

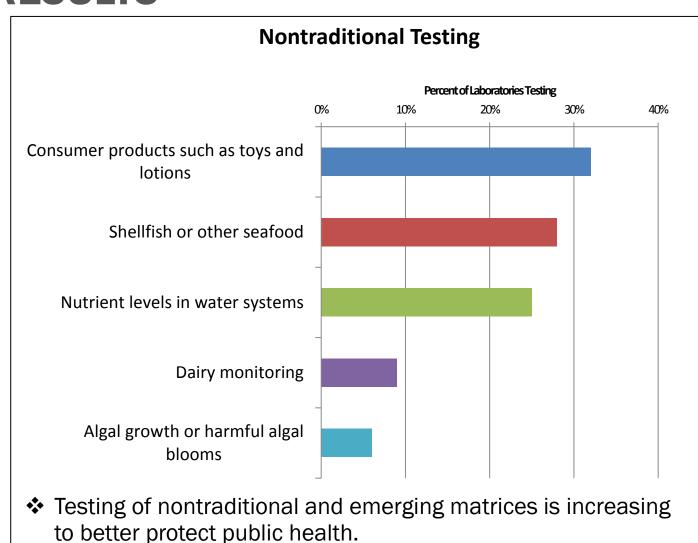
# **Environmental and Public Health Laboratories:** An Expanding Reach To Improve Environmental Health

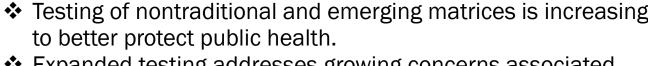
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## INTRODUCTION

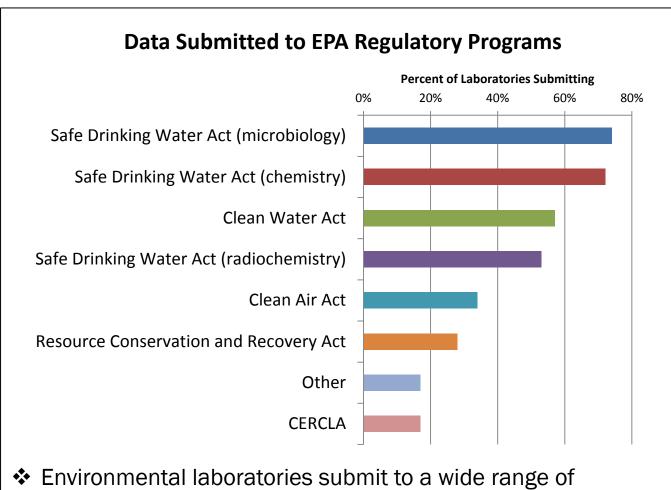
The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) works with government environmental laboratories to ensure they have the resources, training, and information they need to evaluate environmental contamination and its impact on human health. To determine the capabilities, needs, and concerns of environmental 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

