

HIV Testing Rates in VA 2009-2010

Public Health Strategic Health Care Group
Office of Public Health
Department of Veterans Affairs
April 2011



VA
HEALTH
CARE

Defining
EXCELLENCE
in the 21st Century



Public Health
Strategic Health Care Group

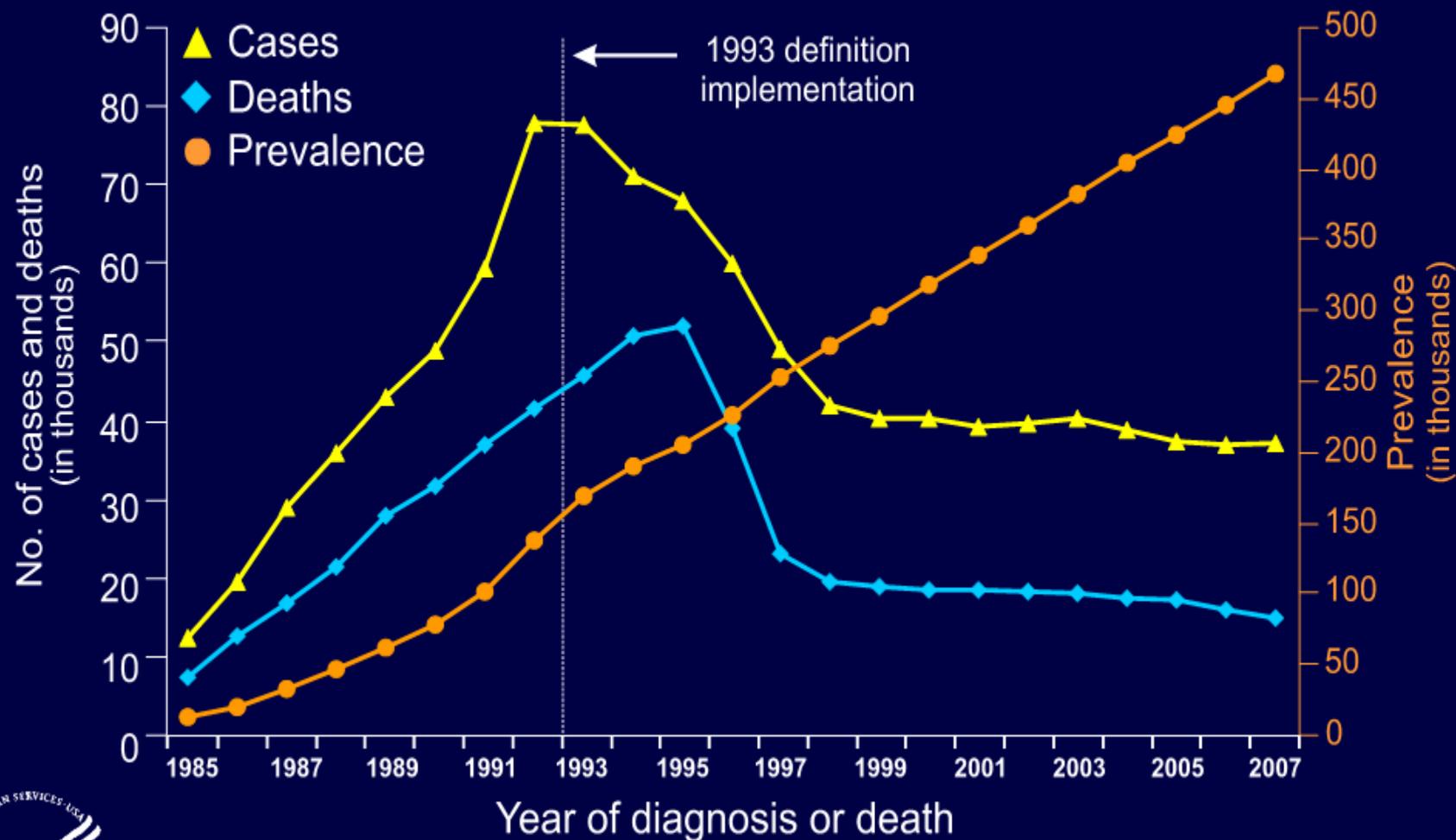
- **Background**
 - HIV in the US, in the VA
 - Science and policy issues related to HIV testing
- **Current status of HIV testing in VA**
 - Comparison of 2009 and 2010 data
- **Support for increasing HIV testing**
 - Current strategies and initiatives

HIV in the US

- HIV infection is a treatable disease
- HIV prevalence is increasing in US
- 1.1 million HIV-infected persons in the U.S.
- 21% unaware of their HIV infection
- 50,000 - 60,000 new HIV diagnoses in the US every year
- HIV transmission rates higher among people who do not know they are HIV-infected

MMWR: Vol 57(39), 2008

Estimated Numbers of AIDS Cases, Deaths, and Persons Living with AIDS, 1985–2007—United States and Dependent Areas



Note. Data have been adjusted for reporting delays.



HIV in VA

- **VA is the largest single provider of HIV care in the United States**
 - **In 2010, VA clinicians cared for over 24,000 HIV+ Veterans**
 - **All VISNs provide care to HIV+ Veterans**
 - **As of 2009, less than 10% of Veterans ever tested for HIV in VA**

Source: VA HIV State of Care Report 2009
VHA 2009 Annual HIV Test Report

Rationale for Routine HIV Testing

- **Early HIV diagnosis and treatment improve health outcomes**
- **Routine HIV screening is cost-effective even in health care settings with low HIV prevalence**
- **Patients aware of their HIV infection substantially reduce behaviors that put them at risk of transmitting HIV**

Source: HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report: CDC,2007

Ann Intern Med. 2009;150:125-131

Justification for Routine HIV Testing in VA

- VA HIV prevalence exceeds CDC threshold (>0.1%) for routine HIV testing in all VISNs
- More Veterans accept HIV testing when it is offered routinely, without a risk assessment
- Routine testing can help reduce stigma associated with HIV infection and testing as perceived by Veterans and VA providers

VHA 2009 Annual HIV Test Report

Valdiserri R, Nazi K, McInnes D et al J Comm Health 2010 Jun 35(3) 215-219

VA HIV Testing Policy Change 8/17/09

- **VA National HIV Testing Policy revised to:**
 - Routinely offer HIV testing to all Veterans
 - Eliminate written informed consent and prescribed pre- and post-test counseling
 - Verbal consent still required and must be documented in medical record
 - Written educational materials about HIV testing must be provided to patients
- **Local policy not updated at many VA facilities until after January 2010**

