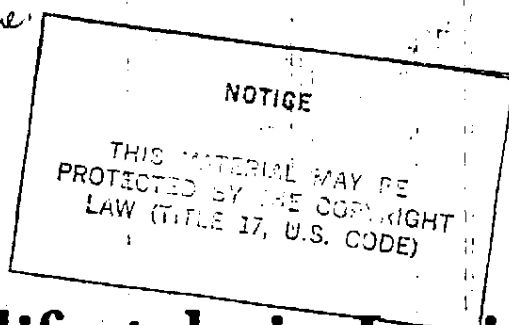


Again, can you determine what journal this came from? All three pages of my copy have the same posting, who knows. Thanks Fred D.



Cancer and lifestyle in Louisiana

Journal of the Louisiana State Medical Society

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The cancer maps published by the National Cancer Institute have given Louisiana the dubious distinction of displaying some of the highest cancer rates in the nation.^{1, 2} This excess is only true for males, is mostly concentrated in the southern portion of the state and is especially prominent for the respiratory organs. Age-adjusted death rates for respiratory cancer in white males for 1950-1968 have been calculated for each of the 3,056 counties of the United States. The top 18 in that list include the following 10 Louisiana parishes: St. Bernard, Tensas, Terrebone, Cane River, Orleans, Jefferson, Iberia, St. Martin, Evangeline and St. Charles.² More recent data on death rates for Louisiana parishes (prepared by Thomas Ballinger, Department of Health and Human Resources) show the following rank order for the parishes with highest lung cancer death rates in white males, 1960-1978: Evangeline, West Carroll, Bossier, St. Bernard, Assumption, Acadia, St. Martin, Richland, Tensas, Iberia, Franklin, Terrebone, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Washington and Orleans.

Lifestyle is one of the factors suspected to be linked with cancer causation. The rural north of Louisiana has respiratory cancer rates which are approximately half of those of the more industrialized south. As a first approximation to investigate the possible link between cancer risk and lifestyle, we conducted a survey in four southern and five northern Louisiana parishes whose death rates from respiratory cancer are shown in Table 1. A random sample of all males over 30 years of age was selected from

holders of driver's licenses with addresses in the parishes selected. With the help of the American Cancer Society volunteers, a questionnaire was mailed to them inquiring about their lifestyle. The positive results are summarized in Table 2. All responses to the questionnaire are expressed in terms of the age-adjusted percent of the re-

TABLE 1
AGE-ADJUSTED MALE DEATH RATES PER 100,000
FOR RESPIRATORY CANCER FOR 1950-1969 IN
SELECTED PARISHES FROM NORTH AND
SOUTH LOUISIANA²

	South	
	White	Black
Iberia	62	42
Lafourche	58	53
St. Martin	61	53
Terrebone	69	41
Average	63	47
	North	
Bienville	35	10
Natchitoches	32	19
Red River	37	10
Sabine	23	19
Winn	33	26
Average	32	17

spondents for each race-location category. Responses related to foods and drinks showing any inter-groups difference are shown in Table 3.

Our results indicate that the differences in the lifestyle of residents of areas with contrasting lung cancer risks in

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