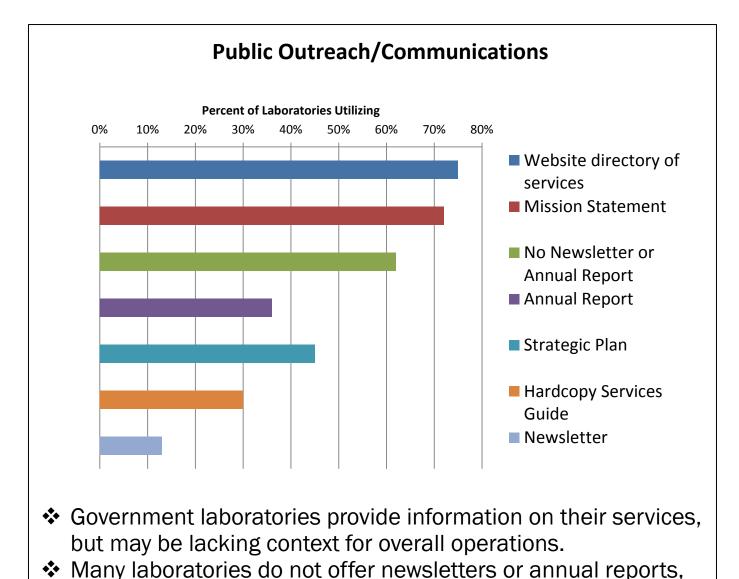


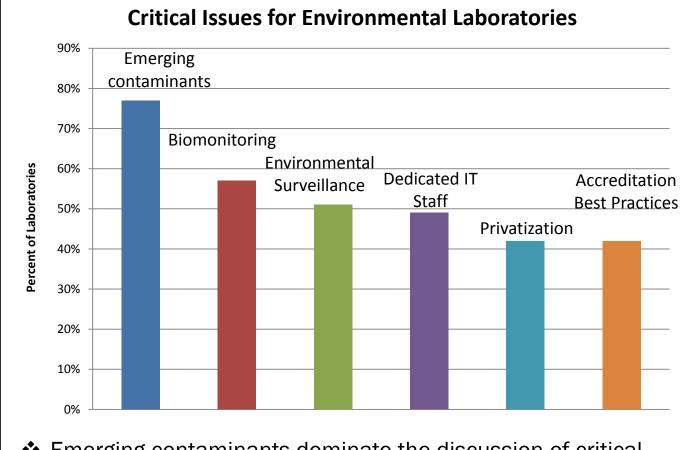


Expanded testing addresses growing concerns associated with emerging contaminants



- regulatory systems.
- Laboratories may have excess capacity to conduct testing for programs like the Clean Air Act and CERLCA.



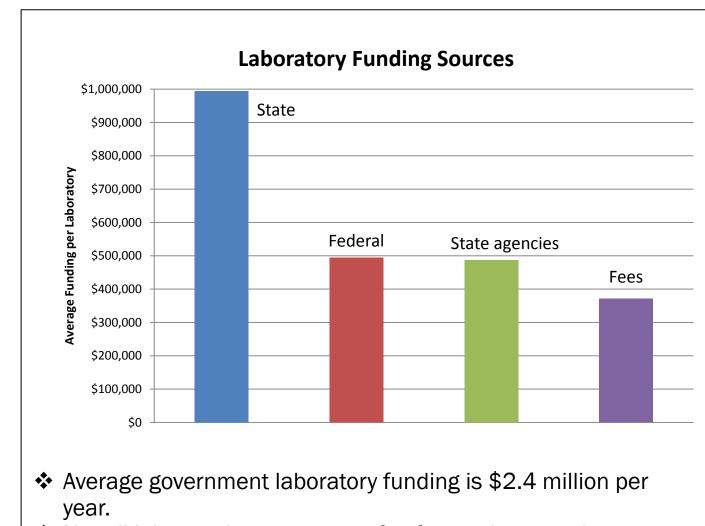


## Emerging contaminants dominate the discussion of critical issues.

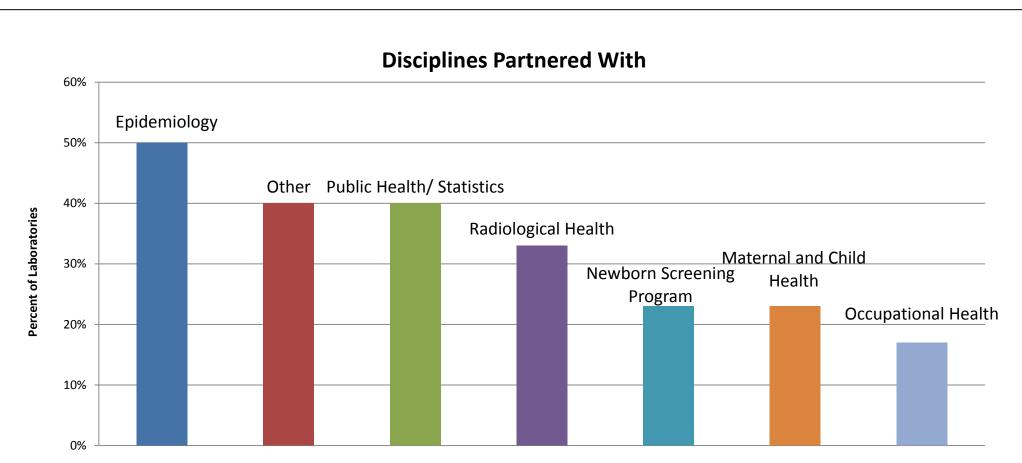
The threat of privatization cannot be overlooked.

