

Improving Children's Health Through Better Pediatric Reference Intervals

When diagnosing a patient, healthcare providers compare laboratory test results to a reference interval—a range of numbers that represents normal values for a healthy child

- Reference intervals determine whether a blood test value is normal
- Intervals change throughout life
- Reference intervals in children are different from those in adults
- Intervals vary at different developmental stages



- Pediatric laboratory professionals strive to provide clinicians with accurate reference intervals to assess the children under their care.
- The development of more accurate pediatric reference intervals is hindered by the limited access to blood samples from healthy children.

Congress has repeatedly recognized the need to improve PRIs in report language

Senate LHHS Committee Report:

The committee encourages CDC to initiate efforts to improve the accuracy of pediatric reference intervals. CDC is directed to include an estimate of the costs associated with developing pediatric reference intervals in the fiscal year 2027 CJ.

House LHHS Committee Report:

Pediatric Reference Intervals.—The Committee supports CDC's work to ensure the reliable diagnosis and treatment of children in a cost-effective manner. A 2022 CDC study found that many reference intervals used for children do not accurately reflect the biology of child development. The Committee encourages CDC to develop pediatric reference intervals and directs the CDC to include information on the funding needed for this activity as part of the fiscal year 2027 congressional justification.

The infrastructure for advancing this effort is already in place. CDC responded to Congress stating that its Environmental Health Laboratory would need an additional \$10 million to initiate and coordinate this vital work.

ADLM and its partners call on Congress to provide this funding

Partner Organizations

- Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Association of Nurse Practitioners
- American Clinical Laboratory Association
- American College of Clinical Pharmacy
- American Medical Technologists
- American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
- American Society for Clinical Pathology
- American Society of Andrology
- American Society of Hematology
- American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
- American Urological Association
- Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
- Arkansas Children's Hospital
- ARUP Laboratories
- Association for Academic Pathology
- Association for Diagnostics & Laboratory Medicine
- Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses
- Association of Public Health Laboratories
- Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
- Avalon Healthcare Solutions
- Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
- Children's Hospital Association
- Children's Hospital Colorado
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- Children's National Hospital
- Children's Pathology Chiefs
- Children's Wisconsin
- COLA, Inc.
- College of American Pathologists
- Endocrine Society
- International Society of Andrology
- Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- National Hispanic Medical Association
- National Rural Health Association
- Nationwide Children's Hospital
- PCOS Challenge: The National Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Association
- Pediatric Endocrine Society
- Phoenix Children's Hospital
- Quest Diagnostics
- Seattle Children's Hospital
- Siemens Healthineers
- Society for Pediatric Pathology
- Society for Reproductive Investigation
- University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Health System
- Vanderbilt Health
- West Virginia University Medicine Children's Hospital
- Yale New Haven Children's Hospital

For questions, please contact:

Vince Stine, PhD | vstine@myadlm.org
Senior Director, Government and Global Affairs

Evan Fortman, MPA | efortman@myadlm.org
Manager, Government Affairs