

# The New England Public Health STD Consortium



The New England HIV Implementation Science Network  
3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Symposium  
June 2, 2016

# Purpose

Create a forum for health department STD directors and local, regional, and national partners to:

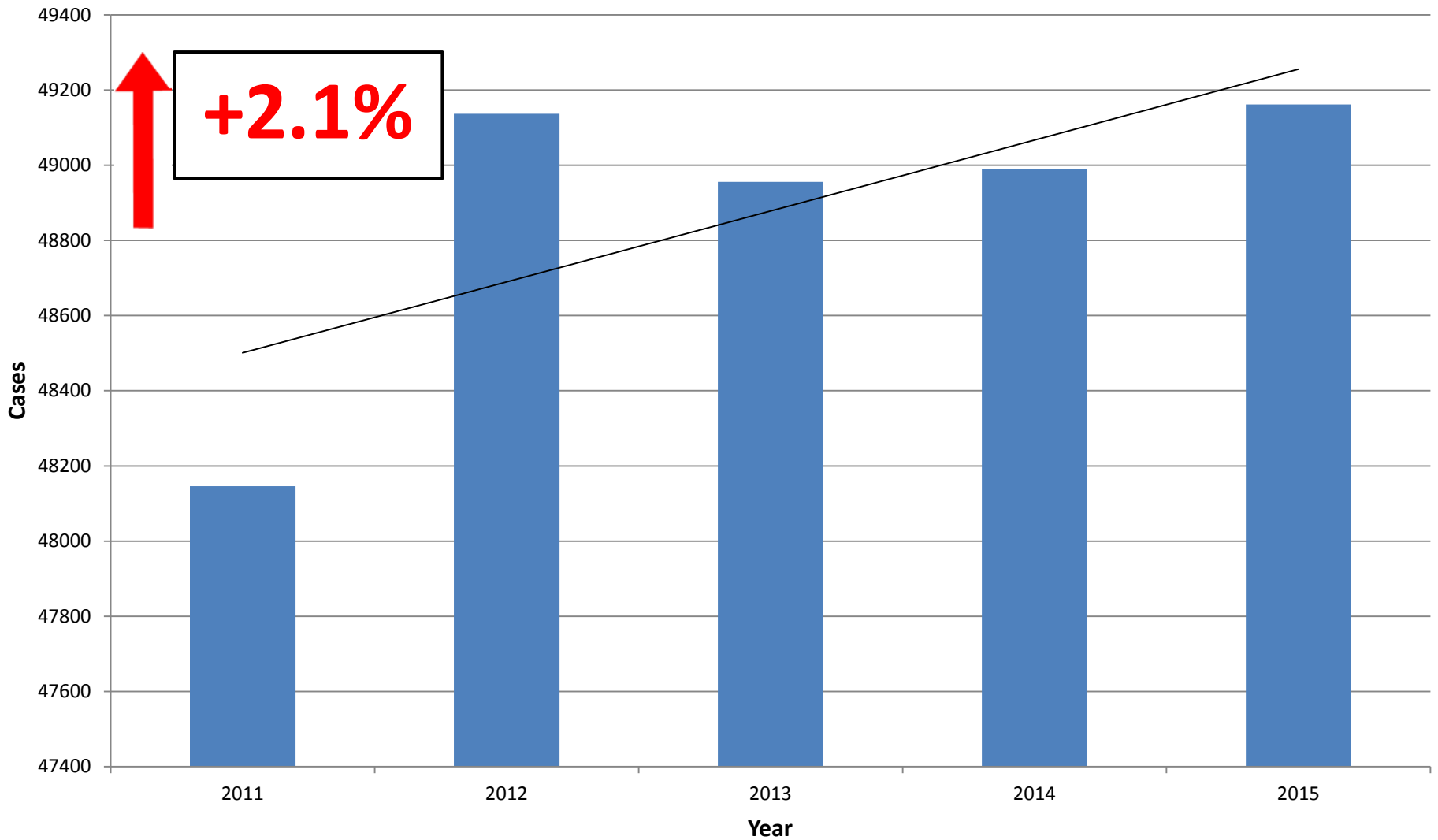
1. Develop regional STD prevention efforts
2. Share programmatic and epidemiological information
3. Problem solving/technical assistance
4. Address growing rates of STDs

# Rationale

- Decreasing federal funding for state STD programs
- Cross-state travel of high-risk individuals
- Focal points of sexual activity related to summer tourist attractions, popular bars, and high-risk venues
- Comparable population demographics (Maine/NH/VT, CT/RI/MA)
- Traditional STD prevention efforts not as effective with emerging populations and the advent of cell-phone technology
- Share “best practices” across states
- “We can use all the help we can get.....”
- Increasing STD rates across the region.....

