



# Vermont's Medicaid Initiative

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# Collaboration: Medicaid & Tobacco Cessation

- Vermont Tobacco Control Program & Medicaid
  - A partnership built on data and research
- Solidifying the partnership: *Key Strategies*
  - Data sharing & evidence from Massachusetts
  - Identifying & addressing Quality Improvement needs for both programs.
  - Collaborative planning on addressing tobacco use

# Barriers

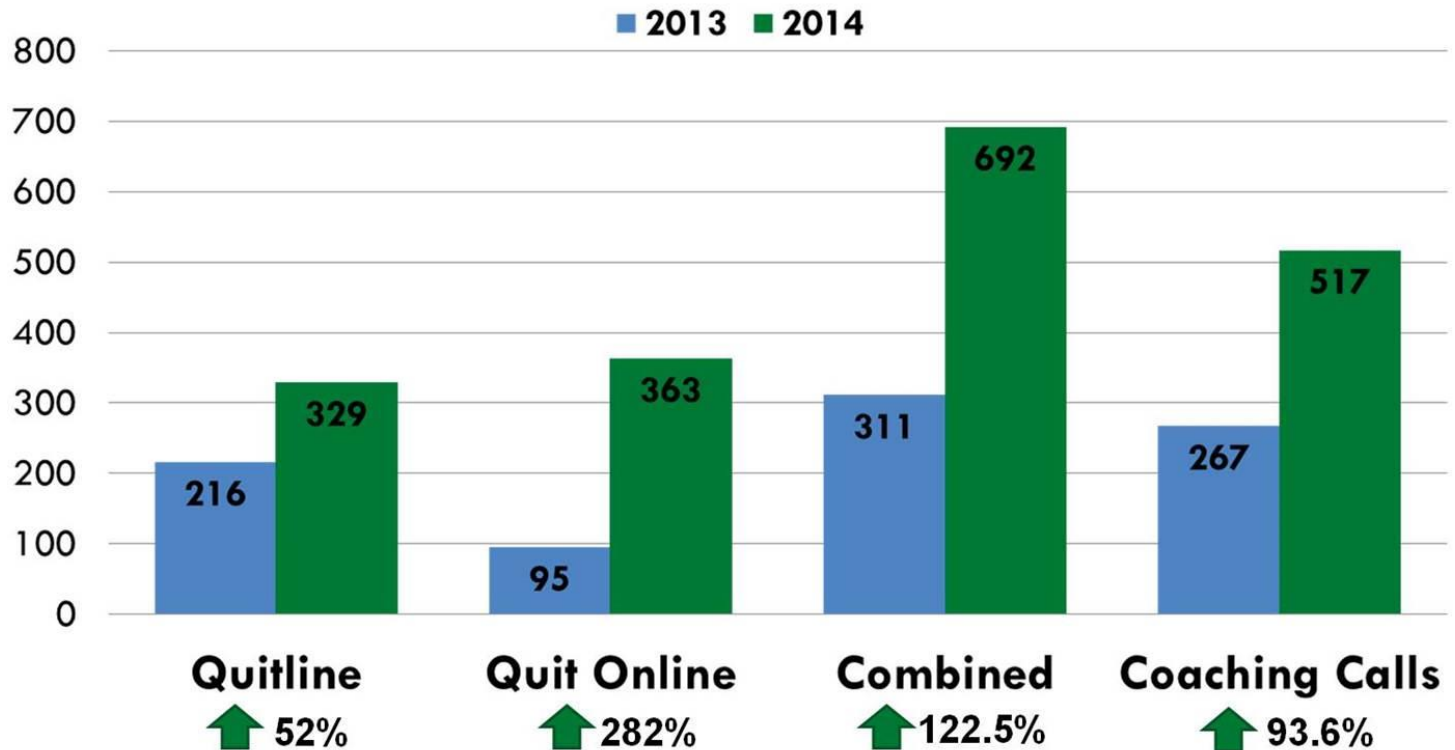
- ❑ Changes in VDH and Medicaid leadership
- ❑ Scheduling meetings with busy people
- ❑ Finding the right person to answer questions
- ❑ Learning the language
- ❑ Time to do the work needed

