



UTAH DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH**

## **UDOH Building Block Requests**

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Executive Director, UDOH

January 2020

# MISSION & VISION



The Utah Department of Health's mission is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability, and premature death; assuring access to affordable, quality health care; and promoting healthy lifestyles.

Our vision is for Utah to be a place where *all* people can enjoy the best health possible, where *all* can live and thrive in healthy and safe communities.



# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



**Healthiest People** – The people of Utah will be among the healthiest in the country.

**Optimize Medicaid** – Utah Medicaid will be a respected innovator in employing health care delivery and payment reforms that improve the health of Medicaid members and keep expenditure growth at a sustainable level.

**A Great Organization** – The UDOH will be recognized as a leader in government and public health for its excellent performance. The organization will continue to grow its ability to attract, retain, and value the best professionals and public servants.



## **Four building block requests:**

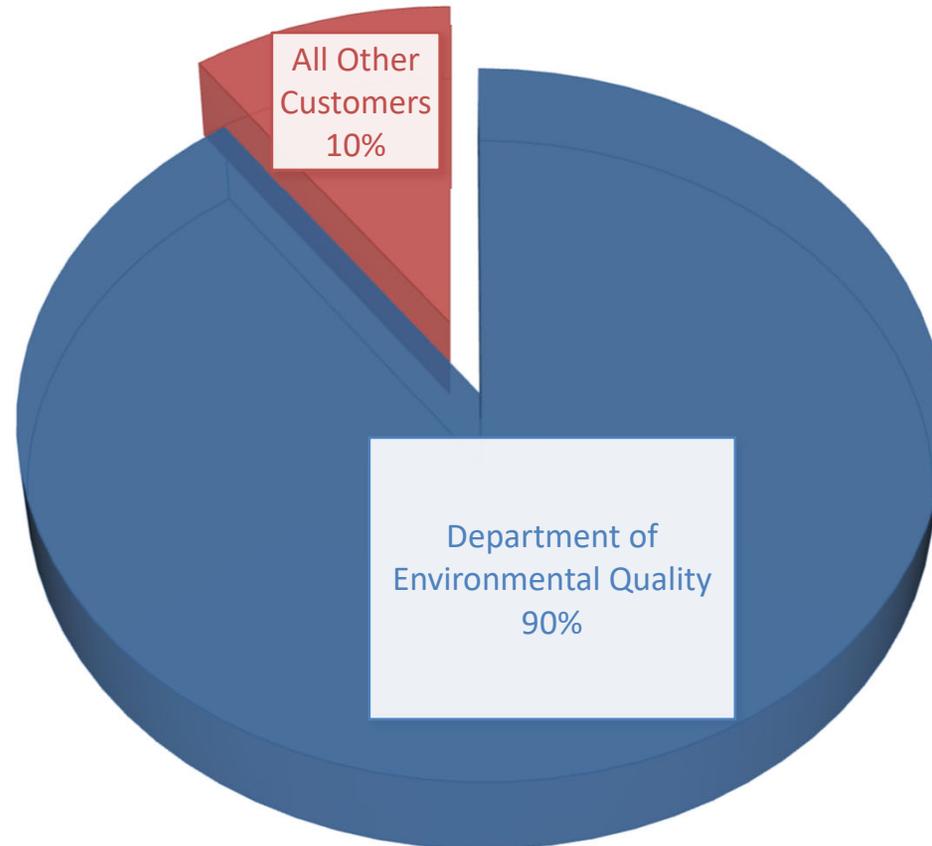
Laboratory Equipment

OME Staffing and Software

Increase Screening for STDs

LHD Minimum Performance Standards

# Laboratory Equipment

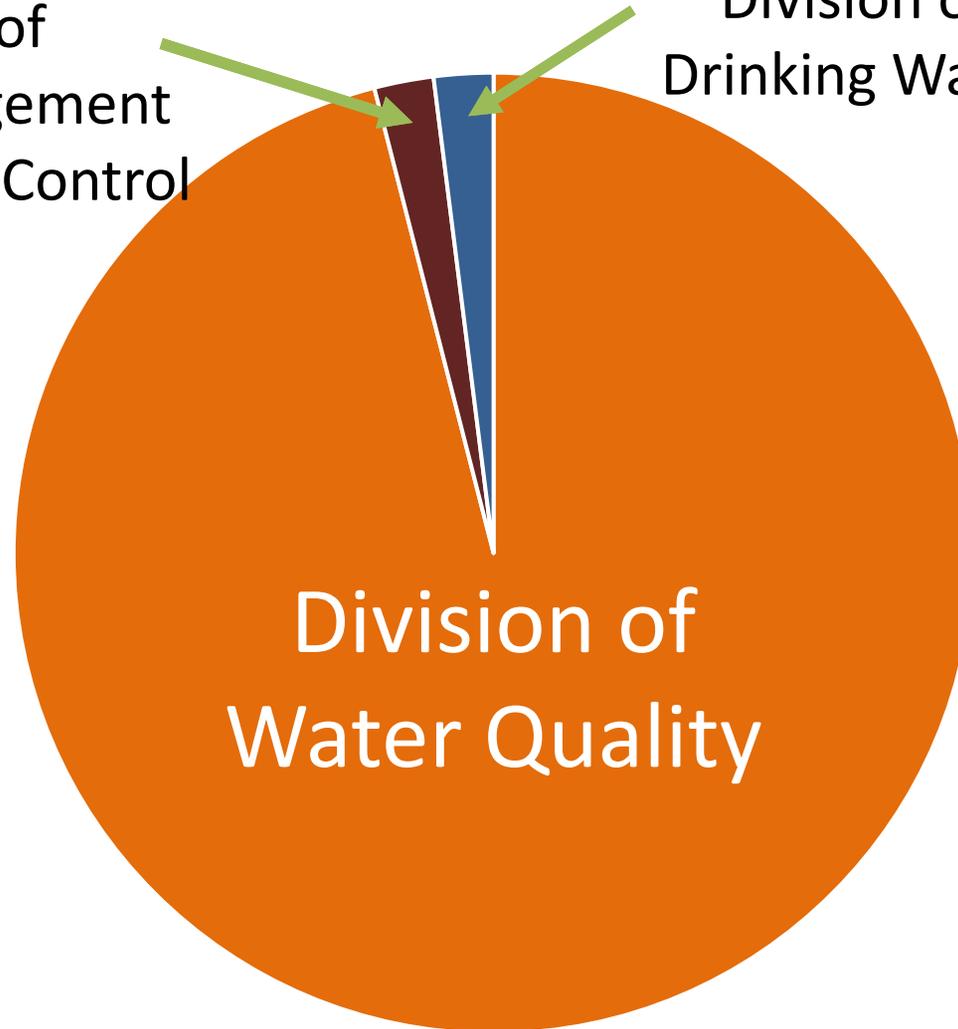


# Laboratory Equipment



Division of  
Waste Management  
and Radiation Control

Division of  
Drinking Water



# Laboratory Equipment



Triple Quadrupole Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (TQ-ICP-MS)

Seeking One-time: \$400,000

Equipment Used For Heavy Metal Detection

Problems Funding Will Address

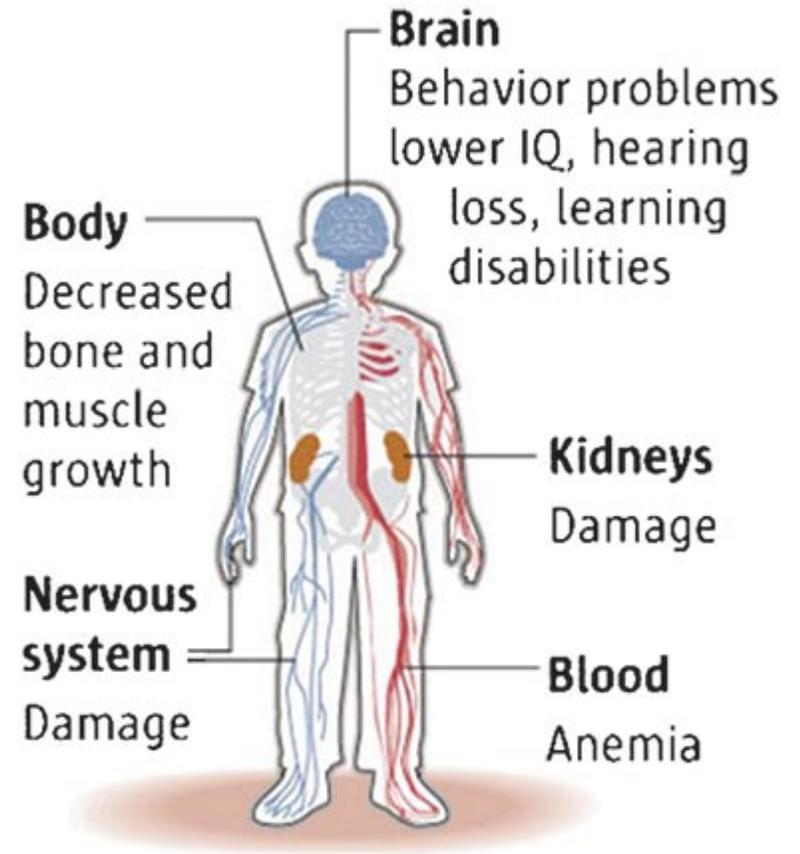
- Aging instrument: the machine was purchased in 2013.
- Experiencing continuous malfunctions.
- Instrument has reached its efficiency life-time.
- Delays in testing and reporting.

