

2016 APHL™ ANNUAL MEETING

and tenth government environmental laboratory conference

June 6–9, 2016

Albuquerque, NM

Albuquerque Convention Center



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Utilizing the Informatics Self Assessment Tool

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The Need -



- **As a member of the APHL Informatics Committee:**
 - Need a mechanism to evaluate informatics capabilities in PHL's across the country
 - Recognize that “informatics” is not always understood or appreciated as being essential to the business of a PHL
 - Need a way to demonstrate what a strong, comprehensive informatics system should look like
- **As a PHL director of operations responsible for Informatics-related activities:**
 - Need a mechanism to evaluate the informatics strengths and weaknesses within Virginia's state PHL
 - Comparative data to support requests for funding for new initiatives and additional resources



The Solution – The Informatics Self Assessment Tool!

- A mechanism to conduct a comprehensive examination of your lab's informatics capabilities
- Provides a baseline of your current informatics strengths and weakness and allows you to track progress over time
- Compare your informatics capabilities to previous assessments, other PHL's and to the national average
- Provides data needed to support funding requests
- Enables leadership to better understand why informatics plays such a key role in the success of the PHL

Using the Visualization Tools

Example #1 - Compare informatics capabilities across systems within your organization

willieandrewsVA Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services [Download User Guide](#) | [Video](#) | [Back to Self-Assessment site](#) | [Log off](#)

APHL

Informatics Self-Assessment Tool

Compact List Timeline **Compare** Full Graph Map

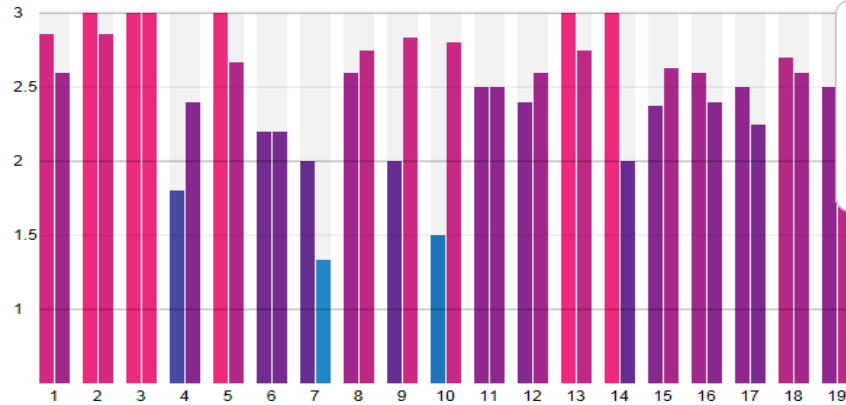
Compare View VA and VA

Domain: **Clinical Testing**
Assessment Date: **02/27/15**
Virginia Division of Consolidated
Laboratory Services

Domain: **Environmental Testing**
Assessment Date: **02/27/15**
Virginia Division of Consolidated
Laboratory Services

Lab 1: VA
Assessment: DCLS-SUNRISE
Domain: Clinical Testing

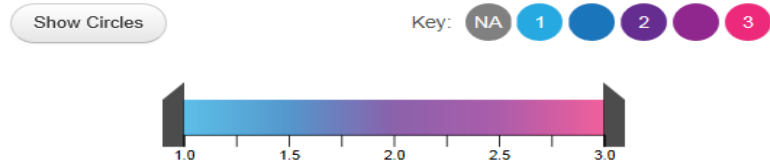
Lab 2: VA
Assessment: DCLS-Environmental LIMS
Domain: Environmental Testing



CA 7

Media, Reagents, Controls: Manufacturing and Inventory

Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services	Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services
Avg. Score: 2	Avg. Score: 1.33
Answered: 100%	Answered: 100%



Example #2 - Compare informatics capabilities across states and against the national averages

