Don’t discount the importance of public environmental laboratories.

Public environmental laboratories operate at all levels of government to detect, identify, and monitor contaminants in people and the environment.

They also:

- respond to natural disasters, industrial accidents, and suspected terrorist events.
- conduct testing to support enforcement of water, air, food, dairy, and environmental safety laws.
- carry out research to investigate illness trends.

In one way or another, their work affects the life of every American. Due to a lack of dedicated funding, a gutted workforce, and outdated infrastructure, these labs are in jeopardy... and so too is the health of the nation. But you can make a difference. Support funding for public environmental laboratories, and preserve public health.

More Information

Visit www.aphl.org/member to view a member lab listing and learn more about the labs in your state.
Understandably, working within budgetary constraints is challenging, and tough decisions have to be made. But, cutting funding to our public environmental laboratories will most certainly produce devastating results.

Prior funding to environmental laboratories validates its worth.
Investments in public health preparedness have strengthened laboratory capability and capacity to respond to all threats, ... found in water (2008), flooding in Iowa (2008), E. coli outbreaks (2006), and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (2005).

Research links pesticides with ADHD in children
Associated Press, May 17, 2010

Safe disposal of pharmaceuticals a growing concern
Modern Medicine, June 15, 2010

Thousands flee toxic leak
Desert News, March 7, 2005

Rural Well Water Survey shows continuing problems with contamination
State Hygienic Laboratory at The Univ. of Iowa, December, 2009

Environmental Labs: Caught Between Health, Threats, Budget Cuts
These headlines are scary, but they don’t begin to graze the surface of the continuing challenges that public environmental laboratories face every day. And, without your continued support, issues such as the ones mentioned above and countless others will go unchecked, putting the population in peril.

Scarier yet, cuts in funding have forced public environmental laboratories to...
- shut down completely
- lay off key laboratory personnel
- reduce spending on essential equipment
- eliminate services.

Further, lack of funds will also result in the...
- loss of state jobs
- loss of fee-for-service revenue
- loss of Primacy to satisfy federal Safe Drinking Water Act, which will significantly increase costs to the state to maintain this Act
- loss of state capability to perform water testing services for state regulatory agencies
- and more

Funding Critical to Public’s Health
Finally, without appropriate funding, environmental laboratories will be unable to support emergency events such as floods, hurricanes, and other disasters natural or otherwise, rendering us powerless against life-threatening diseases and environmental health emergencies.

Support environmental laboratories.