# Heavy Metals in Water



“...nothing is more fundamental to our health and safety than our water.”

**Mona Hanna-Attisha MD**  
pediatrician in Flint, Michigan  
Author of What the Eyes Don't See



No level of lead exposure is considered safe.

## How will this equipment help?



Equipment will allow timely action by partners since UPHL will be able to:

1. Meet revised, lowered EPA detection limits
2. Process more samples (increase throughput)
3. Decrease turnaround time for reports

# Laboratory Equipment



Liquid Chromatography with Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS-MS)

Seeking One-time: \$400,000

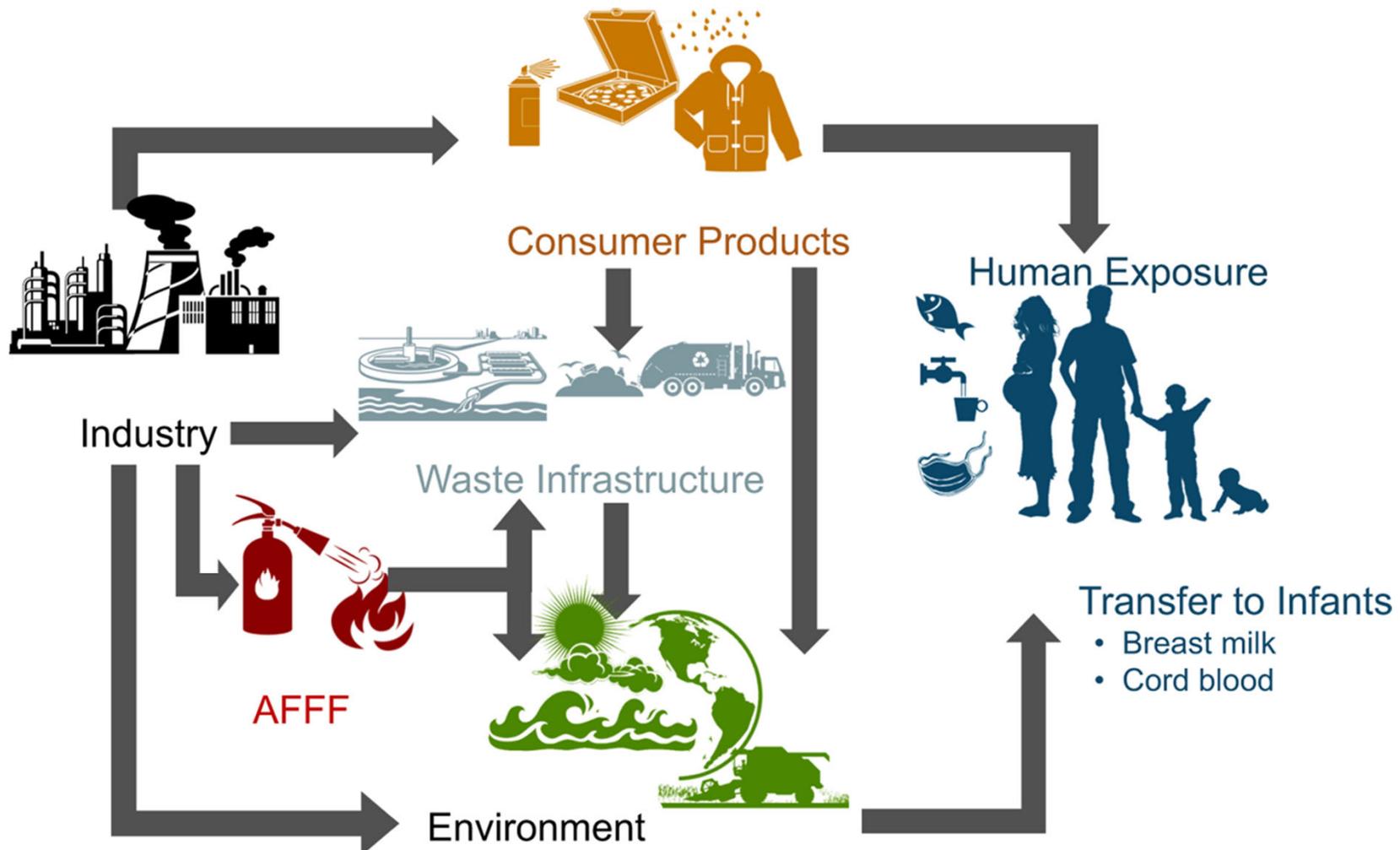
Equipment Will Be Dedicated For PFAS Detection

