

Selected Studies from:

Pacific Northwest Laboratory Medicine Sentinel Monitoring Network



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Abstract

Through a cooperative agreement between the Washington State Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a data collection network of laboratories was created in 1994. The Pacific Northwest Laboratory Medicine Sentinel Monitoring Network currently comprises 590 laboratories in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington state. Twenty-five studies have been conducted to date, addressing laboratory testing quality, accuracy and accessibility. We share here three selected studies that address areas of interest and concern in current laboratory medicine practices: Access to testing services; Use of the Internet for laboratory improvement; and the Emergence of molecular genetic testing.

Background

The Pacific Northwest Network

- Established in 1994
- Washington State Dept of Health
- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
- Gathers data from practicing labs
- Testing quality, accuracy, reliability
- Laboratory related problems and errors
- Access to testing services
- Trends in practice of laboratory medicine
- Currently comprises 590 laboratories
- Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington
- Hospital, Independent, Physician office labs
- Moderate and high complexity labs
- Waived and PPMP labs Urban and rural locations
- Formally trained and on-the-job trained testing personnel

Data Collection Methods

- Self-administered questionnaires
- Focus group meetings with participants
- On-site visits to observe practices
- Database searches

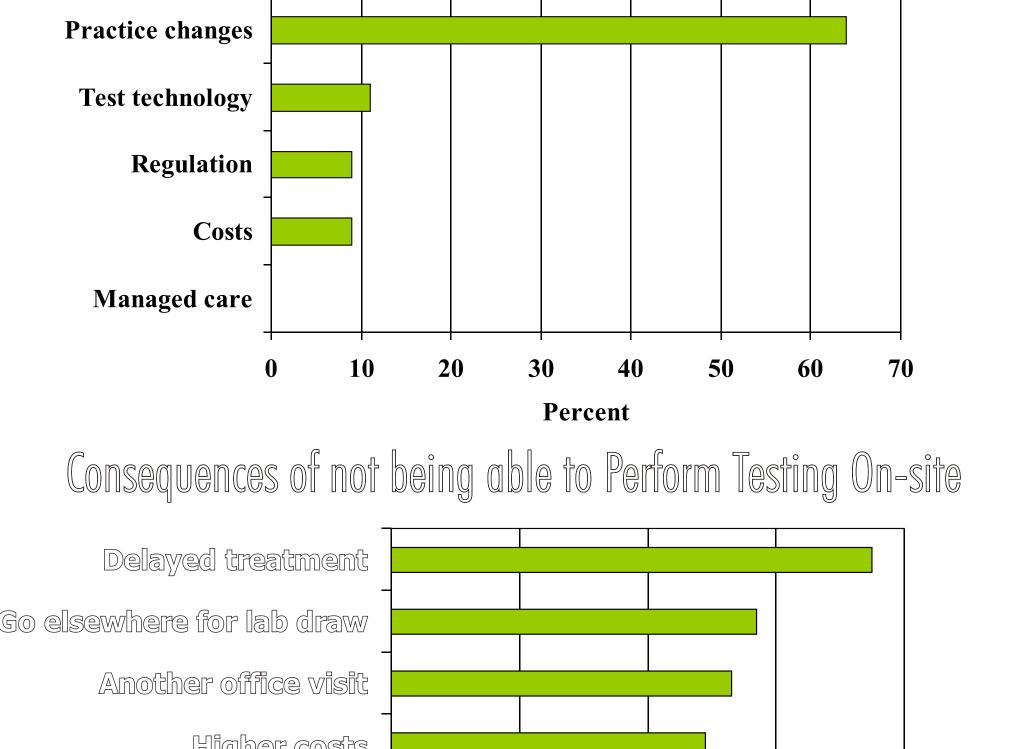
Studies Conducted through Network

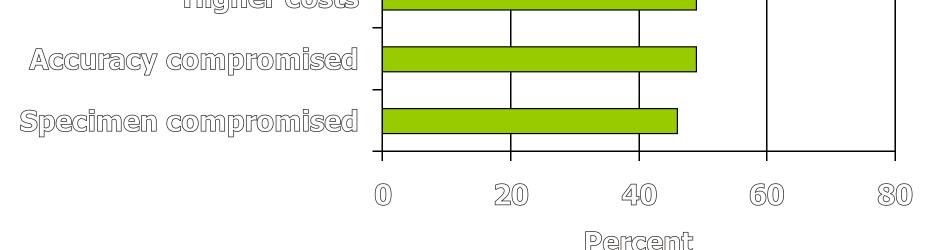
- 25 studies to date
- Quality issues
- Test menu changes
- Lab problems
- Personnel issues
- Point of care testing

ACCESS TO

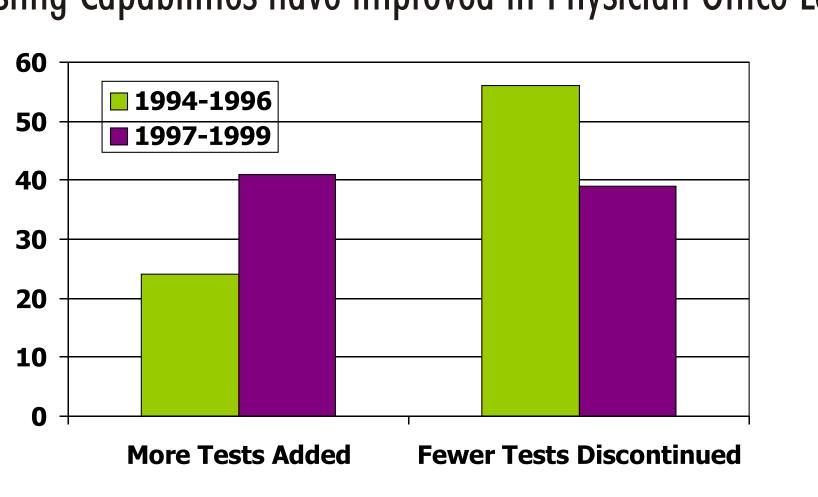
Primary Reasons for discontinuing Testing and sending it out

TESTING SERVICES





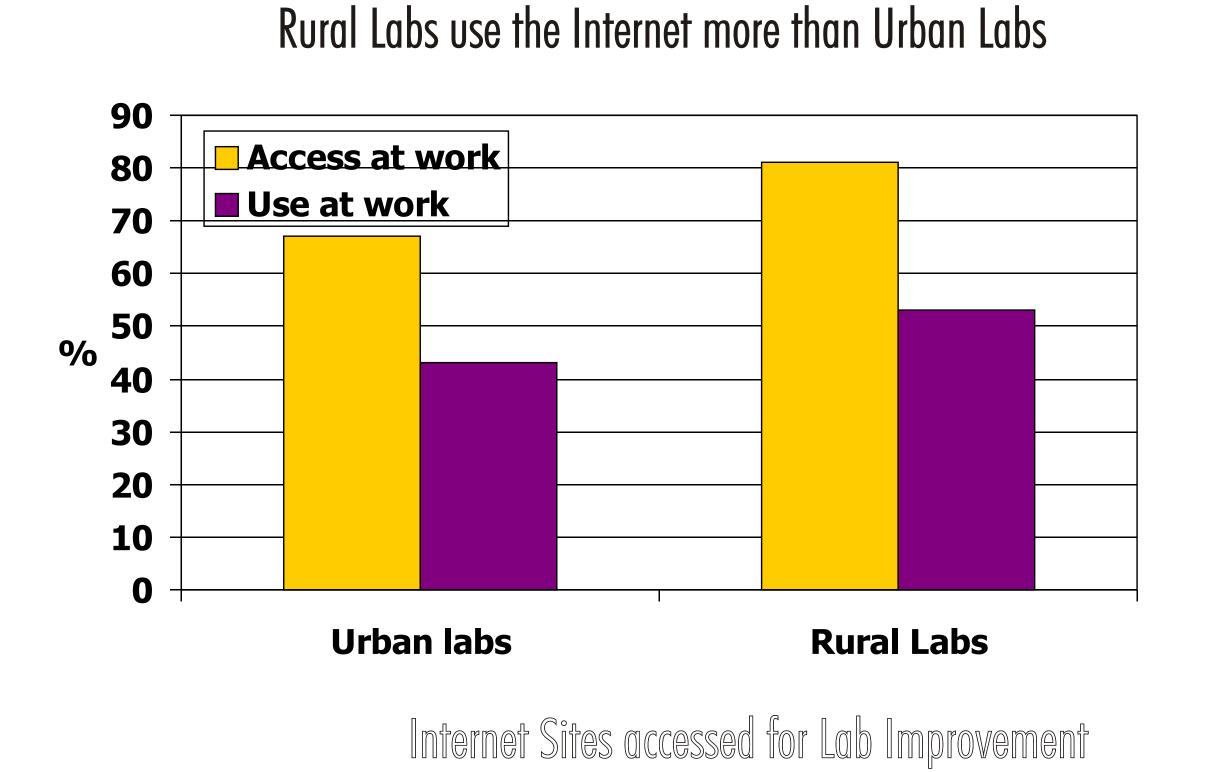
On-site Testing Capabilities have improved in Physician Office Labs

