

PROVINCIAL LABORATORY SERVICES
COMMUNIQUÉ

<http://www.healthpei.ca/laboratoryservices>

TO: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Directors of Nursing, Nurse Managers, Clinical Instructors/Educators, Enterostomal Nurses, and Infection Control Practitioners

FROM: Microbiology Division, Provincial Laboratory Services

DATE: May 11, 2016

RE: Blood Culture Utilization and Quality 2013-2015

In 2015, over 5,800 blood cultures were drawn from patients across the Island. Blood cultures are one of the most important microbiological tests available to the clinician and utilization of this diagnostic tool is a quality indicator. Island-wide data for 2013, 2014, and 2015 is provided below.

To interpret, consider the following:

1. True positivity is the percentage of positive blood cultures excluding contamination over all blood cultures collected.
2. The goal rate for true positivity is 5 – 15%:
 - A true positivity of less than 5% indicates that blood cultures are being collected too often.
 - A true positivity of greater than 15% indicates that blood cultures are not being collected often enough.

The target rate for contamination is $\leq 3\%$:

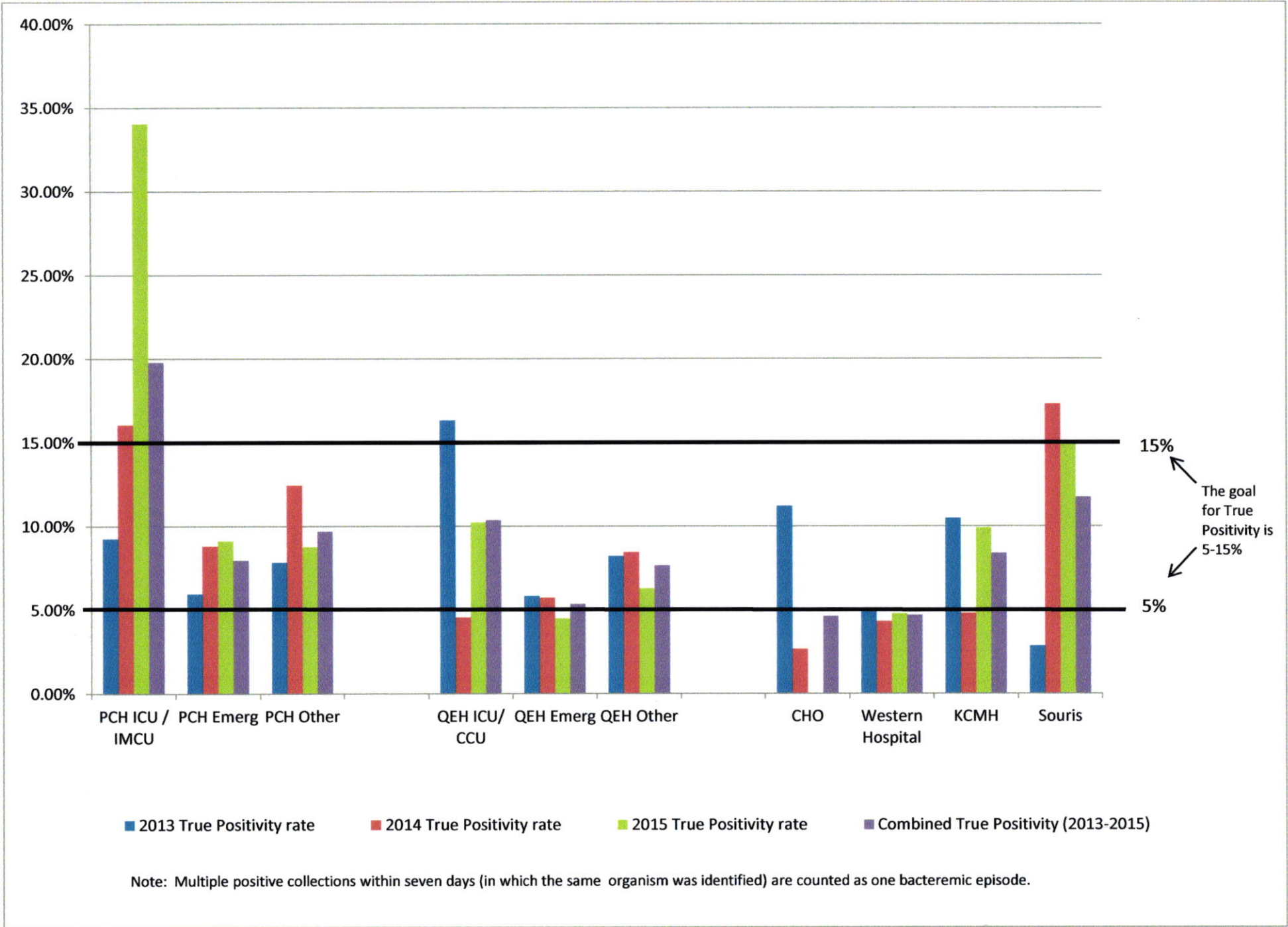
- Sites throughout the province are doing well with regard to collection technique.