Problems Funding Will Address

- UPHL has only one LC-MS-MS, purchased in 2011.
- Currently used for a variety of testing, including PFAS.
- The lower detection limits and increased test volume that is expected will overload the instrument's operating and detection capacity.
- Instrument malfunction and/or failure is inevitable

# PFAS

## Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances

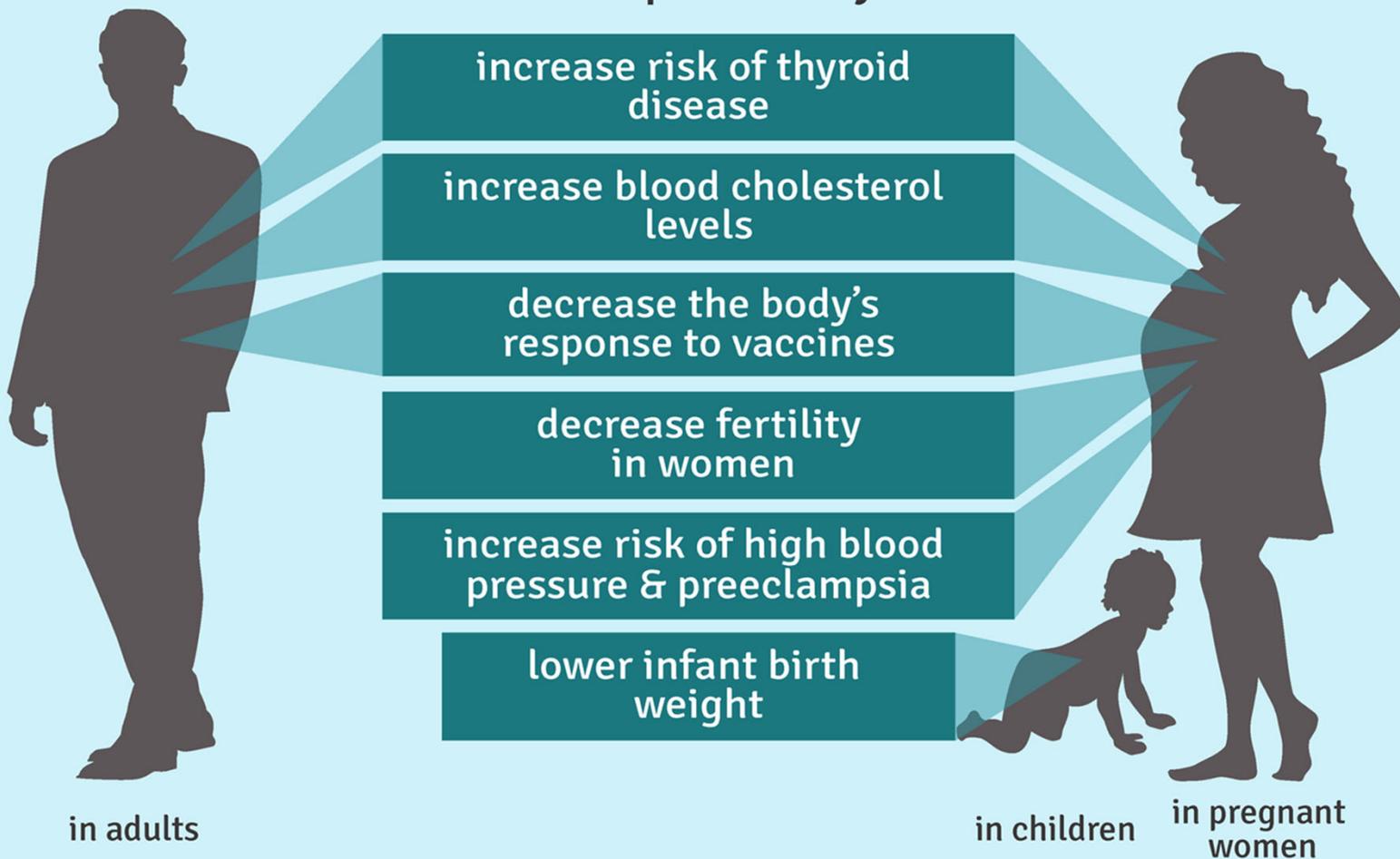


# PFAS

## Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances



Human studies suggest  
PFAS exposure may...



