

HEALTH STUDIES

“While individuals have a responsibility to change high-risk behavior [such as smoking], government and society have responsibilities to identify and prevent environmental hazards . . . The elimination or reduction of exposure to carcinogenic agents is a priority in the prevention of cancer. We are just beginning to understand the full range of health effects resulting from the exposure to occupational and environmental agents and factors . . . Lack of appreciation of the potential hazards of environmental and food source contaminants worsen the cancer problem and drive up health care costs.”

Calbresi et al., Cancer at a Crossroads: A Report to Congress for the Nation. Bethesda, MD: National Cancer Institute, September 1994.

"The makers of public policy must recognize that toxic chemicals in the environment are widespread, proven causes of human disease. Each year preventable exposures to chemical toxins sicken and kill thousands of persons of all ages in the U.S. and around the world. These hazards must be confronted. They cannot be wished away. Reduction of exposures to chemical toxins will prevent thousands of deaths and will improve the quality of hundreds of thousands of lives."

Philip J. Landrigan, chairman of the department of community medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City, "Commentary: Environmental Disease—A Preventable Epidemic," American Journal of Public Health, vol. 82, July 1992.

2005

British researcher reported Monday in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health that most childhood cancers are probably caused by exposure in the womb to environmental and industrial pollutants that have been inhaled by the mother.

1/22/05 Los Angeles Times

2004

Researchers reported in the journal Science that blood changes, including a decline in disease-fighting white cells, have been found in workers persistently exposed to low levels of benzene.

12/4/04 Los Angeles Times

1999

Study by Dr. Sohail Khattak of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto published in Journal of American Medical Association found that women exposed to organic solvents are 13 times more likely to give birth to a baby with major birth defects. The researchers also found an increased risk of miscarriages and low birth weight.

3/24/99 Wall Street Journal

1998

Pregnant women exposed to chemicals that disrupt the action of human hormones may give birth to newborns with diminished intellectual capacity and social skills, says a report out today in a special edition of the journal Toxicology and Industrial Health.

1/9/98 USA Today

Women living within 3km of hazardous-waste landfills are at significant increased risk of giving birth to children with birth defects.

Risk of congenital anomalies near hazardous-waste landfill site in Europe: the EUROHAZCON study; Dolk H, Vrijheid M et al.; The Lancet; 8 August 1998; Volume 352.

New York State Department of Health study found that women living near landfills were at a higher risk for leukemia and bladder cancer.

9/4/98Port Washington News online

1994

***Occupational and Environmental Health Section, Public Health Department, Maisonneuve-Rosemont Hospital, Montreal, Quebec
Low Birth Weight And Preterm Births Among Infants Born To Women Living Near A Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Site In Montreal, Quebec (The Miron Landfill)***

1993

Study of 7 waste disposal sites showed increased incidence of dermatitis, respiratory irritation, neurologic symptoms and pancreatic cancer in nearby populations.

Barry L. Johnson, Asst. Surgeon General, testimony before the Subcommittee on Superfund, Recycling, and Solid Waste Management, United States Senate, May 6, 1993

1992

Study by Yale University/New York State Dept. of Health on 590 inactive landfill sites found that pregnant women living within a mile of the landfills had a 12% greater risk of bearing children with major birth defects, compared with people living further than a mile from the landfills. 90 of the sites studied were ranked as high risk sites because chemicals had migrated from the waste sites. Women living within a mile of these sites had a 63% greater chance of bearing a child with a major birth defect, compared with women living further than a mile from all of the 90 sites.

Geschwind, S. et al., "Risk of Congenital Malformations Associated with Proximity to Hazardous Waste Sites," American Journal of Epidemiology, volume 135, 1992, pages 1197-1207.

California study showed increased heart and circulatory defects and low birth weight among children born in census areas having waste disposal sites.

Shaw, G. et al., "Congenital Malformations and Birthweight in Areas with Potential

Environmental Contamination," archives of Environmental Health, volume 47, March/April 1992, pages 147-154.

1990

California study showed low birth weights and birth defects in children born in census areas having waste disposal sites.

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, US Public Health Service, Atlanta, Georgia, 1990. California: Birth Defects.