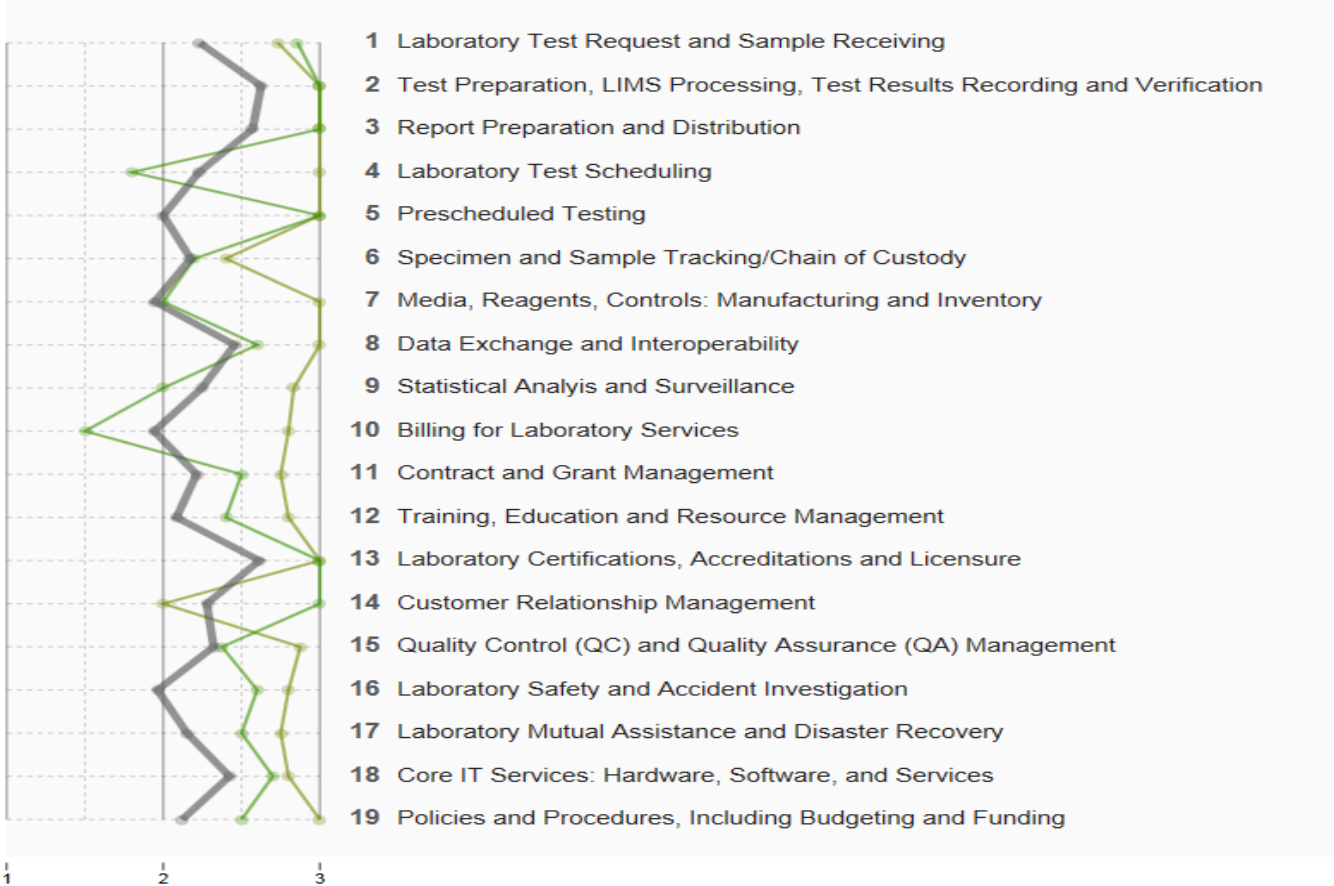
Full Graph View

● Lab Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services
Assessment VA Assessment #2
Domain Clinical Testing

All On/Off Sort

Key:

- GA
- GA
- GA
- GA
- GA
- KY
- KY**
- MT
- MT
- NY: New York City
- VA
- VA
- VA**
- WV
- Average



So why the limited Use of the SA Tool?

- 14 PHL's have created accounts and started assessments
 - Only 6 have completed and published one or more assessments

Reasons for NOT utilizing the SA Tool –

- Perceived to be a large task; no time available
- Requires input from multiple resources, hard to assemble
- Competing priorities pulling resources away



Identify an *Informatics*
Champion that understands the
business of the laboratory, can pull
together resources and can work with IT
as needed to complete the SA Tool



Virginia's Approach



- The PHL's Champion created the assessment in the SA tool
- The assessment information was shared with the IT Lead who completed the assessment
- The PHL Champion reviewed all responses entered by IT and any noted discrepancies were discussed and resolved
- Assessments were approved upon completion and published
- 7 to 8 hours were spent by Lab and the same by IT.

Make your **Self Assessment** a Priority!!

- Time and money has been invested in a tool to aide PHL's in the assessment of their informatics strength/maturity
- **PHL's need to take advantage of this opportunity**
- To benefit of your organization, the PHL community and future initiatives...

