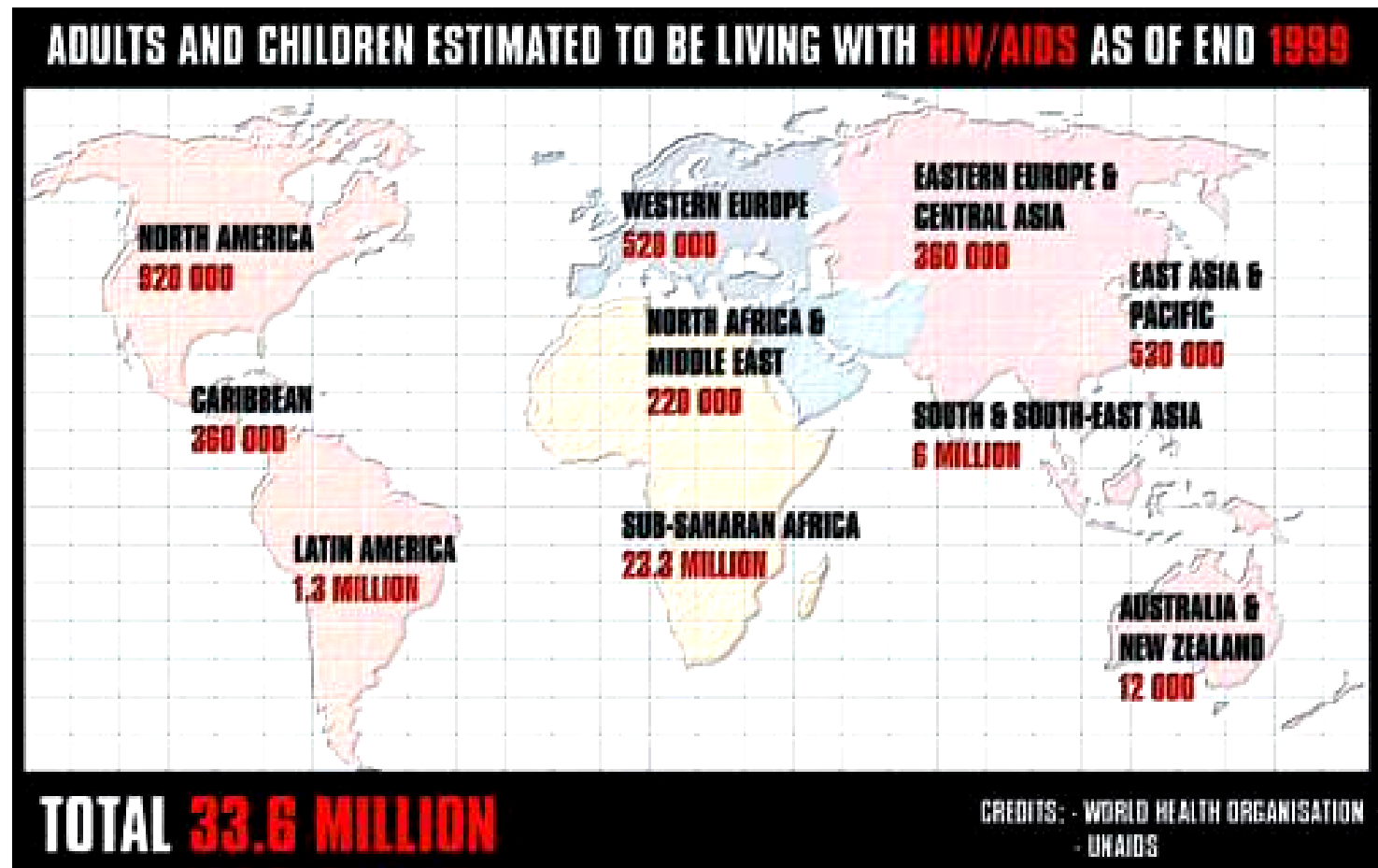


AIDS and Homosexuality



Laura Benson, Spring Semester 2004
Sociology/Political Science 497B



Statement of Problem

- AIDS is one of the biggest problems facing global society today
- Yet it is a preventable and treatable disease
- 40 million people have been infected (2003)
- 886,575 cases in the US (2002)

- The bulk of people in the US are diagnosed between the ages of 24 and 44 (73%)
- 347,491 of these cases occurred in African-Americans (39%)
- 396,765 of these cases occurred without any homosexual contact (45%)
- 40 people in State College are infected with AIDS*

Stats came from: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/stats.htm#cumaids>

* Came from the Global AIDS Initiative Group on Campus

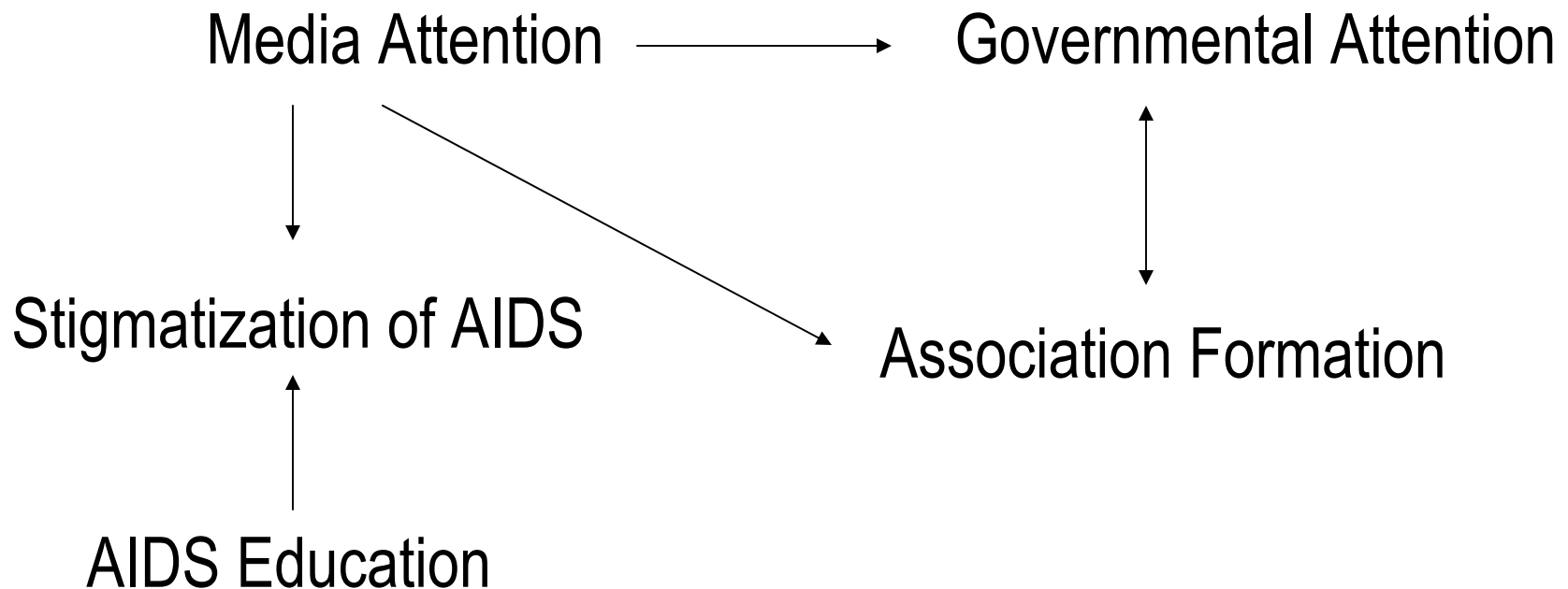


Hypothesis

- I have decided to trace the AIDS epidemic in the US from its movement as a homosexually stigmatized disease to what it is today.
- I hypothesize that the focus on homosexual men as the main carriers of AIDS will decrease over time and that the focus on new arising “target” groups, like women and minorities will increase over time.
- The true test of AIDS becoming an accepted disease, however, is if it is no longer attached to any type of patient.