1989

Study of 593 hazardous waste sites in 339 counties (in 49 states) where contaminated groundwater was the sole source for drinking water found higher rates of cancer deaths in counties with hazardous waste sites compared with counties without such sites.

Jack Griffith et al., "Cancer Mortality in U.S. Counties with Hazardous Waste Sites and Ground Water Pollution," Archives of Environmental Health, volume 44, no. 2, March/April 1989, pages 69-74

1988

Study co-authored by a British cancer specialist linked leukemia, irritable bowel syndrome, chronic nausea, skin and heart disorders to drinking water contaminated by chemicals from dumpsites.

Byers, V. S. et al., "Association between Clinical Symptoms and Lymphocyte Abnormalities in a Population with Chronic Domestic Exposure to Industrial Solvent Contaminated Domestic Water Supply and a High Incidence of Leukemia," Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy, volume 27, 1988.

Study of 4936 pregnancies and 5018 residents of Woburn aged 18 or younger showed a link between consuming contaminated water and birth defects of the central nervous system, eye, ear, and face, as well as abnormalities of chromosomes.

Cutler, J. et al., "Childhood Leukaemia in Woburn, Massachusetts," Public Health Reports, volume 101, 1988, pages 201-205

1987

Children who lived near Love Canal chemical waste dump in Niagara Falls, New York, had significantly reduced height compared with children living further from the dump.

Paigen, B. et al., "Growth of Children Living Near the Hazardous Waste Site, Love Canal," Human Biology, volume 59, June 1987, pages 489-508.

Study of people who lived and/or worked near an industrial dump in Hamilton, Ontario Canada had higher rates of bronchitis, breathing difficulties, cough, skin rash, arthritis, heart problems (angina and heart attacks), muscle weakness, tremors, cramps, headaches,

dizziness, lethargy, balance problems, and mood symptoms compared with populations living further from the dump.

Hertzman, C. et al., "Upper Ottawa Street Landfill Site Health Study," Environmental Health Perspectives, volume 75, 1987, pages 173-195.

Study of 27 New Jersey towns found that the increased cases of leukemia were linked to chemicals from waste dumps that had contaminated the drinking water.

New Jersey Department of Health, "Drinking Water Contamination and the Incidence of Leukemia," 1987.

Ozonoff et al., "Health Problems Reported by Residents of a Neighborhood Contaminated by a Hazardous Waste Facility," American Journal of Industrial Medicine, volume 11, 1987, pages 581-597. (Lowell, Massachusetts)

1986

Scientists studying 20 dumps in Southern California concluded that ordinary landfills, intended for household trash but not hazardous waste, are sources of cancer-causing gases and other toxic chemicals.

John A. Wood and Michael L. Porter, Laboratory Services Branch, Technical Services Division, South Coast Air Quality Management District, December 1986 For: Tim Smith, Project Officer, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX Hazardous Pollutants In Class II Landfills

S.W. Lagakos et al., "An Analysis of Contaminated Well Water and Health Effects in Woburn, Mass. ", Journal of the American Statistical Association, volume 81, 1986, pages 597-599.

1985

Children living near the Love Canal dump, Niagara Falls, New York, had lower birth weight, were more premature, and had more birth defects and other health problems compared with children living further from the dump.

Goldman, L. et al., "Low Birth Weight, Prematurity and Birth Defects in Children Living Near the Hazardous Waste Site, Love Canal," Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Materials, volume 2, 1985, pages 209-223.

Paigen, B. et al., "Prevalence of Health Problems in Children Living Near Love Canal," Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Materials, volume 2, 1985, pages 23-43.

1983

Residents exposed to solvents leaching from a waste dump in Hardemann County, Tennessee, were found to have enlargement of the liver, liver damage and abnormal liver function.

Meyer, C., "Liver Dysfunction in Residents Exposed to Leachate from a Toxic Waste Dump," Environmental Health Perspectives, volume 48, 1983, pages 9-13.

Gastrointestinal cancer death rates were higher than national averages in 20 of New Jersey's 21 counties.

G. Reza Najem et al., "Gastrointestinal Cancer Mortality in New Jersey Counties and the Relationship with Environmental Variables," International Journal of Epidemiology, volume 12, 1983, pages 276-289.