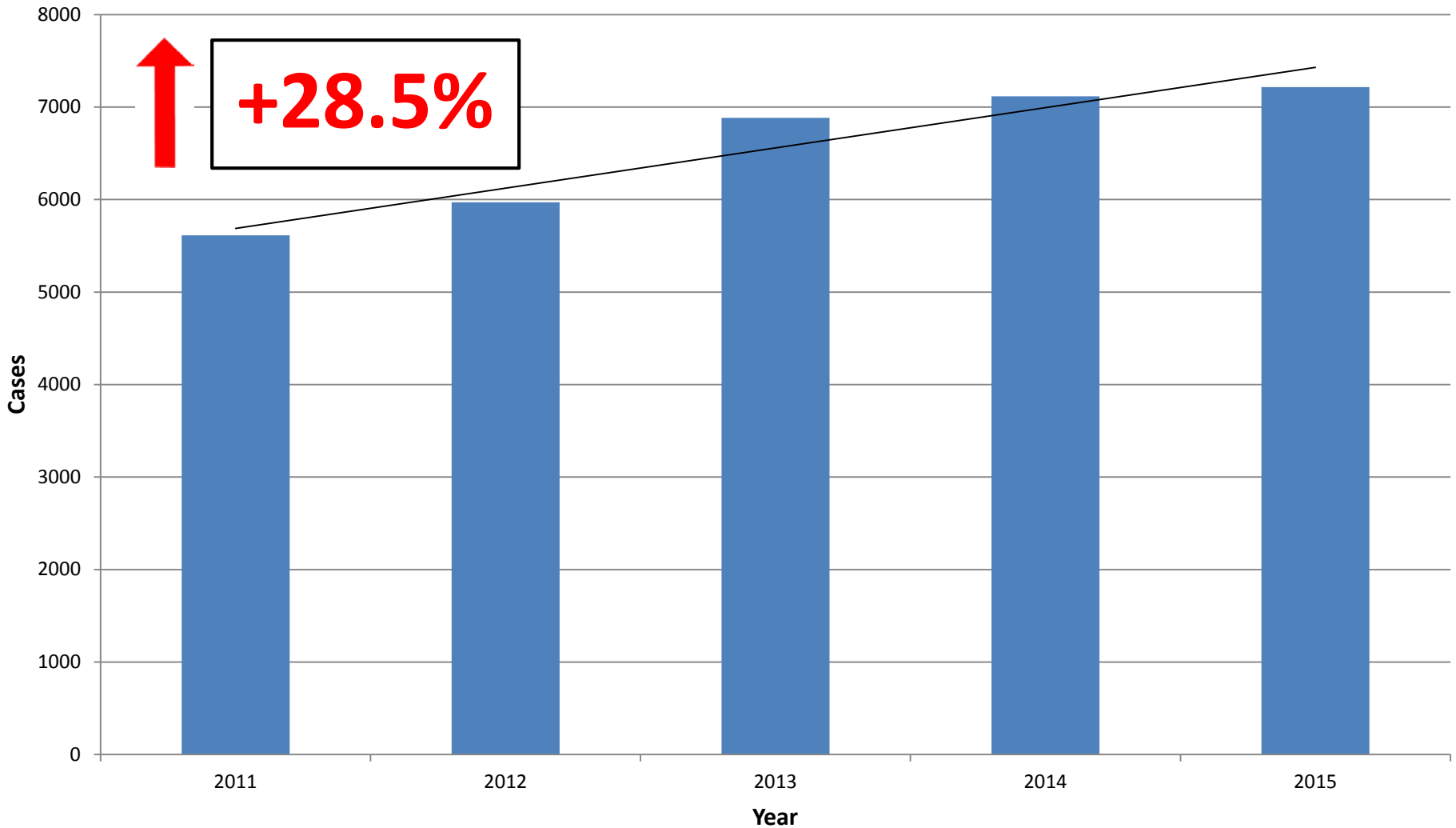
# Chlamydia

Trends in Chlamydia Cases, New England States, 2011-2015



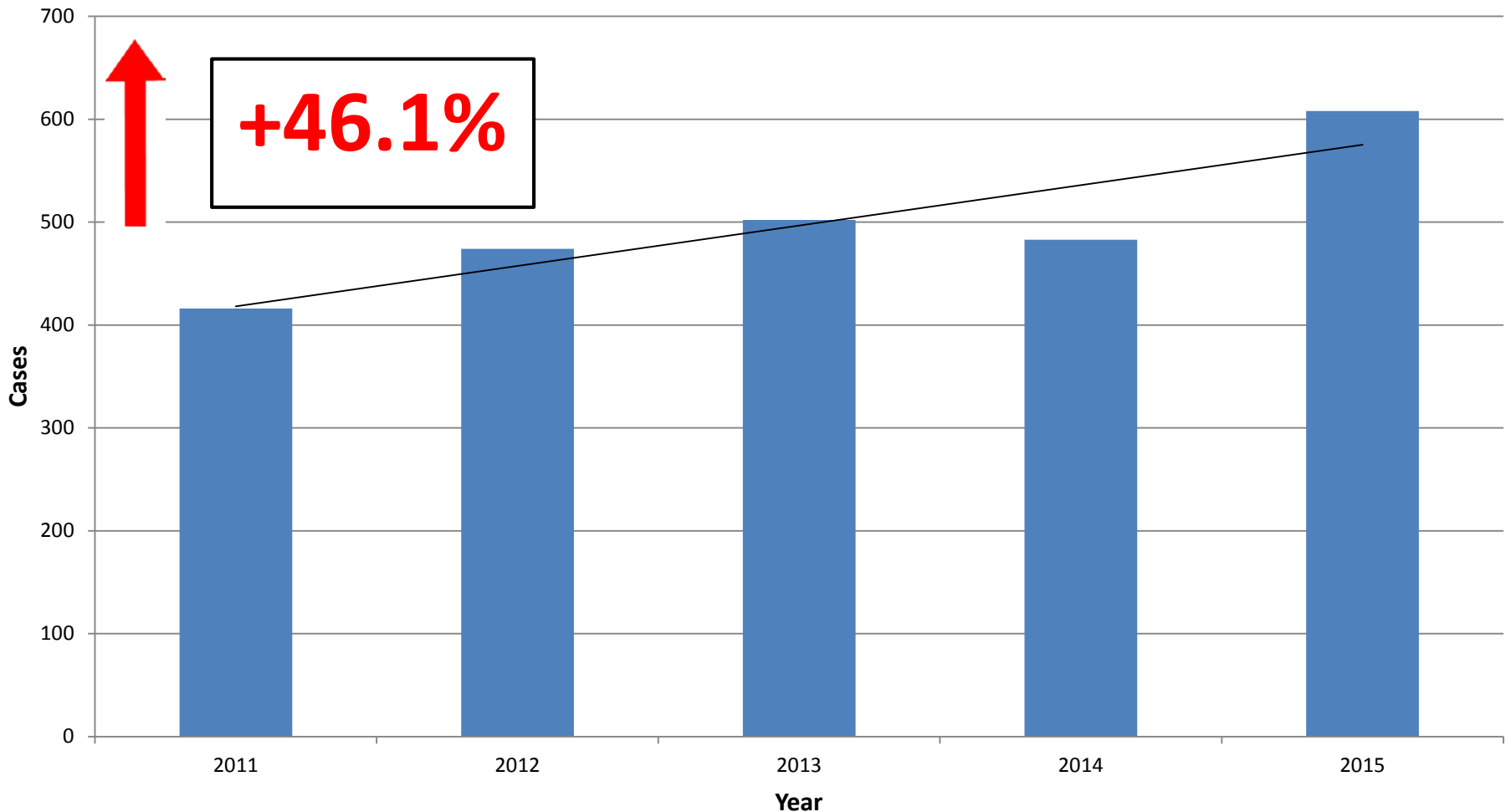
# Gonorrhea

Trends in Gonorrhea Cases, New England States, 2011-2015



# Primary and Secondary Syphilis

Trends in Primary and Secondary Syphilis Cases,  
New England States, 2011-2015



# Progress to Date

Aim	Progress
Have monthly conference calls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Done – First Monday of every month at noon.</li></ul>
Identify at least one regional project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Done – Partner Services Comparative Assessment and Improvement Project</li></ul>
Conduct regional in-person meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Planned – June 23/24 in Ogunquit, Maine</li></ul>

# Building Collaboration

## State Health Departments

- Connecticut
- Maine
- Massachusetts
- New Hampshire
- Rhode Island
- Vermont

## Regional Centers/Programs

- Brown University AIDS Program
- DHHS Region 1
- Sylvie Ratelle Training Center
- Yale CIRA
- New England AIDS Education and Training Center
- Lifespan/Tufts/Brown Center for AIDS Research
- NEATC

## National Organizations

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- National Coalition of STD Directors





# Lessons for the Network

“The consortium has been enormously helpful to me as a novice in STD prevention. I’ve appreciated learning about the creative STD prevention strategies adopted by states with similar funding profiles and shared barriers, and I’m comforted in knowing that I have experienced colleagues who can help me problem-solve when I need it. I’m not sure where our future work will lead us, but our regional collaboration can only help us in serving the people of our states better.”

*Emer Smith, Maine Department of Health*

# Next Steps and Plans for Growth

- Continue monthly conference calls
- Utilize the Ogunquit in-person meeting to identify more regional projects
- Explore expansion scope to include HIV (prevention, surveillance, and care) and Hep C
- Continue work on data collection, staff training, and development of uniform metrics for partner services
- Conduct informal evaluation of the Consortium