Schematic Diagram





Research Methods

New York Times Historical

- Code
 - Homosexuality Mentioned – Between 1-2 times in article
 - Homosexuality Emphasized – 3 or more times in article
 - New Emerging Target Groups – Mentioned 3 or more times in article (women, minorities, children, impoverished, etc.)
 - General Health – Those articles that discuss AIDS health concerns and treatments. Has no stigmatization associated with patient care whatsoever.
 - Other – Those articles that did not correlate with my topic, but came up in my search
- Coded “1” for yes and “0” for no



Research Methods

New York Times Historical

- Keyword: Virus and AIDS or HIV
- Chose 3 periods in time
 - 1985
 - 1995
 - 2001
- Sampled 10% of the articles in each year
 - 1985 randomly selected to start with 2nd entry using computer program
 - 1995 randomly selected to start with 2nd entry using computer program
 - 2001 randomly selected to start with 3rd entry using computer program



Unusable Keywords

- With my keyword (Virus and AIDS or HIV) I got 8853 hits, with a fairly good accuracy, between 01/01/1980 and 12/31/2001
- Ones I threw out:
 - AIDS – 282113 hits
 - HIV – 9262 hits
 - Virus and AIDS and HIV – 696 hits
 - AIDS and HIV – 3574 hits
 - AIDS and virus – 7552 hits
 - HIV and virus – 796 hits
 - “Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome” – 2427 hits
 - Autoimmune disorders – 88 hits
 - GRID – 18366 hits



Findings

- There were 303 articles found in 1985
 - Sample of 30
 - 17 mentioned homosexuality (57%)
 - 11 had an emphasis on homosexuality (37%)
 - 15 emphasized an emerging target group (50%)
 - 3 regarded general health concerns (10%)
 - 1 was thrown out of the analysis (3%)





Findings

- There were 467 articles found in 1995
 - Sample of 46
 - 6 mentioned homosexuality (13%)
 - 4 emphasized homosexuality (9%)
 - 5 emphasized new emerging target groups (11%)
 - 13 were general health concern articles (28%)
 - 8 were thrown out of the analysis (17%)





Findings

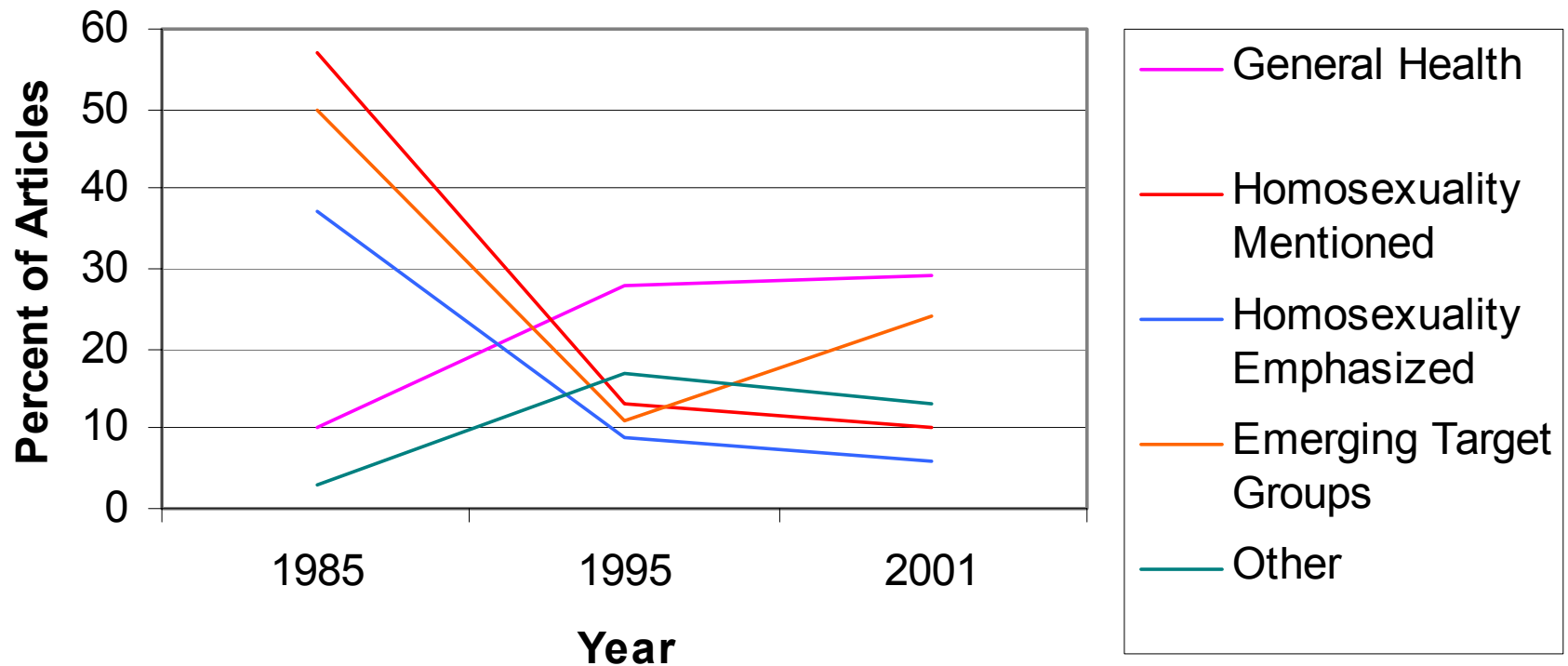
- There were 307 articles found in 2001
 - Sample of 31 articles
 - 3 mentioned Homosexuality (10%)
 - 2 had a homosexual emphasis (7%)
 - 25 emphasized new target groups (31%)
 - 9 were general Health articles (29%)
 - 4 were thrown out of the analysis (14%)
- The most inaccuracy found with the keywords was in 1995 with 17%. I accepted this number