Information sourced from Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

# How will this equipment help?



Equipment will allow UPHL to be responsive to the growing needs of partners (DEQ) by:

1. Validating methods from the EPA
2. Implementing methods requested by DWQ without decreasing operational capacity
3. Maintain turnaround time for reports

# OME Staffing and Software



Request: \$610,000 general fund (on-going) and \$183,000 (one-time)

*Inadequate administrative and support staffing and database are an impediment to achieving overall goals for case completion*

- New case management software
- Operations manager
- Additional full-time investigators
- Additional full-time autopsy assistant

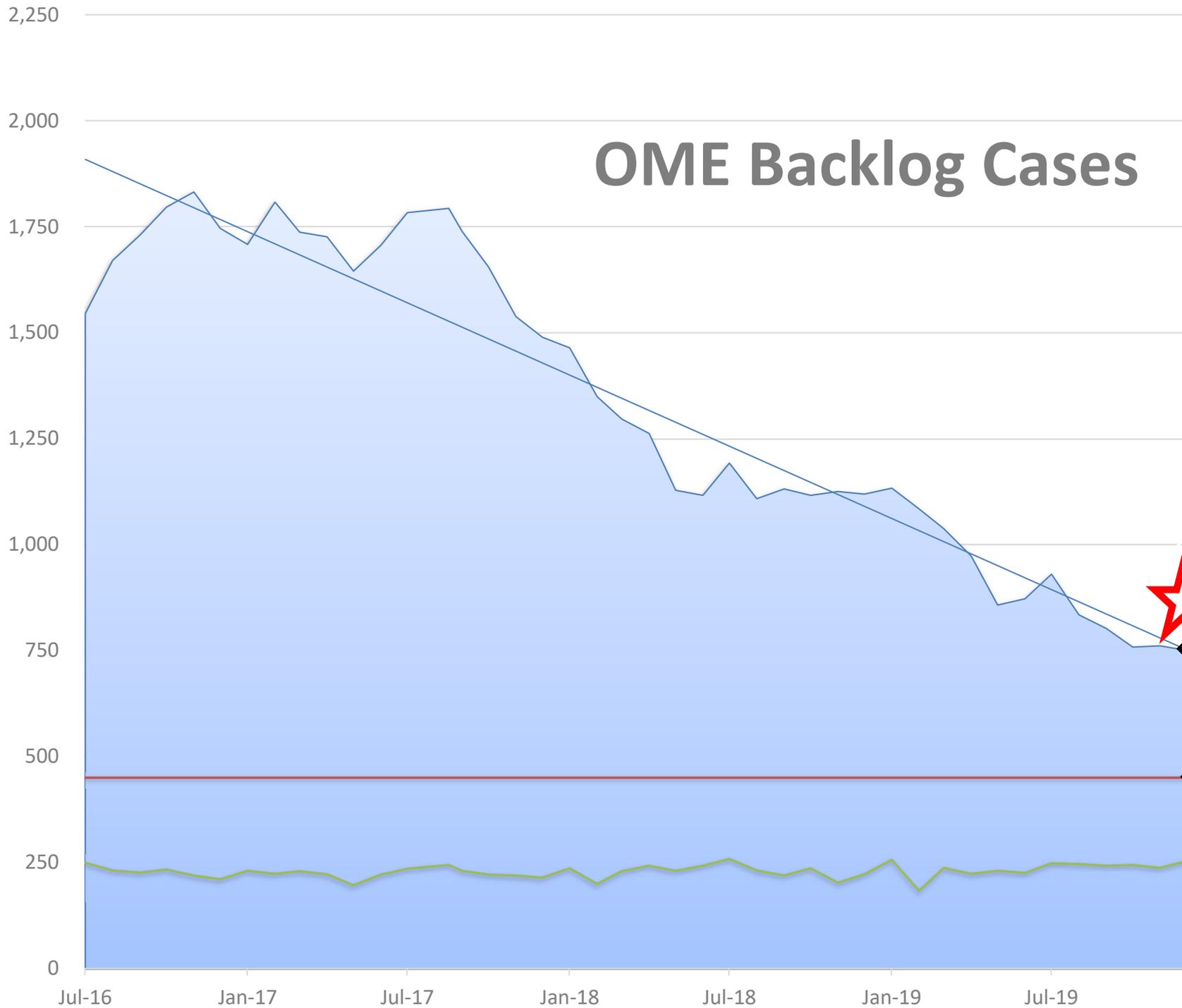
# OME Staffing and Software



## Progress:

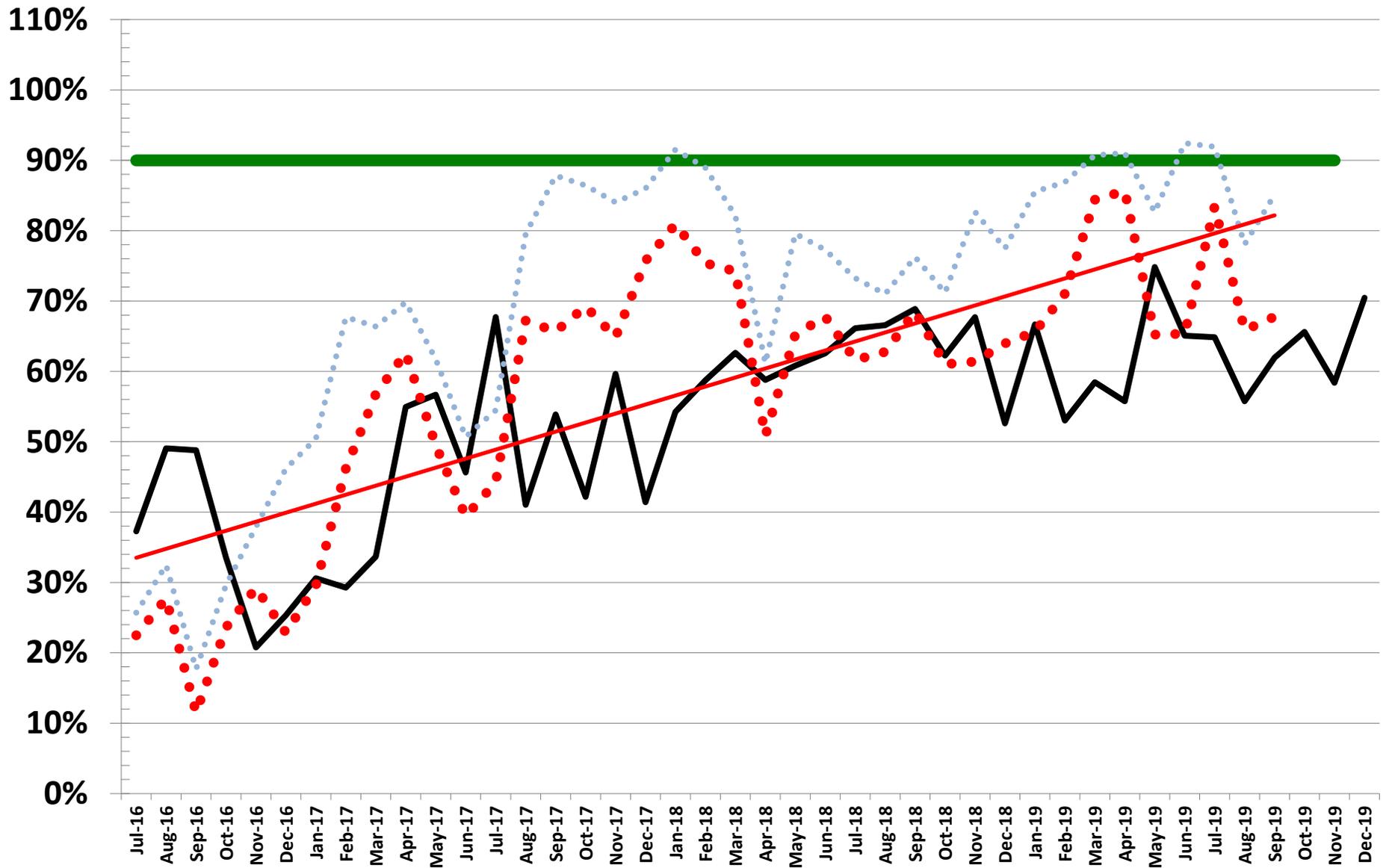
- Backlog reduced to 750 as of 12/31/19
  - Down from peak of >1800 in Nov '16
  - Target of  $\approx$  450 open cases ( $\approx$ 60 days)
- Improved report turn-around time
  - 68% of case reports in <60 days
    - Up from low of 23% in Nov '16
  - 85% of case reports in <90 days
  - Overall goal of 90% in <60 days
- Ten staff forensic pathologists
- Forensic pathology fellow