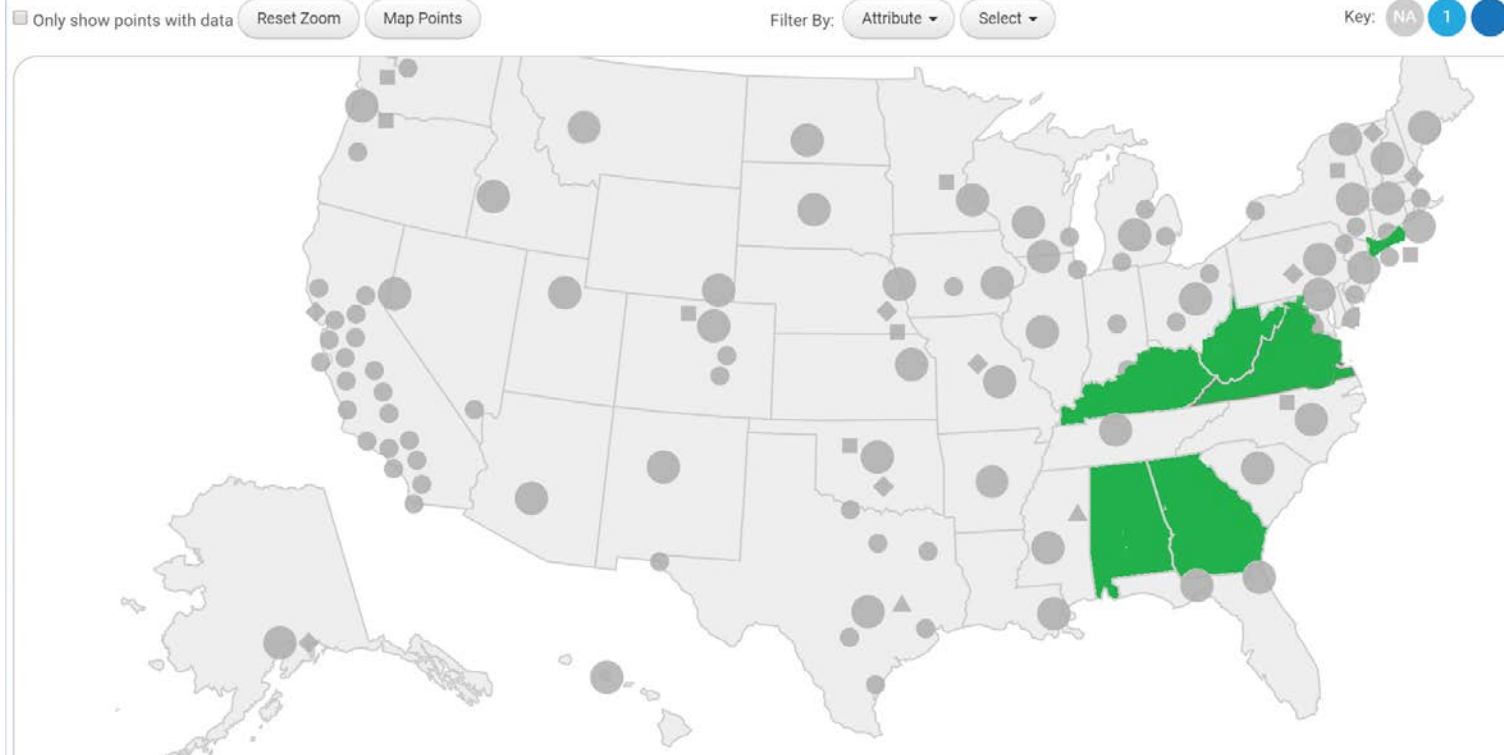
Not just data collection



But, your data is needed...

Capability Area: 1

Laboratory Test Request and Sample Receiving



- Understand the Big Picture- what is happening across the country
- Shines a spotlight on successes
- Allows weaknesses to come to the surface
- Identifies areas for collaboration and peer to peer mentoring

Advocacy, Policy, & Funding come when a gap is identified and there are data to back up the claim

Increasing Adoption

Technical

- Guidebook developed
- Trained staff on tool
- Updated guidance
- Functionality review

Educational

- Mobilizing Sr. Leadership
- Monthly community calls
- Peer to peer support
- Additional training opportunities
- One on one support (help desk)

Timeline to Success



June:

- Tool review and cleanup of functionality
- Informatics staff is training on the tool
- Informatics committee and CDC partners will finalize facilitation guide

July:

- Leadership involvement
- Set up monthly community calls
- Officially “reopen” the annual assessment
 - 50 state call?
- Ensure support and information is readily available during assessment



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