

## APHL Historical Timeline, 1951-2026

1951	The Association of State and Territorial Public Health Laboratory Directors (ASTPHLD) is <a href="#">organized</a> at the 1951 annual meeting of the Conference of State and Provincial Public Health Laboratory Directors in San Francisco, CA.
1964	ASTPHLD issues first Consolidated Annual Report, providing laboratory directors with data for planning, management and evaluation.
1967	Passage of Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act introduces federal regulation, establishes specific standards for personnel and issues certificates to laboratories following a CLIA audit. All laboratories conducting examinations or analyses on human clinical specimens, including public health laboratories must have a CLIA certificate.
1979	First national meeting on Neonatal Screening Programs held in Atlanta, GA.
1980	Public health laboratories in Minnesota and Wisconsin identify nine cases of toxic shock syndrome in adult women in less than a month.
1989	ASTPHLD and CDC establish first cooperative agreement that creates the National Laboratory Training Network (NLTN) and National Laboratory Partnership.  The CDC/ASTPHLD HIV diagnostic algorithm establishes a standard, two-step testing protocol to improve specificity, replacing earlier less precise methods.
1990	ASTPHLD establishes a Washington, DC, presence and hires first executive director.  ASTPHLD organizes First National Conference on Lyme Disease Testing in Dearborn, MI, with CDC and FDA.
1991	ASTPHLD establishes an office of international activities.
1993	ASTPHLD and CDC hold First National Conference on Laboratory Aspects of Tuberculosis in Baltimore, MD.
1994	ASTPHLD establishes Environmental Health Program through cooperative agreement with US Environmental Protection Agency, later through CDC.
1996	ASTPHLD and CDC collaborate to launch <a href="#">PulseNet</a> , revolutionizing foodborne outbreak detection and investigations.
1998	ASTPHLD changes its name to the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL).  APHL helped laboratory systems in the Caribbean <a href="#">respond</a> to hurricanes Mitch and Georges, leading to first major global health contract with CDC.
1999	APHL, CDC, the FBI and the Department of Defense collaborate to <a href="#">establish</a> the Laboratory Response Network (LRN).
2000	APHL moves into its office at 2025 M Street in Washington, DC.

	<p>APHL members in forefront of identifying spread of West Nile Virus in US.</p> <p>All states, at a minimum, screen newborns for PKU and congenital hypothyroidism. Most states test for many other diseases.</p> <p>APHL adopts and <a href="#">publishes</a> Core Functions of State Public Health Laboratories.</p>
2001	<p>Evolution of the traditional Newborn Screening Symposia to the Newborn Screening and Genetic Testing Symposium.</p> <p>The Florida Department of Health Laboratory identifies a strain of anthrax spores sent to the offices of a weekly tabloid newspaper. APHL members assist US Postal Service in testing facilities for anthrax contamination and respond to other white powder incidents.</p>
2002	<p>CDC <a href="#">implements</a> Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program.</p>
2003	<p>APHL <a href="#">receives</a> first award to support implementation of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), leading to expansion of global health work</p> <p>Through its first 10 years, the NLTN sponsored nearly 2,000 training courses for almost 75,000 participants.</p> <p>.</p>
2005	<p>APHL <a href="#">creates</a> Sustaining Member program, allowing industry partners to join as members.</p>
2006	<p>APHL <a href="#">launches</a> Public Health Laboratory Interoperability Project (PHLIP) – one of the first systems allowing public health entities to exchange standardized data.</p> <p>APHL moves headquarters to Silver Spring, MD.</p>
2007	<p>Initial <a href="#">development</a> of the APHL Informatics Messaging Services (AIMS) Platform begins, eliminating the need to maintain multiple connections among partners.</p>
2008	<p>APHL <a href="#">launches</a> Emerging Leader Program.</p> <p>APHL <a href="#">launches</a> AIMS Platform in partnership with CDC to monitor and respond rapidly to health threats, strengthen labs with shared resources and expedite delivery of time-sensitive health information to consumers.</p>
2010	<p>APHL establishes a <a href="#">Food Safety</a> department later (2012) leading to its first cooperative agreement with FDA to support accreditation of food laboratories to the ISO 17025 Standard.</p>
2012	<p>APHL launches the <a href="#">NewSTEPS</a> program, creating durable infrastructure for newborn screening quality improvement and shared learning across all US states and territories.</p>
2015	<p>APHL launches <a href="#">Public Health Laboratory System Database</a>.</p>

	The complete version of the Public Health Laboratory Competencies publishes in CDC's <a href="#">Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)</a> .
2016	APHL supports member labs in <a href="#">responding</a> to Zika virus.
2017	APHL <a href="#">collaborates</a> with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and World Health Organization (WHO) to launch the Global Laboratory Leadership Programme.
2019	<p>APHL <a href="#">creates</a> Opioids Biosurveillance Task Force in recognition of the role public health laboratories play in tackling the opioid epidemic and supporting overdose surveillance.</p> <p>APHL member laboratories <a href="#">assist</a> in identifying chemical agents associated with the E-cigarette or Vaping Product Use-Associated Lung Injury (EVALI) multi-state outbreak.</p>
2020	<p>The World Health Organization <a href="#">declares</a> COVID-19 a pandemic. APHL issues letter asking FDA to approve SARS-CoV-2 test for use in public health laboratories.</p> <p>APHL becomes a primary, trusted source of information during the response to COVID-19, reaching a potential audience of 38 billion people in 2020.</p> <p>APHL <a href="#">partners</a> with Apple, Google and Microsoft to support COVID-19 exposure notification system to support contact tracing efforts nationwide.</p> <p>APHL and partners <a href="#">secure</a> \$550 million for Data Modernization Initiative.</p> <p>APHL <a href="#">recognizes</a> September as Public Health Laboratory Appreciation Month.</p> <p>CDC creates National Wastewater Surveillance System that <a href="#">supports</a> APHL member laboratories in tracking COVID-19 disease burden.</p>
2021	<p>The Washington Post <a href="#">names</a> APHL a top Washington, DC-area workplace.</p> <p>APHL <a href="#">awarded</a> \$282 million to strengthen capacity of public health laboratory workforce, enabling creation of the Career Pathways in Public Health Laboratory Science program.</p>
2022	APHL launches <a href="#">Laboratory Leaders of Today</a> , a revitalized new laboratory director orientation program.
2023	<p>APHL <a href="#">organizes</a> first ID Lab Con in Atlanta, GA.</p> <p>APHL dramatically <a href="#">expands</a> Public Health Laboratory Fellowship Program and <a href="#">launches</a> Public Health Laboratory Internship Program.</p>

	Routine newborn screening in the US <a href="#">celebrates</a> its 60th anniversary.
2024	<p>APHL moves into new headquarters office in Bethesda, MD.</p> <p>APHL <a href="#">wins</a> Amazon Web Services Inaugural Children’s Health Innovation Award, <a href="#">launches</a> Deter with Florida partners, enabling electronic test orders and results to be shared seamlessly between public health laboratories and healthcare providers and accelerating the reporting of newborn screening results.</p>
2025	APHL <a href="#">convenes</a> BEACONS, a newborn whole genome sequencing initiative.
2026	<p>Career Pathways program supports 237 active fellows across 75 laboratories in 39 states and 40 active interns placed in 18 laboratories in 14 states.</p> <p>Emerging Leader Program celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> cohort.</p> <p>APHL turns 75.</p>