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Dr. Michael Gregg
Editor, MMWR
Epidemiology Program Office
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Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Mike,

When I saw the data in the most recent MMWR concerning the testing of stored serum from San Francisco STD clinics for antibody to HTLV-III/LAV, I thought the trend suggested by the data looked rather similar to the trend of AIDS reports, as published in MMWR a few weeks previously.

As the attached shows, a projection of the trend line for reports of AIDS cases exactly parallels the trend line for the prevalence of antibody to LAV, if we shift the baseline for the latter data by three years to account for the incubation period. If this projection is correct, we may not see the peak incidence of AIDS for 3-4 years more, at which time there might be more than 2500 cases per quarter!

Another interesting observation: it appears that there were about 2500 cases reported in 1983. If 1000 cases were reported from San Francisco; and if there are about 100,000 homosexual men in San Francisco; and if the incubation period of AIDS can be considered to be three years; then the 25% prevalence of anti-LAV found in the 1980 serum suggests that 4% of those with antibody go on to develop AIDS.

Of course, this might all be horsefeathers. I welcome your thoughts. I presume that these considerations have also occurred to the AIDS folks, but feel free to use or share all this as you see fit.

3.3% assuming cohort members are representative

My warmest regards,

Michael D. Decker MD

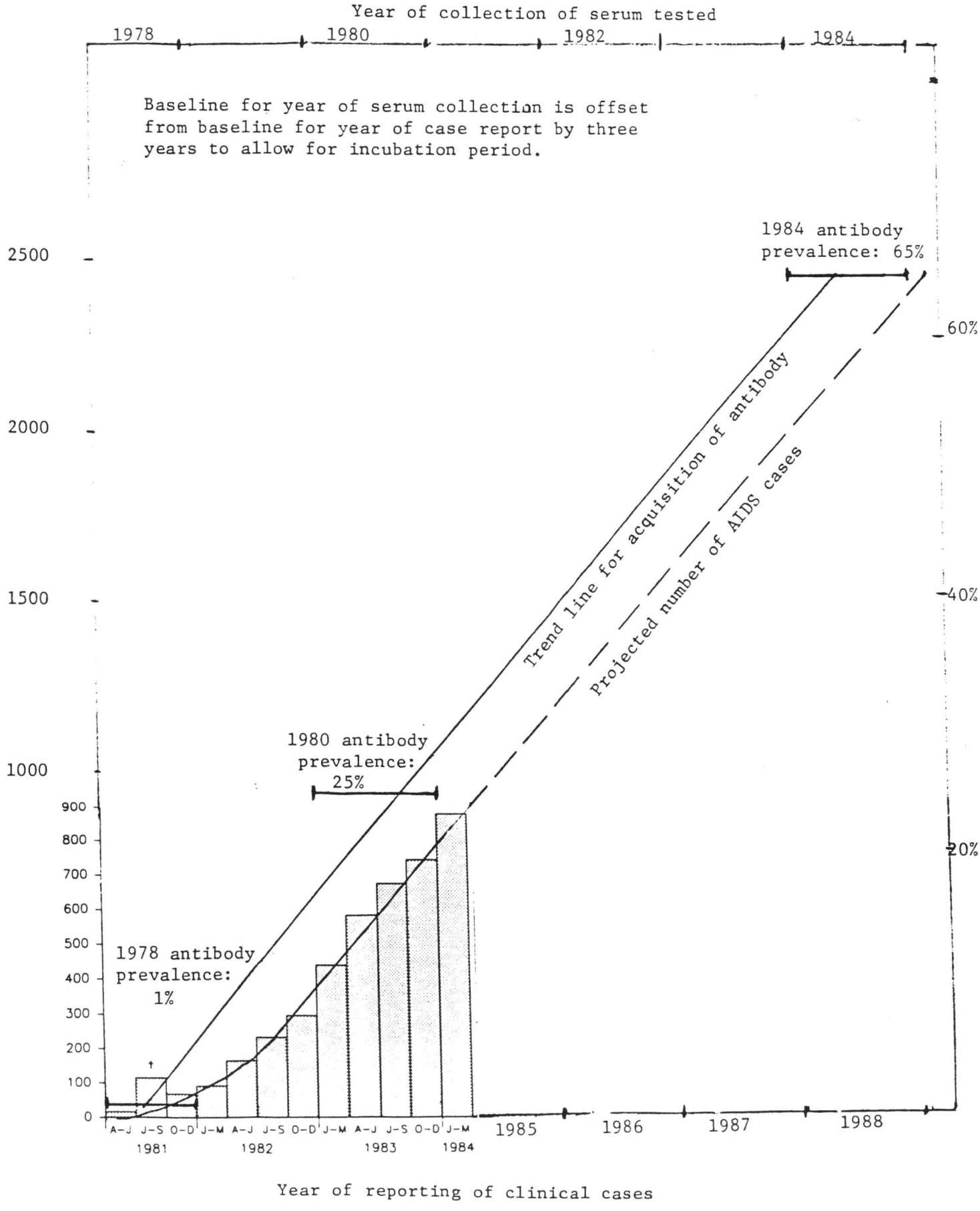
500 / 4|60,000 / 15,000 of gay men in SF

500 / X

5 / 150 | 5.00 / 450 / 50 — 3

AUG 1 1984

COMPARISON OF TRENDS IN PREVALENCE OF ANTIBODY TO HTLV-III/LAV WITH TRENDS IN NUMBER OF CLINICAL CASES OF AIDS REPORTED TO CDC



CASES OF AIDS PER QUARTER (MMWR 1984;33:337-9)

PREVALENCE OF ANTIBODY TO HTLV-III/LAV, STD CLINIC, SAN FRANCISCO (MMWR 1984;33:377-9)