2024 TRAINING NEEDS ASSESSMENT | SUMMARY REPORT
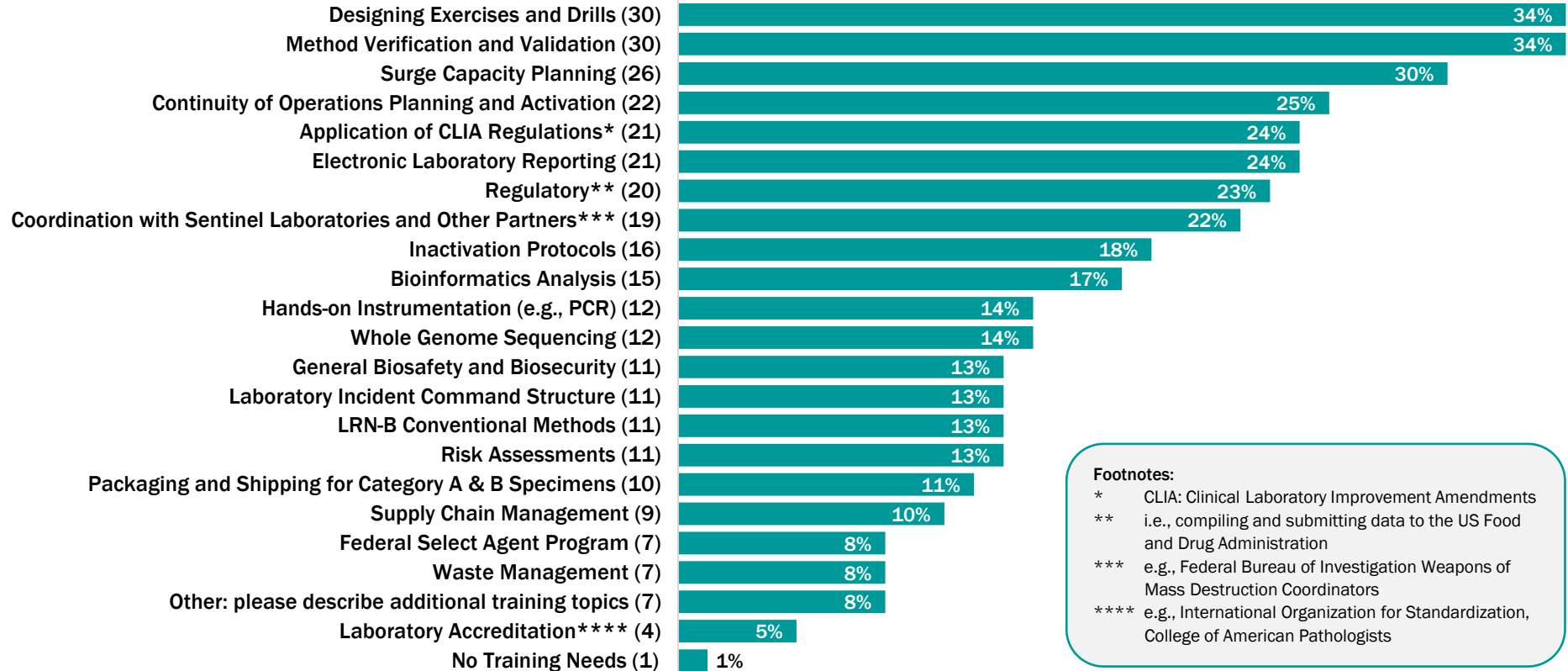## PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TRAINING NEEDS

APHL®

Identifying the needs and best solutions for building technical and scientific skills is essential to understanding opportunities to improve public health laboratory workforce training. The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) uses these data to ensure that training offerings and resources are adapted to address specific gaps in knowledge, skills and competencies—ultimately leading to enhanced performance, professional growth and a resilient public health laboratory workforce.

The APHL Training Needs Assessment solicited responses between May and June 2024. The assessment was a brief, easy-to-complete and anonymous survey, completed by 88 laboratory section leads, supervisors and directors on behalf of their staff, recognizing the challenge of reaching every laboratorian.