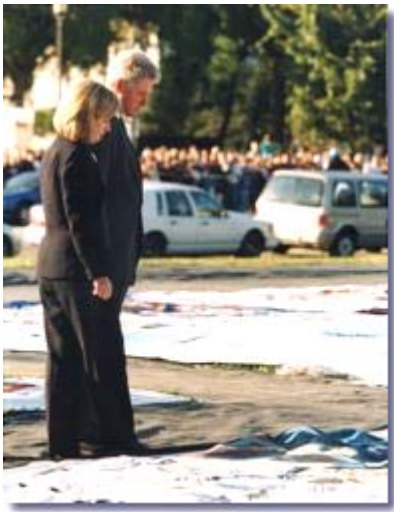


Findings



AIDS and Media Attention





Research Methods

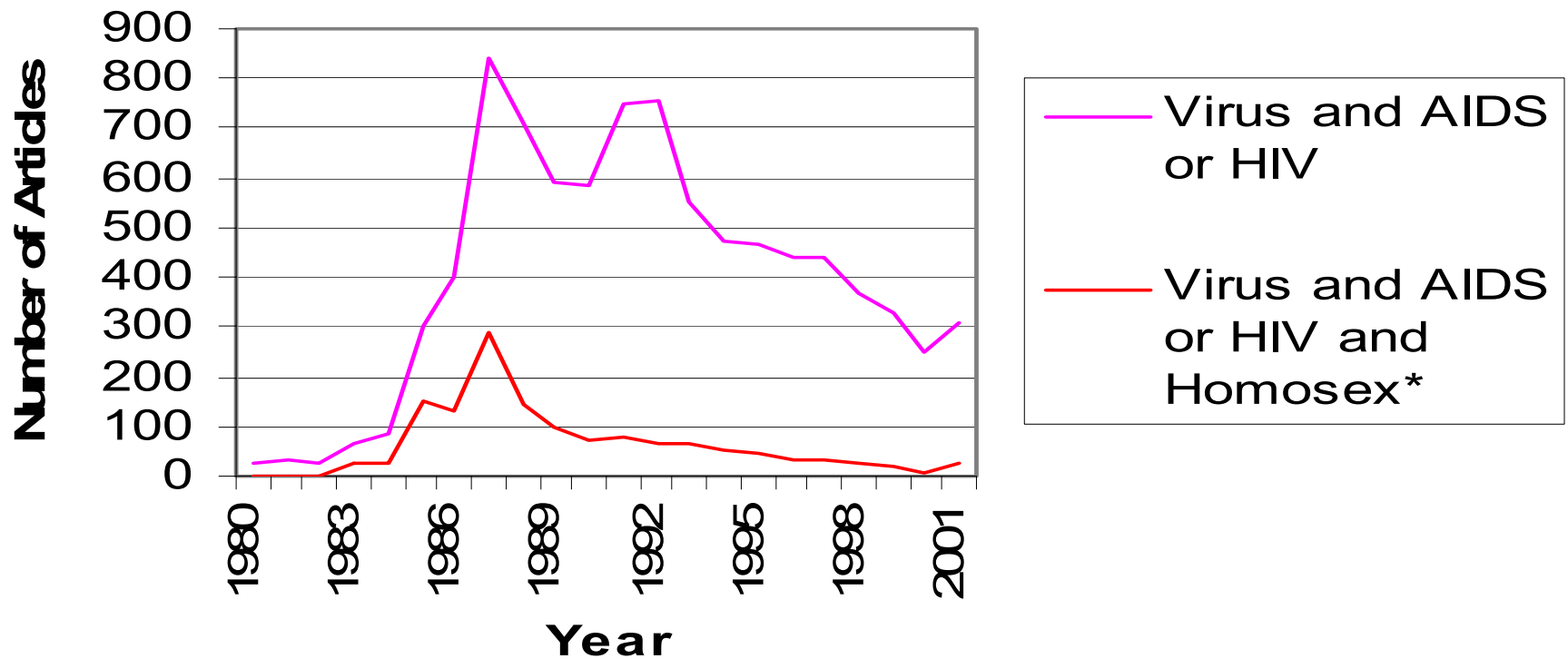
New York Times Historical

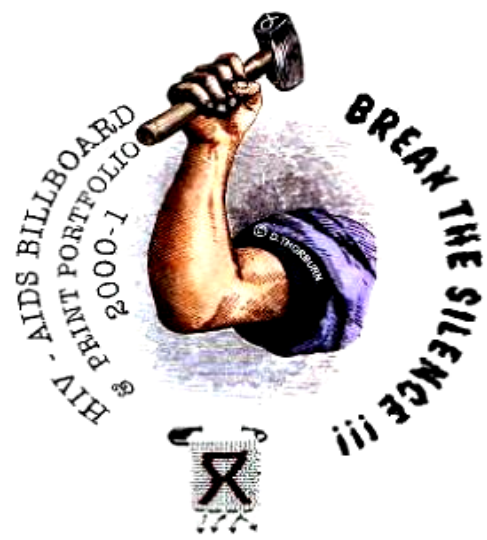
- I also searched the New York Times Historical Index for AIDS and Homosexuality over time from 1980-2001
- I used 2 keywords:
 - Virus and AIDS or HIV
 - Virus and AIDS or HIV and Homosex*
- I then made a chart to see the trend over time



Findings-- New York Times Historical

AIDS and Media Attention





Findings- New York Times Historical

- I felt as though my hypothesis was correct in its assessment that AIDS has become less stigmatized with homosexuality over the years. I feel it is fairly evident by my data that this change occurred somewhere between 1985 and 1995
- However, I am not so sure that AIDS is becoming more highly associated with new emerging target groups. However much these groups may be at risk, it is not apparent that they are being targeted with AIDS information.
- The trend towards general health is increasing, suggesting that AIDS is becoming less stigmatized over time in general



Research Methods

Associations Unlimited

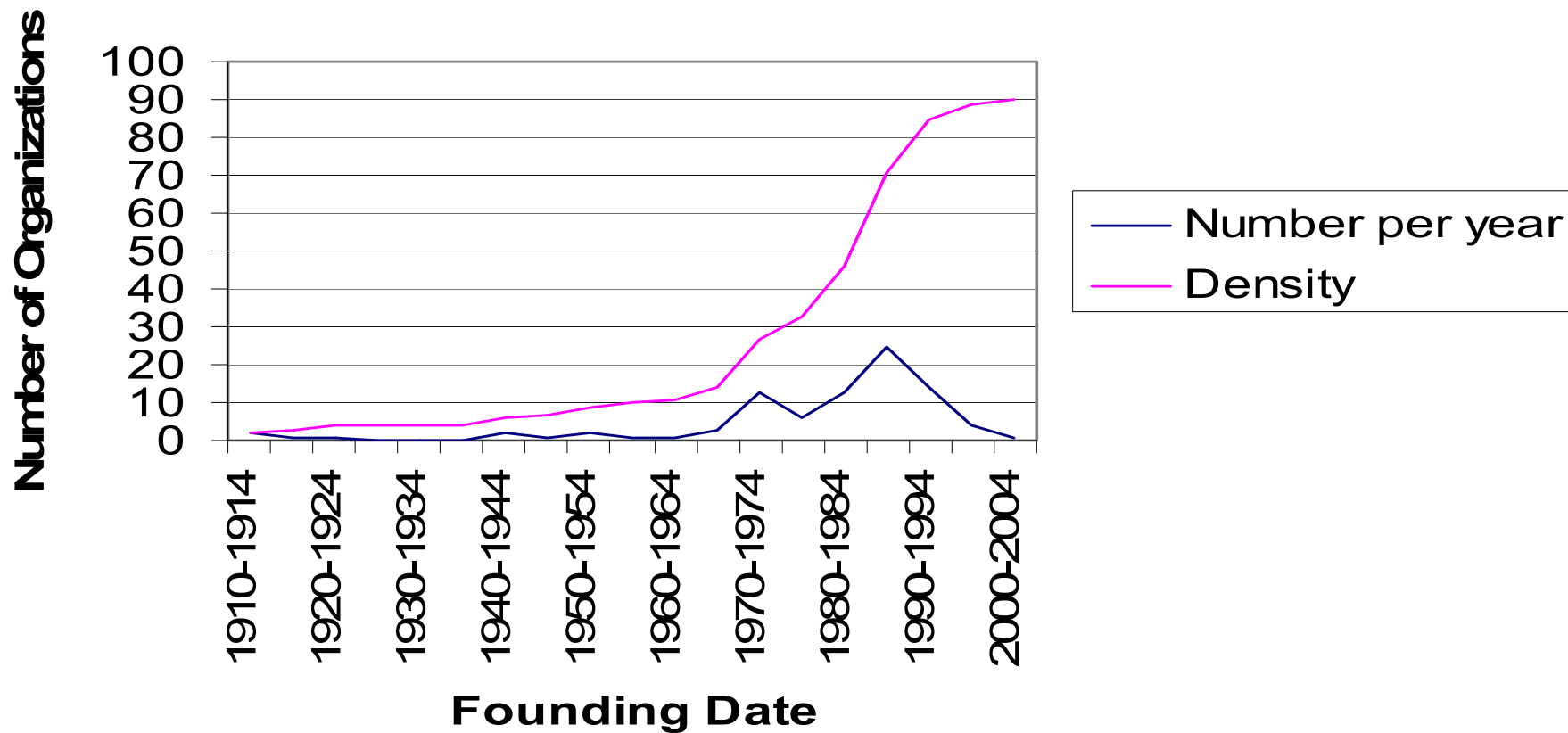
2004 Edition

- Searched the database for all of the AIDS Associations
- Used their keyword “AIDS”
- Found 99 AIDS Associations
 - 100% accuracy
 - 5 Codes
 - AIDS Emphasized
 - AIDS Mentioned
 - Homosexuality Emphasized
 - Homosexuality Mentioned
 - Emerging Target Groups