# OME Backlog Cases



# OME Monthly Turn Around Time

Goal: 90% of Cases Completed in 60 Days



# OME Staffing and Software



## **Case Management Software**

- Current software compatible only with Internet Explorer
- Off-the-shelf replacements offer large improvements

## **Office Manager**

- Staffing, operations and financial reporting have outgrown capacity of a single individual

## **Full-time Investigators**

- Improved investigative follow-up
- Epidemiology support
- Support for rural vendor investigators

## **Autopsy Assistants**

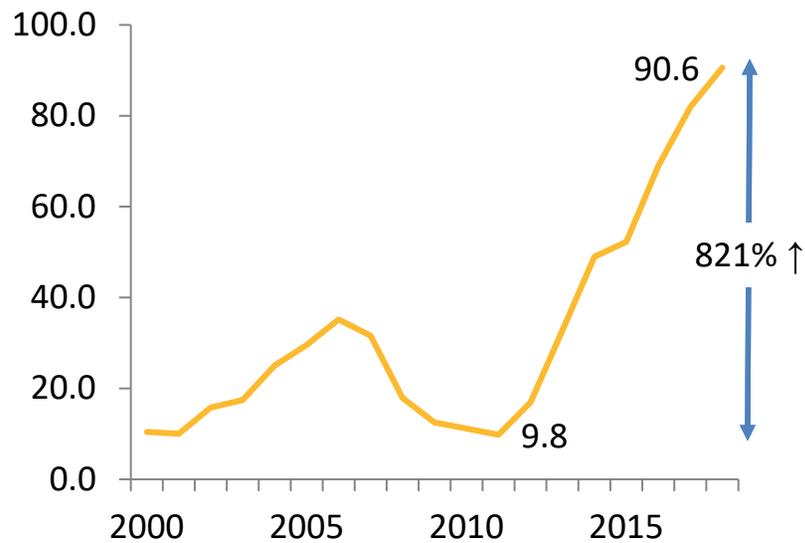
- Increasing case load and training demands

