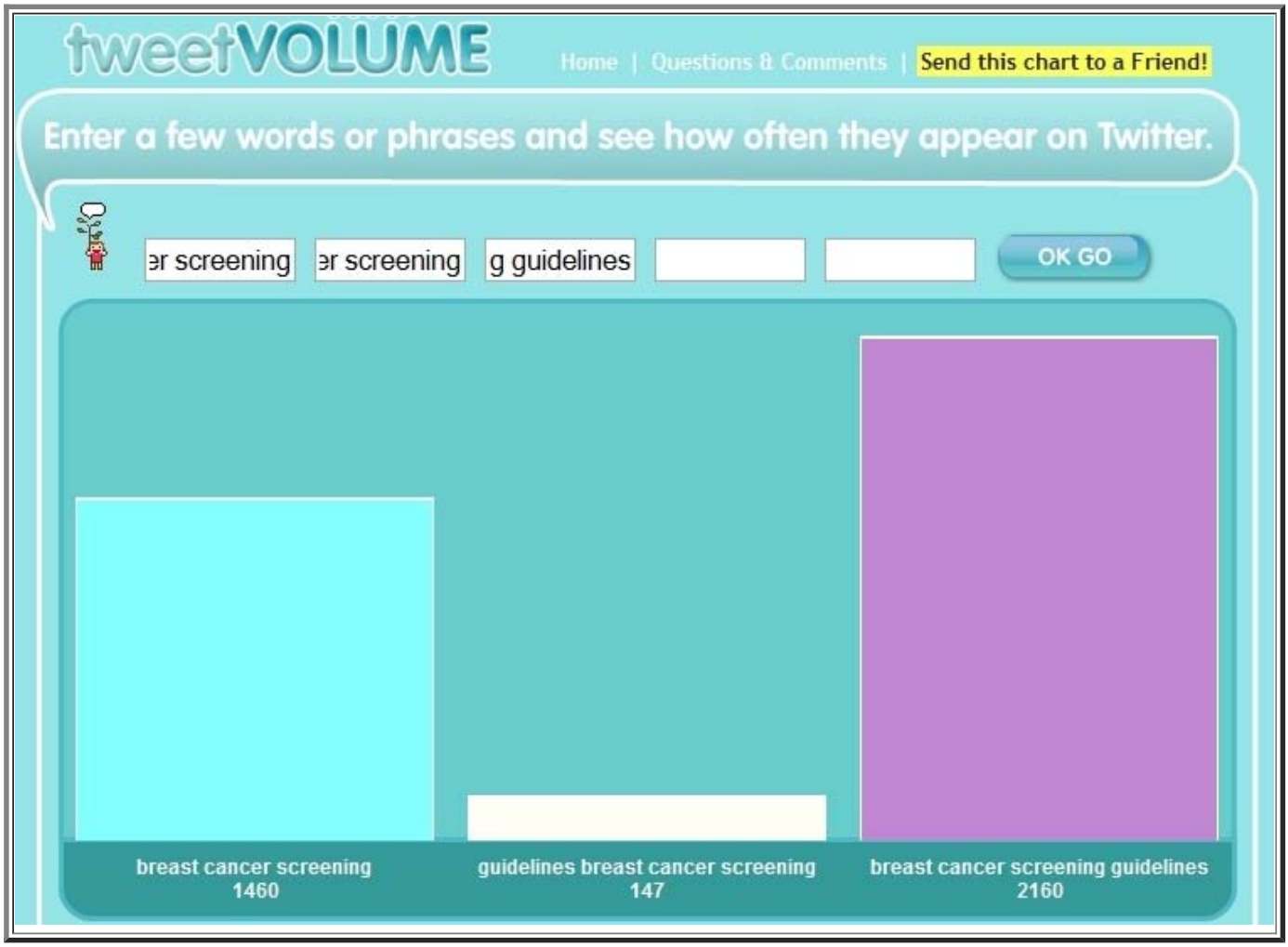
New federal guidelines for screening for breast cancer

Government issues new guidelines for screening for breast cancer. Some like them other do not. Big controversy and breaking news.

> News Alert
> 04:55 PM EST Monday, November 16, 2009
>
> Federal task force makes radical change in breast cancer screening guidelines
>
> New recommendations challenge use of mammograms, drawing mix of praise and harsh condemnation from health experts.
>
> To learn more about the new guidelines, visit washingtonpost.com - http://link.email.washingtonpost.com/r/TNGYL1/6GA5X/5AUSRX/W03LW8/N3YTI/YT/t

The next day story in The Washington Post outlines the history.

