ACID RAIN

500 TONS, ASSORTED CHEMICALS
100 ACTIVE FACTORIES
¼ MILLION CAR EXHAUST FUMES
10,000 MEGAWATTS ENERGY
70sq MILES FOG
10 inches RAIN
50 MILLION HUMAN EGOS
WITH MENTALITIES THAT ARE INSANE

Take the assortment of chemicals
put them in a factory
change their composition
by adding the energy
release them into the atmosphere
to mingle with the car exhaust fumes
then wait for the fog to arrive
in the afternoon
when the clouds explode
due to atmospheric strain
the particles of water mix with the smog
and turn to ACID RAIN.
Sprinkle the RAIN on the EARTH
to cause mass contamination
and this is another recipe
of our DESTRUCTION

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Levi Tafari
levi@tafari.freeserve.co.uk

ECHO

A global analysis of trends in the quality of HIV sero-surveillance

J M Garcia-Calleja, E Zaniewski, P D Ghys, K Stanecki, N Walker

Objective: To examine the quality of HIV sero-surveillance systems in countries by 2002, as well as trends between 1995 and 2002.

Methods: The quality of countries’ surveillance systems was scored for five years: 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001, and 2002. Sero-surveillance data were compiled from the US Census Bureau’s HIV/AIDS Surveillance Database, the EuroHIV database, and from countries’ national HIV surveillance reports that were available to WHO/UNAIDS. The quality of systems was scored according to the level of the countries’ epidemic.

Results: There has been a large variation in the quality of HIV surveillance systems across the 132 countries by type of the epidemic and over time from 1995 to 2002. Over the 1995–2002 period the number of countries with a fully implemented system decreased from 57 (43%) in 1995 to 48 (36%) in 2002. The proportion of countries with a fully implemented system was 58%, 34%, and 10% in countries with a generalised, concentrated, and low level epidemic, respectively. In the 53 countries with generalised epidemics the number of countries with a fully implemented system increased from 24 (45%) in 2001 to 31 (58%) in 2002.

Conclusion: Many countries still have poor functioning HIV surveillance systems and require urgent strengthening. Countries should monitor and evaluate their own HIV surveillance systems and examine whether the systems are appropriate and adequate.

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