VHA Informed Consent Handbook 1004.01: August 17th, 2009

VHA Directive 2009-036, August 17, 2009

VA HIV Testing Rates: Collection Methods

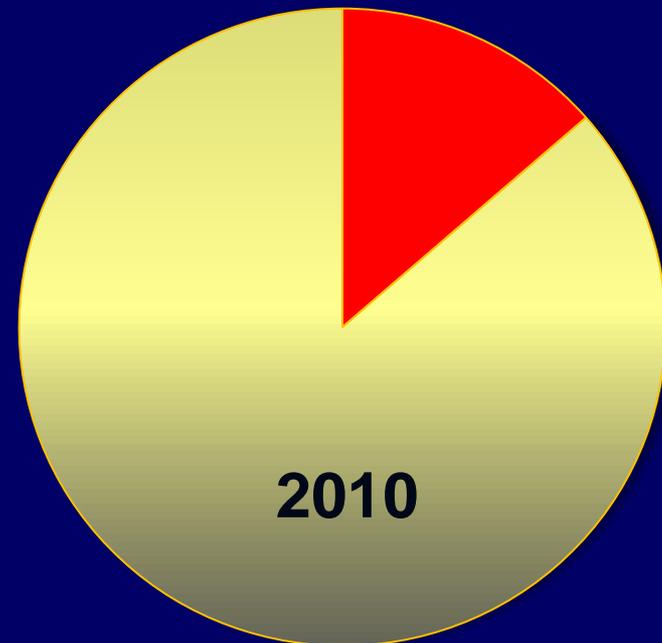
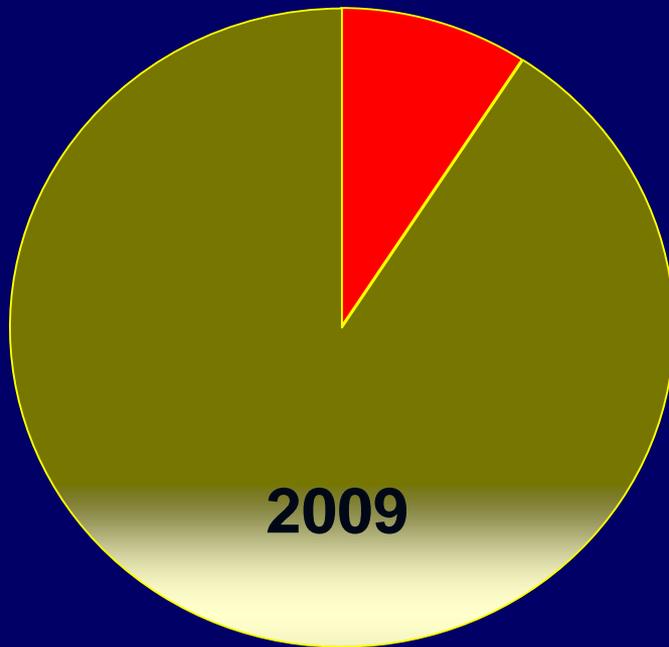
- **Data Extract Routine installed at all facilities to generate HIV test reports by Calendar Year (CY)**
- **All stations provide an annual HIV test report in January to PHSHG for the preceding CY**
- **Data collected on all outpatients in that CY**
 - Number with HIV test ever done
 - Number with HIV test done in that CY
 - Number with positive result in that CY

*represents all VHA facilities; integrated stations have multiple facilities

VA Outpatients Ever Tested for HIV 2009-2010

524,267
(9.2%)

795,126
(13.5%)



