



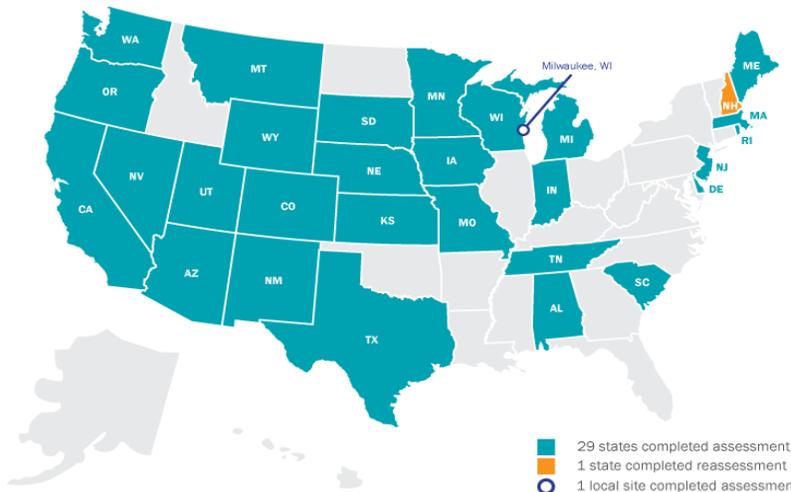
Colorado Completes an L-SIP Assessment

On March 21, 2013, Colorado became the 29th state to complete a state public health laboratory system assessment through APHL's Laboratory System Improvement Program (L-SIP). David Butcher, Director of the Colorado Laboratory Services Division, reflected on the benefits of conducting an assessment: "The L-SIP assessment process is very effective for educating stakeholders and laboratory staff alike about the broader issues facing the public health laboratory system." To read more about the experience, please refer to the Spring 2013 issue of APHL's [Lab Matters](#).

Updated L-SIP Map

The colored city and states in the map represent the 29 states and one local public health laboratory system that have convened an L-SIP assessment, as well as one state that completed an L-SIP reassessment. If your laboratory has not completed an assessment, and you are interested in learning more about L-SIP and how to get your laboratory system partners connected through convening an L-SIP assessment, join your colleagues for the Fall 2013 technical assistance calls. States that conducted an assessment in 2007 and 2008 are strongly encouraged to join New Hampshire and conduct a reassessment to document the impact of previous changes and to assess where gaps still might be in the laboratory system since the first assessment.

L-SIP PARTICIPATION MAP
2007-2013



For More Information

Please visit the [L-SIP site on www.aphl.org](#).

Contact

Tina Su, MPH
Senior Specialist,
Laboratory Systems
and Standards
240.485.2729
bertina.su@aphl.org



L-SIP at the 2013 APHL Annual Meeting

L-SIP will be showcased at the APHL Experience booth on **Tuesday, June 4 at 10:30–11:30 am**. Come visit to see the new L-SIP flyers and updated L-SIP website. There will also be an opportunity to chat with an L-SIP representative if you have any questions about preparing for an assessment, undergoing the assessment process, or embarking on post-assessment quality improvement activities.

Quality Improvement Forum Update

The Quality Improvement Forum (QIF), formerly known as the Laboratory System Improvement Group (LSIG), has met via teleconference bimonthly since the August 2011 in-person meeting. Each call consists of a structured training or learning component and “open mic” time for sharing of quality improvement activities or obtaining of information from your peers. The learning component of the calls has been focused on the sharing of quality improvement activities in state systems, including post- L-SIP assessment activities.

The January call 2013 was focused on Baldrige activities in public health laboratories. Laura Naught, the Quality Systems Officer for the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory, gave a presentation entitled “[Missouri's Baldrige Journey](#).” Lorelei Kurimski, who directs and oversees multiple programs within the State Hygienic Laboratory of Iowa, including strategic planning/deployment and Lean/systems improvement, gave a presentation entitled “[Combining L-SIP with Baldrige for PHL System Improvements](#).” In May 2013, John Shalkham, Director of the Office of Quality Assurance at the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, provided a basic overview of terminology associated with Quality Laboratory Service and reviewed the construction and/or update of a quality assurance plan. His presentation was entitled “[Quality Assurance Planning: A Practical Approach to Quality Management Systems](#).”

