

## Laboratory Services

The Division of Laboratories serves Illinois' public health system and environmental protection network with high quality diagnostic and analytical laboratory testing. As enormous strides continue to take place in all medical and scientific disciplines, division personnel located in Chicago, Springfield and Carbondale strive to maintain advanced laboratory capabilities in order to improve public health and environmental quality throughout Illinois. For example, the division has recently implemented the use of advanced molecular diagnostics to enhance the detection and to monitor the origin and spread of agents that can threaten human health.

The clinical laboratory sections provide reference laboratory and consultation services to the public health system, hospitals, clinics, physicians and other health care providers that serve the residents of Illinois. These sections provide laboratory testing for bacterial, parasitic, viral and mycotic diseases. Numerous serological tests are performed within these sections, including primary, confirmatory and reference testing for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV-1), the causative agent for AIDS. Illinois newborns are screened via dried blood spot filter paper samples for inborn errors of metabolism and hemoglobinopathies. Toxicological evaluations include the detection of toxic blood lead levels in children.

The environmental laboratory sections provide analyses of foods, dairy products, water and environmental samples, such as soil and paint chips. Analyses for coliform bacteria and other regulated constituents in water are routinely conducted by the environmental laboratory sections. Milk and other dairy products are routinely monitored for wholesomeness and purity.