N=5,713,265

N=5,888,599

Source: VHA 2009 & 2010
Annual HIV Test Reports

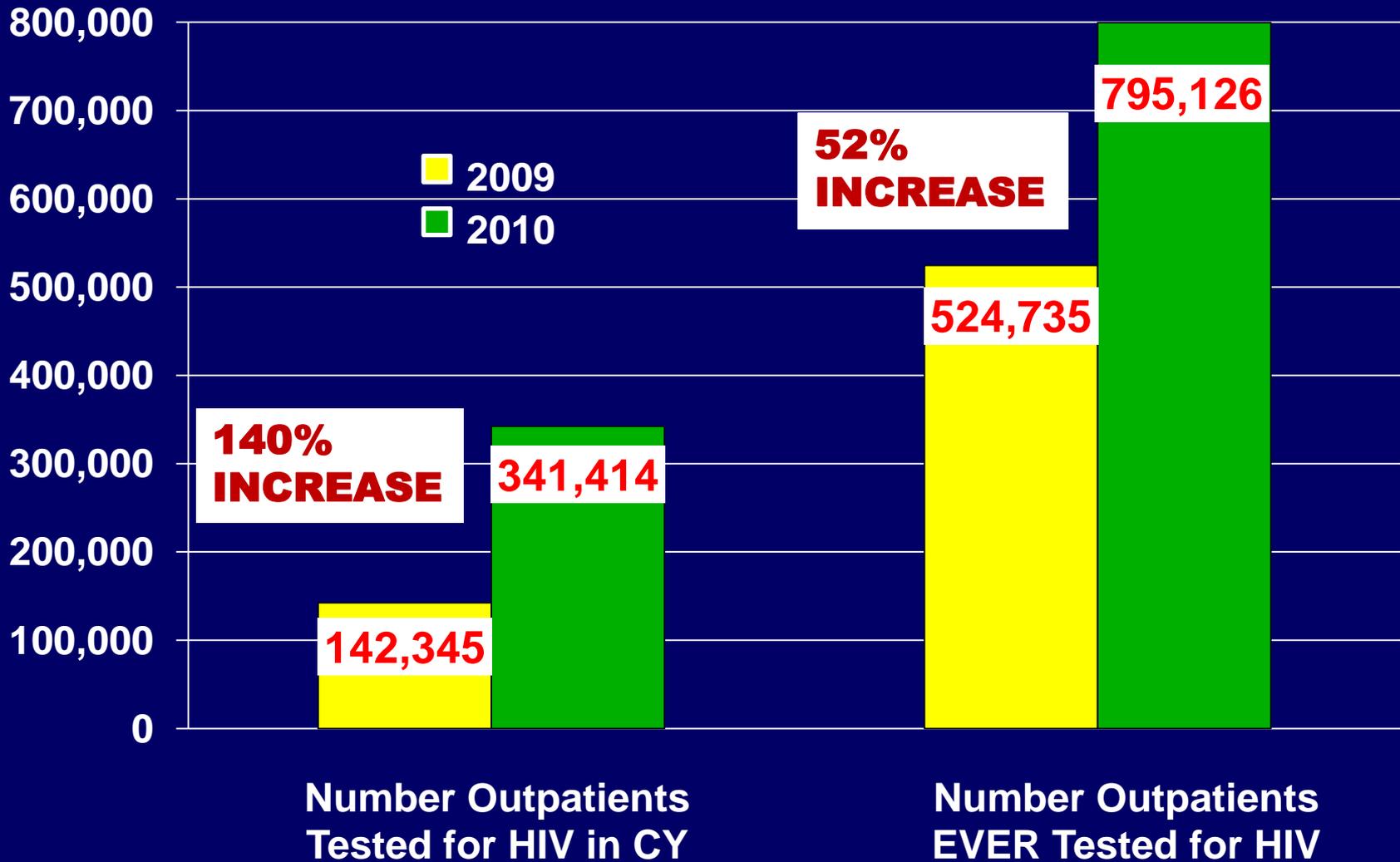


VA
HEALTH
CARE | Defining
EXCELLENCE
in the 21st Century

PHSHG

Public Health
Strategic Health Care Group

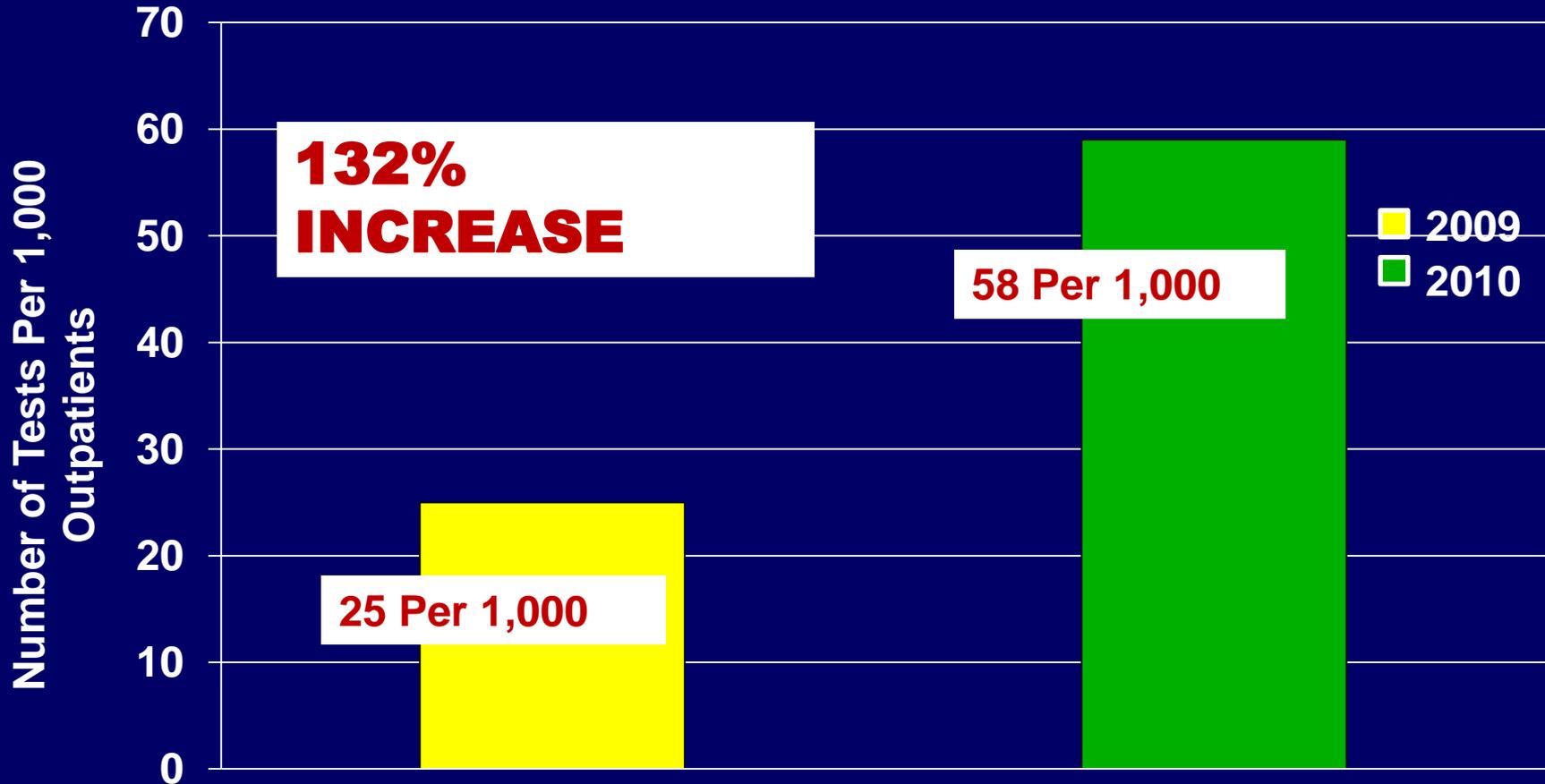
Increases in VA HIV Testing 2009-2010



Source: VHA 2009 & 2010
Annual HIV Test Reports

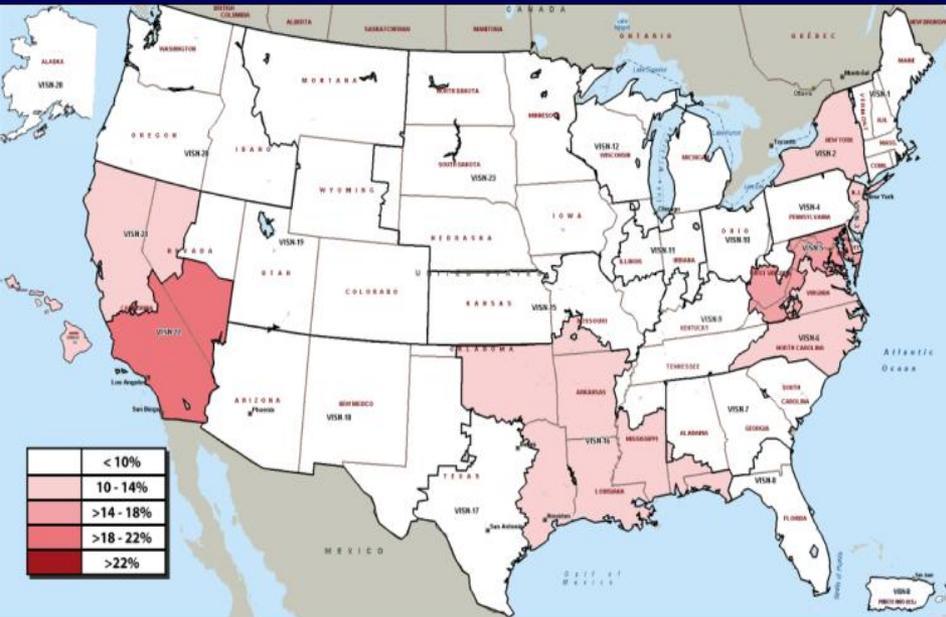


Number of Outpatients Tested for HIV per 1,000 Outpatients in VA 2009-2010

