

One further interesting observation from Table 1⁶ is the rather marked increase in the total number of cases for the Province between 1950 and 1955. It is assumed that at least part of this increase is due to improved recognition and reporting of lung cancer during the interval. For this reason, the years 1954 and 1955 were thought to be more nearly representative of actual conditions. Even so, it is quite likely that the general population is not studied for lung cancer with the same diligence with which this disease is looked for in the miners, and it seems probable that the mortality rates for the Province may be low. This would appear to be substantiated by the fact that the reporting of cases in the cohort showed no such increase over the same period.

Table 1⁷ was compiled to show the annual age-specific lung cancer rate of cases in which the death certificate merely read "cancer of the lung", as distinguished from those in which the diagnosis was confirmed by autopsy, surgery, or biopsy. The term "specified primary" refers to those cases in these two categories in which the tumor was specified as having originated in the lung. It will be noted that, of the total cases reported in 1955, a much higher percentage than in 1954 were specified as primary. The table also shows that a higher percentage of the total cases certified in 1955 were proved, again indicating increasing interest in this disease.