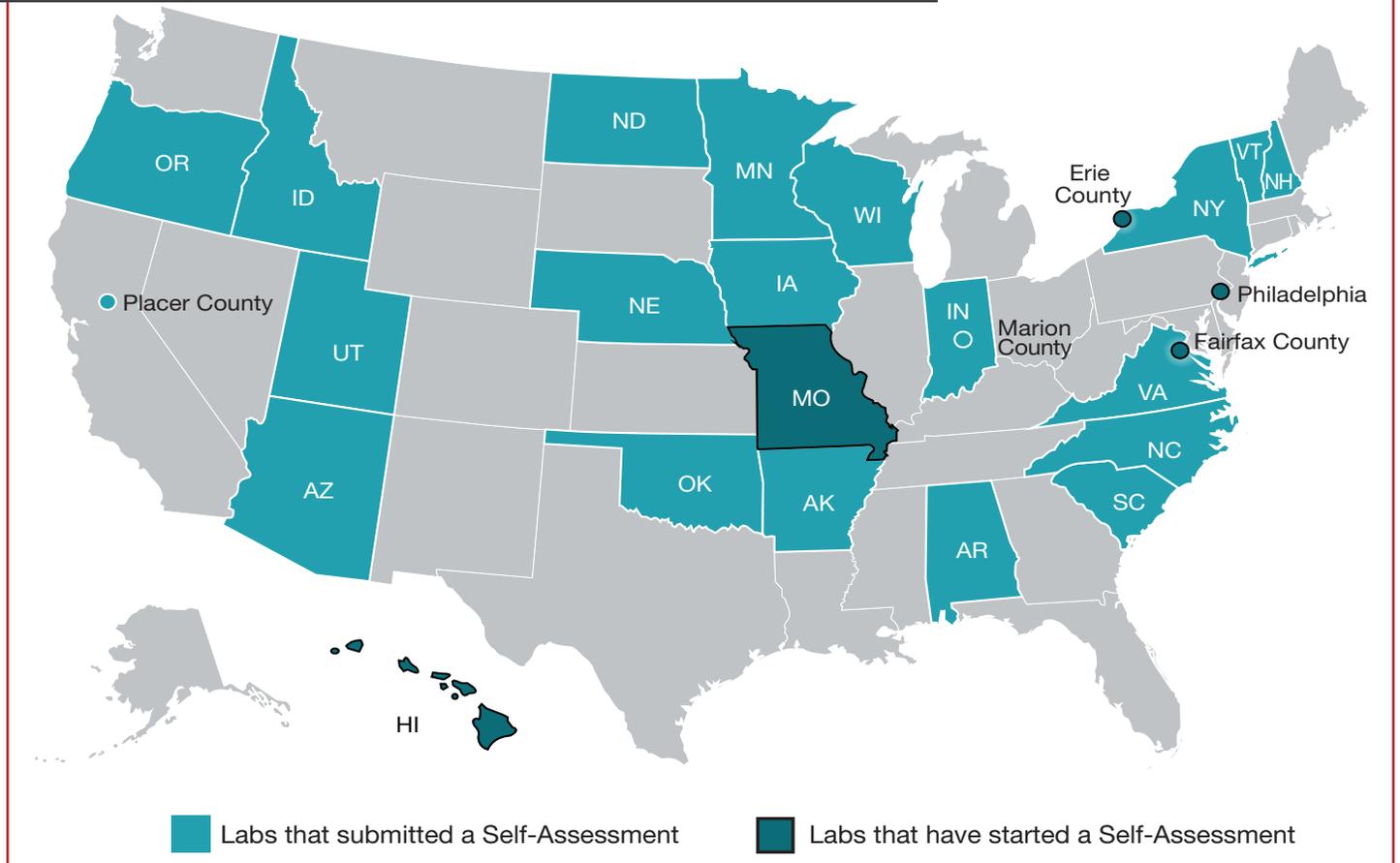# LABORATORY INFORMATICS SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

2016 ASSESSMENT REPORT

In order for public health laboratories to thrive, the ability to identify, assess and communicate specific strengths and needs is critical. In 2013, APHL, in partnership with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), developed a paper-based informatics self-assessment (SA) for laboratories, identifying 19 critical operational areas for evaluation. The initiative has since morphed into a web-based application and automated tool that not only provides laboratories a streamlined way to evaluate their capabilities, but also tracks progress longitudinally and compares results against the national standard using unique visualization modules.

This is the first environmental scan of informatics capacity; 21 state and local public health laboratories submitted their assessments and five more have started an assessment. The information gleaned from the SA will help strengthen the public health infrastructure by identifying common gaps and trends as well as individual laboratory needs. With this infromation, APHL can then better advocate on behalf of laboratories for targeted training, resources and opportunities.

PARTICIPATING STATE & LOCAL LABORATORIES

Labs that submitted a Self-Assessment Labs that have started a Self-Assessment

APHL ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES®

2016 INFORMATICS REPORT CARD

The aggregated data from the SA is able to highlight national trends. Below are averages from this year's assessment. Scores are out of three (3).

HIGHEST SCORING CAPABILITY AREAS

2.78 **UNIQUE REPORTABLE CONDITIONS: MONITORING AND ACTION (CA #8.18)**
The laboratory actively participates with public health jurisdictions to create and develop listings of unique reportable conditions and is able to proactively upgrade capabilities to accommodate these changes.

2.60 **REPORT PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION (CA #3)**
The capability for electronic report preparation, electronic submission of test results and auxiliary data report format and content, transport, distribution and tracking.

2.57 **LABORATORY CERTIFICATIONS, ACCREDITATIONS AND LICENSURE (CA #13)**
The capability to fulfill state and regulatory certification/licensing; and, where appropriate, oversight responsibilities assigned to the PHL.

LOWEST SCORING CAPABILITY AREAS

1.11 **EVALUATION AND USE OF INFORMATICS EFFICIENCY MEASURES (CS #1.7C)**
The laboratory evaluates and applies informatics efficiency measures during specimen receiving and accessioning using Radio-Frequency identification (RFID).

1.75 **LABORATORY SAFETY AND ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION (CA #16)**
The capability to ensure the safety of all laboratory activities.

1.79 **MEDIA, REAGENTS, CONTROLS: MANUFACTURING AND INVENTORY (CA #7)**
The capability to make use of electronic and real-time management of all inventory-related activities within the laboratory.

By design, the SA Tool paints a comprehensive picture of our nation's informatics capabilities in public health laboratories, and allows individual laboratories to document growth over time (see the example, right).

To access these reports and trends, and monitor your own laboratory's progress, participate in the newly opened assessment to evaluate your capabilities over the last year. Please consider participating; with increased adoption of this tool, the national aggregate generated becomes stronger and more accurate, and data becomes more meaningful and compelling. Submissions are being accepted through August 4, 2017.

Visit https://satool.aphl.org/ to get started. For assistance or to arrange a demonstration and walk-through with your laboratory contact:
Rachel Shepherd, associate specialist, Informatics at rachel.shepherd@aphl.org or 240.485.2796.

"Lab A" SA Results: 2015 vs 2016

Score / Capability Areas / 2015 / 2016

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