



Understanding Environmental Causes of Disease

FY 2011 Labor HHS Appropriations Bill Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - National Center for Environmental Health

	2010	2012 President	2012 TFAH
Environmental Health Labs	\$43,419,000	\$43,425,000	\$43,425,000

Overview and Accomplishments: For over 30 years, the Environmental Health Laboratory of the National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) has been performing biomonitoring measurements--direct measurements of people's exposure to toxic substances in the environment. By analyzing blood, urine, and tissues, scientists can measure actual levels of more than 450 chemicals and nutritional indicators in people's bodies. This information helps public health officials to determine which population groups are at high risk for exposure and adverse health effects, assess public health interventions, and monitor exposure trends over time.

In the past year, CDC has worked with state health departments, academic partners and others to provide exposure information for more than 50 public health investigations and studies. Over the years, specific accomplishments have included:

- Publishing the *National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals*, which provides a comprehensive assessment of the U.S. population's exposure to chemicals in our environment. In 2009, CDC published the *Fourth Report*, presenting exposure information for 212 environmental chemicals in Americans' blood and urine.
- Funding several states to support a population-based pilot to screen newborns for Severe Combined Immune Deficiency (SCID).
- Developing a new method for measuring 27 different volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in human urine to assess environmental health impact from a variety of sources via urinalysis.

Funding History:

The proposed \$6,000 increase in the President's budget means that the Environmental Health Laboratory will continue to implement a quality assurance program for biomonitoring measurements produced by state biomonitoring grantees. High-quality measurements are essential to ensure that data and the resulting data interpretation are valid and can be relied on for conducting research, assessing national-, state- or community-specific exposure, informing policy decisions and for developing public health interventions. State biomonitoring grantees need to know that their test results are accurate and are comparable to CDC's results in order to show whether a person or a group has an unusually high exposure compared to the rest of the U.S. population. Without a quality assurance program, measurements produced by states cannot be compared to national data. CDC met its target and had 974 laboratories voluntarily participating in the quality assurance program in FY 2010, an increase in seven laboratories from the previous year.

Funding Recommendation:

Provide for the increase as requested by the President's budget to support continued biomonitoring efforts.