I checked on phrasing

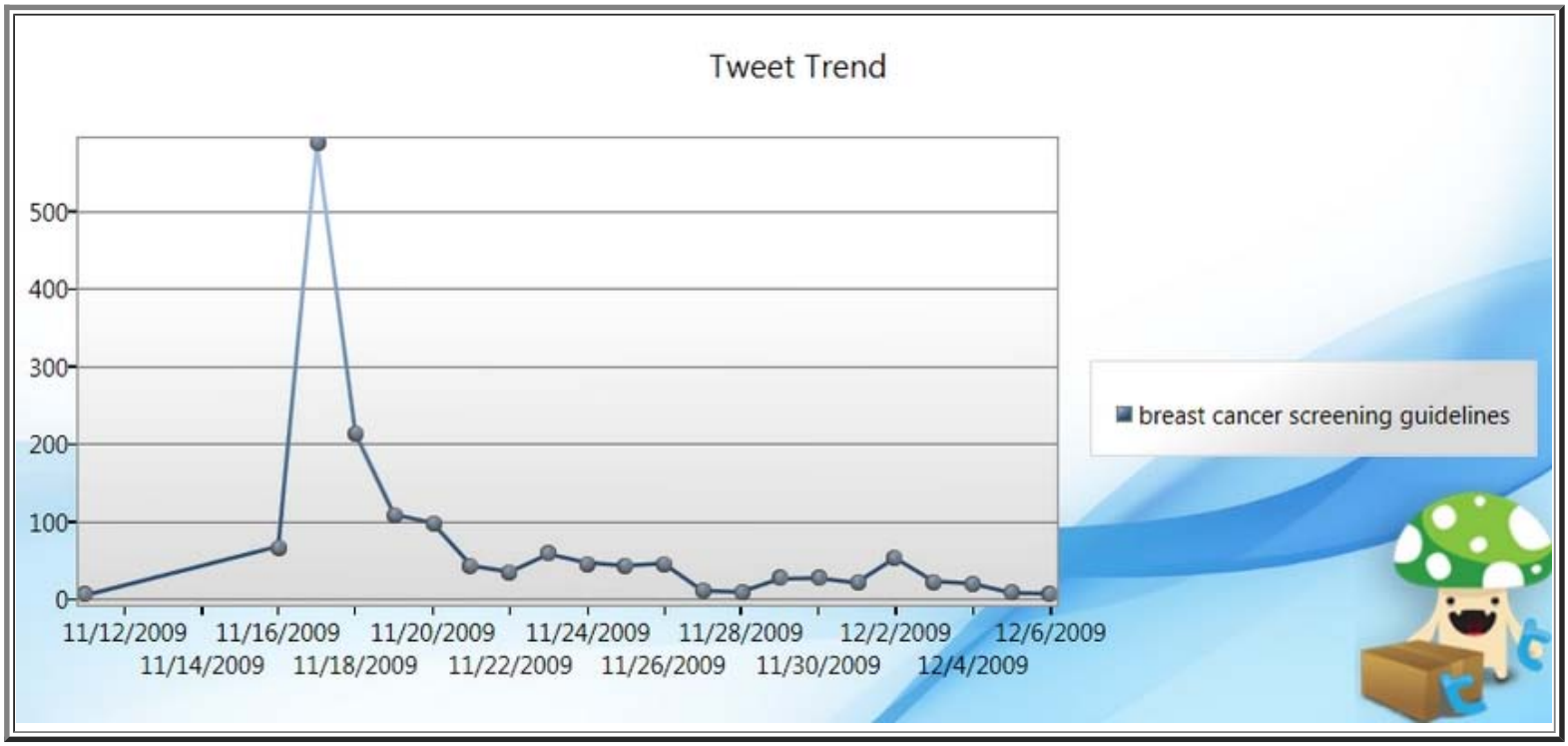


I decided to use "breast cancer screening guidelines." It seemed it would identify messages about the new guidelines.

