

# NACCHO'S 2016 PROFILE STUDY: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

## Key Findings

Environmental health is one of the **most commonly employed occupation fields** for LHDs

**76%** LHDs that employ environmental health workers

Estimated LHD workforce that is comprised of environmental health workers, which is the third most common occupation field employed by LHDs

**10%**

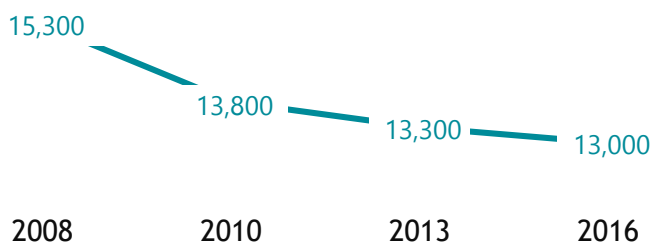
### Background and Methods

NACCHO conducts the Profile study every three years to develop a comprehensive description of local health department (LHD) infrastructure and practice. The 2016 Profile study included a total of 2,533 LHDs in the United States, of which 76% completed the survey.

In the Profile study, NACCHO assesses LHD workforce, policy activities, and programs related to environmental health topics.

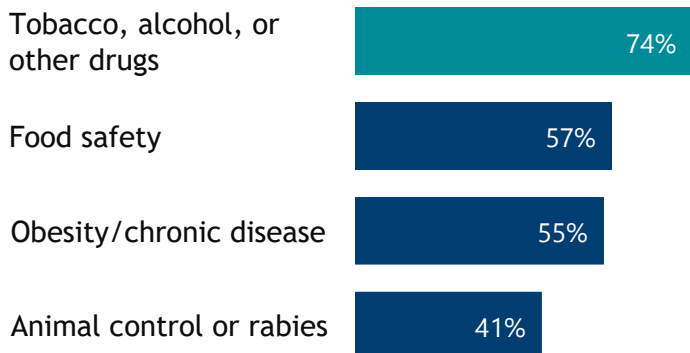
For more information about the Profile study, email [profileteam@naccho.org](mailto:profileteam@naccho.org).

The number of environmental health FTEs\* in LHDs has **decreased since 2008**



\*Full-time equivalents

Most LHDs **engage in local policy activities** in at least one environmental health topic



Common environmental health services **provided directly by LHDs** include:



Epidemiology & surveillance



Food safety education & inspection



Schools & daycare inspections



Recreational water inspection



Septic systems inspection



Private drinking water inspection



Lead inspection



Vector control

## NACCHO Recommendations

- Explore ways to support LHDs in growing and developing an environmental health workforce
- Share promising practices for LHD engagement in environmental health work
- Identify funding and training resources to support LHDs in providing environmental health services