

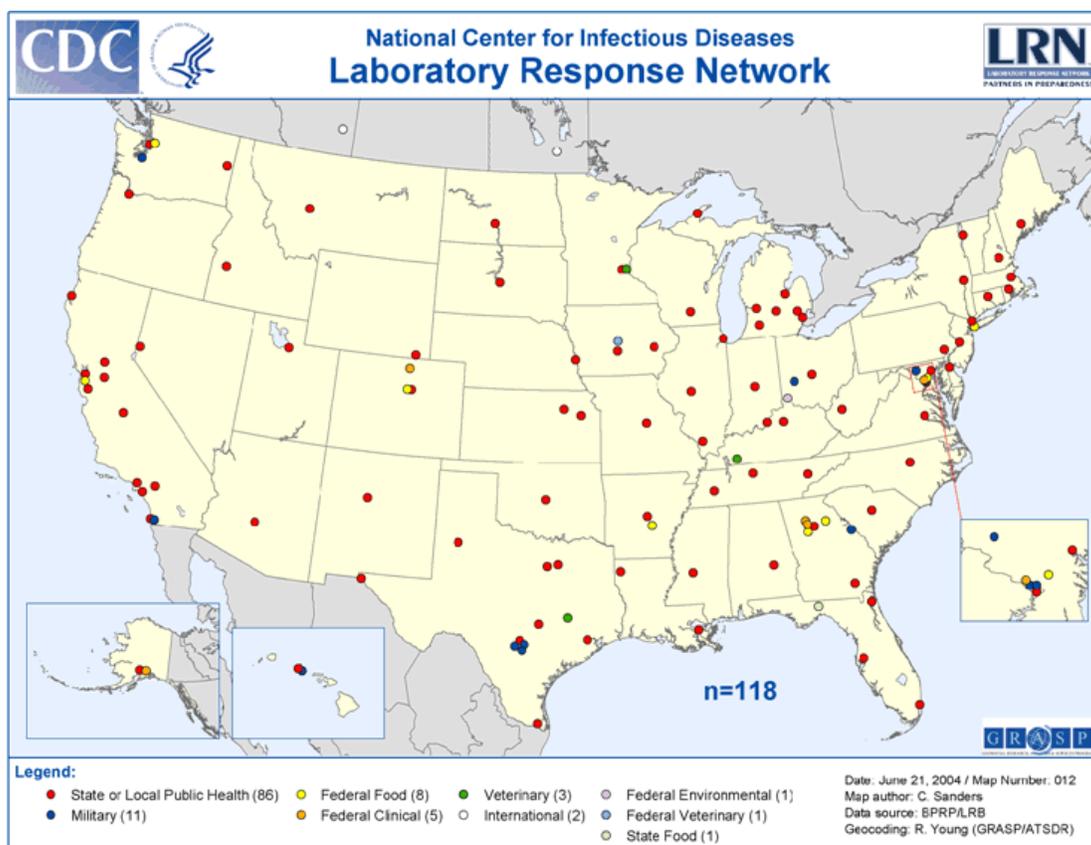


National and International Coverage of the Laboratory Response Network (LRN)

LRN-member laboratories are strategically located across the United States and abroad, each playing a role in their state's or territory's overall emergency response plan. They include state and local public health, federal, and military labs, each capable of performing confirmatory testing for high priority biological agents.

The majority of states and territories currently have laboratories that are designated as Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) facilities, meaning they are facilities that meet strict safety and security guidelines and personnel follow procedures that protect them and their colleagues from inadvertent infection. One of the LRN's goals is to have all of its reference and national laboratories designated as BSL-3, which is the second highest laboratory safety designation available.

The close proximity that national, military, and public health laboratories have to one another gives the LRN the capacity to handle disease outbreaks anywhere in the United States. Laboratories are capable of transferring samples to the nearest appropriate partner laboratory if they cannot perform the required tests or become overwhelmed.



For more information, visit www.bt.cdc.gov/lrn or call the CDC public response hotline at (888) 246-2675 (English), (888) 246-2857 (español), or (866) 874-2646 (TTY).

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