

Comprehensive Laboratory Services Survey, 2010 Results

INTRODUCTION

[Healthy People 2020](#) includes a Public Health Infrastructure objective 11 (PHI-11) which is focused on comprehensive public health laboratory services. It states, “Increase the proportion of Tribal and State public health agencies that provide or assure comprehensive laboratory services to support essential public health services.”

To track progress toward PHI-11 and its sub-objectives, APHL developed and launched the Comprehensive Laboratory Services Survey (CLSS) in 2004. The survey was piloted in 2004, then updated and now administered biennially to all state public health laboratories (PHLs) and the District of Columbia public health laboratory. It is based on the activities related to the [11 Core Functions of Public Health Laboratories](#) as representative of states’ providing or assuring comprehensive laboratory services in support of public health. The CLSS is the sole data source for PHI-11.

Each PHI-11 sub-objective has a corresponding target value which is the percentage of responding laboratories that meet that sub-objective. Targets were calculated using previous CLSS data as a baseline with the goal of increasing that percentage of responding laboratories meeting each sub-objective by 10% by 2020. This goal is considered challenging yet achievable by Healthy People 2020. A laboratory meets a sub-objective if it garners at least 70% of the available points. Each CLSS section is scored based upon the responses to each question in that section, with each section having a set number of points. To review updated results for all Healthy People 2020 objectives, see the [Healthy People](#) and [CDC DATA2010](#) websites.

APHL distributed the [2010 CLSS](#) in early 2011 to 50 state public health laboratories and the District of Columbia public health laboratory. The survey received a high response rate of over 96.1% (49/51 laboratories).

FINDINGS

Similar to CLSS 2008 survey, states were more likely to meet the sub-objectives related to traditional public health laboratory functions, such as disease surveillance and reference testing. A significant increase was seen in food safety, laboratory improvement, and training objectives. Other areas, such as partnerships and environmental testing, were less often met. Overall, there was improvement in the average number of objectives met: 2006 (5.85 objectives met per state), 2008 (6.22 objectives met per state) and 2010 (7.71 objectives met per state).

See the figure on the next page for more information.

LEARN MORE

For more information about CLSS or L-SIP, contact Tina Su, MPH, at 240.485.2729 or bertina.su@aphl.org.

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Respondents Meeting Healthy People Objectives, 2006-2010

