

Successful planning for and response to public health hazards require protecting the health and safety of all people, especially those who are most vulnerable to the impact of an event.

Children, older adults, and people with certain chronic conditions may require additional care such as specialized medications, equipment, and other assistance. Nationally, 35.8% of households included children and 18.2% included older adults. In addition, 9.7% of adults reported having diabetes, 20.7% a condition that limits activities, and 8.1% a health problem that required the use of specialized equipment.¹



CDC identified 15 public health preparedness capabilities as the basis for state and local public health preparedness.

The listing to the right reflects the 5 capabilities with the largest Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) capability-specific investments during 2013.²

- 1. Public Health Surveillance and Epidemiological Investigation
- 2. Public Health Laboratory Testing
- 3. Community Preparedness
- 4. Information Sharing
- 5. Emergency Operations Coordination

Laboratory Response Network biological (LRN-B) laboratories (labs) and PulseNet labs independently and rapidly identify and notify CDC of potential biological health threats to minimize disease outbreaks.

CDC manages the LRN-B network, a group of 141 labs with testing capabilities to confirm the presence of biological agents. CDC also coordinates PulseNet, a national network of labs that analyzes and connects foodborne illness cases together to facilitate early identification of outbreak sources. The performance indicators below demonstrate these specific labs' readiness to respond to a biological public health emergency. See Appendix B for a detailed description of each performance indicator.

Biological Laboratory Testing: LRN-B	2011	2012	2013³
Total number of LRN-B labs ⁴	141	143	141
Total proportion of LRN-B proficiency tests passed ⁵	370 / 398	309 / 335	86 / 98
Biological Laboratory Testing: PulseNet	2011	2012	2013
Total number of PulseNet labs ⁶	72	71	72
Total percentage of <i>E. coli</i> -positive tests analyzed and uploaded into PulseNet national database within 4 working days ⁶	89% (target: 90%)	94% (target: 90%)	91% (target: 90%)
Total percentage of <i>Listeria</i> -positive tests analyzed and uploaded into PulseNet national database within 4 working days ⁶	88% (target: 90%)	92% (target: 90%)	90% (target: 90%)

$LRN\ chemical\ (LRN-C)\ laboratories\ rapidly\ identify\ exposure\ to\ toxic\ chemicals, aid\ diagnosis,\ and\ minimize\ further\ human\ exposure.$

CDC manages the LRN-C, a group of 57 labs with testing capabilities to confirm the presence of chemical agents. LRN-C labs are designated as Level 1, 2, or 3, with Level 1 labs demonstrating the most advanced capabilities. In 2013, 10 LRN-C labs were designated as Level 1. The performance indicators below demonstrate these specific labs' readiness to respond to a chemical public health emergency. See Appendix B for a detailed description of each performance indicator.

Chemical Laboratory Testing: LRN-C	2011	2012	2013³
Total number of Level 1 LRN-C labs ⁷	10	10	10
Total number of Level 2 LRN-C labs ⁷	37	37	36
Total number of Level 3 LRN-C labs ⁷	9	10	11
National proportion of core chemical agent detection methods demonstrated by Level 1 and/or Level 2 labs ⁸	8/9	7/9	8/9
Average number of additional chemical agent detection methods demonstrated by Level 1 and/or Level 2 labs ⁸	1	1	1
Percentage of states and localities that passed the LRN-C exercise to collect, package, and ship samples ⁸	98%	100%	100%
National proportion of agents correctly identified and quantified from unknown samples during unannounced proficiency testing ⁹	38/39	69/72	69/72



Public health agencies deploy resources and personnel to address public health needs arising from emergencies.

The performance indicators below demonstrate the ability to coordinate a response to a public health incident. See Appendix B for a detailed description of each performance indicator.

Emergency Operations Coordination	2011	2012	2013
National average number of minutes for state public health staff with incident management lead roles to report for immediate duty ¹⁰	36 (target: 60)	27 (target: 60)	39
National average number of minutes for localities and insular area public health staff with incident management lead roles to report for immediate duty ¹⁰	81	50	57
Percentage of states, localities, and insular areas that prepared an after-action report and improvement plan following a real or simulated response10	100%	89%	94%

Administrative preparedness was highlighted as a key challenge during the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic.

In response, CDC developed standards and requirements for administrative and fiscal processes, which state and local health departments have now incorporated into their incident action plans. These processes, which differ from normal operations, include emergency procurement, contracting, and hiring processes. See Appendix B for a detailed description of administrative preparedness.

Administrative Preparedness	2013
National percentage of awardees that implemented all or part of administrative preparedness plan ¹¹	92%
National percentage of awardees that received legal authority to spend emergency funds ¹¹	97%
National percentage of awardees that reduced legal conflicts to implementing emergency use authorizations (EUAs) ¹¹	74%

CDC provides funding and technical assistance to help states, localities, and insular areas build public health preparedness and response capabilities.

CDC provides funding to the 50 states, 4 localities, and 8 insular areas through the PHEP cooperative agreement. In addition to PHEP funding, CDC provides training and personnel to support awardee preparedness and response efforts. See Appendix B for a detailed description of each CDC resource.

CDC Resources Supporting Preparedness	2012–2013
Total CDC PHEP cooperative agreement funding provided ¹²	\$619,447,806
Total CDC preparedness field staff ^{13, 14, 15}	131
Total CDC Emergency Management Program activities ¹⁶	544
Total public health personnel who received CDC Strategic National Stockpile training ¹⁷	1397

States, localities, and insular areas ensure medicine, vaccines, and medical supplies are available to the public during large-scale public health emergencies by supplementing local supplies with assets from CDC's Strategic National Stockpile (SNS).

The technical assistance review (TAR) scores below demonstrate readiness to receive, distribute, and dispense SNS assets to the public during an emergency for the state overall and localities in the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI). See Appendix B for a detailed description of TAR scores.

TAR Scores (100-point scale)	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Median State TAR score ¹⁰	97	98	99
Median CRI Metropolitan Statistical Area TAR Score ¹⁰	91	93	95
Median Directly Funded Locality TAR Score ¹⁰	96	100	98
Median Island TAR Score ¹⁰	62	67	71

Note: All data furnished by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For more detail on specific data sources, see Appendix C.