Findings

AIDS





Gay Associations

- 12 organizations mentioned homosexuality (12%)
 - 7 of them were founded between the years 1973 and 1982 (*2 are AIDS focus groups)
 - 1 was formed prior to 1970
 - 3 were formed after 1989
 - 1 did not have a founding date
- Entertainment Industry Foundation
- Fenway Community Health Center
- Gay and Lesbian Medical Association
- Gay Men's Health Crisis*
- Hetrick Martin Institute
- Human Rights Campaign*
- International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Coalition
- Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund
- Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task
- Mangus Hershfield Center for Human Rights
- National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
- Seventh Day Kinship Adventist International



Target Group Associations

- 32 organizations emphasized new target groups (32%)
 - 7 of them help women
 - 1 of these did not have a founding date (It emphasized AIDS as its primary function)
 - 3 of these were formed between 1984-1991 (2 of them emphasized AIDS as their primary function)
 - 3 of these were formed prior to 1978 (1 of these emphasized AIDS as their primary function)
- Engender Health*
- Fenway Community Health Center*
- God's Love We Deliver*
- National Abortion Federation
- Native American Community Board
- Pathfinder International
- Women Responding to Life Threatening Illnesses*



Target Group Associations

- 23 of them help infants, children and youth
 - 3 of them did not have founding dates (3 of them emphasized AIDS)
 - 7 formed prior to 1979 (1 of them emphasized AIDS)
 - 13 of them formed between 1984-1994 (9 of them emphasized AIDS)

• AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth, Families*

• AIDS Research Foundation for Children*

• American Institute for Teen AIDS Prevention*

• Athletics and Entertainers for Kids

• Children with AIDS Project of America*

• Children's AIDS Fund*

• Children's Blood Foundation

• Dale and Keith Foundation*

• Dana Farber Cancer Institute

• Do it now Foundation

• Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation*

• God's Love We Deliver*

• Jewish Guild for the Blind

• Mother's Voices*

• National Abandoned Infants Resource Center

• National Network for Youth

• NOAPP

• National Pediatric and Family HIV Resource Center*

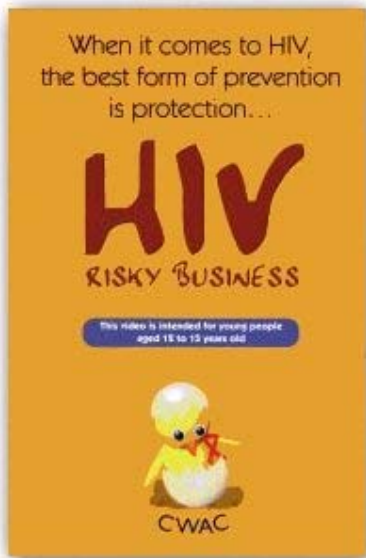
• National Pediatric AIDS Network*

• Native American Community Board

• Pediatric AIDS Foundation*

• SEVA Foundation*

• Teens Teaching AIDS Prevention*



Target Group Associations

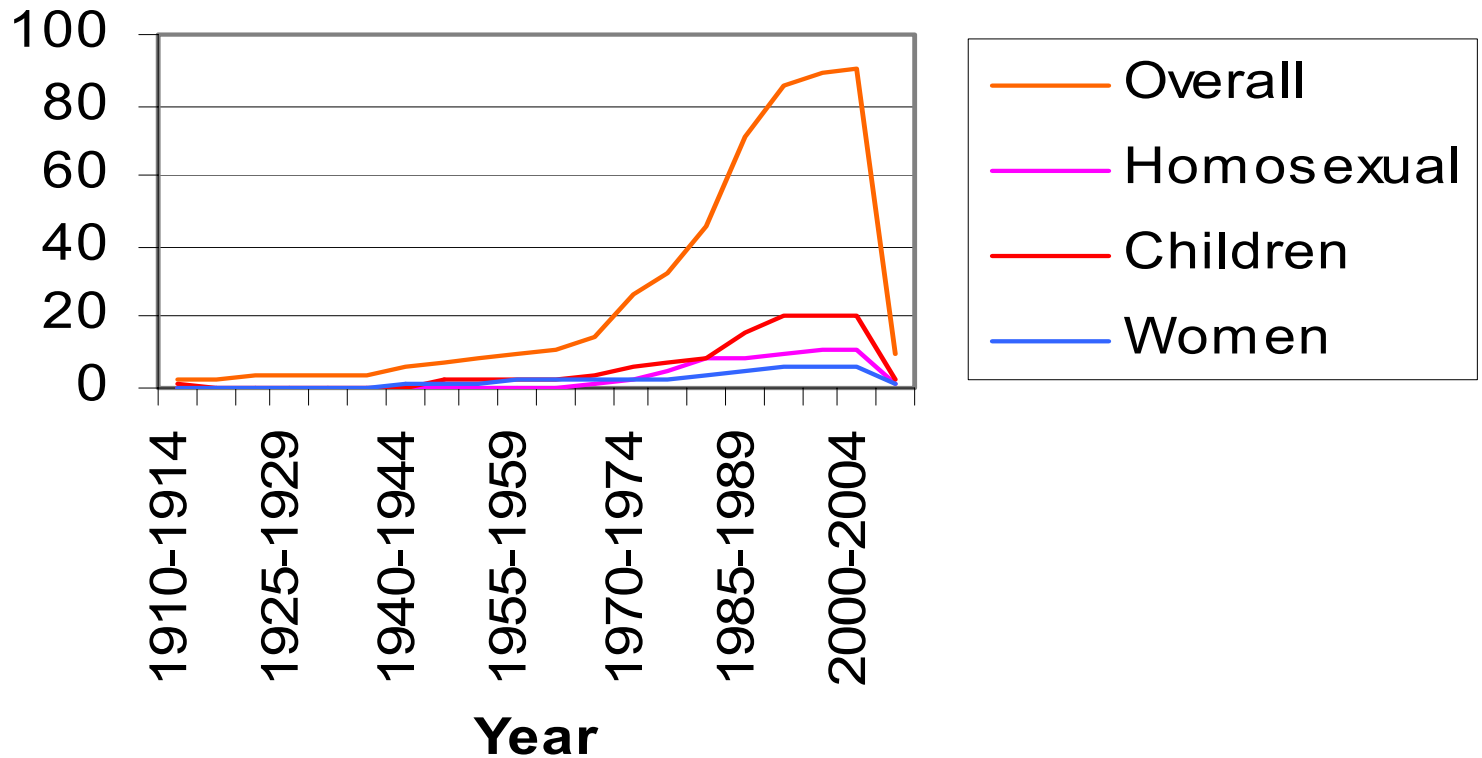
- 2 groups stressed help for Native Americans
 - Native American Community Board—1984
 - National Native American AIDS Prevention Center* -- 1987
- 2 groups stressed help for minorities
 - CHOICE – 1971
 - National Minority AIDS Council* --1986
- 2 groups stressed help for poor/homeless
 - SEVA Foundation* -- 1978
 - Ursaline Companions in Mission -- 2000

