

“Condoms in the Nursing Homes?”

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Background

Much has been reported in the media about an increase in sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in the elderly (65 and older). The medical community has, in some instances, joined in the refrain.

Justification:

- (1) libido does not decrease with age,
- (2) long time partners have passed away,
- (3) there is no worry of pregnancy,
- (4) new partners are readily available,
- (5) one infected individual can infect many.

Thus, the following research question was posed to test this assumption: What are the recent trends of STDs in the elderly in Kansas and in the US?

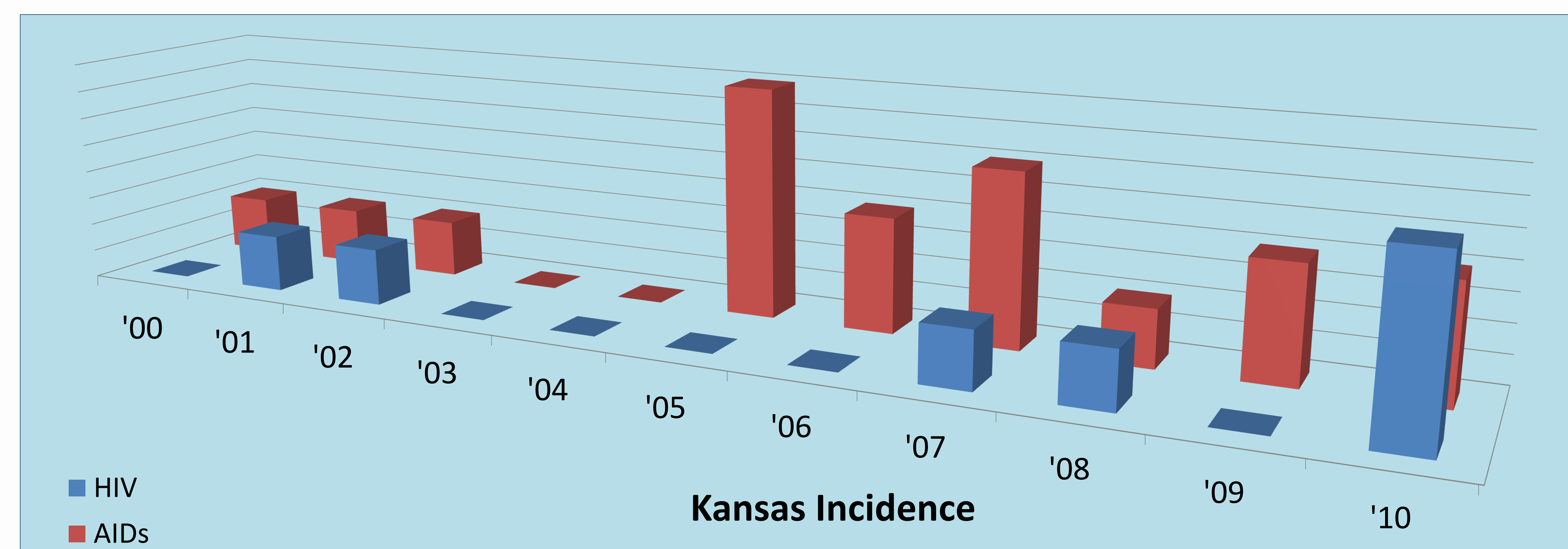
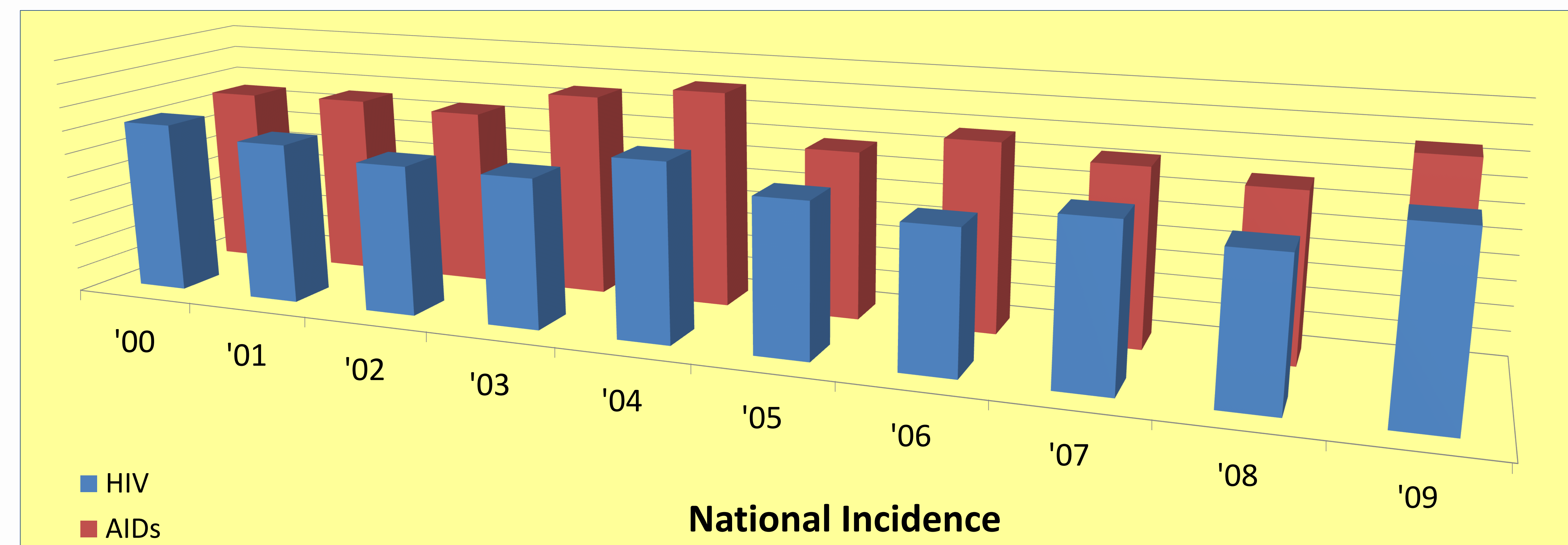
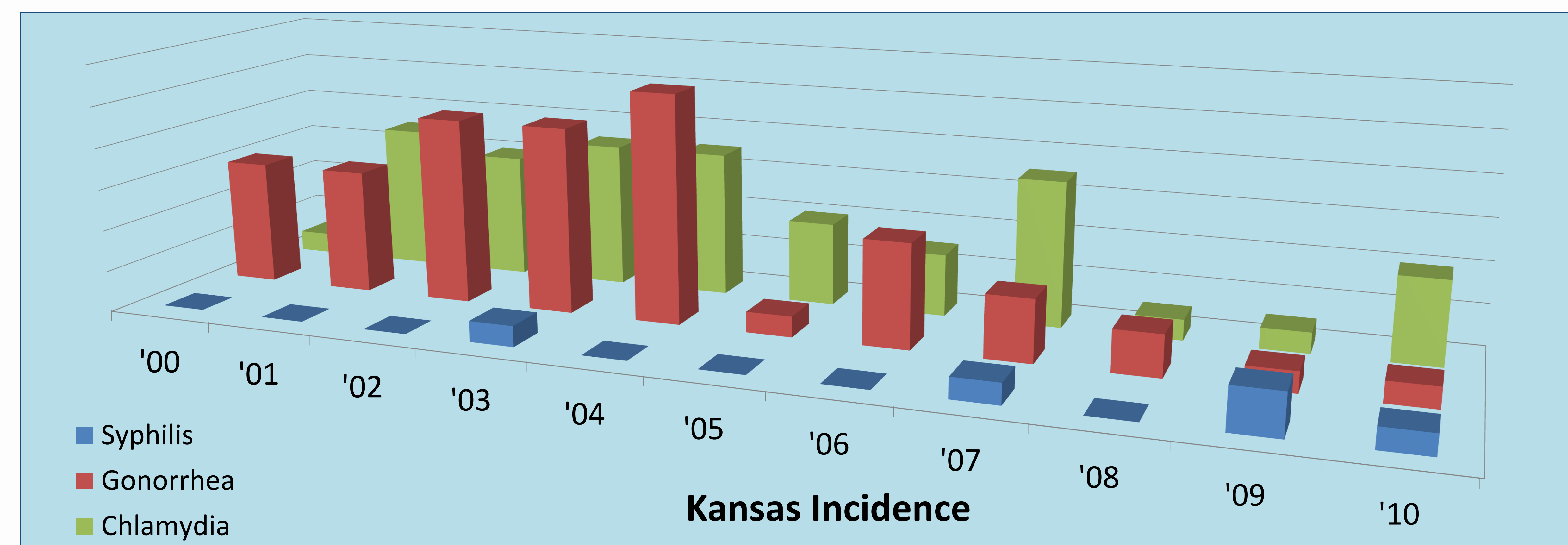
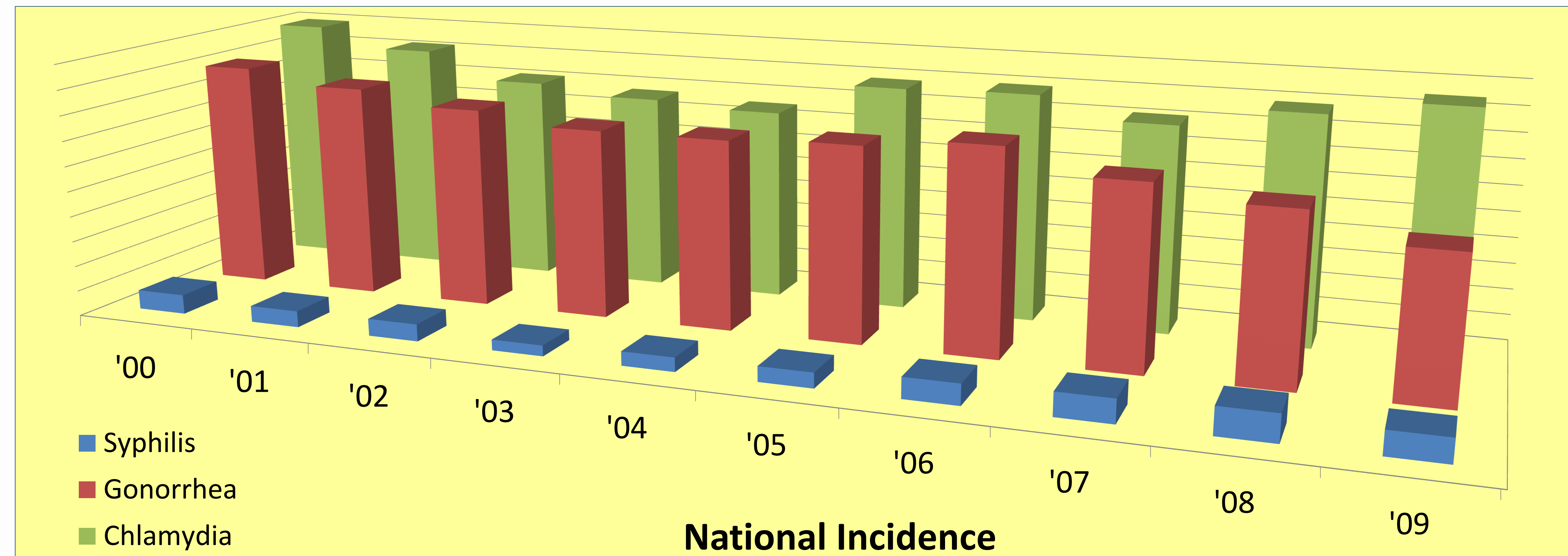
Methods

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided the necessary data for years 2000 through 2010. Data was obtained for chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, HIV, and AIDS.

Results

National Incidence:

- Chlamydia has declined by 5%
- Gonorrhea is down 38%
- Syphilis has risen 18%
- HIV increased 2%
- AIDS has increased 13%



Incidence in Kansas:

- Chlamydia – 1 case in 2000, 4 in cases in 2010
- Gonorrhea – 6 cases in 2000, 1 case in 2010
- Syphilis - 0 cases in 2000, 1 case in 2010
- HIV - 0 cases in 2000, 3 cases in 2010
- AIDS - 1 cases in 2000, 2 cases in 2010

Conclusion

The incidence of STDs in the elderly population is increasing only slightly, BUT, condoms are ALWAYS a good idea.

References

Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2009. Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2004. Division of STD Prevention. November 2010. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Kansas Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2010. Topeka, KS: Kansas Department of Health and Environment.