

The New England Public Health STD Consortium



The New England HIV Implementation Science Network
3rd Annual Symposium
June 2, 2016

Purpose

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

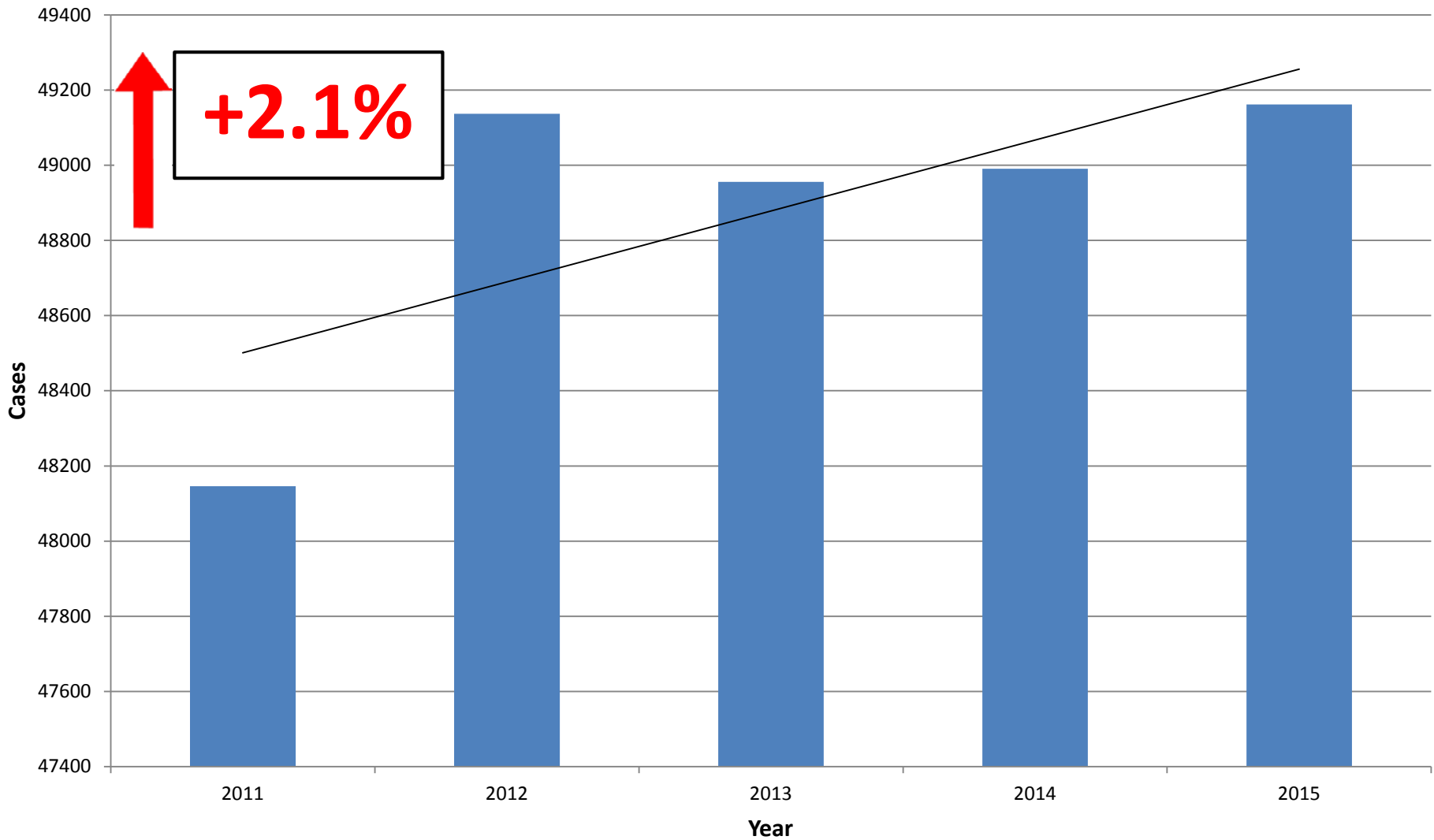
1. Develop regional STD prevention efforts
2. Share programmatic and epidemiological information
3. Problem solving/technical assistance
4. Address growing rates of STDs

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.....