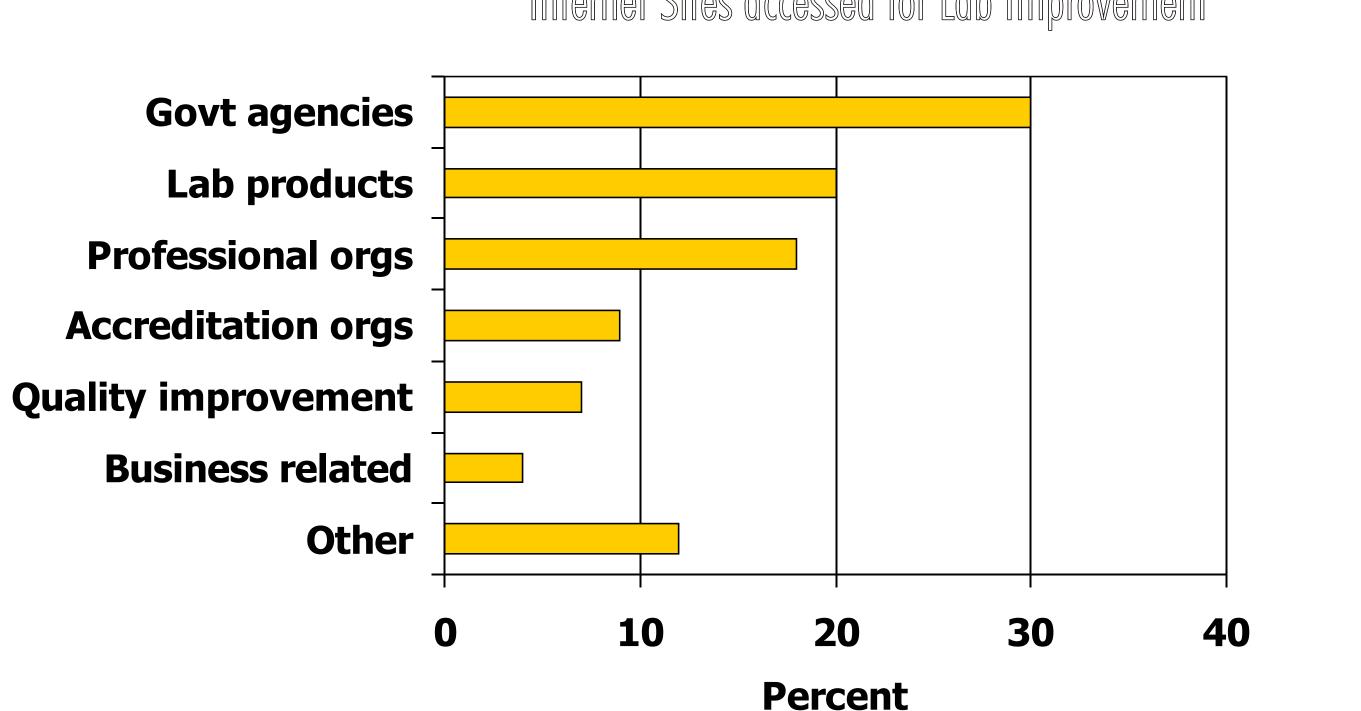


THREE STUDIES PRESENTED AS EXAMPLES

Areas of Interest and Concern in Current Laboratory Medicine Practices

USE OF THE INTERNET FOR LABORATORY IMPROVEMENT





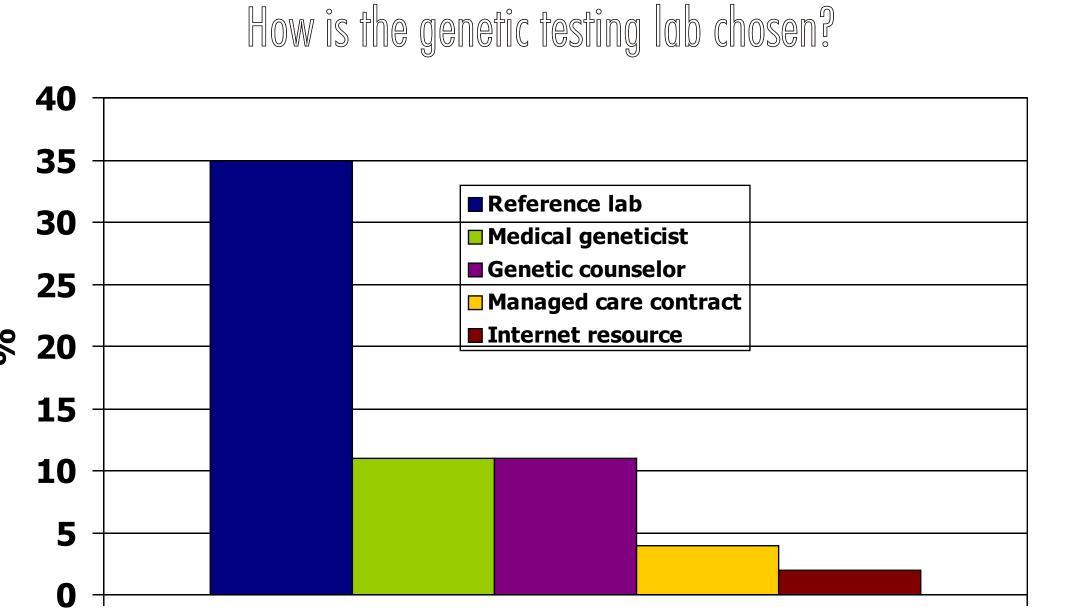