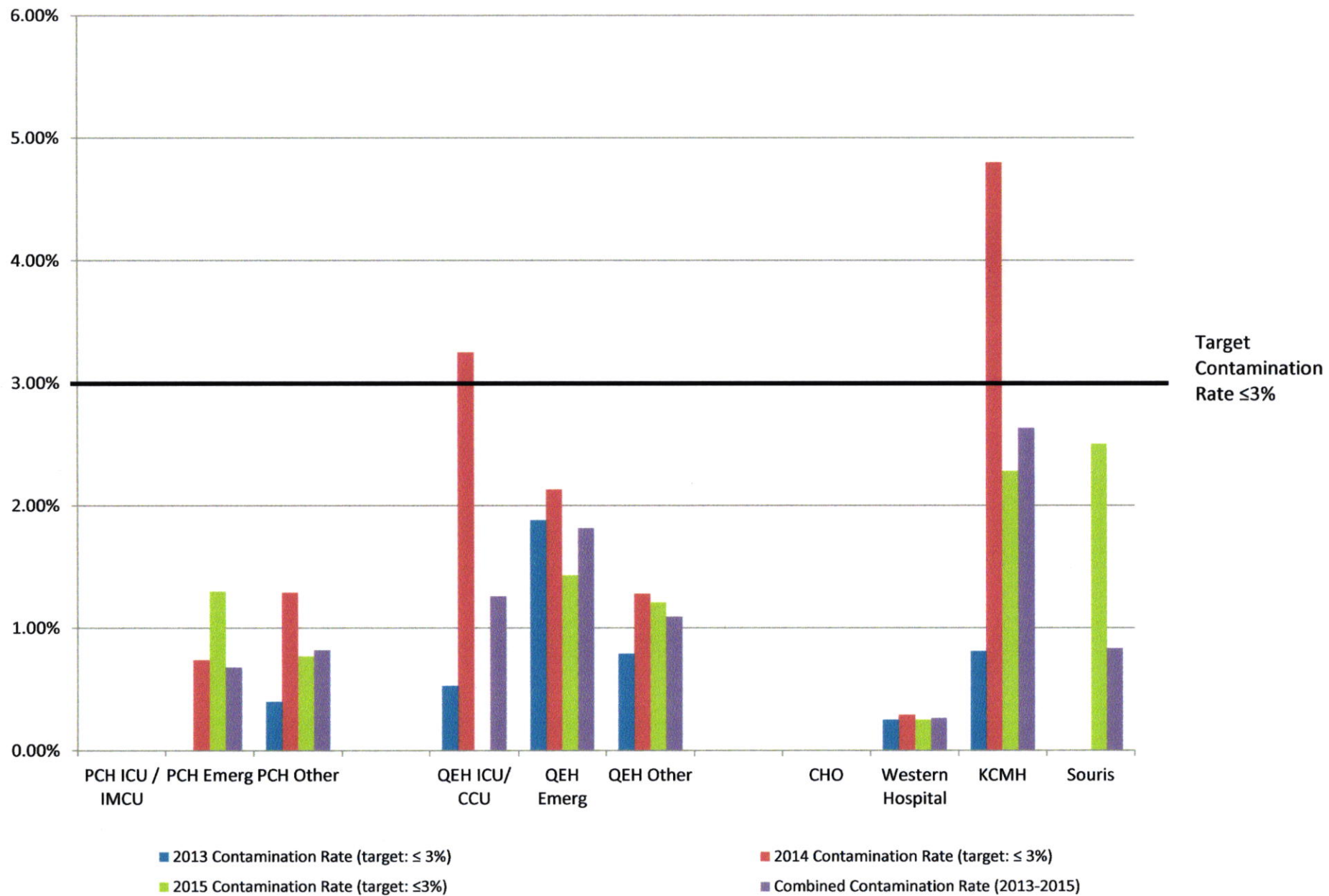
3. Where a low number of blood cultures are collected, rates may fluctuate greatly over time which is why results for multiple years are provided.

This Quality information is located on the Health PEI Microbiology website at www.healthpei.ca/micro.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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Note: Multiple positive collections within seven days (in which the same organism was identified) are counted as one bacteremic episode.