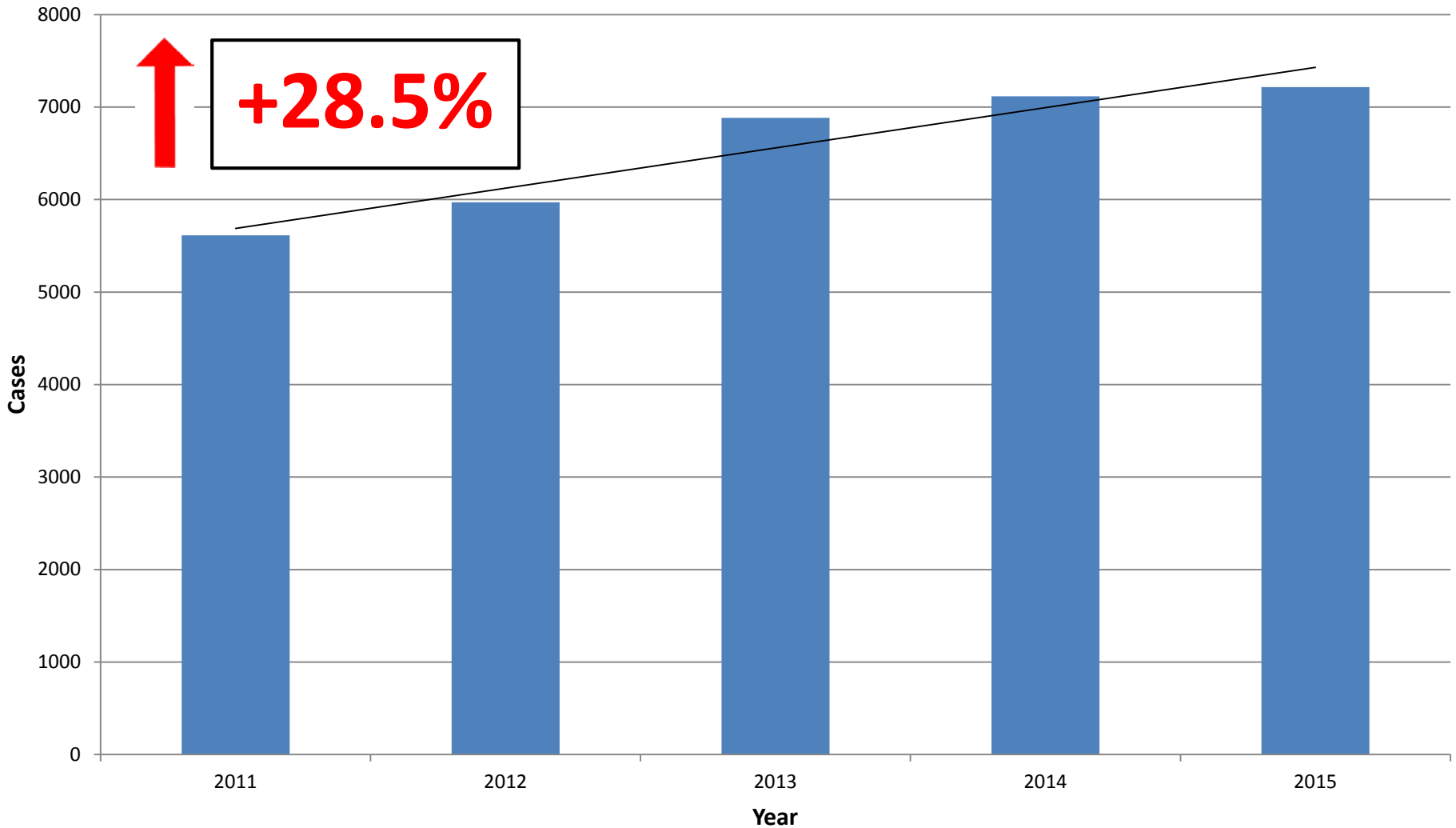
Chlamydia

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



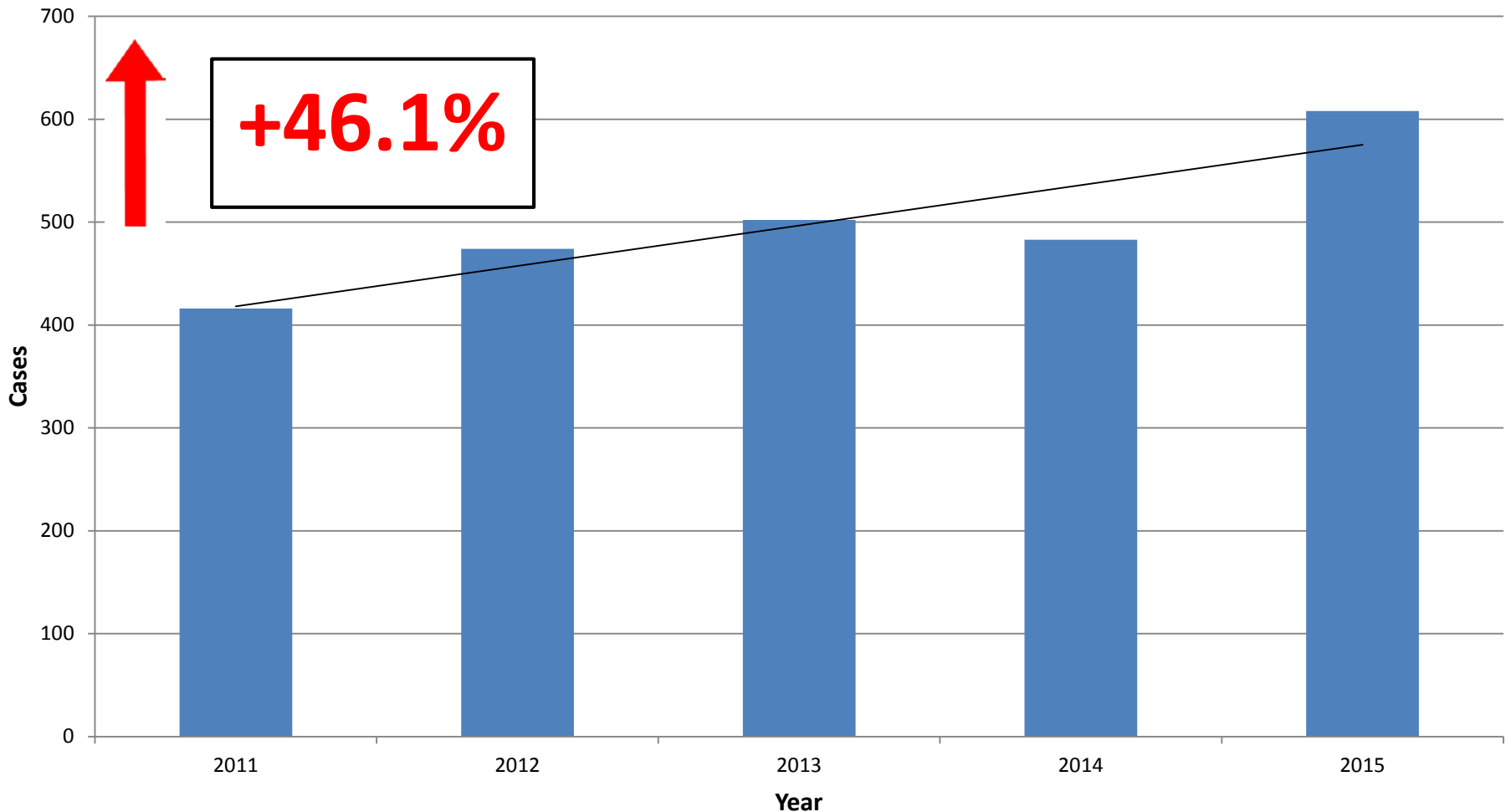
Gonorrhea

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

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