# Increase Screening for STDs

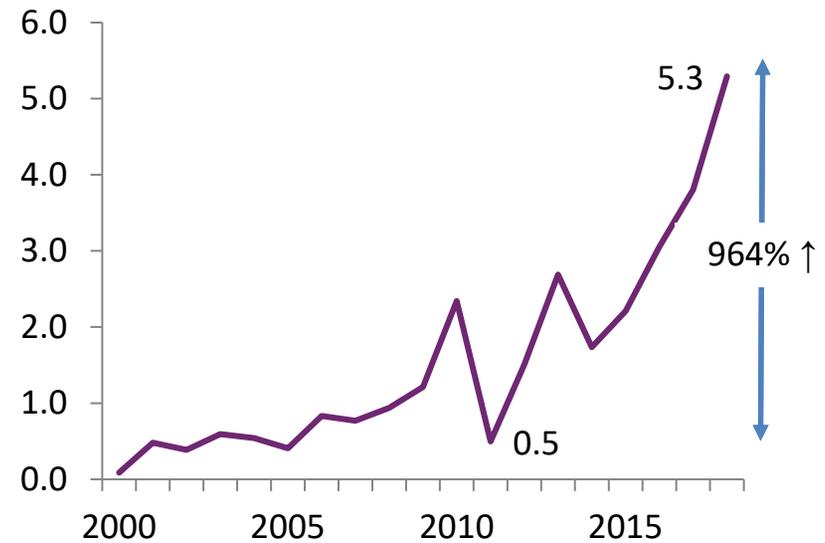


## Rates of STDs are at an all-time high

Rate of Reported Gonorrhea, Utah,  
2000-2019



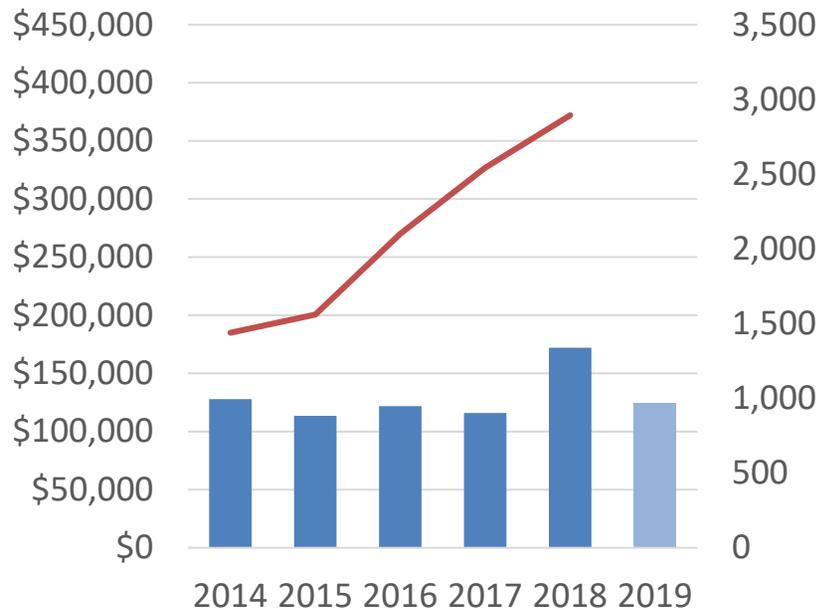
Rate of Reported P&S Syphilis, Utah,  
2000-2019



# Increase Screening for STDs



## Funding for STD testing has remained stagnant as cases increase



■ Federal Funding for STD Testing\*  
— Reported Gonorrhea Cases

**\$0 in State funding are allocated to STD testing.**

Federal funding for clinical services is limited to 10% of the total award:

- UDOH received provisional approval to allocate 20% (\$124,900)
- UDOH anticipates further reductions in federal funding for STD testing

\* 2019 Funding is allocated

# Increase Screening for STDs

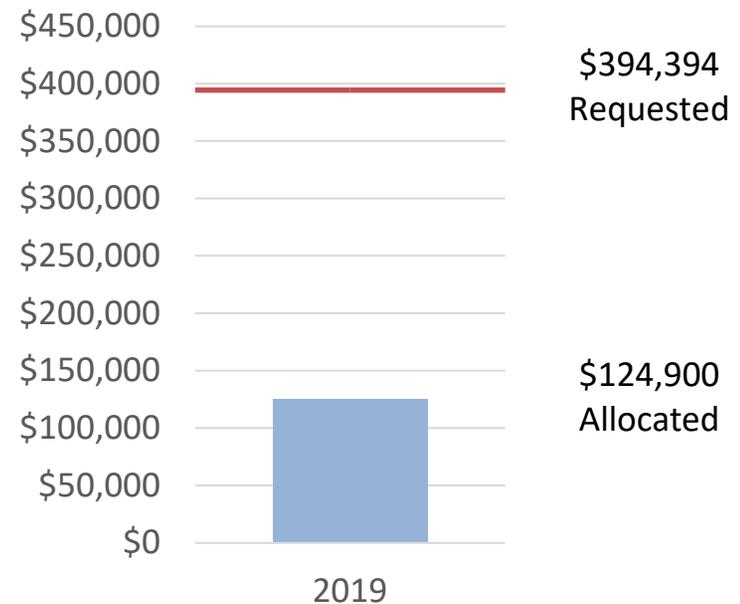


## There is unmet need for STD testing

STD testing prevents the spread of disease.

In 2019, the UDOH released a STD testing grant:

- Funding for the testing grant is from the CDC Strengthening STD Prevention and Control for Health Departments grant awarded to UDOH
- 16 Organizations Applied
  - 7 Local Health Districts
  - 9 FQHCs and CBOs
- Requested funds totaled \$393,394, far more than the funding available
- Historic levels of funding for STD testing are insufficient



# Increase Screening for STDs



## **Request: \$220,000 (ongoing)**

Funding would support increased syphilis and gonorrhea/chlamydia testing through the Utah Public Health Laboratory:

- 6,000 syphilis tests
- 1,000 confirmatory syphilis tests
- 6,000 gonorrhea/chlamydia tests

If funding is not received, an increased number of Utahns are likely to experience the negative health outcomes associated with gonorrhea and syphilis infection, including:

- Miscarriage, stillbirth, or early infant death
- Increased risk of HIV transmission and acquisition

# Local Health Department Minimum Performance Standards



## **Request: \$500,000 (on-going)**

- Protect public health through reducing the risk of disease spread.
  - Coronavirus
  - H1N1

# THANK YOU!



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HEALTHIEST PEOPLE | OPTIMIZE MEDICAID | A GREAT ORGANIZATION