

# Environmental Health

**ABOUT THE COVER**



Shortcomings in traditional methods to understanding sources of bacterial contamination in water bodies limit the ability of public health officials to adequately protect public health and

mitigate pollution sources. This month's cover article, "Microbial Source Tracking in the Sasco Brook, Lower Farm River, and Goodwives River Watersheds of Long Island Sound," used polymerase chain reaction (PCR) as a tool for microbial source tracking to attempt to identify host species contributing bacteria to three watersheds that flow into Long Island Sound. While the study had limitations and further research is needed, DNA analysis can be an effective public health tool toward bacterial source identification that can aid in determining if source bacteria are a potential threat to public health and to guide remediation efforts.

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