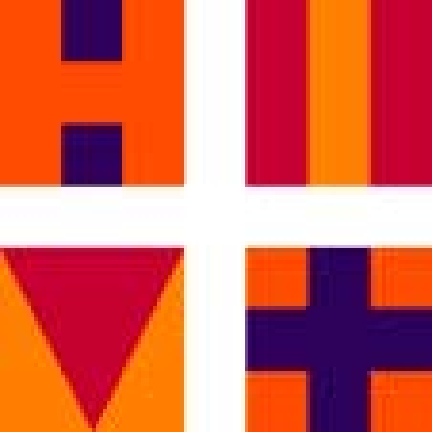
Target Group Association Density



Organizational Density

Number of Organizat





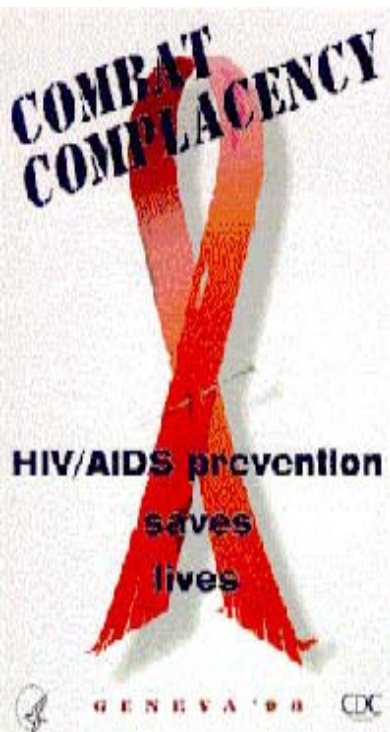
Findings – Associations Unlimited 2004

- It appears as though most groups associated with AIDS are not also associated with homosexual causes
- However the bulk of the groups that were homosexually tied were mostly founded prior to 1982 (73%) which follows my thesis that the AIDS stigmatization with homosexuality had decreased tremendously by 1995. Also most groups associated with homosexuality are not AIDS focus groups.
- The New Emerging Target Groups proved my hypothesis wrong – they are not increasing in emphasis with time. 62.5 % of them were formed after 1984, but I would have estimated their formation to be later according to my thesis. However, these groups are more closely associated with AIDS in their emphasis.

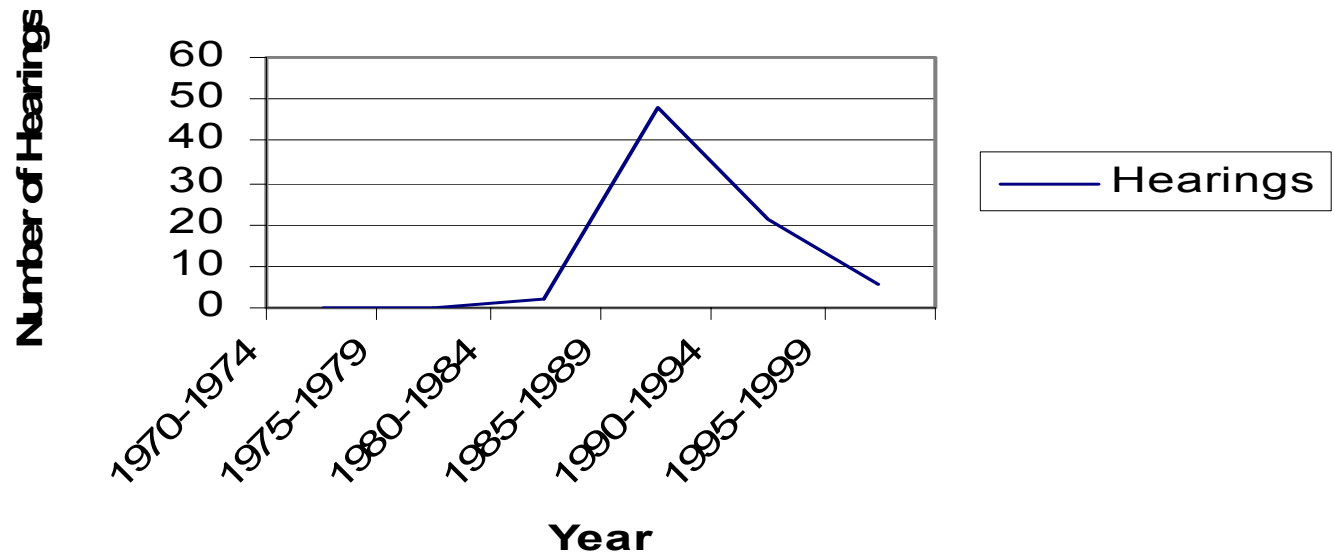


Government Attention

- Used the Policy Agendas Website
- Searched the Health portion using keyword “AIDS”
- No government Attention prior to 1983
- 1987 was the biggest year in congress
- There have been 77 Hearings dealing with AIDS