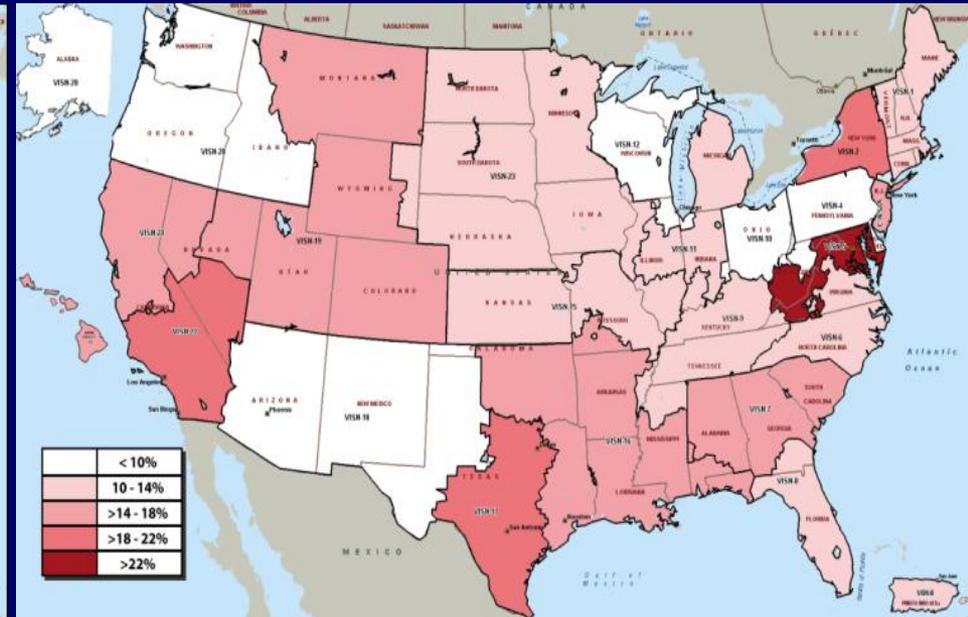


Source: VHA 2009 & 2010
Annual HIV Test Reports

Percent Outpatients EVER Tested For HIV, by VISN



2009



2010

Source: VHA 2009 & 2010 Annual HIV Test Reports

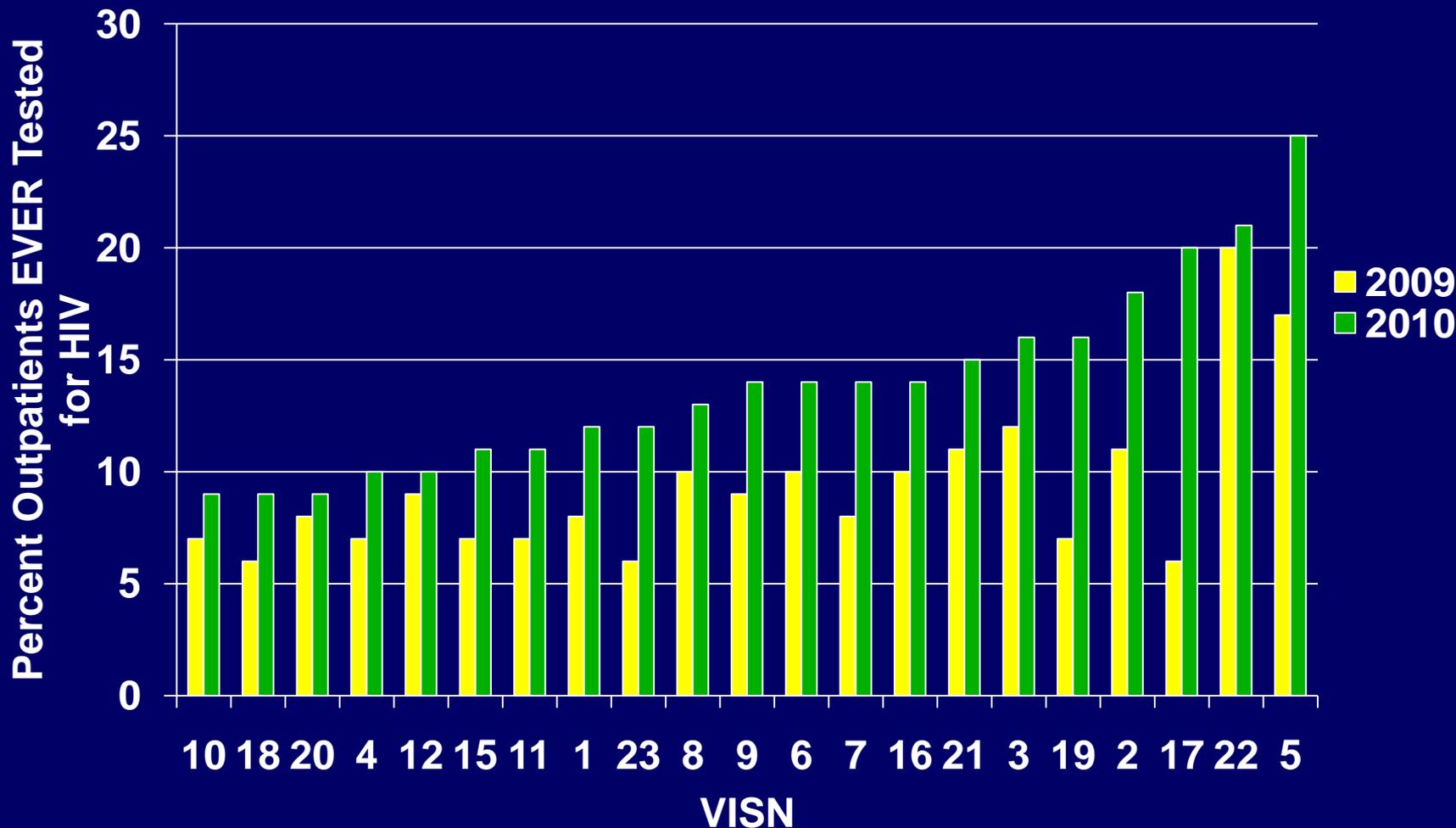


VA
HEALTH CARE
Defining
EXCELLENCE
in the 21st Century



Public Health
Strategic Health Care Group

Percent of Outpatients EVER Tested for HIV, by VISN 2009 vs. 2010



