

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.

23-13c. Reference and specialized testing.

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)	67 (2006)
Target	82
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 Reference and Specialized Testing.
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:

- *Does your laboratory provide and/or assure testing for the following categories:*
 - *Antimicrobial susceptibility testing confirmation for vancomycin resistant staph aureus*
 - a) *Provide testing (1)*
 - b) *Assure testing (1)*
 - c) *Neither provide nor assure (0)*
 - *Botulinum toxin - mouse toxicity assay*
 - a) *Provide testing (1)*
 - b) *Assure testing (1)*
 - c) *Neither provide nor assure (0)*
 - *Brucella serology*
 - a) *Provide testing (1)*
 - b) *Assure testing (1)*
 - c) *Neither provide nor assure (0)*
 - *Hantavirus serology*
 - a) *Provide testing (1)*
 - b) *Assure testing (1)*
 - c) *Neither provide nor assure (0)*
 - *Identification of unusual bacterial isolates*
 - a) *Provide testing (1)*
 - b) *Assure testing (1)*
 - c) *Neither provide nor assure (0)*
 - *Identification of Fungal isolates*
 - a) *Provide testing (1)*
 - b) *Assure testing (1)*
 - c) *Neither provide nor assure (0)*
 - *Legionella (culture or PCR)*
 - a) *Provide testing (1)*
 - b) *Assure testing (1)*
 - c) *Neither provide nor assure (0)*
 - *Lyme serology*
 - a) *Provide testing (1)*
 - b) *Assure testing (1)*
 - c) *Neither provide nor assure (0)*
 - *Norovirus PCR*
 - a) *Provide testing (1)*
 - b) *Assure testing (1)*
 - c) *Neither provide nor assure (0)*
 - *Rabies*
 - a) *Provide testing (1)*
 - b) *Assure testing (1)*
 - c) *Neither provide nor assure (0)*
 - *Toxicology (including drug, alcohol and poisoning)*
 - a) *Provide testing (1)*
 - b) *Assure testing (1)*
 - c) *Neither provide nor assure (0)*
 - *West nile virus - human*
 - a) *Provide testing (1)*
 - b) *Assure testing (1)*

- c) *Neither provide nor assure* (0)
- *West nile virus - mosquito*
 - a) *Provide testing* (1)
 - b) *Assure testing* (1)
 - c) *Neither provide nor assure* (0)

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 Reference and Specialized Testing if it scored at least 9 of the 13 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 65 percent was replaced with the 2006 measure of 67 percent. The original target of 80 percent was proportionally adjusted to 82 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.