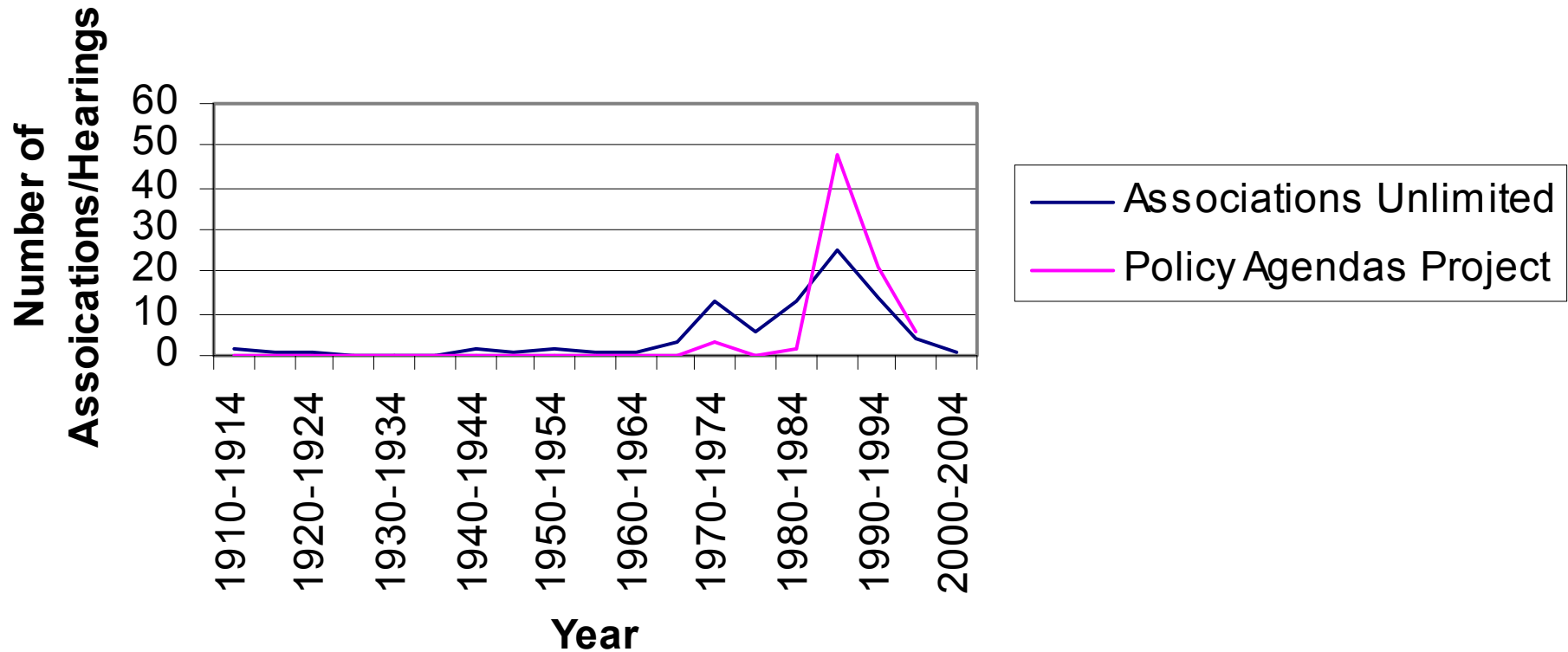
Congressional Attention to AIDS





Attention to AIDS

SMO Organization and Governmental Attention



What Kind
Of Mother
Would Give
Her Baby
HIV?

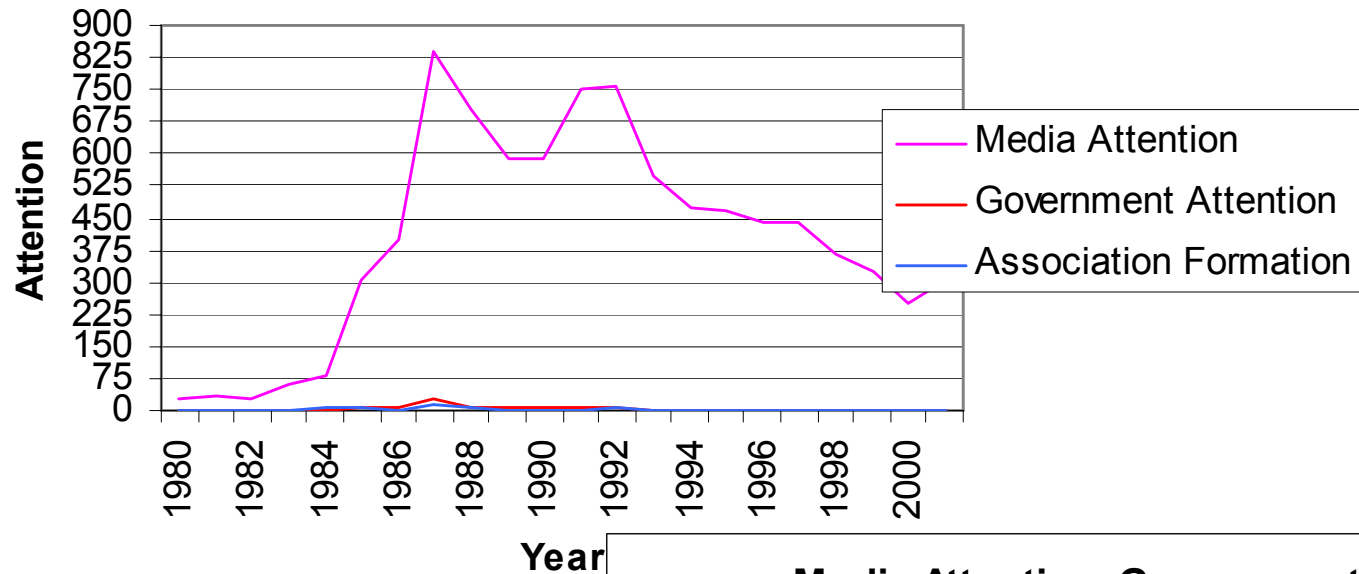
An Untested One

Live Long, Live Strong
Get TESTED!

Findings – Government Attention

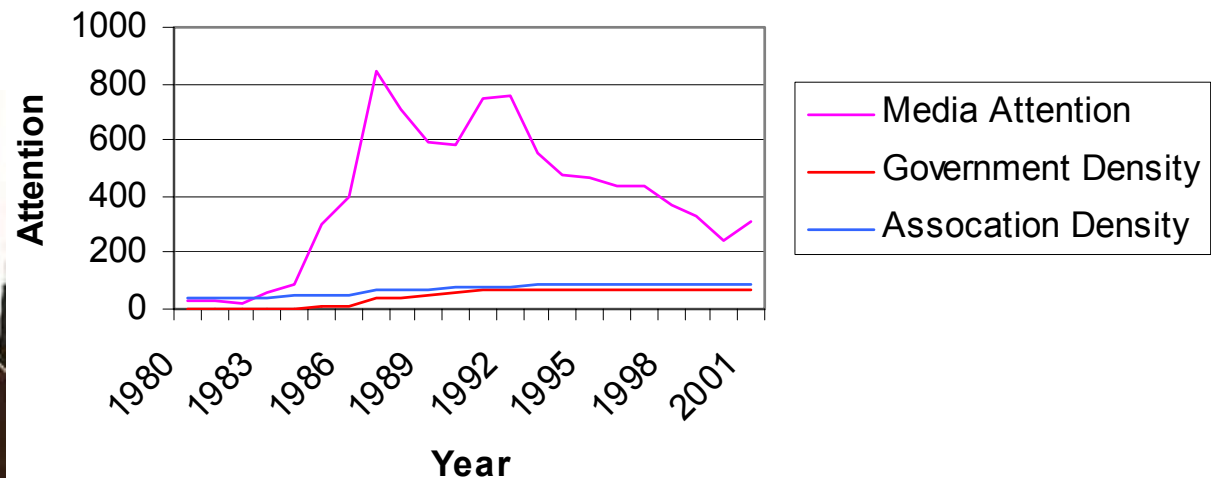
- It seems as though government attention and associations were surging at relatively the same time
- Both of them dramatically increased in 1987
- This makes it hard to determine whether SMO organization or government attention was the primary cause for the increase in AIDS awareness. Therefore I think they cause each other.
- Media attention, as shown through the New York Times Historical data plays a very key role

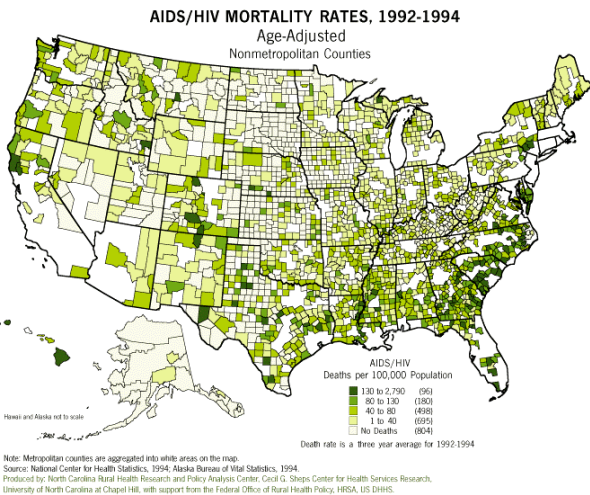
Media, Government and Association Attention to AIDS



What
Media
brings to
the
equation

Media Attention, Government and Association Density



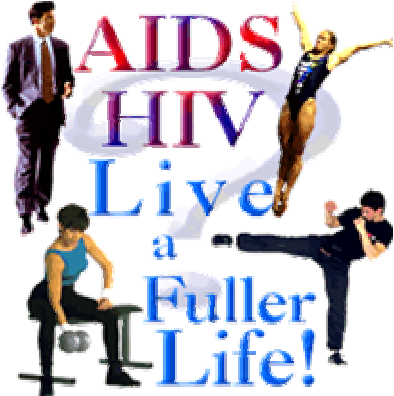


Why is AIDS no longer stigmatized?

