

Health Consultation Review of Bladder Cancer Data (May, 2001)

Abstract

This report is a follow-up to the November 1998 study *Cancer Incidence and Birthweight in Relation to Exposure to Raymark Waste*. It was undertaken in response to citizens' concerns about elevated female bladder cancer rates among those who lived closer to Raymark waste. The report re-analyzed data from the original study, taking into account an additional five years of bladder cancer data (1991-1996). New techniques were used to improve statistical precision and more advanced disease mapping methodologies were also employed. The results of this report are therefore believed to be more accurate than the original study.

The report found that there were elevated risks for female bladder cancer near Raymark waste sites, but this did not hold true over time. Male bladder cancer was not consistently elevated near Raymark waste sites over time, but there was an increase over time within the town of Stratford compared to Connecticut male bladder cancer rates. However, the study data did not take into account factors such as smoking, family history and occupational exposure to bladder carcinogens. Therefore, it is possible that the increase in male bladder cancer is due to these factors, or is simply a matter of chance. The report concludes that the Connecticut Department of Public Health has no definitive evidence linking female or male bladder cancer and Raymark waste. It recommends viewing additional data for 1997-2002 when available, as well as analyzing bladder cancer rates in the towns around Stratford.