TABLE 17.—*Lung Cancer Deaths for the Province of Quebec* *

Number of Deaths

Age Group	Estimated † Population	1954				1955			
		Total Certified		Specified Primary		Total Certified		Specified Primary	
		Total	Proved	Total	Proved	Total	Proved	Total	Proved
20–44	777,000	17	13	11	9	17	9	17	9
45–54	202,000	67	36	43	29	60	35	56	32
55–64	137,000	100	38	69	32	117	57	116	57
65+	121,000	111	33	68	29	148	54	148	54
Totals	1,237,000	295	120	191	99	342	155	337	152

Death Rates per 100,000

Age Group	1954				1955			
	Total Certified		Specified Primary		Total Certified		Specified Primary	
	Total	Proved	Total	Proved	Total	Proved	Total	Proved
20–44	2.2	1.7	1.4	1.2	2.2	1.2	2.2	1.2
45–54	33.2	17.8	21.3	14.4	29.7	17.3	27.7	15.8
55–64	73.0	27.7	50.4	23.4	85.4	41.6	84.7	41.6
65+	91.7	27.3	56.2	24.0	122.3	44.6	122.3	44.6
Over-all	23.8	9.7	15.4	8.0	27.6	12.5	27.2	12.3

* Data from death certificates.
† Estimate for population obtained by applying 1951 percentages for age groups for males to the total population for 1954, as given in Rapport, Div. de la Demographie.

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.

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

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	Total
20–44	1.8	3,901	0 †	1	1
45–54	24.5	1,124	2	1	3
55–64	67.6	615	2	3	3
65+	89.3	315	2	4	5
Unknown	..	3	..	0	0

* The expected number is based on the average of the 1954 and 1955 age-specific rates for the Province of Quebec.
† Actually 0.4.

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