

Gonorrhoea on the rise in women who are not sex workers: Increases in gonorrhoea positivity amongst women at Sydney Sexual Health Centre, 2012- 2018

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Background

- In Australia, gonorrhoea is primarily diagnosed in urban gay and bisexual men and young heterosexual Aboriginal people from remote settings.
- Notification rates amongst women in major cities have increased recently suggesting increased heterosexual transmission.
- Evolving antibiotic susceptibilities have also been noted.

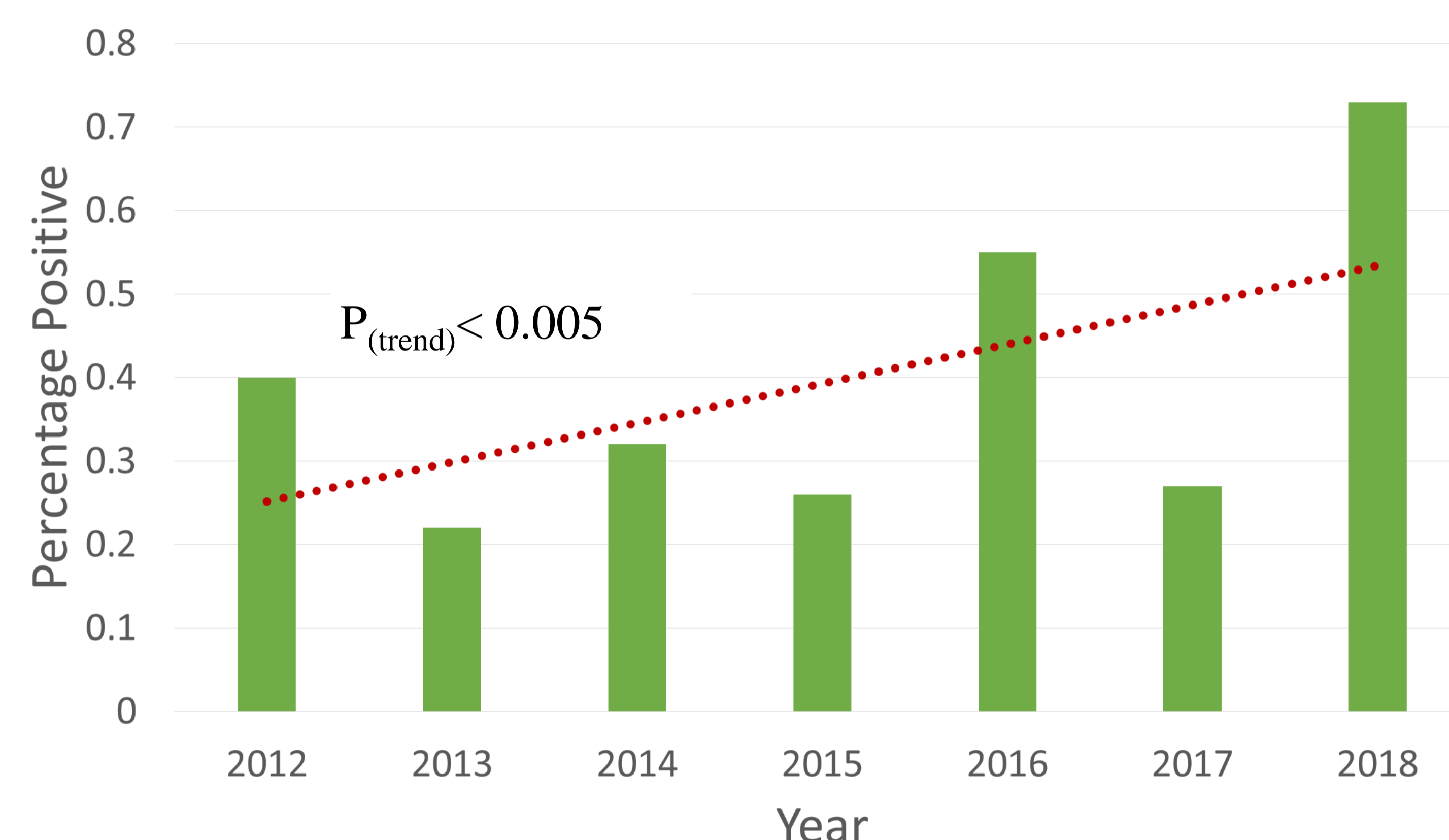
Aim

To investigate trends in gonorrhoea positivity in women attending SSHC between 2012 and 2018 and to audit management and antibiotic susceptibilities.

Methods

- Demographic, treatment and antibiotic susceptibility data extracted from medical records
- Gonorrhoea positivity was calculated using the number of women testing positive over the total number of women tested per year.
- All non-sex working women were included

Proportion % of women with positive gonorrhoea results



Results

- Low but significant upward trend in gonorrhoea positivity ($P_{trend} < 0.005$) particularly in 2018.
- When comparing women diagnosed in 2018 with 2012-2017:
 - no difference in mean age, partner numbers, proportion with symptoms or as contacts.
 - significantly more were born overseas in 2018 compared to 2012-2017 ($P < 0.05$)
- Of 126 gonorrhoea diagnoses:
 - mean age 26y
 - 50% reported ≤ 1 partners in the preceding 3 months
 - 45% reported STI contact
 - 44% reported symptoms

Results

- Concomitant STIs 18% (21 chlamydia and 2 genital herpes)
- 125/126 received appropriate antibiotics
- 61% had cultures for antibiotic susceptibilities.
- Culture sensitivities:
 - 4 (10%) decreased ceftriaxone susceptibility (MIC 0.06-0.25mg/L);
 - 3 (13%) azithromycin resistance (MIC > 1mg/L)
 - 17 (44%) ciprofloxacin resistance.

Conclusion

- Sydney Sexual Health Centre has seen a rise in gonorrhoea positivity amongst non sex working women with minimal change in demographics.
- Decreased antibiotic susceptibility was higher than recent NSW data