

Indiana State Department of Health Laboratories Laboratory System Improvement Program (L-SIP)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Indiana State
Department of Health



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Introduction

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), on behalf of the ISDH Laboratory, contracted with Purdue University Healthcare Technical Assistance Program to perform an assessment of the Indiana State Public Health Laboratory System using the American Public Health Laboratories (APHL), Laboratory System Improvement Program (L-SIP) - State Public Health Laboratory System Assessment Instrument. The primary goal of the L-SIP is to target improvement of the public health laboratory system through collaborative work of partners to:

- 1) assess system performance
- 2) plan for system improvements
- 3) implement improvement strategies, and
- 4) periodically evaluate and re-assess

Primary goals of the assessment process for the ISDH Laboratory were to build their network, to include the attending partners and beyond, and to better address the needs of the laboratory system throughout Indiana. The Assessment event was held and data were collected in a systematic manner on October 23rd, 2009 in accordance with the Laboratory System Improvement Program User's Guide. Indiana is among one of the 20 states in the nation to conduct a statewide assessment using the L-SIP assessment tool.

A State Public Health Laboratory System (SPHLS) has been defined by APHL as: An alliance of laboratories and other partners within a state that supports the ten essential public health services under the aegis of the state public health laboratory. The system members and stakeholders operate in an interconnected and interdependent way to facilitate the exchange of information, optimize laboratory services and help control and prevent disease and public health threats.

The 10 Essential Public Health Services:

1. Monitor health status to identify community health problems
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community
3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues
4. Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable
8. Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services
10. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

Assessment participants were defined as individuals representing state, local, public and private organizations that contributed to the public health laboratory system in Indiana. These individuals comprising the state public health system included, but were not limited to, those who represented state and local public health agencies, healthcare organizations, public health safety agencies, private laboratories, academic partners, and environmental agencies. The selection of participating organizations and representative individuals was determined by the

ISDH Laboratory. Seventy-four Indiana partners and 27 ISDH staff were identified by the ISDH Laboratory and invited to the assessment. A total of 36 individuals attended and participated. While every effort to include broad-based system participation was made, it should be acknowledged that the scores reported in this summary represent the perspective of the participants that attended.

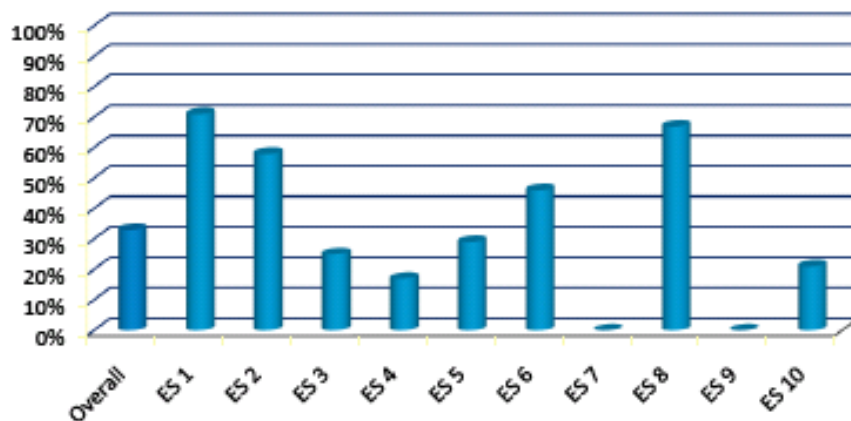
Results

Significant findings of the first systemic assessment of Indiana’s Public Health Laboratory System are described in this Executive Summary. The summary contains results for each of the ten essential services. Each composite score can be categorized with regard to the level of activity it represents. It should be noted that the scoring methodology was adjusted in calculating Indiana performance scores. APHL calculation factors found in the L-SIP scoring tool were not used. Instead, the optimal value in each voting category was used as the calculation factor in determining composite scores, in alignment with the scoring methodology for the CDC, National Public Health Performance Standards Program. This provides for consistency in utilizing results, as Indiana has implemented the NPHPSP statewide since 2007.

Strengths identified for Indiana’s statewide public health system included Essential Services: (1) Monitoring Health Status to Identify Health Problems and (8) Assuring a Competent Public and Personal Healthcare Workforce. Lower scoring areas included Essential Services: (3) Informing, Educating and Empowering About Health Issues, (4) Mobilizing Partnerships to Identify and Solve Health Problems, (5) Developing Policies and Plans that Support Individual and Community Health Efforts, (7) Linking People to Needed Health Services and Assuring Care When Otherwise Unavailable, (9) Evaluating the Effectiveness, Accessibility and Quality of Personal and Population-Based Healthcare Services, and (10) Conducting Research for New Insights and Innovative Solutions to Health Problems.

Results were shared with attendees through a Post Assessment Webinar held on December 8th, 2009. In the Post Assessment Webinar Evaluation, 24 (96%) of respondents indicated that the Assessment process identified potential areas for performance improvement. Participants recommended ‘defining the system’ and formalizing the system with a formalized laboratory system committee as critical first steps to performance improvement activities in the future.

Composite Scores By Essential Service



Highest Ranking Essential Services

ES	Description	Score
1	Monitor health status to identify health problems	71%
8	Assure a competent public and personal health care workforce	67%
2	Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community	58%
6	Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety	46%

Intermediate Ranking Essential Services

ES	Description	Score
5	Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts	29%
3	Inform, educate and empower people about health issues	25%
10	Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems	21%
4	Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems	17%

Lowest Ranking Essential Services

ES	Description	Score
7	Link people to needed health services and assure care when otherwise unavailable	0%
9	Evaluate effectiveness, availability, and quality of personal and population-based health services	0%

Next Steps

From the Post Assessment Webinar Evaluation, there were 25 individuals who indicated they were willing or possibly willing to continue serving on a laboratory system improvement committee. After taking some time to review and digest the Laboratory System Assessment, these individuals will be invited to an in-person meeting to continue to define the Indiana Laboratory System and work towards performance improvement. These activities will include:

- 1) Further defining members of the Indiana Laboratory System
- 2) Establishing a draft vision statement of the Laboratory System
- 3) Deciding upon and prioritizing areas to focus improvement efforts
- 4) Discussing next steps in how to carry out system performance improvement