# **METHODS**

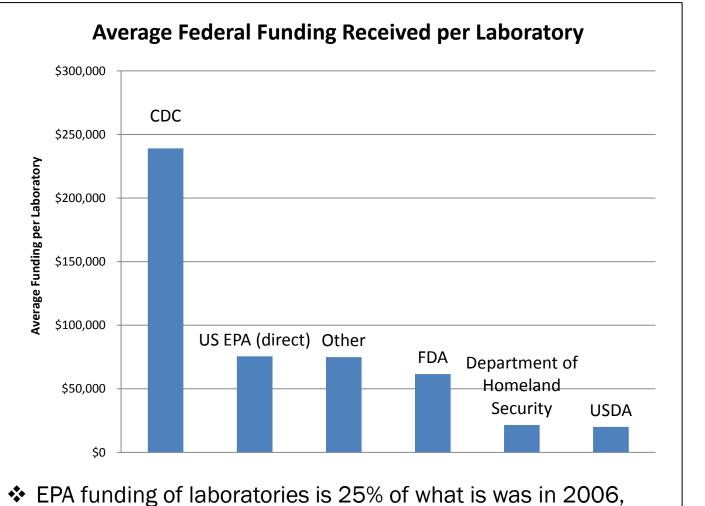
Using *Qualtrics*, an online survey platform, APHL launched the survey on June 19, 2012 to 121 APHL member and non-member public health, environmental and toxicology laboratory directors. Each survey respondent received an e-mail with a unique survey link and a copy of the survey. APHL received a 41% 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.



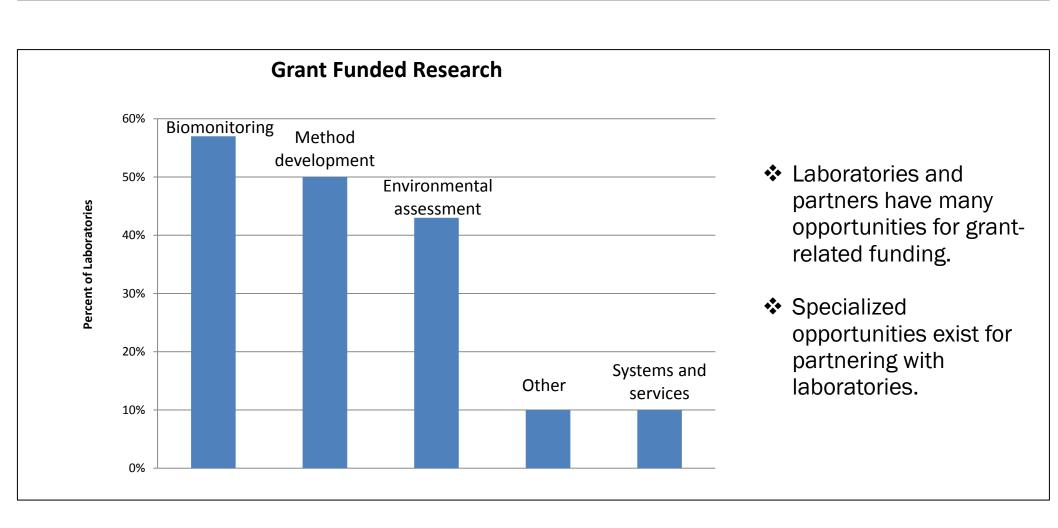
- Not all laboratories can accept fee-for-service samples.
- State funding is critical to laboratory operation.



- ❖ Laboratories partner with multiple disciplines across many areas of public health, and do not conduct analyses in a vacuum.
- "Other" disciplines included toxicology, food safety, and academia.
- Multiple opportunities exist for laboratories to cross-collaborate with other disciplines.



- while CDC funding decreased by 1/3 since 2006.
- ❖ Total CDC funding was \$12.6M, and EPA funding was \$4M.
- "Other" sources included certification fees and city taxes.



## 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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effective outreach tools.

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