Source: VHA 2009 & 2010 Annual HIV Test Reports

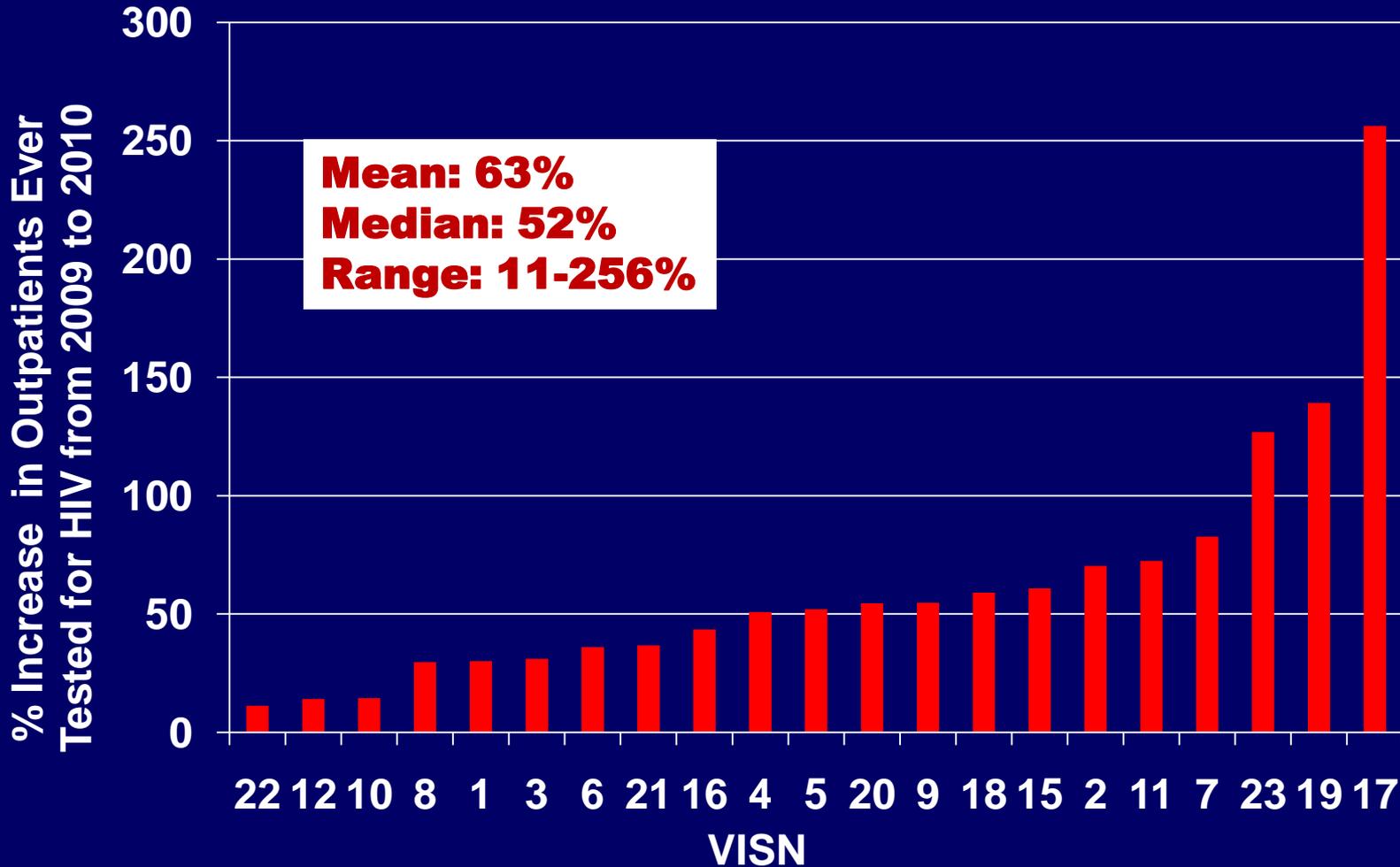


VA HEALTH CARE Defining **EXCELLENCE** in the 21st Century



Public Health Strategic Health Care Group

Percent Increase in Outpatients Ever Tested for HIV 2009-2010, by VISN



Percent Outpatients Tested For HIV in Calendar Year by VISN



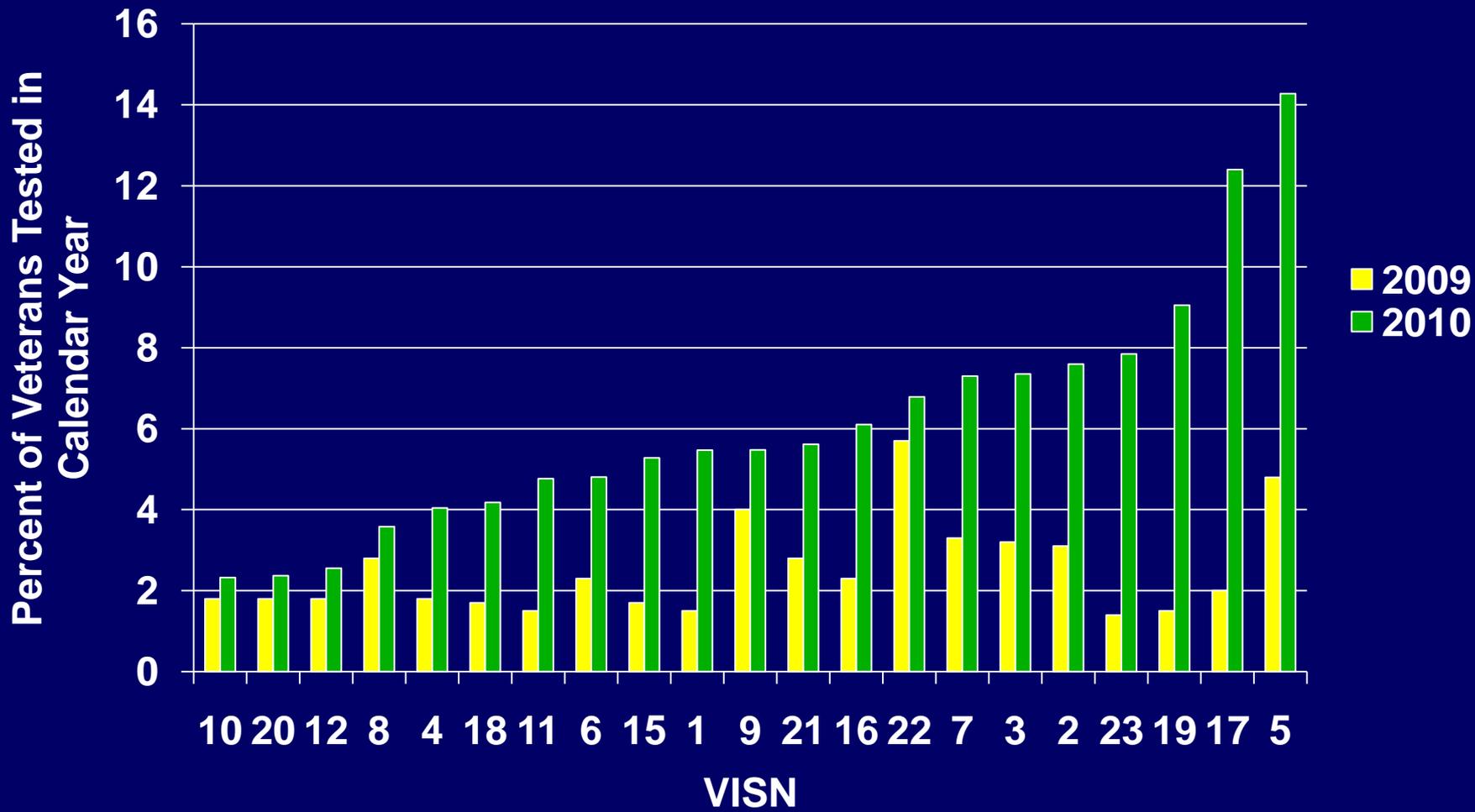
2009



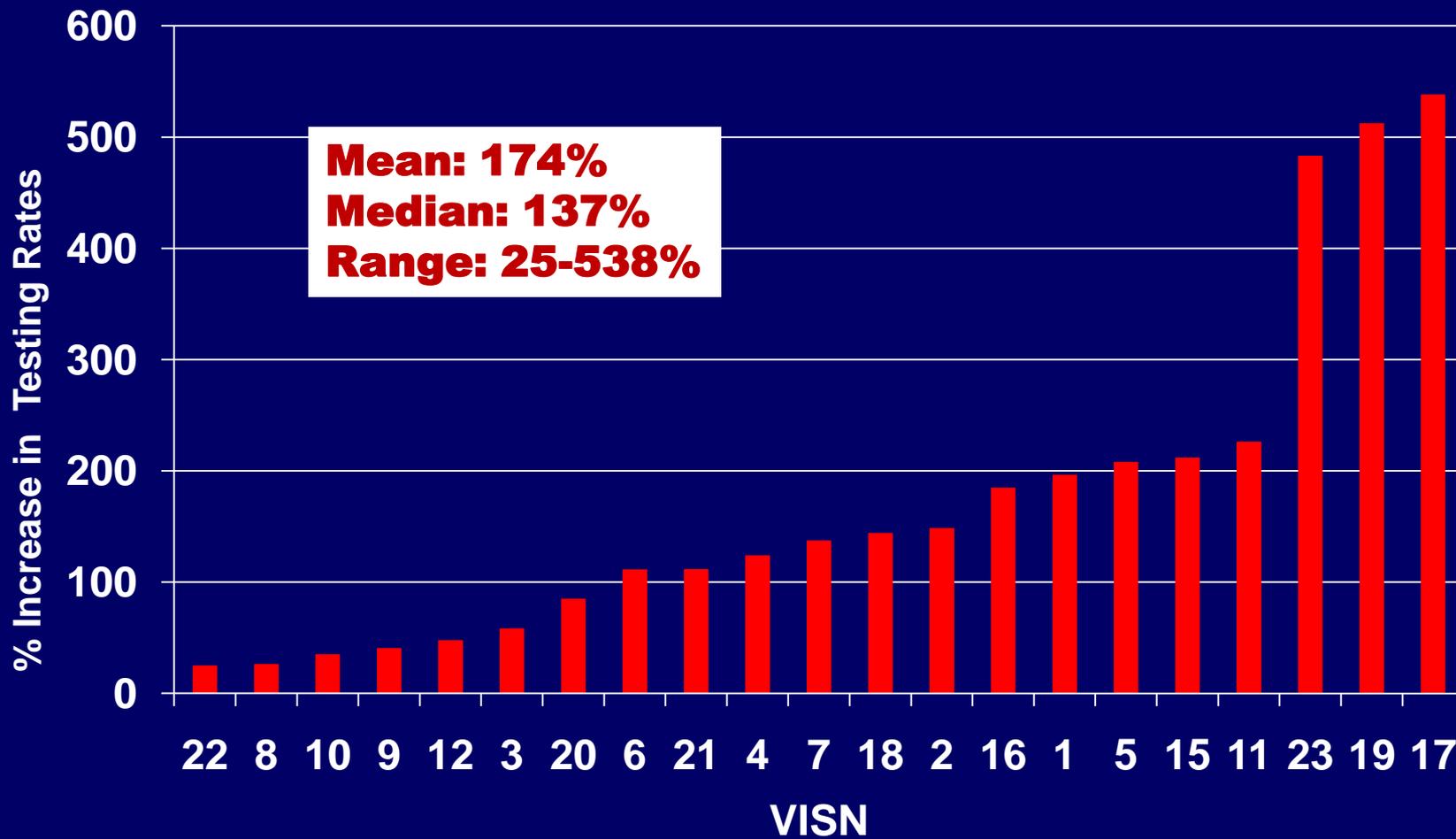
2010

Source: VHA 2009 & 2010 Annual HIV Test Reports