Key Events

- 1960s – Blood Transfusions became efficient and widely used/accepted
- 1968 – “Robert” was the first case in the US. Admitted to St. Louis hospital. He was later identified as being HIV positive in 1987
- 1969 – Stonewall Riots affirming gay liberation, including sexual identity
- 1970s – Experimentation with IV drug use
- Late 1970s -- Gaetan Dugas, the “Typhoid Mary” of the AIDS epidemic. Reported 250 sexual encounters each year “in a mobile and highly sexual active gay subculture.” Is said to have facilitated the disease throughout the US.
- 1982 – AIDS is defined for the first time, CDC changes name to AIDS from GRID
- 1983 – HIV identified as the cause of AIDS

<Doka, Kenneth. *AIDS, Fear, and Society*. Taylor and Francis, 1997.>



Why is AIDS no longer stigmatized? Key Events

- 1984 – Gaetan Dugas dies
- 1985 – Rock Hudson becomes the first public figure to disclose he has AIDS; Ryan White is diagnosed with AIDS (school fights); AIDS cases have now been identified on every populated continent in the world.
- 1987 – Ronald Reagan makes his first public address on AIDS
- 1988 – People of Color now account for 2/3 of all new cases
- 1990 – Ryan White dies of AIDS
- 1991 – Magic Johnson announces he has AIDS
- 1992 – Arthur Ashe dies of AIDS
- 1993 – AIDS is the leading cause of death in young people in 64 US cities
- 1997 – AIDS deaths drop 19% in US due to medications

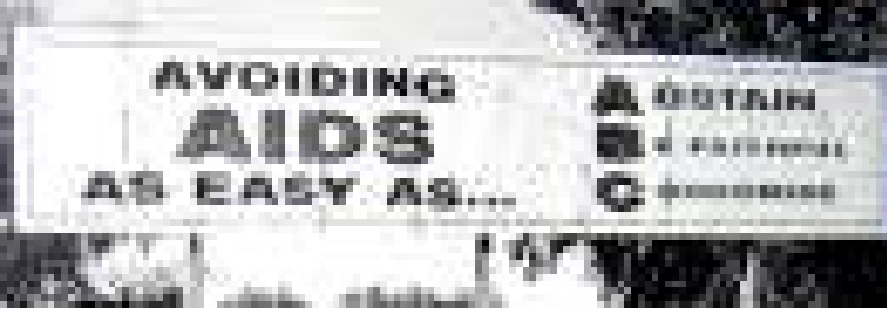
<http://www.aidsprojectri.org/subpages/inform/timeline.htm>



AIDS

Why is AIDS no longer stigmatized?

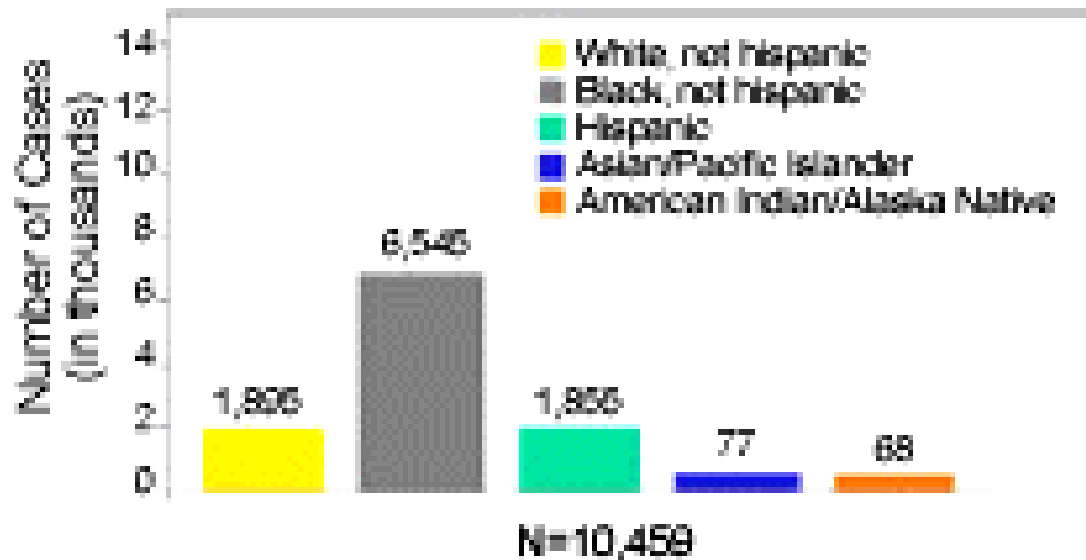
- More knowledge about it, except, it seems, in the black community
 - The Black community is said to be infected at such high numbers because of their refusal to see AIDS as anything but a “gay disease”
 - “Denial about the AIDS risk of needle drug use and unprotected sex, mistrust of a white-dominated medical system, and the misconception that AIDS is only a white, gay disease are in part to blame for the disproportionately high number of cases among blacks”
 - 57% of the emerging AIDS cases in the US occur in African-Americans, yet they only make up 13% of the US population. In blacks ages 13-24, they make up 63% of the new infections.
 - AIDS is the #1 killer of African Americans ages 25-44



Why is AIDS no longer stigmatized?

- It was discovered that biologically, women are more likely to contract AIDS
- AIDS is rising more rapidly among heterosexual women than any other segment of the population.

AIDS Cases in Adult and Adolescent Women, by Race/Ethnicity, Reported in 2000, United States