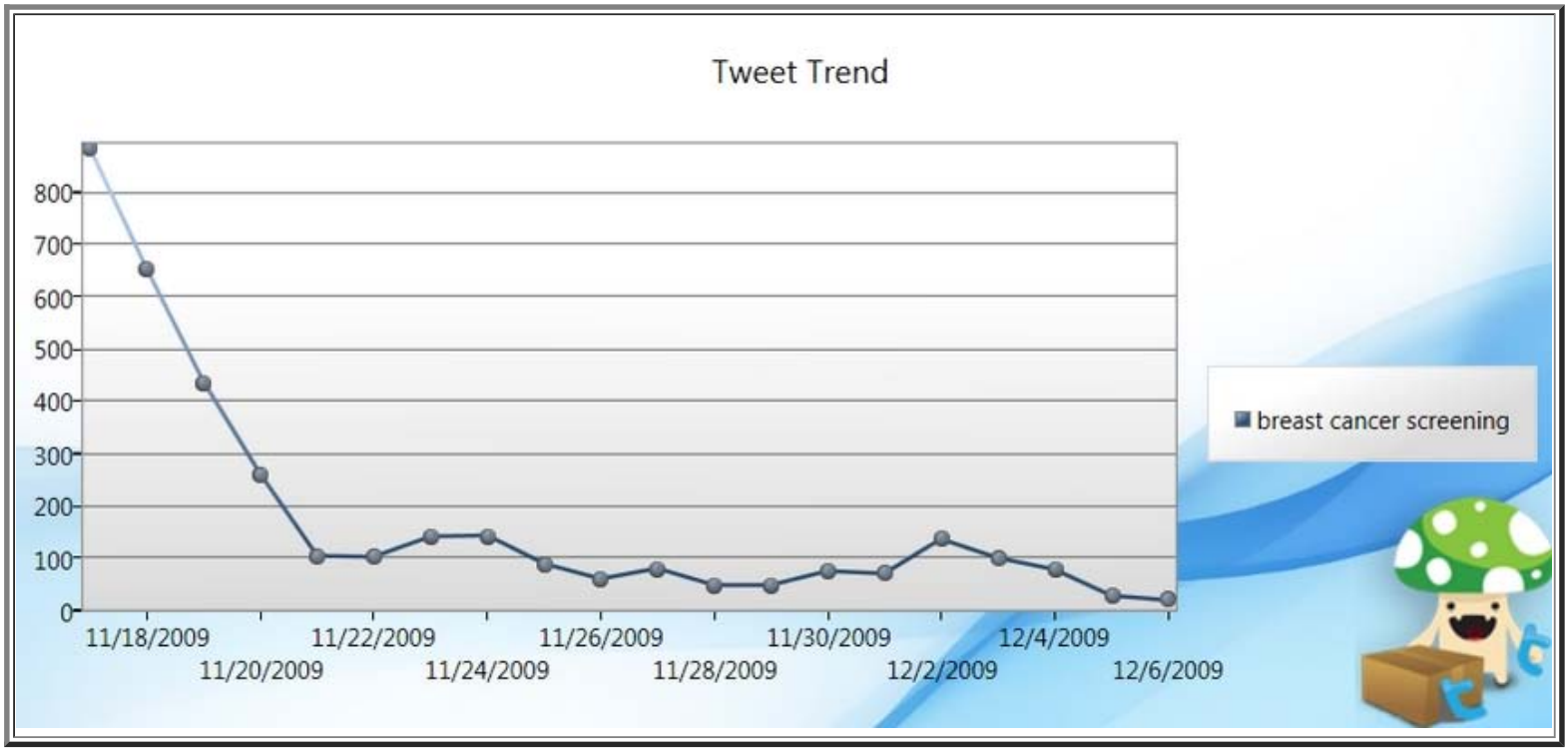
I decided the language "breast cancer screening guidelines" was too narrow. So, I have added "breast cancer screening." That picked up 1,500 messages going back only to 10:13 a.m. November 13. So I missed lots of messages by using the narrower phrasing.

The search ended at 8:15 a.m. December 6, 2009. For "breast cancer screening guidelines" the total number of messages found was 1469. For "breast cancer screening" the total was 3469.

The more complete phrase -- breast cancer screening guidelines -- produced this timeline.



The more general phrase produced more messages on this timeline.



The timelines are very similar though not identical. The search with the more complete phrase found fewer messages on the17th and the search was pushed to the past in the way finding 1500 stopped the backward search with the more general phrasing. Once past that the rise and falls look very similar.

The .txt files that can be read with Excel are: breast cancer screening guidelines.txt and breast cancer screening.txt