Percent of Outpatients Tested for HIV in the CY, by VISN - 2009 vs. 2010



Percent Increase in Outpatients Tested for HIV in CY 2009-2010, by VISN

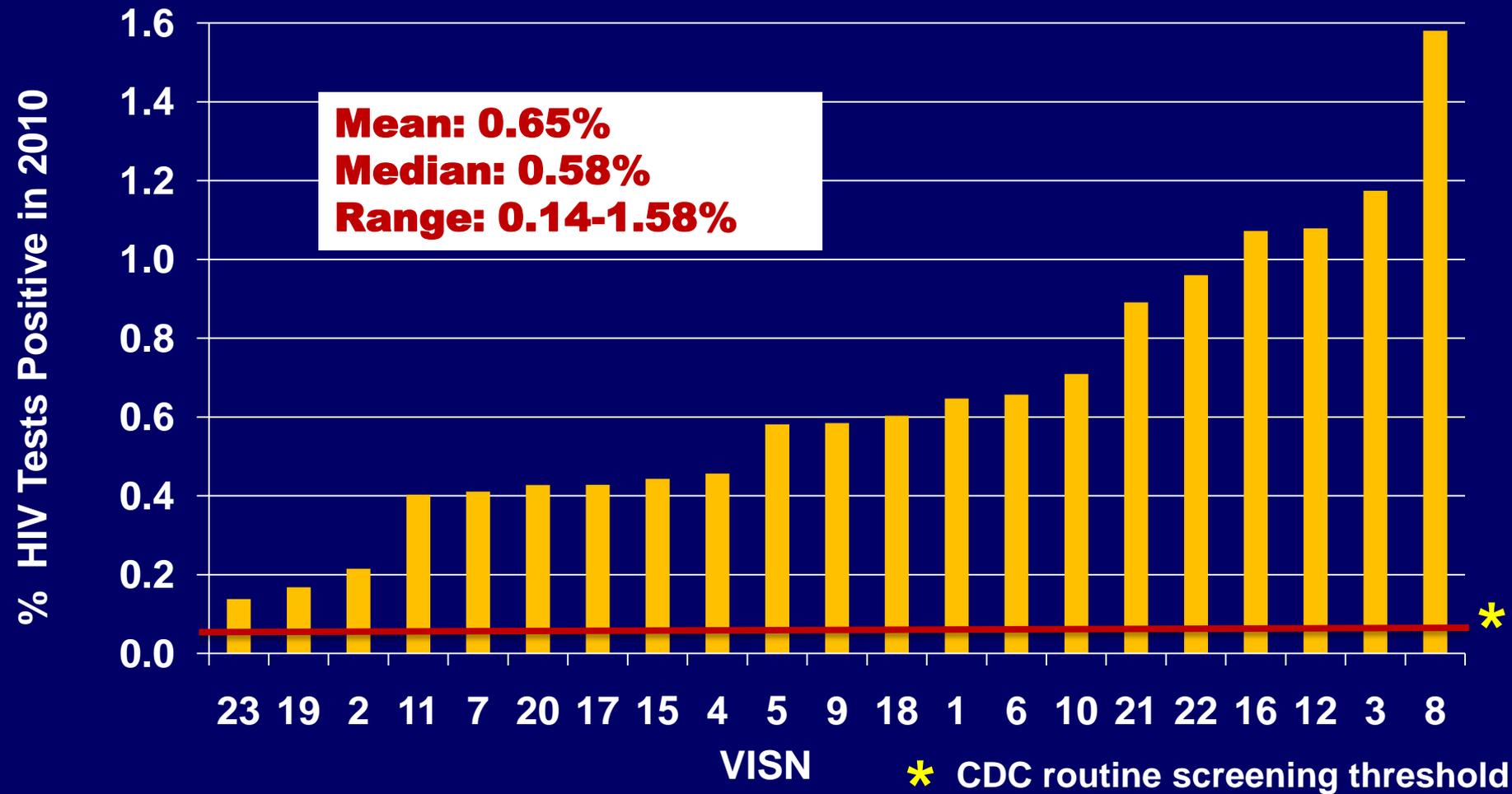


Source: VHA 2009 & 2010
 Annual HIV Test Reports

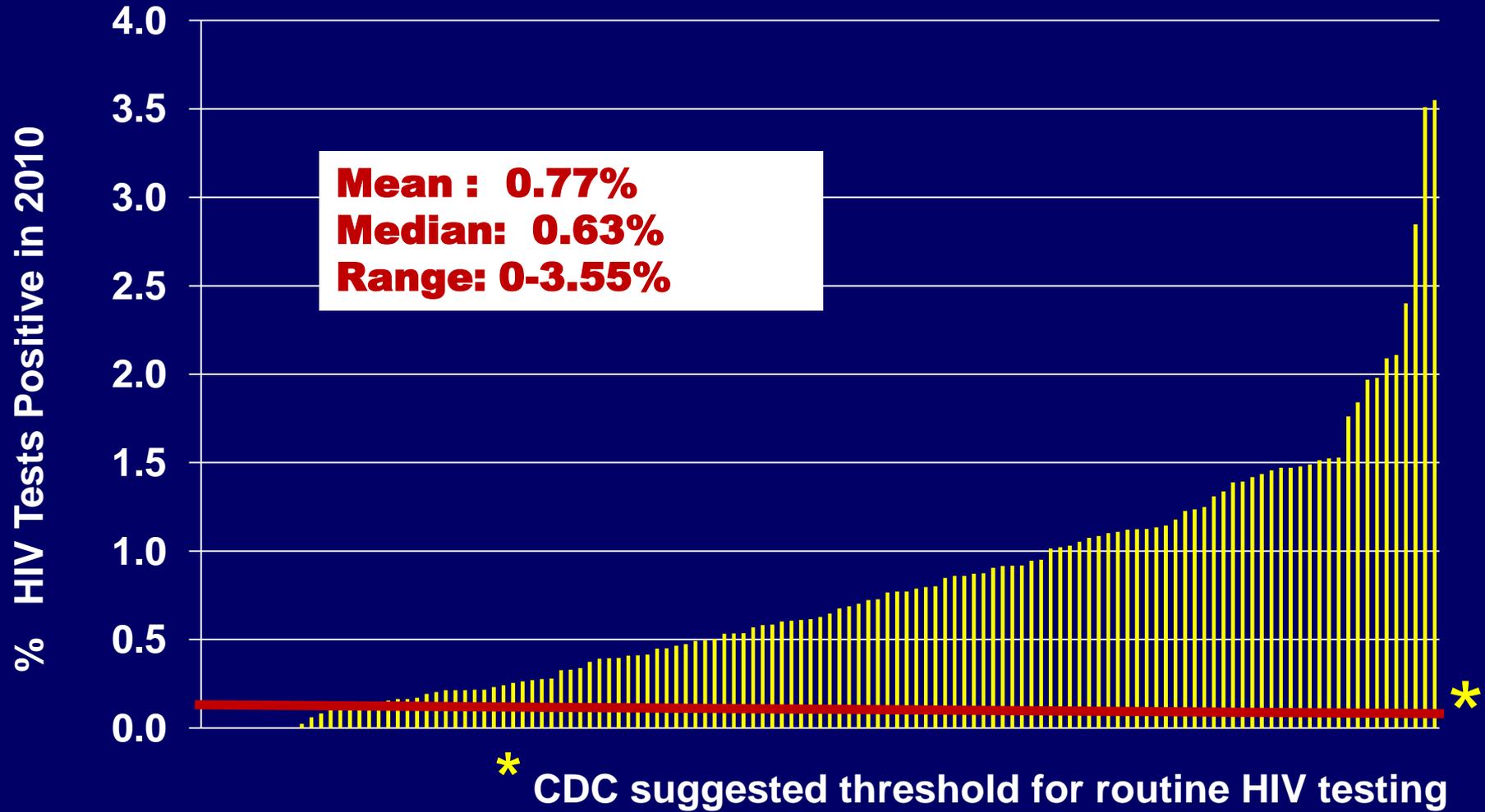
Percent Outpatients With HIV Positive Test in CY 2010, by VISN



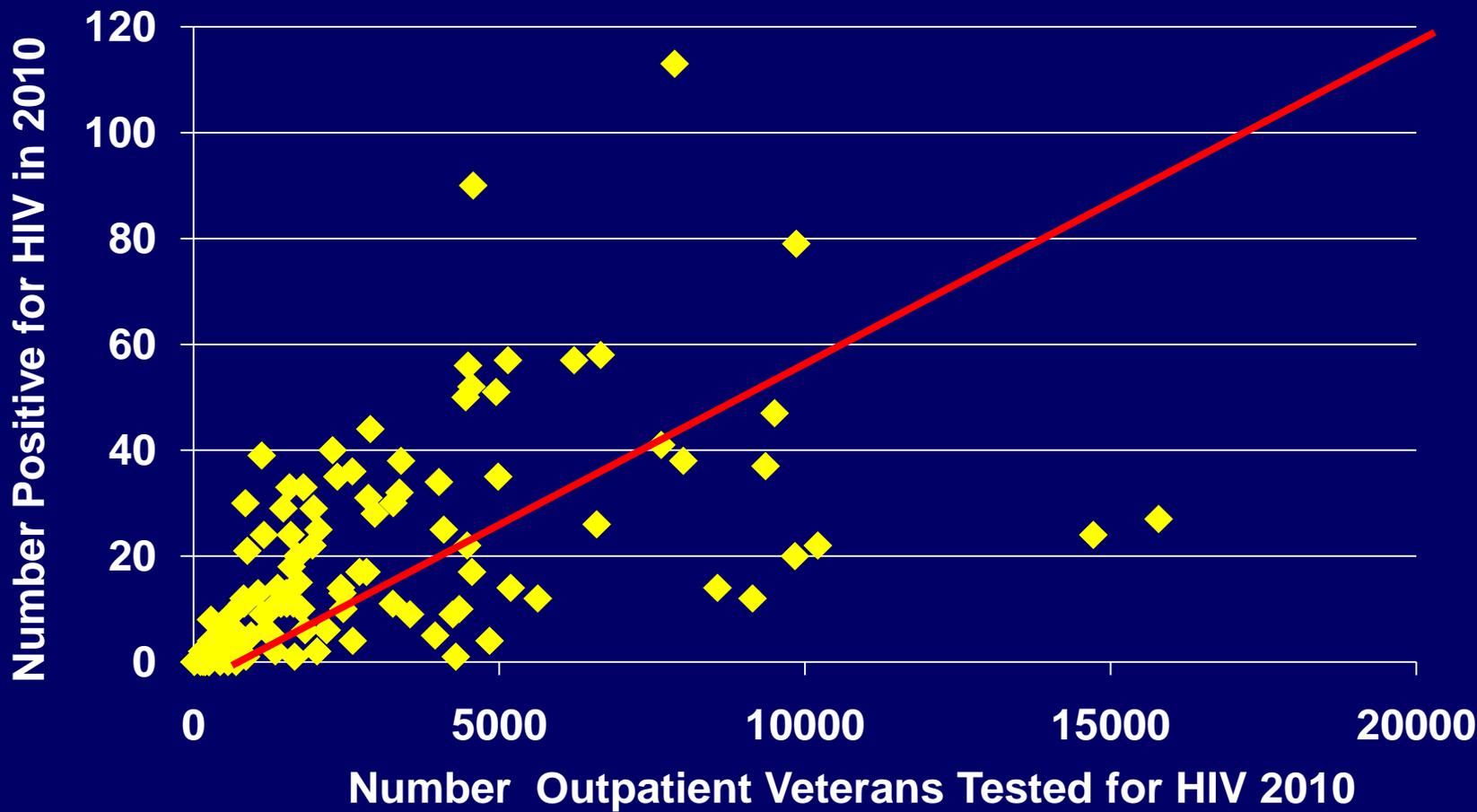
Percentage of HIV Positive Tests in CY 2010, by VISN