88 respondents

Priority of Public Health Preparedness and Response-related Training Needs

Percent and Number of Respondents

Training Need	Percent
Designing Exercises and Drills (30)	34%
Method Verification and Validation (30)	34%
Surge Capacity Planning (26)	30%
Continuity of Operations Planning and Activation (22)	25%
Application of CLIA Regulations* (21)	24%
Electronic Laboratory Reporting (21)	24%
Regulatory** (20)	23%
Coordination with Sentinel Laboratories and Other Partners*** (19)	22%
Inactivation Protocols (16)	18%
Bioinformatics Analysis (15)	17%
Hands-on Instrumentation (e.g., PCR) (12)	14%
Whole Genome Sequencing (12)	14%
General Biosafety and Biosecurity (11)	13%
Laboratory Incident Command Structure (11)	13%
LRN-B Conventional Methods (11)	13%
Risk Assessments (11)	13%
Packaging and Shipping for Category A & B Specimens (10)	11%
Supply Chain Management (9)	10%
Federal Select Agent Program (7)	8%
Waste Management (7)	8%
Other: please describe additional training topics (7)	8%
Laboratory Accreditation**** (4)	5%
No Training Needs (1)	1%

Footnotes:
- * CLIA: Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments
- ** i.e., compiling and submitting data to the US Food and Drug Administration
- *** e.g., Federal Bureau of Investigation Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordinators
- **** e.g., International Organization for Standardization, College of American Pathologists

APHL ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES®

Addressing the Most Urgent Public Health Preparedness and Response Training Needs
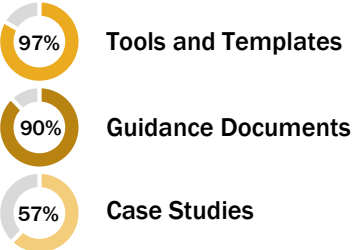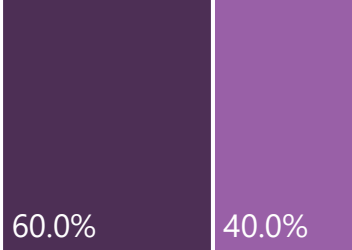
Below are specifics concerning the top-three most urgent training needs: designing exercises and drills, method verification and validation and surge capacity planning. Data are presented as percent of respondents and the top three selections for each category.

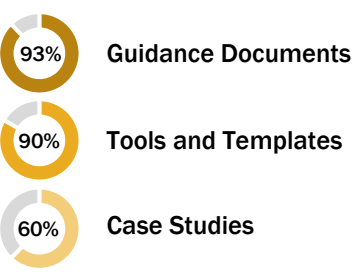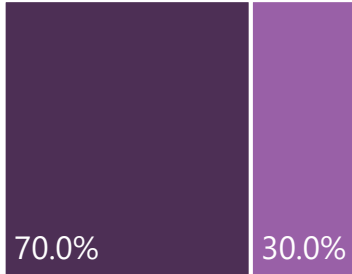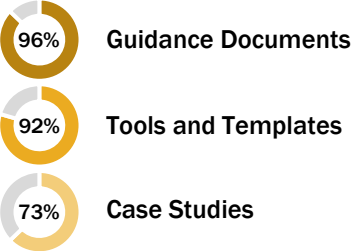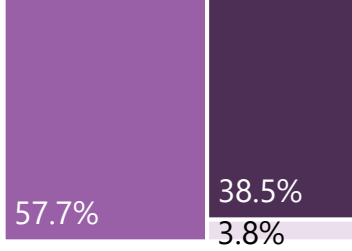|	Availability of Training Materials	Delivery Method Preferences	Training Materials Preferences
1 Designing Exercises and Drills	60.0% / 40.0%	87% Virtual Session 60% In-person Workshop 57% Online e-Learning Course	97% Tools and Templates 90% Guidance Documents 57% Case Studies
2 Method Verification and Validation	70.0% / 30.0%	93% Virtual Session 87% Online e-Learning Course 30% In-person Workshop	93% Guidance Documents 90% Tools and Templates 60% Case Studies
3 Surge Capacity Planning	57.7% / 38.5% / 3.8%	81% Virtual Session & Online e-Learning Course 50% In-person Workshop 27% In-person Seminars	96% Guidance Documents 92% Tools and Templates 73% Case Studies

● Materials are available, but insufficient　　● Materials are not available　　○ No response