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TABLE 22.—*Number of Lung Cancer Deaths and Rate per 100,000 Man-Years*

Counties	Adult Male Population 1952	Male Lung Cancer Deaths*							
		1950	1951	1953	1953	1954	1955	Total	Rate per 100,000
Megantic County	12,100	0	1	3	3	1	4	12	16.9
Eight "Adjacent" Counties	97,700	6	3	9	16	1	16	51	9.4
Eight Selected Counties	83,000	2	10	4	16	5	9	46	9.8
Province of Quebec	1,100,000	196	220	215	208	204	237	1021	22.6
Province of Quebec less eight "adjacent" counties	1,100,000	190	217	206	192	200	241	1370	22.6
Montreal et Isle de Jesus	304,000	3	7	158	192	165	225	770	42.3

* It is assumed that all male lung cancer deaths occurred after age 20.

immediately surrounding the asbestos-producing areas is practically identical with that of eight counties selected for comparison. While Megantic County has a rate nearly twice that of the combined eight selected counties, it is lower than the rate for the Province, and considerably lower than the rate for Montreal. The figure for Montreal would certainly be higher except for the very low numbers of deaths reported for 1950 and 1951, and it would appear that in those years some error in reporting has undoubtedly been made. On the basis of the other years, 1950 and 1951 deaths would be expected to be about 200 greater. This would result in a rate of 40 per 100,000.

The only possible conclusion from this comparison is that there is no evidence that the persons who live and work in the counties surrounding and adjacent to the asbestos-producing areas have any greater incidence of lung cancer than those who live elsewhere in the Province.

Comment on All Recorded Lung Cancer Cases, Living and Dead, among the Asbestos Miners.—Although a simple enumeration of all the known or suspected cases of cancer of the lung in these areas has no particular value from a statistical point of view, it is of interest to summarize such cases for the record. There were nine deaths prior to the beginning of the time period covered by the study, including one in which the diagnosis was mediastinal lymphosarcoma. During the period covered by this investigation, there were nine proved cases and three suspected cases in the cohort. Through 1956 and to date in 1957, there were eight deaths, six of which were merely suggestive of cancer of the lung and included such diagnoses as mediastinal lymphosarcoma, mesothelioma, cancer of the leg with metastases to lung, abscess of lung, and cancer of the pancreas. One other was diagnosed on the basis of x-ray only. In addition, there are now living four cases in which the diagnostic evidence is strongly suggestive of lung cancer. This is a total of 33 cases of all types, including 10 "suspected" but unproved cases, and 4 that are still living. The remaining 19 constitute the total of proved cases of cancer of the lung among the asbestos miners since 1940.

The proved cases averaged 59 years of age at death, and varied between 37 years and 68 years. Their working span covered periods varying from a minimum of 14 years to a maximum of 37 years. Only three men had less than 25 years of employment in the industry. Seven among those on whom such information is available had a weighted exposure placing them in Category III, and six worked in an exposure represented by Category I.

There were only 17 among these proved lung cancer cases in which we have information regarding the presence of asbestosis. Asbestosis was present in nine, although it was minimal in two. Two pathologists disagreed regarding its presence in another. At least seven of the 19 proved lung cancers, therefore, were not accompanied by asbestosis.

Summary and Conclusions

Interest in the question of whether there may be an association between lung cancer