
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2018

Fiscal Services Division

December 15, 2017



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

University of Iowa — Hygienic Laboratory

Purpose

Established in 1904, the State Hygienic Laboratory serves all of Iowa's 99 counties through disease detection, environmental monitoring, and newborn and maternal screening. The main facilities are headquartered on the University of Iowa's Research Park campus in Coralville, Iowa. Additional testing facilities are part of the Iowa Laboratory Facilities in Ankeny, Iowa.

In its early years, the Hygienic Laboratory tested for typhoid, diphtheria, rabies, and tuberculosis. Today, the Laboratory also responds to other infectious disease threats, including mumps, whooping cough, salmonella, and global threats such as HIV and tuberculosis. The Laboratory's mission has also expanded to address bioterrorism and chemical terrorism response and readiness.

An Environmental Protection Agency-certified facility, the Hygienic Laboratory conducts testing of drinking water as mandated by the Safe Drinking Water Act. The staff also works with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to monitor waterways throughout the State for contaminants and to assess air quality in real time and through lab testing.

The Hygienic Laboratory provides newborn screening for every child born in Iowa as the laboratory designated by the Iowa Department of Public Health through the Center for Congenital and Inherited Disorders. This highly specialized screening is also provided for babies born in North Dakota and South Dakota.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code section [263.7](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [681—5](#)

More Information

University of Iowa State Hygienic Laboratory: www.shl.uiowa.edu
LSA Staff Contact: Robin Madison (515.281.5270) robin.madison@legis.iowa.gov