Percentage of HIV Positive Test in CY 2010, by Facility



HIV Positives Identified vs. Number of Tests performed at Facilities



Source: VHA 2010 Annual
HIV Test Report



VA
HEALTH
CARE

Defining
EXCELLENCE
in the 21st Century

PHSHG

Public Health
Strategic Health Care Group

Data Summary 2009-2010

	2009	2010	Change
Veterans with OP visit	5,713,265	5,888,599	3%
Number of OP Ever Tested for HIV	524,267 (9.2%)	795,126 (13.5%)	52%
Number of OP with HIV test in CY	142,345 (2.5%)	341,414 (5.8%)	140%
Number of Positive HIV Test Results	1,739	2,233	28%
HIV Seropositivity for Calendar Year	1.2%	0.65%	-45%

Source: VHA 2009 & 2010
Annual HIV Test Reports



VA
HEALTH
CARE

Defining
EXCELLENCE
in the 21st Century

PHSHG

Public Health
Strategic Health Care Group

VA Initiatives to Improve HIV Testing Rates 2009-2010

- Policy Changes
 - Verbal consent for testing
 - Routine offer of HIV testing to Veterans
- Routine HIV test clinical reminder
- Grant money to field
 - Clinical HIV testing grants
 - Laboratory grants
- Social marketing campaign

VHA HIV Testing Policy Change

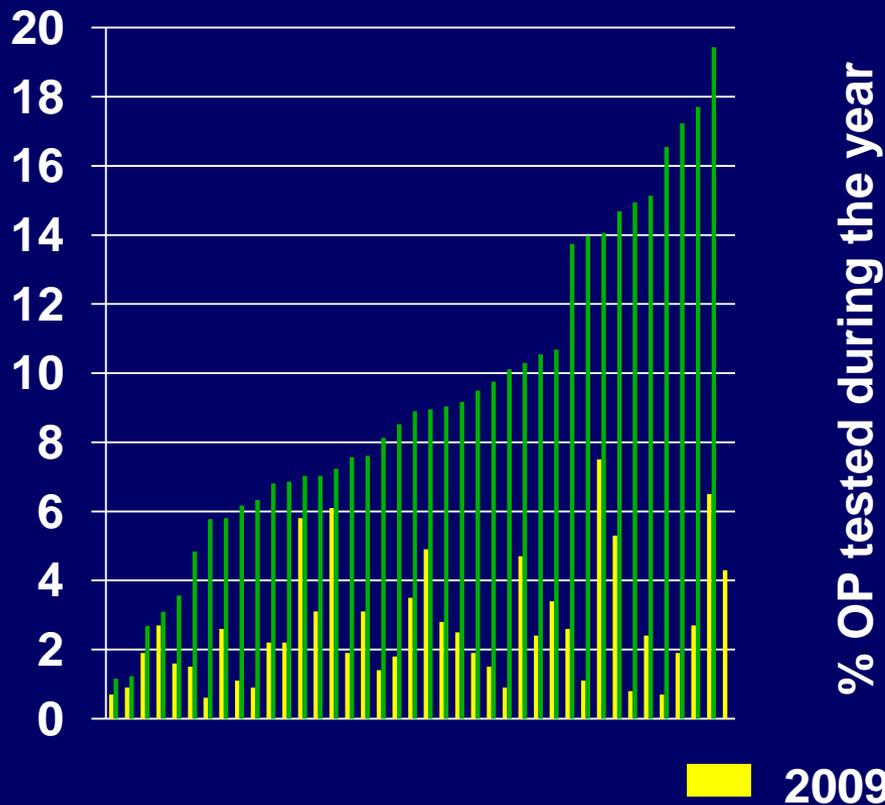
- National policy changes – August 2009:
- Local policy changes
 - Early adopters: 46 VAMCs changed by Jan 2010
 - Late adopters: 64 VAMCs changed after Jan 2010
- National policy change ≠ instant local change
- Local policy changes alone did not increase HIV testing rates . . .

but

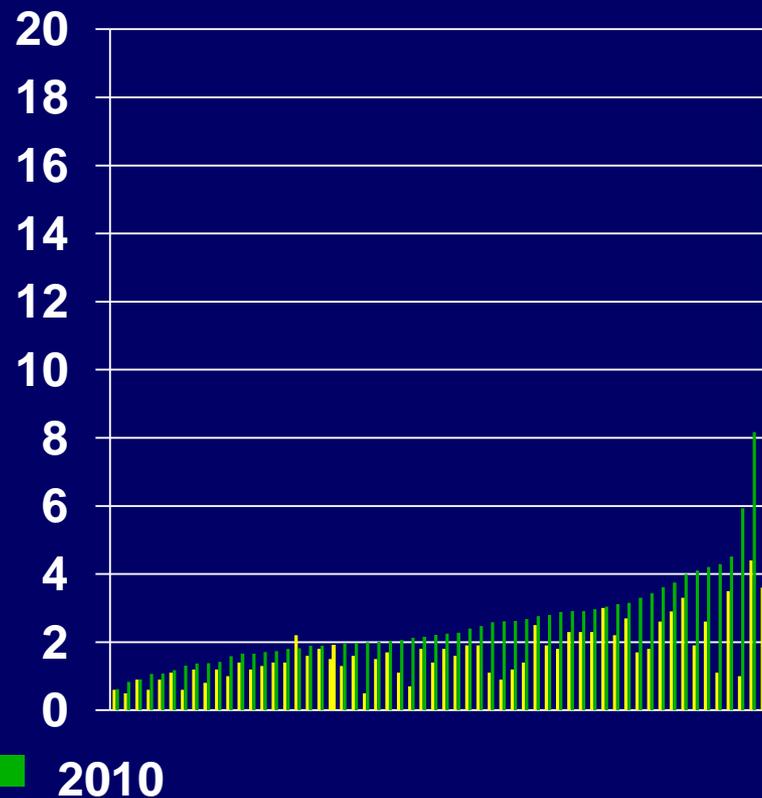
- . . . are required to implement effective operational changes (e.g., clinical reminders)