The above presentations were uploaded to the [APHL Member Resource Center \(MRC\)](#). If you would like to present on a quality improvement activity occurring in your state or would like to join the group either as a participant on the calls and/or to be part of one of the workgroups, contact Tina Su at bertina.su@aphl.org to be added to the distribution list.

L-SIP Recruitment

Recruitment for states/locals interested in conducting an L-SIP assessment in Fall 2013 has begun. States that conducted an assessment in 2007 and 2008 are strongly encouraged to conduct

a reassessment to assess the impact of previous changes and to document where gaps still might be in the laboratory system since the first assessment. The three-call technical assistance series will be held sometime in September/October 2013 and will cover topics such as identifying stakeholders to invite to the assessment and what to expect on the assessment day. Once your state/local public health laboratory system has committed to conducting an assessment, APHL will provide a mentor, a representative from a state/local laboratory that has previously conducted an L-SIP assessment. The mentor will serve as a resource and can answer questions related to preparing for an assessment. Additionally, mini grants are available to assist in offsetting expenses. To receive information about the process, financial support and technical assistance, please contact Tina Su at bertina.su@aphl.org.

Quality Assurance Listserv

Representatives from all United States member laboratories are invited to sign up to participate on the Quality Assurance Listserv. This member benefit acts as a forum for your quality related questions to your peers and the sharing of possible solutions and lessons learned. Recent topics include discussions about the storage of reagent grade antibiotics and looking for examples of public health laboratory catalogues of services. To join in on the conversation or view an archive of previous listserv postings, please contact Tina Su at bertina.su@aphl.org.

What's New in APHL's Member Resource Center?

The following resources have been recently uploaded to the MRC:

- [In Transition: A Practical Guide to Navigating Leadership Changes in the Public Health Laboratory](#)
- [New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Food Laboratory. Checklist MICRO-MTH-303 VIDAS *Listeria monocytogenes* Procedure](#)

The MRC is only as strong as the quality of the submitted resources, so please continue to submit resources to the MRC. For more information or assistance accessing the MRC, please email Deborah Kim, APHL's Institutional Research director, at deborah.kim@aphl.org.

Upcoming Meetings

The 12th [National Network of Public Health Institutes](#) Annual Conference will be held May 20–22 in New Orleans, LA. Registration will launch in February 2013.

The American Society for Quality (ASQ) Raleigh's 2013 Quality in the Triangle Conference will be held on May 20–22, 2013. The conference theme is "Innovation and Creativity – Application by the Quality Professional." For more information, visit <http://www.asqraleigh.org> (Conference tab).

The 2013 APHL Annual Meeting and Seventh Government Environmental Laboratory Conference will be held at the Raleigh Convention Center in Raleigh, NC from June 2-5, 2013. This year's meeting will discuss issues ranging from environmental issues to emerging infectious diseases and emergency preparedness, from informatics to food safety, newborn screening and global health. Please visit the [meeting website](#) for more information.

The NNPHI's [Open Forum Meeting for Quality Improvement in Public Health](#) will be held in Milwaukee, WI from June 12–13, 2013. The Open Forum convenes public health leaders and practitioners to:

- Provide a national forum meeting to connect the public health performance improvement community
- Broaden the understanding of performance improvement at the local, state, national and tribal levels
- Showcase innovative performance improvement work being implemented in the field and move those efforts forward

The 2013 [American Public Health Association Meeting & Exposition](#) will be held in Boston, Massachusetts, November 2–6, 2013. The conference theme is "Think Global, Act Local: Best Practices Around the World."

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Association of Public Health Laboratories

8515 Georgia Avenue, Suite 700, Silver Spring, MD 20910
(240) 485-2745  | www.aphl.org

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