- Women were 7% of the cases in 1985, 25% of the cases in 1999

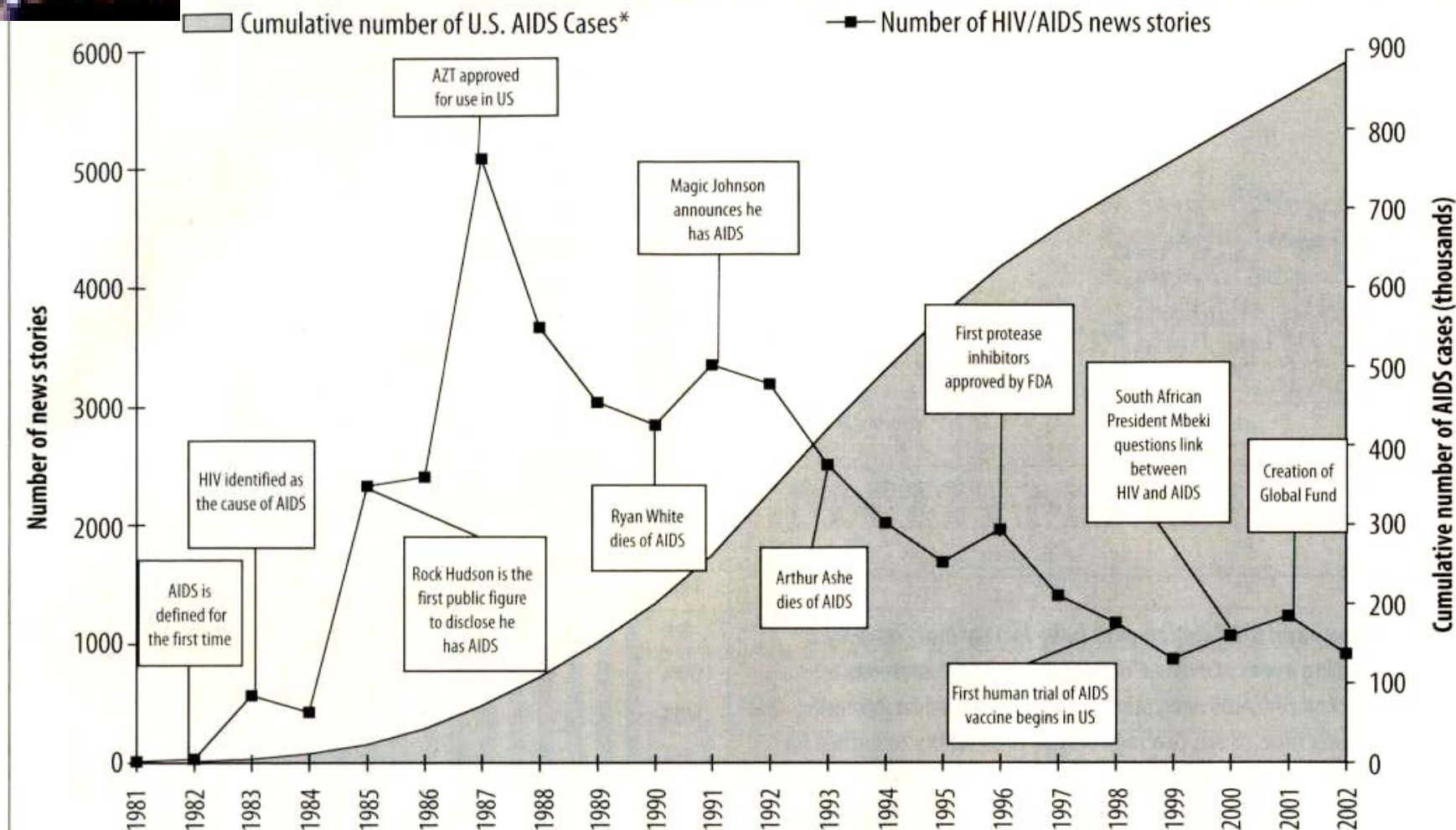
- In 2000, African American and Hispanic women accounted for 80% of the female cases

- Historically 2/3 of the cases in women have occurred through heterosexual contact



Media Attention and Stigmatization

outlets with key events and cumulative U.S. AIDS cases over time



*Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

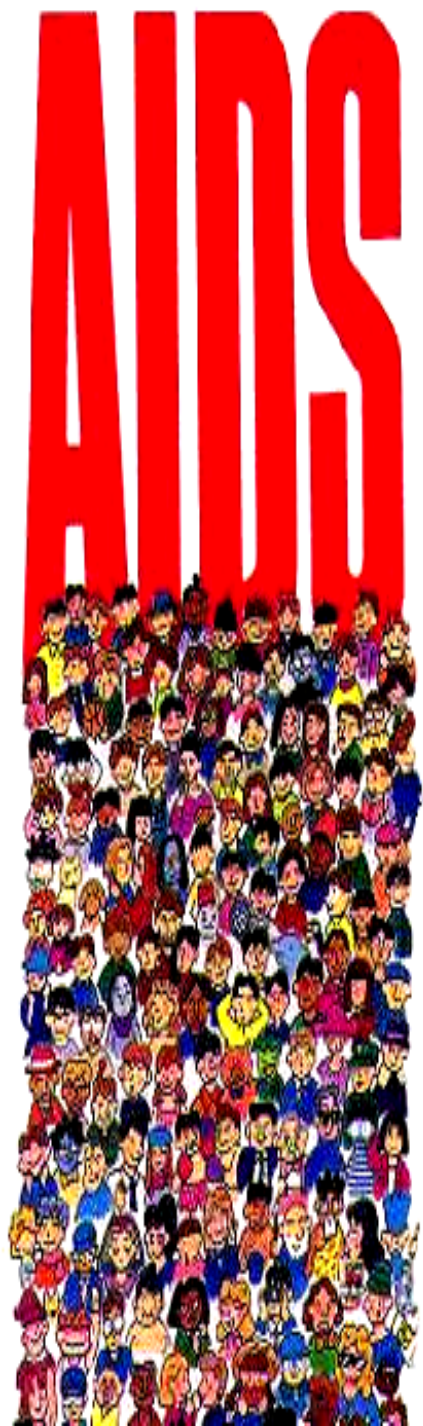
Princeton Survey Research Associates



Media Attention and Stigmatization

Table 1. Percent of stories covering key news-generating events/recurring themes by year

Event/Recurring Theme	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Total
Initial CDC Reports	83%	50%	4%	3%	1%	<1%			<1%												<1%		<1%
Official designation re: "AIDS"		12%	<1%			<1%	<1%					<1%									<1%		<1%
AIDS and blood supply		12%	12%	11%	15%	6%	3%	3%	2%	4%	4%	4%	5%	2%	2%	4%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%	4%
Reagan administration response			6%	2%	2%	3%	8%	2%	<1%				<1%										2%
HIV virus isolated			1%	7%	<1%	2%	1%		<1%	1%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%						<1%	1%
San Francisco bathhouses closed			1%	13%	1%	<1%										1%			1%				<1%
Living w/HIV/AIDS		3%	3%	5%	3%	6%	7%	2%	2%	3%	6%	6%	4%	11%	1%	6%	6%	7%	6%	7%	2%	3%	5%
Rock Hudson & AIDS					7%	1%		<1%	1%	<1%	<1%										<1%	<1%	1%
AZT						4%	3%	2%	5%	3%	3%	2%	2%	3%	3%	1%	2%	2%	3%	1%	<1%	<1%	2%
International AIDS Conferences			1%		<1%	1%	2%	3%	4%	7%	2%	3%	3%	2%	4%	6%	<1%	6%		8%	1%	11%	3%
Magic Johnson and AIDS											12%	16%	1%	1%	2%	5%	1%				1%	<1%	3%
Arthur Ashe and AIDS												5%	3%	<1%									1%
Clinton Administration response												1%	5%	3%	2%	3%	6%	4%	1%	5%			1%
AIDS and U.S. immigration			<1%			1%	1%	<1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	5%	1%	1%	<1%					<1%		1%
Protease inhibitors/combo therapy										<1%	<1%	1%	<1%	<1%	3%	7%	13%	10%	10%	6%	4%	4%	2%
HIV/AIDS in Africa			1%	<1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	<1%	1%	1%	<1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	3%	7%	14%	13%	11%	2%
Drug prices/patent debates				<1%	<1%		<1%	1%	1%	<1%	1%		<1%		<1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	4%	12%	4%	1%
Global Fund																				1%	6%	4%	<1%
U.N. and AIDS			<1%	<1%			<1%	1%	1%	1%			1%	1%	<1%	<1%	1%	2%		4%	5%	3%	1%
AIDS Activism/ACT UP		3%	1%			1%	2%	2%	4%	2%	3%	2%	1%	<1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%
AIDS Vaccine Development			<1%	2%	1%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	1%	3%	2%	2%	2%	4%	3%	2%
World AIDS Day								<1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	4%	1%	2%	1%	4%	2%	1%	1%	3%	1%



Overall Findings

- I felt that my original schematic diagram was correct. I think that Media Attention is the overall cause for AIDS awareness, whether that be governmental, organizational or educational
- AIDS has become less stigmatized over time
 - No longer homosexually emphasized
 - General Health attention has increased
 - BUT Emerging Target groups did not get the attention I thought they would.

References

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