Routine HIV Test Clinical Reminder: Impact on % OP Tested in CY

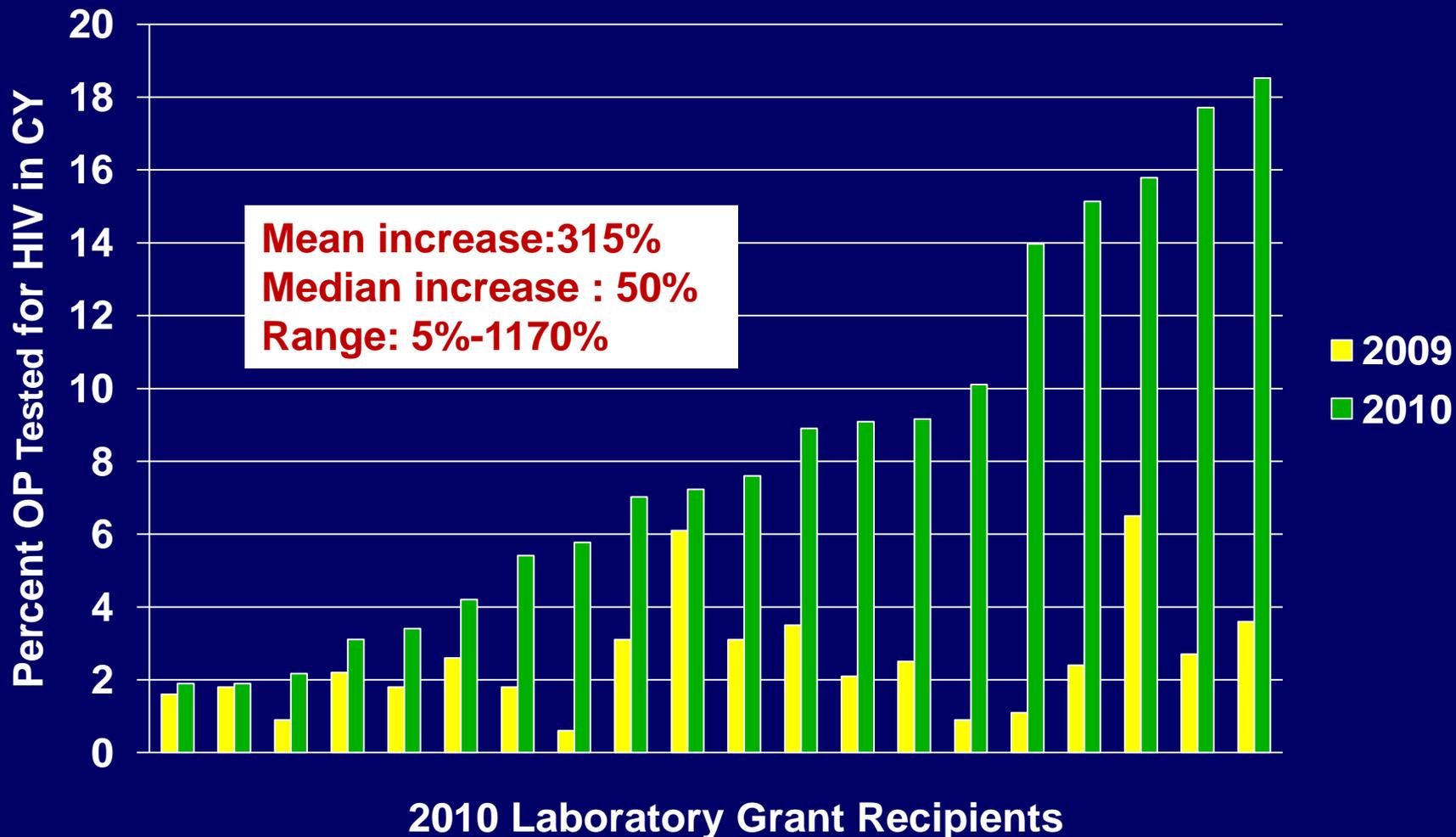
CR used \geq one quarter in 2010



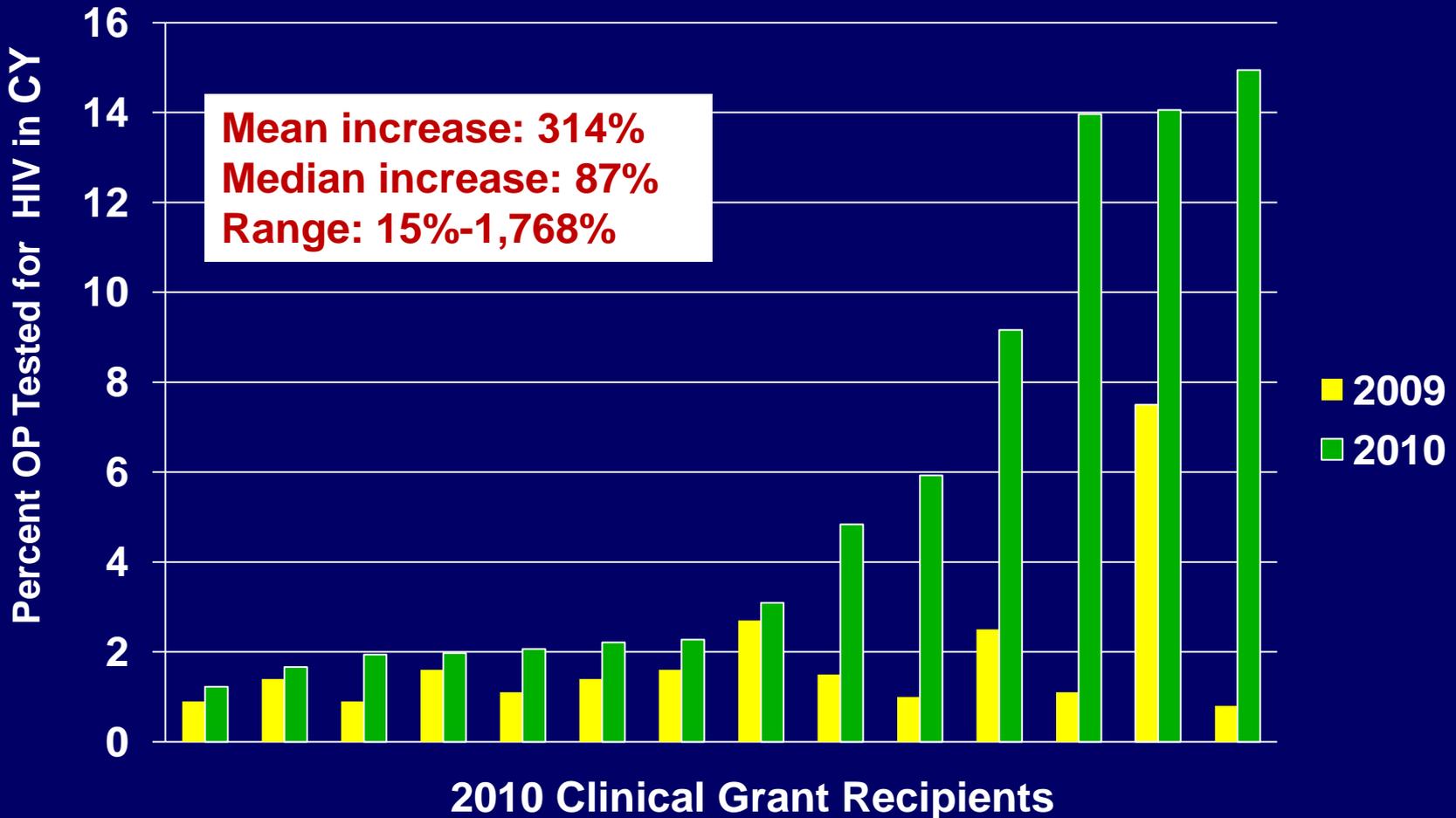
CR not used



2010 Laboratory Grant Recipients: Impact on OP Tested for HIV in CY



2010 Clinical Grant Recipients: Impact on OP Tested for HIV in CY



Social Marketing Campaign

- HIV Testing Week June 27- July 3, 2010
- World AIDS Day December 1, 2010
- New Social Marketing Campaign to be launched World AIDS Day 2011
 - Veteran and Provider Focus Groups
 - Educational Materials
 - Targeted Messaging
 - Impact to be evaluated



Conclusions

- Every VISN had increases in HIV testing rates from 2009-2010
- The number of HIV tests performed in VA more than doubled in one year
- Clinical reminders and grant support had a large impact on increases in HIV testing rates
- In 2010, all VISNs had an HIV seropositivity rate above the CDC threshold (>0.1%) for routine HIV testing

Summary

- **VA is the largest US provider of HIV care**
- **Routine HIV testing warranted in VA**
- **HIV testing in VA is now much simpler**
- **Many Veterans in VA care have still not been tested for HIV**
- **Progress made in all VISNs; continued progress will require local champions, leadership support, and use of tools such as clinical reminders**



HIV/AIDS

[Home](#) >

HIV/AIDS Home

For Veterans and the Public

For Health Care Providers

Publications and Products

Web Resources

About Us

VA Clinical Public Health Programs

HIV/AIDS



Make HIV testing part of routine medical care

Robert Petzel, MD, VA Under Secretary for Health, encourages all Veterans to "Get Checked" at their next visit.

[Read more >](#)

for HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

for VETERANS *and the* PUBLIC

<http://www.hiv.va.gov>



VA
HEALTH
CARE

Defining
EXCELLENCE
in the 21st Century



Public Health
Strategic Health Care Group