

Environmental and Public Health Laboratories: An Expanding Reach To Improve Environmental Health

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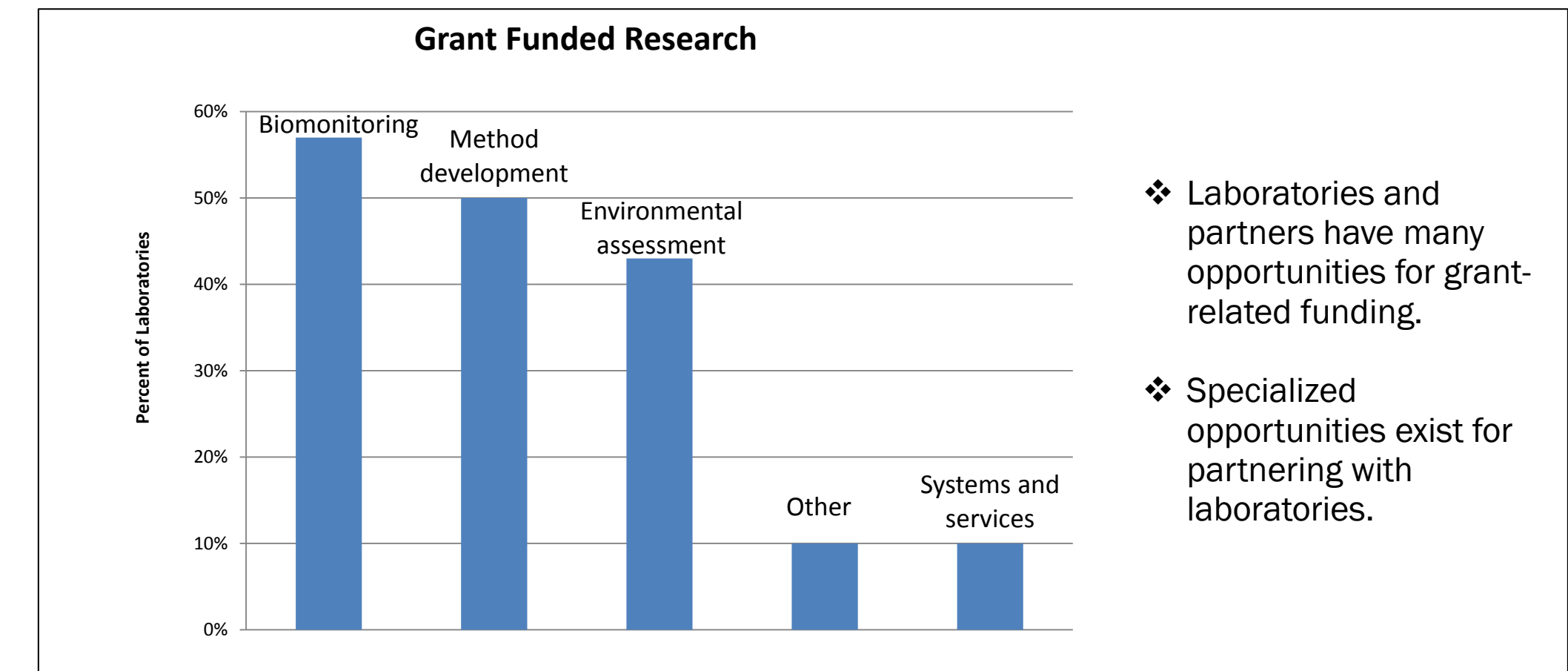
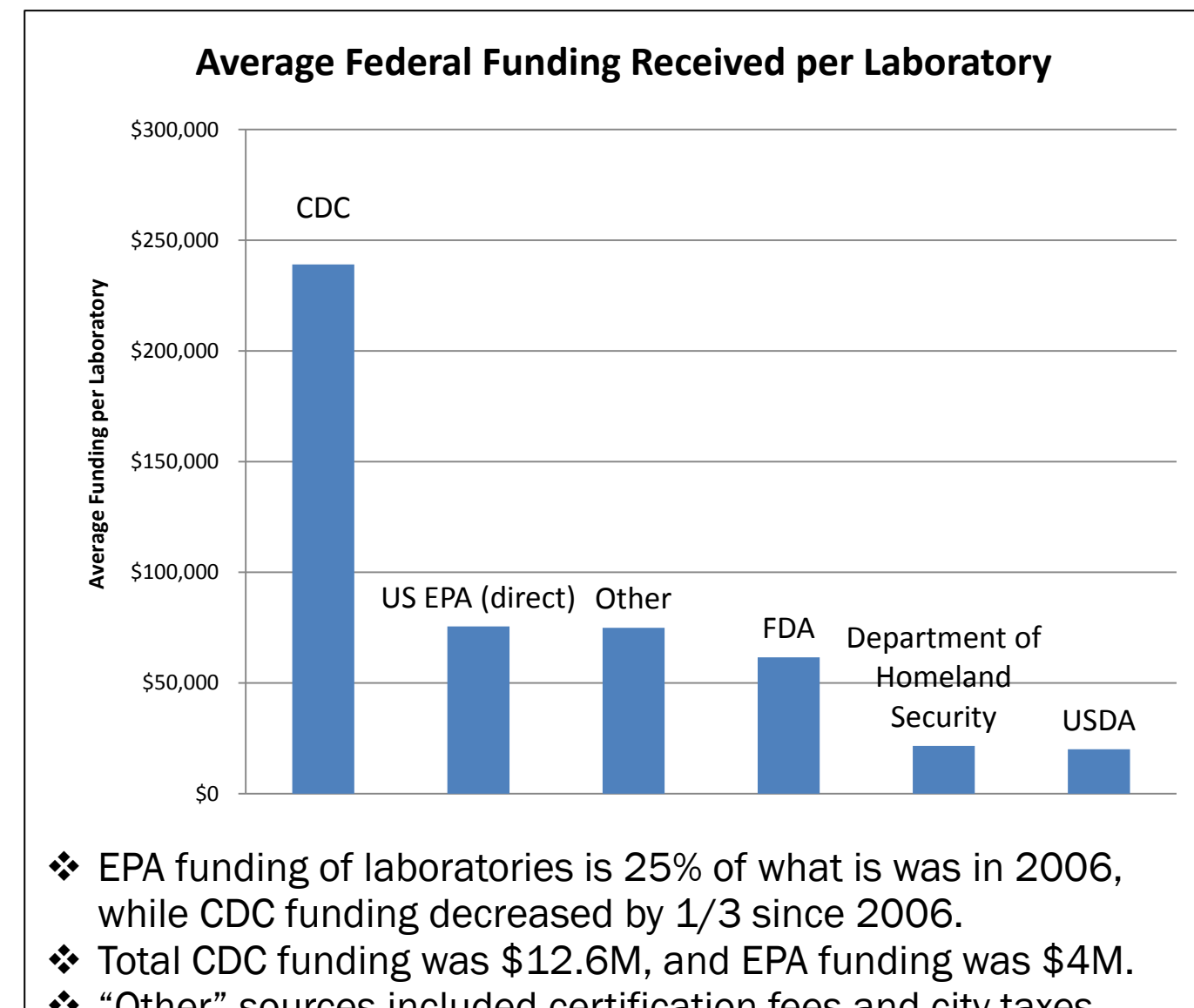
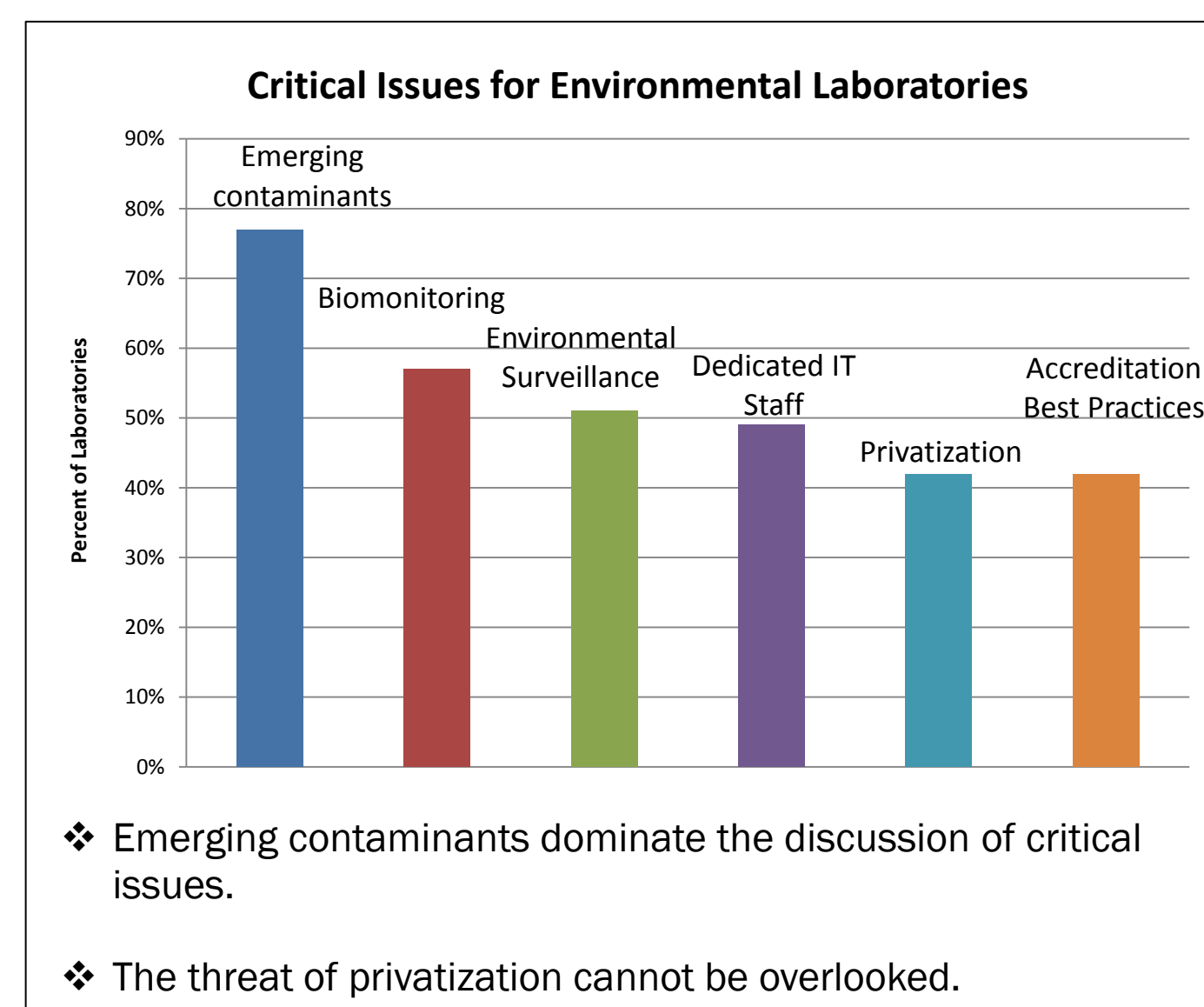
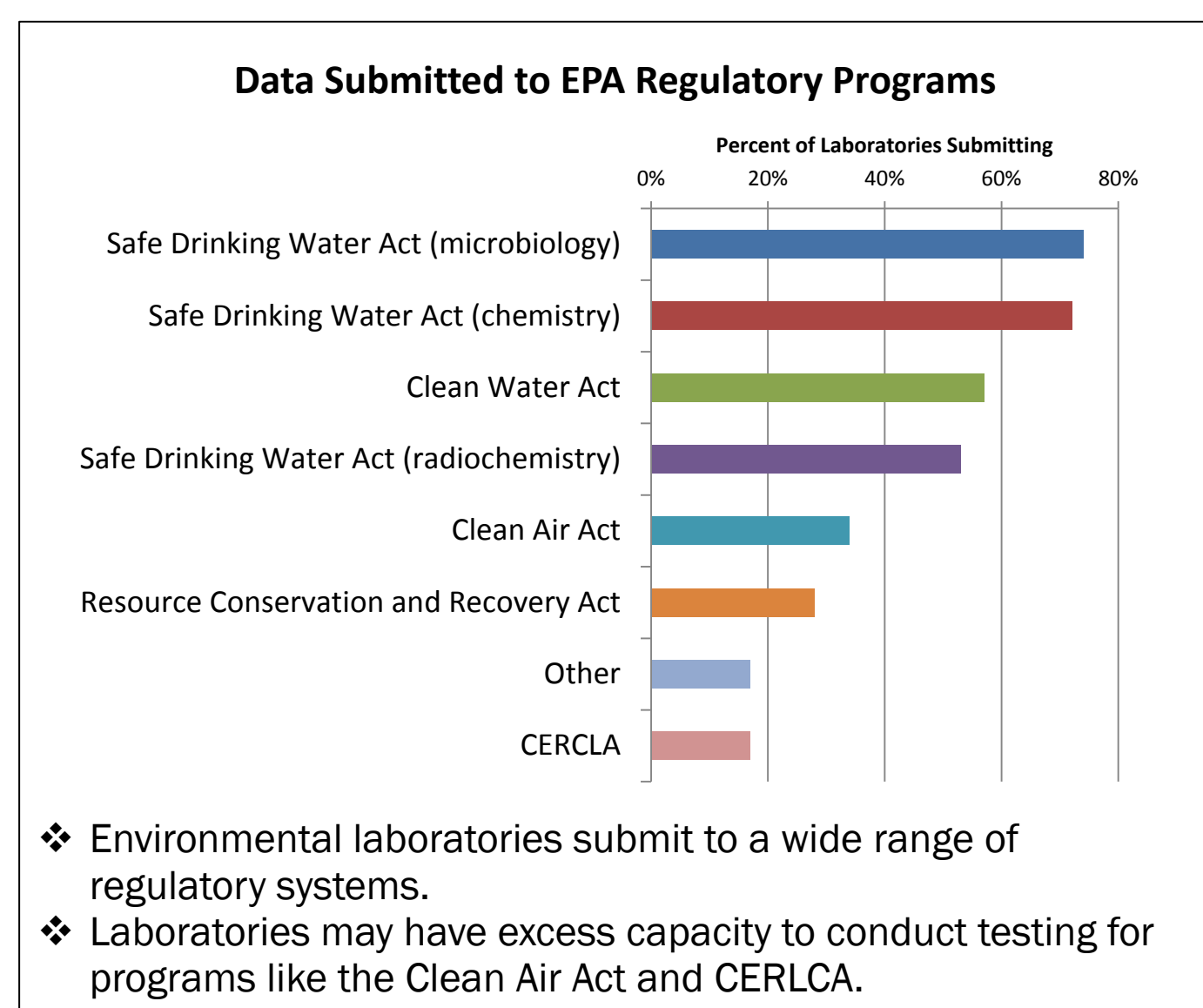
