A comparison has been made between the age-specific rates shown in Table 17, and those for the cohort, shown in Table 8. An average of the 1954 and 1955 rates for the Province has been used, since the 1955 figure was higher and may have been exceptional.

This comparison, summarized in Table 18, shows that the observed number of deaths in our sample is not significantly greater than the expected number of deaths, based on the average of the 1954 and 1955 figures for the Province. It is true that, in the case of the age group of 65 and over, the five deaths provide a figure which is almost significant at the 95% level. However, it should be noted that this number includes one of the suspected but unproved cases previously referred to. Furthermore, it is rather likely that the rate for the general population is understated in this age group, for the obvious reason that the exact cause of death in the very old is not a matter of the same intensity of interest as it is in younger persons.

TABLE 18

Comparison of the Actual and Expected Number of Lung Cancer Deaths by Age Among Asbestos Miners

Age Group	Province Total Specified Primary Rate per 100,000	No. of Miners	Expected† No. of Deaths	Observed No. of Deaths: Proved	Observed No. of Deaths: Total
20-44	1.8	3901	0*	1	1
45-54	24.5	1124	2	1	3
55-64	67.6	615	2	3	3
65+	89.3	315	2	4	5
Unknown	--	3	-	0	0

* Actually .4

† The expected number is based on the average of the 1954 and 1955 age-specific rates for the Province of Quebec.