

of these operations. Cohorts were defined according to certain criteria and all workers who met these criteria were included in the study. Through their medical records, data relative to their characteristics were collected and their status at the end of a six-year period of observation was determined. In the case of those who had died, an exhaustive search of death certificates and insurance records was carried out in order to determine as nearly as possible the exact cause of death. Mortality rates from lung cancer for the general population of the Province of Quebec and its various counties and for the Dominion of Canada, as well as the United States were calculated from statistics collected in the appropriate places. Comparisons of the rates obtained for asbestos workers and for the other population groups were made according to accepted statistical methods which have been explained in some detail in section IV.

Records were obtained on 6091 persons who fulfilled the criteria of our cohorts. It was not possible to trace 133 of these for the whole period, but 5771 of the remaining 5958 were found to be still living in 1955 or later. Of the 187 known dead, cancer of the lung was considered to have been reasonably proved in nine and to be strongly suggested in three.

The members of the cohorts were studied with respect to age, length of employment, a weighted average of their exposure, and their smoking habits. Four thousand, six hundred and seventy-three