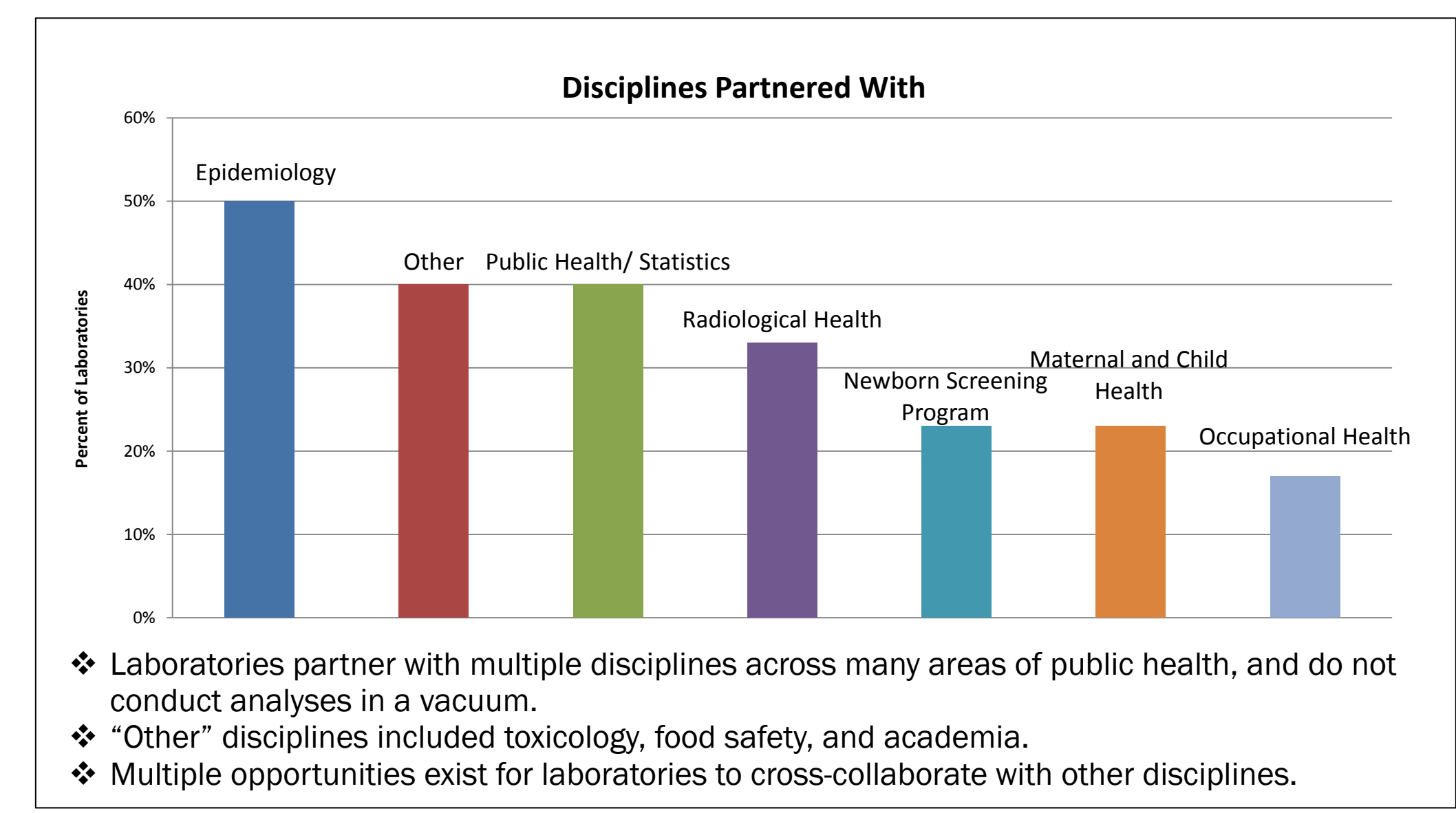
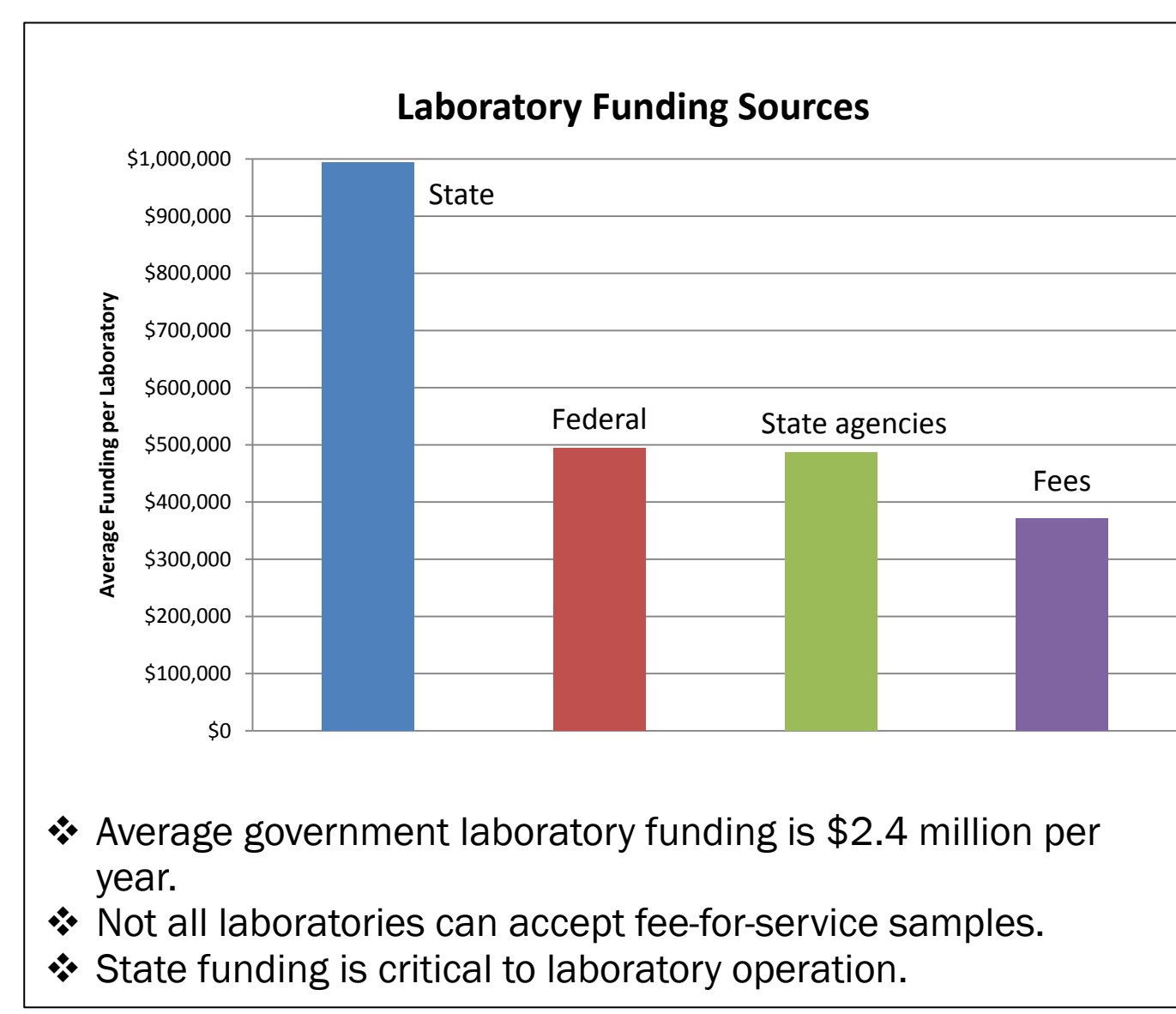
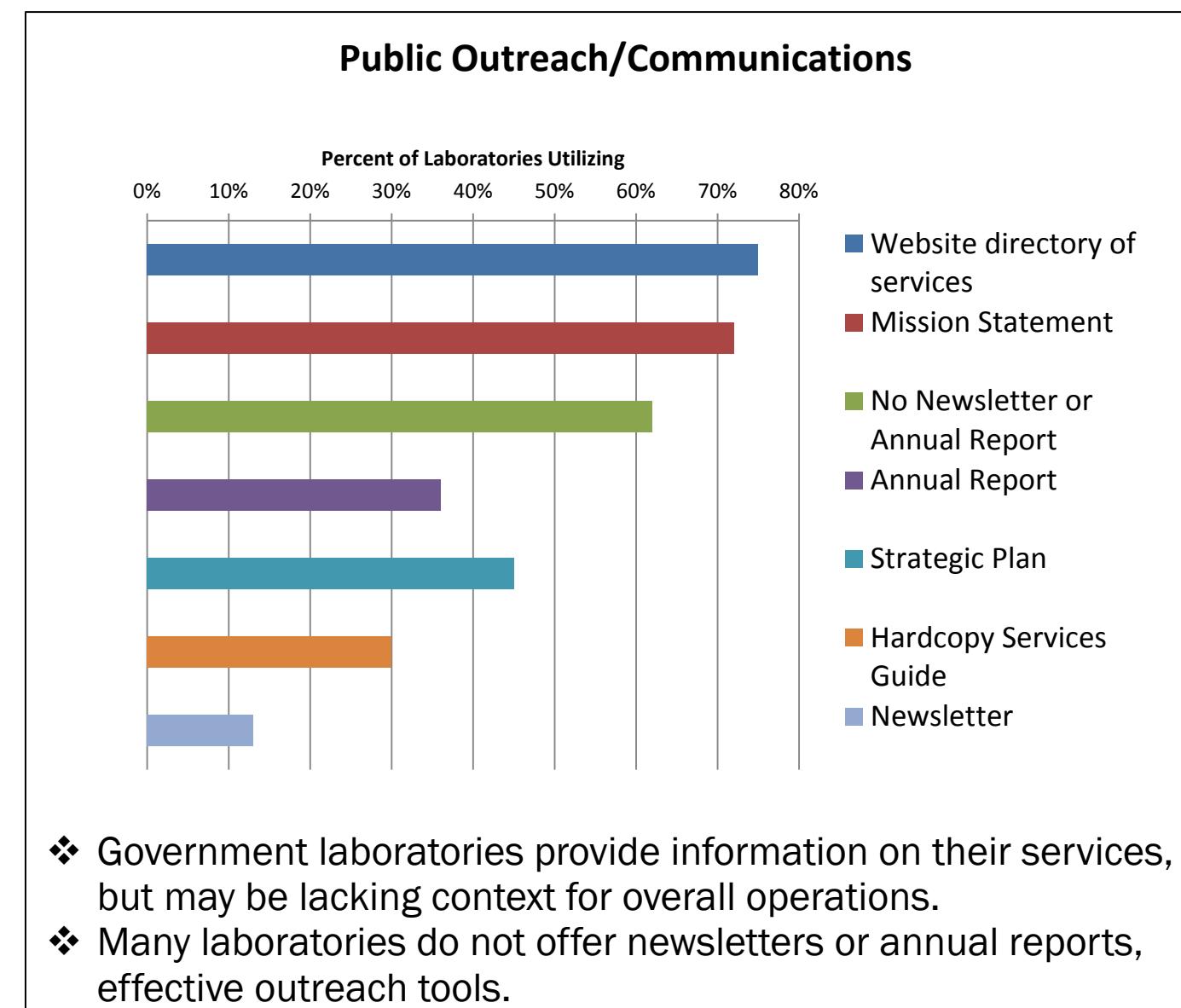
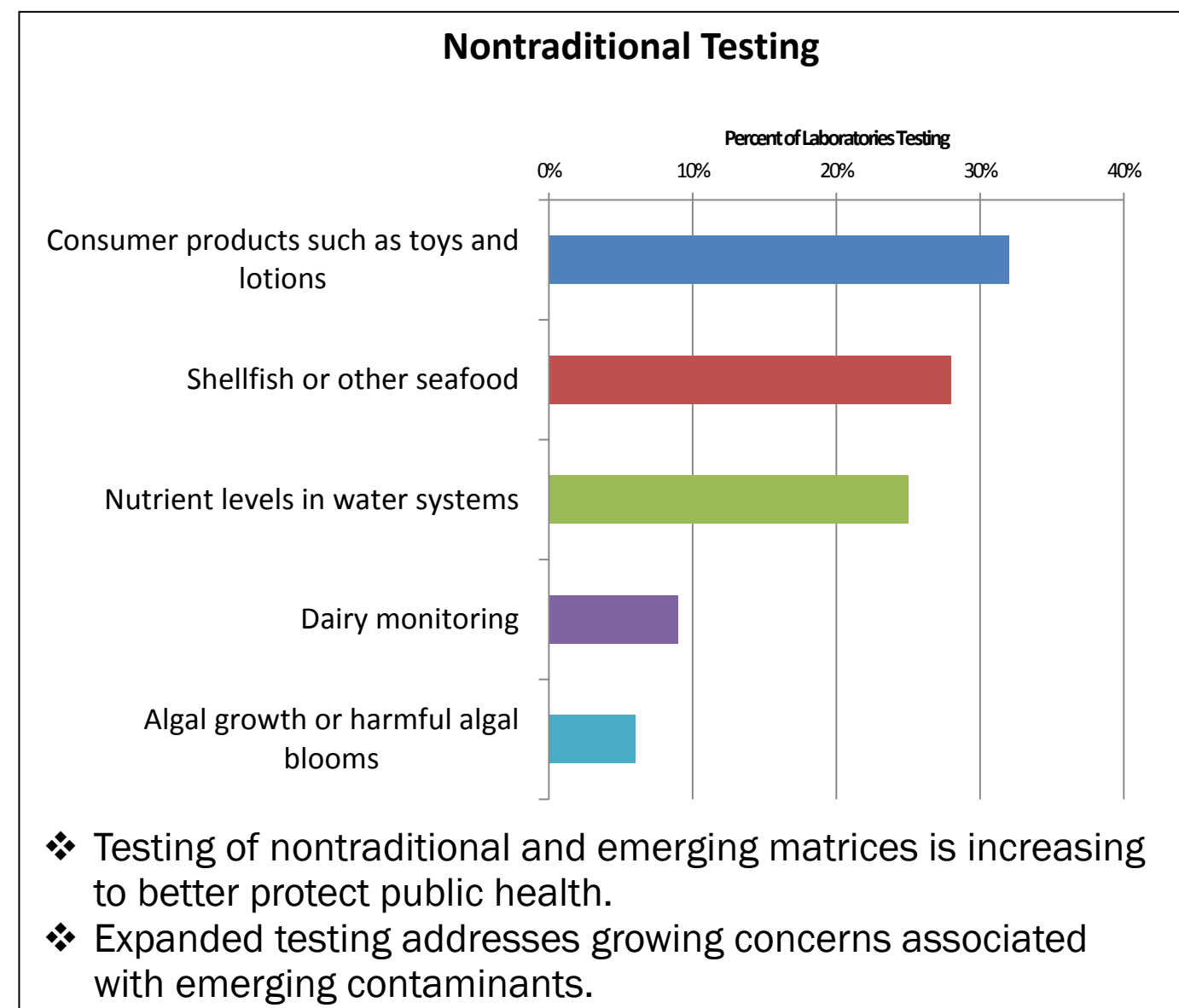
INTRODUCTION

The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) works with government environmental laboratories