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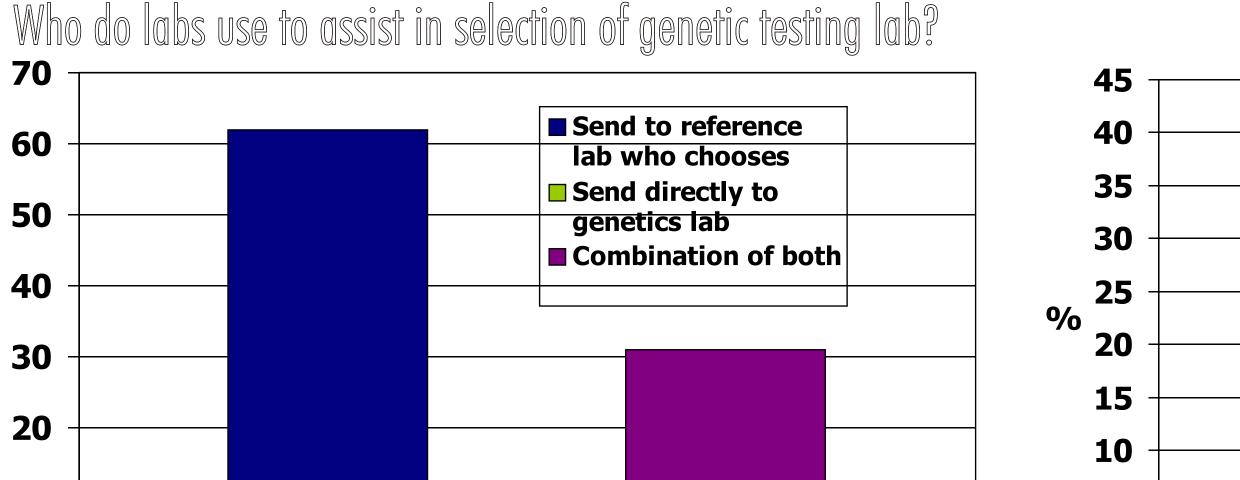
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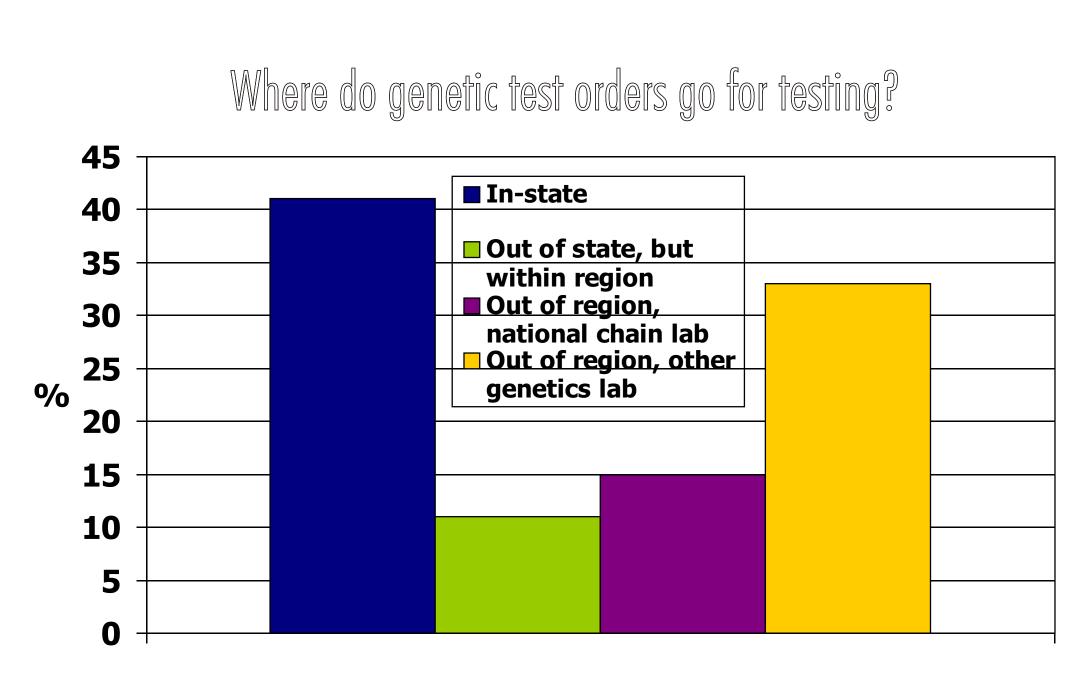
EMERGENCE OF MOLECULAR GENETIC TESTING

Molecular Genetic Testing

- Emerging testing technology
- Only 2% perform genetic testing
- 53% handle orders that are sent to another lab







Conclusions

- Studies conducted through this network have identified issues of
- Access to laboratory testing
- Laboratory-related information accessed via the Internet
- Availability of molecular genetic testing