# Successes

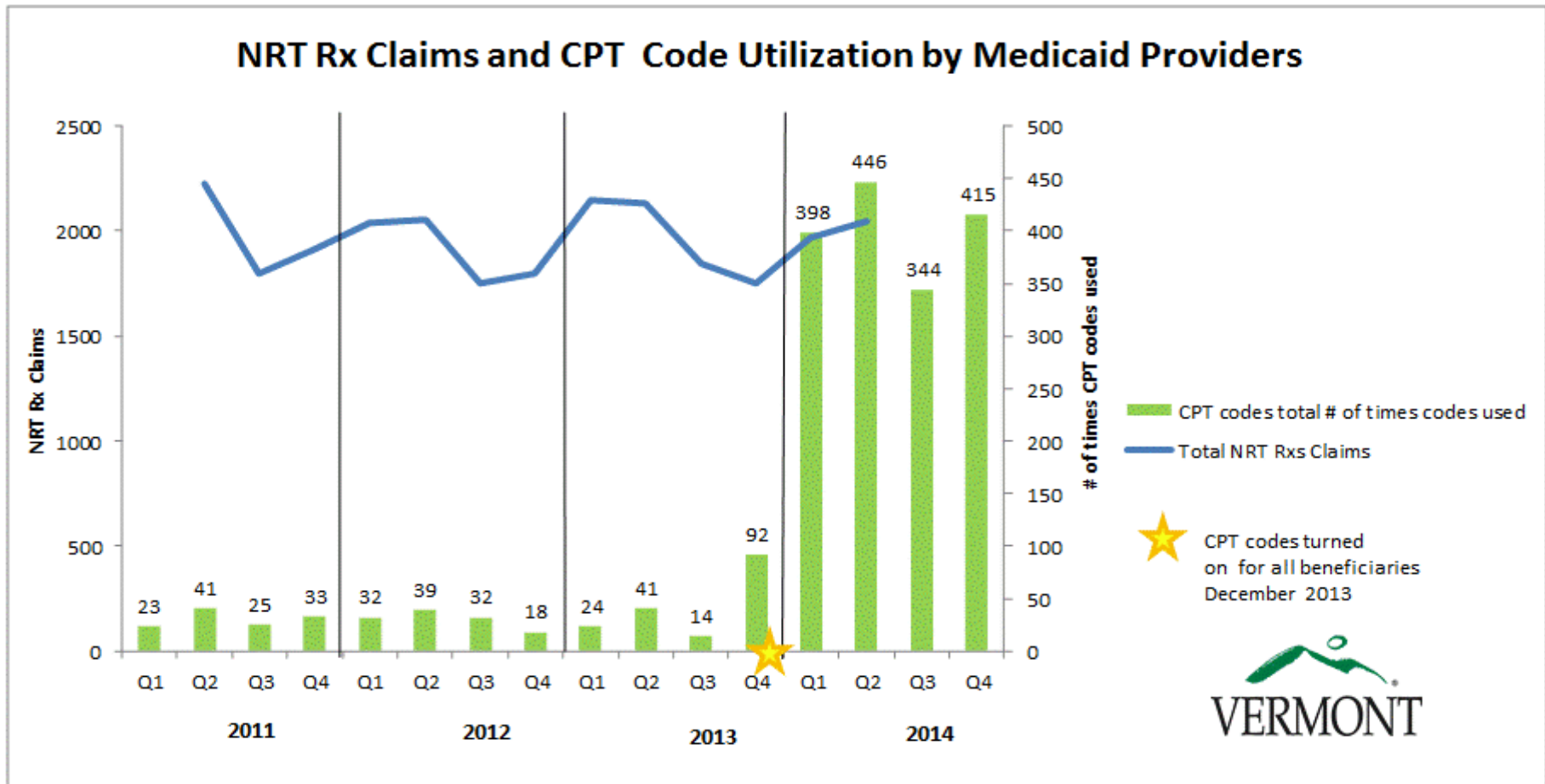
- **Expanding NRT benefits to Medicaid beneficiaries**
  - ▣ 2009: Chantix is added to Rx coverage
  - ▣ 2012: VT is recognized as 1 of 16 states that offer all 7 NRT medications
  - ▣ 2014: Quantity limits on preferred products are removed & dual therapy NRT supported.
- **Activating CPT codes**
  - ▣ 2010: CPT codes for individual cessation counseling for *pregnant beneficiaries* activated.
  - ▣ 2014: CPT codes for brief and intermediate cessation counseling activated for *all beneficiaries* in December.
  - ▣ 2015: CPT code (HQ modifier) approved for group cessation counseling in March

# Successes

## Results – Record Medicaid Participation



# Successes



# Lessons learned

- Be patient
- Be ready with supportive research and data
- Get leadership support from both agencies
- PROMOTE!
- Stay connected with engaged data