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.

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>FTEs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>15,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>13,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>13,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>13,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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

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

- Tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs: 74%
- Food safety: 57%
- Obesity/chronic disease: 55%
- Animal control or rabies: 41%

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