

Toxic oil sindrome epidemic management:

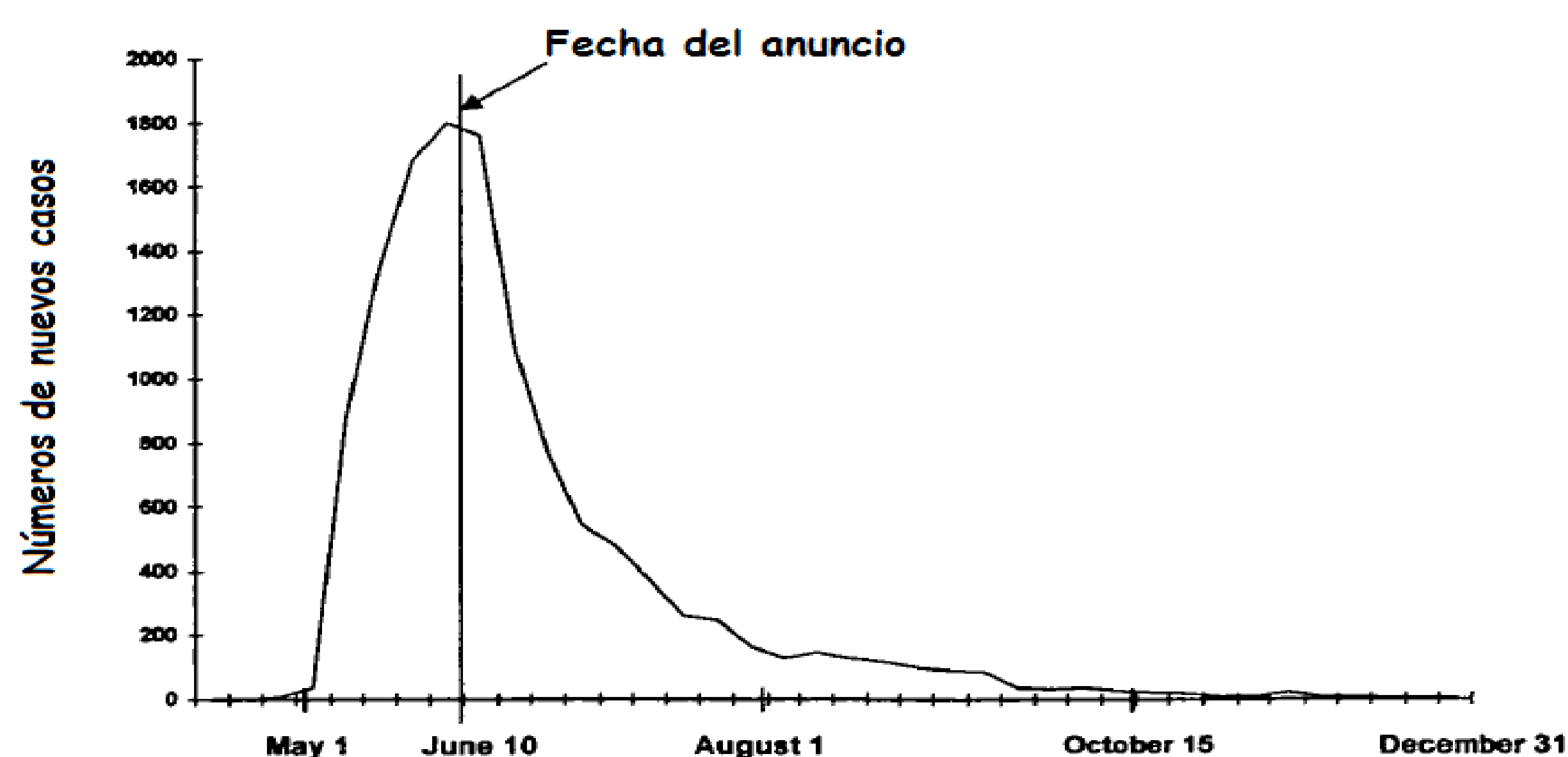
Decision making and evaluation

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Introduction

This essay main objective is to review the Toxic oil Syndrome, mainly the management aspects.

The toxic old syndrome was a multisystemic sickness which erupted in central-Spain on May 1981. About 20000 people were affected and around 100 died. The oil, imported from France, was denaturalized with anilide. The blanching suffered to make it edible again produced a chemical reaction that originated the PAP compound, which was most probably the chemical that produced the illness.



Daily cases

Conclusion

The biggest problems at the time were:

- The lack of a vigilance system to have a quick reaction capacity.
- The bad overall coordination between health agents and government administrations.
- The absence of official communication systems.
- The total ignorance of a inequality inside the spanish society that presented a health risk.

The Toxic Oil Syndrome acted as a revulsive to solve this issues or at least make clear that they existed.

References:

- Posada de la Paz, M., Philen, R., Abaitua Borda, I., 2001. Toxic oil syndrome: the perspective after 20 years. *Epidemiologic Reviews*, 23:231-247
- Schurz, H., et al., 1996. Products of aniline and triglycerides in oil samples associated with the toxic oil syndrome. *Chemical Research in Toxicology*, 9:1001-2006.

Methods

The main sources of comparison has been the epidemic response guides which were available at the date (1981).

Once the response weak points had been identified, I've looked for changes between this 35 years, mainly on the legislation but on some public health guides as well

