



SEP 15 1969

September 10, 1969

Professor Joshua Lederberg,  
Department of Genetics,  
Stanford University Medical Center,  
Stanford, California, 94305

Dear Professor Lederberg:

Thank you for your letter of August 7, 1969 which I finally received last week. (I changed faculty positions in late July and my mail was delayed in Boston). I agree wholeheartedly with your concern about untreated (clinically) syphilis, self-treatment procedures, and low percentage reporting of cases by private physicians.

Unfortunately I have not carried the studies any further. Therefore, I have not estimated the cost-effectiveness of the items listed in your letter. However, I would like to comment on one point that you made. You said that there is no obvious way of knowing how many pre-maritals are positive. Doesn't a state form have to be completed by the physician concerning each premarital? If so, it would be unlikely that he would deliberately incorrectly report a positive as negative; certainly less likely than simply not reporting a positive reaction at some time other than a pre-marital (in this latter situation I agree that the reporting rate is probably quite low).

As I believe I mentioned in my paper, a more complete model would necessitate some form of simulation. However, simulation without meaningful parameter values (one of the main purposes of our study was to indicate data needs) would be of questionable utility. I am hoping eventually to have one or two graduate students

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work in this area (naturally, conditional upon some sort of research grant).

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Edward A. Silver*

Edward A. Silver,  
Associate Professor.

EAS/pgu