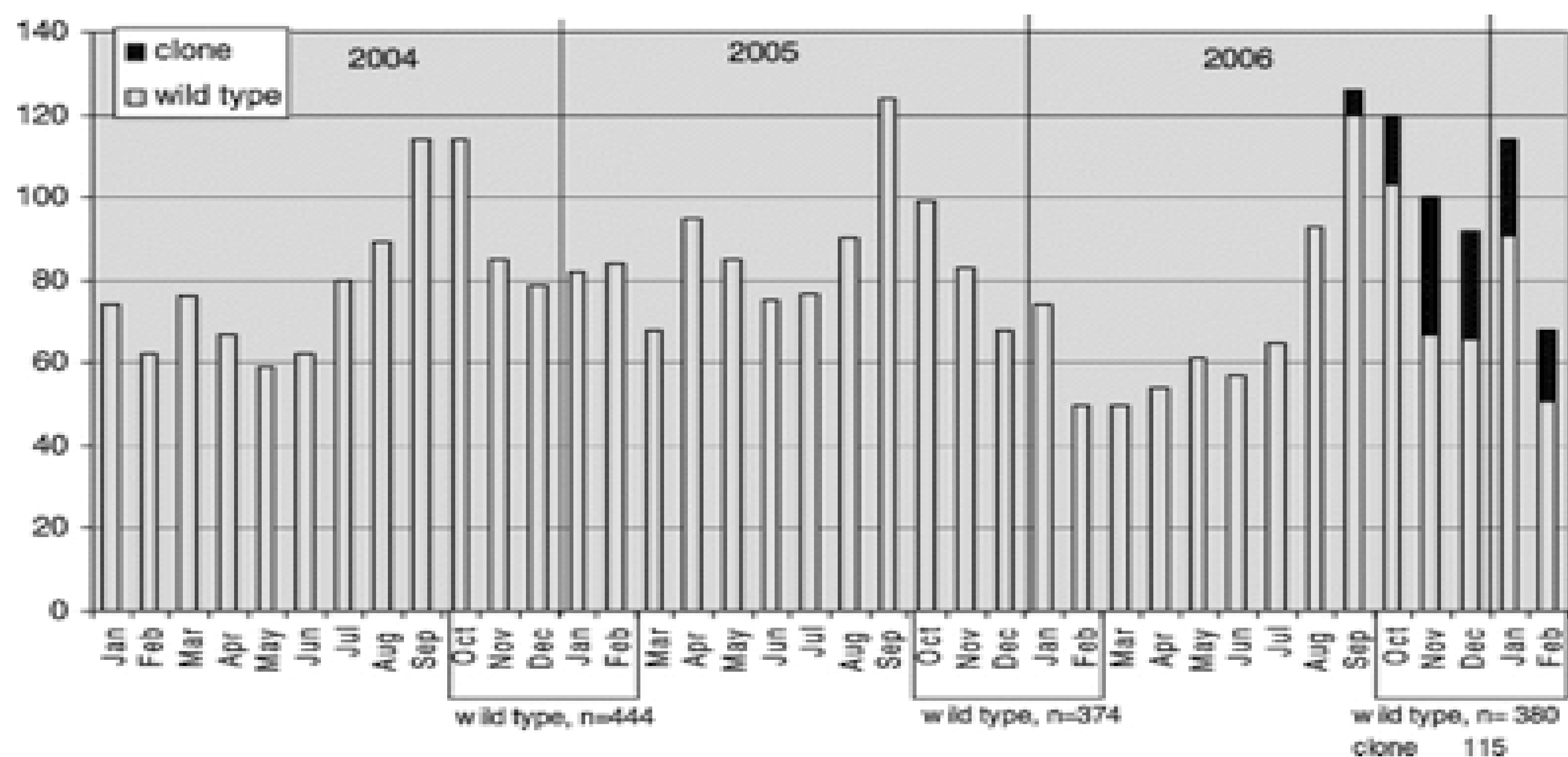


# Mutant Strains of *Chlamydia trachomatis*

It is well established in the literature that there exists in parts of Europe<sup>1,2</sup>, and possibly elsewhere, a mutated strain of *Chlamydia trachomatis* with a 377-bp deletion in the cryptic plasmid which causes false-negative Nucleic-Acid Amplification Tests (NAAT). This deletion involves the whole target area for many of the NAAT tests produced worldwide. This strain is prominent in Sweden (10-65% of all infected cases), and cases have been found in Oslo, Norway as well. It has been recommended that laboratories that use one of the NAAT systems that target the deletion, use a second test to confirm all negative results. This, of course increases the cost to perform a test as well as increasing the turn-around time.



Number of diagnosed *Chlamydia trachomatis* infections by PCR in Halland County monthly from January 2004 through February 2007. The 5-months period, October to February, is highlighted, giving the numbers of wild-type infections and the mutant-strain infections<sup>1</sup>

In contrast, Zonda's target enzyme is encoded in the genome and the HandiLab-C test for *Chlamydia* proteolytic activity-based assay detects all strains of *Chlamydia trachomatis*. Therefore, not only does the HandiLab-C detect the mutant strain, it is cost effective and reduces the turn around time to minutes.

1. A *Chlamydia trachomatis* Strain With a 377-bp Deletion in the Cryptic Plasmid Causing False-Negative Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests

2. Identification of the Swedish *Chlamydia trachomatis* variant among patients attending a STI clinic in Oslo, Norway A Moghaddam (amoghaddam@furst.no), N Reinton Furst Medisinsk Laboratorium, Oslo, Norway