disagree
- [ ] Strongly disagree

17. **Measurement**: Existence of an established process to identify research resources.

**Optimal condition**: There is a plan in place to identify resources to support research.

**Question**: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement “A process exists within my State Public Health Laboratory System that facilitates linkages with research funding sources”

- [ ] Strongly agree
- [ ] Agree
- [ ] Disagree
- [ ] Strongly disagree

"Thank you for completing the survey. Please use the box below to submit any feedback that you have on the survey. We will use your comments to improve the survey for future years."

Thank you for completing the survey!