



CTS of Asheville NPL Site

2014 Cancer Study Summary

For a Full Report and Additional Information Visit
http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/oe/hace/by_site.html#cts

Background The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS), Division of Public Health, Health Assessment, Consultation and Education Program (HACE) requested the North Carolina Central Cancer Registry to conduct a second cancer study of the area surrounding the CTS National Priorities List site. The first cancer study was conducted in 2008. The contaminant of concern at this site is trichloroethylene (TCE).

How Was the Study Done? In 2008, staff from the HACE program conducted an exhaustive literature review of the most recent studies to see which cancers were associated with TCE. The review found TCE associations with kidney and liver cancer, and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Another review of the literature was conducted in 2014 to see if new studies showed associations with additional cancers. No convincing evidence of additional cancers was identified. It is important to understand that these three cancers could be caused by other factors or contaminants besides TCE.

Both studies looked at the same three cancers within 1-mile radius of the CTS site.

All health care providers in North Carolina are required to report cancer cases to the North Carolina Central Cancer Registry. The cases are recorded by the patient's residential address at the time the cancer is first diagnosed.

It is estimated that more than 98 percent of all cancers are now included in North Carolina's Central Cancer Registry.

2008 Study Results The first cancer study was conducted in 2008 and included cases from 1990 through 2005. The study looked at kidney and liver cancer, and Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Results of the 2008 study did not show statistically significant elevated rates of these cancers.

2014 Study Results HACE requested a second cancer study in 2014 because of residents' concerns. The 2014 study included cases from 1990 through 2014. The study looked at kidney and liver cancer, and Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Results of the 2014 study did not show statistically significant elevated rates of these cancers.

What Is a Statistically Significant Elevated Rate?

It is a rate that is elevated but it is not likely to occur due to chance alone. When you see a statistically significant elevated rate it is possible that the rate is elevated due to chance, but the elevated rate is more likely to be due to a variable or something that is affecting it.

What Is Next?

NC DHHS will continue to monitor cancer cases in the area around the CTS site. Call 919-707-5900 if you have questions about the study.



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