

Timeliness Recommendations

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APHL is collaborating with the Colorado School of Public Health to implement NewSTEPs.



Timeliness Report Findings

The greatest improvement to timeliness for any given NBS program may be finding novel solutions to transit times in conjunction with investigating the possibility of expanding operating hours to the weekend, optimally 7 days a week.



Birth to Collection

Though still very important, collection times may not be to blame for current challenges with NBS timeliness.

Collection to Receipt

Future activities for improving timeliness in NBS may need to be centered on finding novel solutions to improving specimen transit times.

Receipt to Reporting

NBS programs' priority is to report results as quickly as possible once the specimen is received at the lab and avoid any delays attributable to lab processes is fully evident.



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Data Conclusions: GAO Report

Receipt to Reporting

- Sustained high median values (87.3% in 2015)
- Labs avoid delays attributable to lab processes

Birth to Reporting

- Median values drop compared to above (59% in 2015)
- May indicate collection and shipment of specimens are areas for improvement

Collection to Receipt

- 24 hour recommendation may be unattainable
- Low median values of specimens received within 48 hours of collection
- Timeliness activities may need to focus on solutions to transit times

Expanding Operating Hours

- Could be the solution to improving timeliness for struggling programs
- Expedites pre-analytic and analytic processes
- Higher budgetary costs

Case Level Data

- Supports ACHDNC recommendations
- Meeting pre-analytic recommendations leads to faster report out
- Meeting report out recommendations leads to faster intervention



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Potential Recommendation from APHL

- ***Public Health Laboratories performing Newborn Screening should increase their operating hours to 6 days per week and optimally to 7 days per week.***



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Discussion from 360 Meeting

- What is the trade off?
 - Unintended consequences of timeliness
 - Should this be limited to time critical conditions
 - Is there a sweet spot
- Can time of collection be reduced from 24 hours to improve timeliness?
- The greatest improvement in timeliness happens when operating hours increase from 6 to 7 days



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Guidance

- What activities should the laboratory perform during the expanded operating hours
- How will this recommendation be funded



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