Syphilis predictions markets are up and running. You should join!

Market did not accurately predict MMWR totals in Quarter 4 of 2009. Participants may have been using MMWR data to guide their trading activity rather than private/local information. Accuracy of this pilot market could have been affected by:
- too few traders,
- limited trader information on national trends,
- idiosyncrasies in MMWR.

Give us your ideas for future markets!

**Conclusions:**

**Introduction:**
Prediction markets have accurately predicted:
- election outcomes,
- marketing potential (pharmaceuticals, films),
- influenza trends.

We are using markets to predict number of syphilis cases. We hope to use future markets to:
- forecast other trends in syphilis,
- predict intervention outcomes.

**Methods:**
Traders recruited from diverse backgrounds. More are needed—please sign up! Traders are given $100 to buy shares. Shares represent predictions (e.g. 2200-2399 cases by the end of the quarter) when the market closes, traders receive $1 per share for correct predictions, other shares are worthless. During the market, share price reflects traders’ expectations that the outcome will fall in the range covered by those shares.

Current Markets, For the first quarter of 2010:
- Total U.S. P&S cases,
- Female U.S. P&S cases.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Past quarters</th>
<th>Quarter we are predicting in the current market</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Markets, For the first quarter of 2010:</td>
<td>Total U.S. P&amp;S cases, Female U.S. P&amp;S cases.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Results:**

**MMWR Notifiable Diseases and Mortality Tables**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Syphilis, primary and secondary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MMWR cumulative counts decreased one week!

In Quarter 4 of 2009, the market totally missed actual number of MMWR cases. Actual Quarterly Total was predicted to have less than 2% probability of occurring!

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