to ensure they have the resources, training, and information they need to evaluate environmental contamination and its impact on human health. To determine the capabilities, needs, and concerns of environmental laboratories across the nation, APHL conducted its second Environmental Health Survey in 2012. The results highlighted issues such as collaborative opportunities, funding levels and testing priorities. The Survey also revealed new areas of concern and focus, including how laboratories communicate with the public and the disciplines they partner with.

RESULTS

METHODS

Using *Qualtrics*, an online survey platform, APHL launched the survey on June 19, 2012 to 121 APHL member and non-member public health, environmental and toxicology laboratory directors. Each survey respondent received an e-mail with a unique survey link and a copy of the survey. APHL received a 41% response rate (53 laboratories) that included 88% of states (45). The survey closed on August 17, 2012. Aggregate survey assessment results for all questions are available at <http://bit.ly/159sXvW>. The survey report is at: <http://bit.ly/YaEoOx>. Of the 53 respondents, 52 were state laboratories and one was a local laboratory.



CONCLUSION

Government environmental laboratories analyze a wide range of matrices to protect public health. These laboratories can collaborate with a wide range of partners while conducting public outreach. The reach of these laboratories cannot be understated.

For More Information

For more information, see the survey report at: <http://bit.ly/YaEoOx>. The aggregated survey data is available at: <http://bit.ly/159sXvW>. For any other comments or questions, please contact Michael Heintz at michael.heintz@aphl.org or 240-485-2786.

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