“Condoms in the Nursing Homes?”
Anne Hogsett, MD and Donna Sweet, MD.

**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 population 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**