

Healthy People 2010 Operational Definition

23-13. Increase the proportion of Tribal and State public health agencies that provide or assure comprehensive laboratory services to support essential public health services.

23-13k. Partnerships and communication.

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| National Data Source | Comprehensive Laboratory Services Survey (CLSS), Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL). |
| State Data Source | Comprehensive Laboratory Services Survey, Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL). |
| Healthy People 2000 Objective | Not applicable. |
| Changes since the 2000 Publication | New subobjective (see Comments). Revised text (see Comments). Revised baseline (see Comments). Revised baseline year (see Comments). Revised target (see Comments). |
| Measure | Percent. |
| Baseline (Year) | 52 (2006) |
| Target | 81 |
| Target-Setting Method | Expert opinion. For a discussion of target-setting methods, see Part A, section 4. |
| Numerator | Number of States and Territories participating in the survey that meet the defined standards/criteria for Partnerships and Education. |
| Denominator | Number of States and Territories participating in the survey. |
| Population Targeted | State and Territorial public health laboratories. |
| Questions Used to Obtain the National Baseline Data | From the 2006 Comprehensive Laboratory Services Survey: |

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- *Has the state public health laboratory director or designee given any presentations regarding the state public health laboratory functions/services within your state within the past two years?*
 - a) Yes (1)
 - b) No (0)
- *Do you meet/teleconference on a regular basis with other public health laboratory directors/representatives within your state or region?*
 - a) Yes (1)
 - b) No (0)
- *Does your laboratory employ an individual whose sole responsibility is to promote partnerships between public health laboratories within your state?*
 - a) Yes (1)
 - b) No (0)
- *Does your laboratory have a current directory of testing services available to your clients?*
 - a) Yes (1)
 - b) No (0)
- *Does your laboratory send regular communications (e.g., newsletters, bulletins, emails) to clinical or hospital laboratories and other health-care organizations in your state?*
 - a) Yes (1)
 - b) No (0)
- *Does your laboratory director or designee regularly schedule meetings with the following (check all that apply)*
 - a) *Local health departments (0.08)*
 - b) *State epidemiologist (0.08)*
 - c) *State health official (0.08)*
 - d) *State HIV/STD program staff (0.08)*
 - e) *Maternal and child health program staff (0.08)*
 - f) *Newborn screening program (0.08)*
 - g) *Agriculture and veterinary officers (0.08)*
 - h) *Public information officer (0.08)*
 - i) *Tuberculosis program staff (0.08)*
 - j) *State terrorism preparedness lead (0.08)*
 - k) *Other in-state government laboratories (0.08)*
 - l) *Other public health laboratories of regional or neighboring states (0.08)*
 - m) *None of the above*

Expected Periodicity

Approximately every two years.

Comments

Questions to determine whether a State or Territory is providing or assuring comprehensive laboratory services in support of essential public health services were selected by the Leadership Committee of the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL). The committee consists of

practicing and retired public health laboratory directors, members of academia, and other laboratory practitioners.

A State/Territory is considered to have met the core function of Partnerships and Communication if it scored at least 5 of the 6 total possible points for this subobjective.

Forty-six of the 56 States and Territories responded to the Internet-based survey system entitled “LabNet” in 2006.

Objective 24-13 moved from developmental to measurable during the Healthy People 2010 Midcourse Review. The original objective included comprehensive laboratory services provided by State, Tribal, and local health agencies. Local health agencies were dropped from the objective scope due to the lack of a data source. Eleven subobjectives were created, each addressing specific components of comprehensive laboratory services.

For this objective, the term “State” includes the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

The first CLSS survey was fielded in 2004. Between 2004 and 2006, significant changes were made to improve the survey instrument. These include modifications to clarify questions that may have been confusing; updates to reflect changes in current laboratory practice; and the addition of follow-up questions to enable more accurate measurement of given subobjectives.

Consequently, the original 2004 baseline of 48 percent was replaced with the 2006 measure of 52 percent. The original target of 75 percent was proportionally adjusted to 81 percent to reflect the revised baseline using the original target-setting methodology.

At this time, data for Tribal agencies are not collected. However, if data should become available by 2010, the information will be included.

See Appendix A for focus area contact information.