

Returning to a comparison between the asbestos miners and persons who are exposed to asbestos in one form or another (as distinguished from the general population groups just discussed, who have no exposure) an interesting observation can be developed by deduction. Hueper ⁽¹²²⁾ has stated that there are about 35,000 persons exposed in the United States, and we have found that the Canadian mines employ about 8,000. Elsewhere, it has been estimated that the workers in England who have exposure total between 3,000 and 5,000. With workers in Africa, Denmark, Norway, and other countries, at least 50,000 persons must be exposed throughout the world, and it can be assumed that this number has been fairly constant in the 20 years since 1935 when the first case of asbestosis with lung cancer was reported. At least a million man-years of exposure has thus been accumulated, and this figure can be divided by the approximately 150 cases of lung cancer with asbestosis reported during the 20-year period. This gives a rate of 15 per 100,000 which is at least indicative that any lung cancer rate which can be calculated for workers exposed to asbestos dust is not much greater than that for the unexposed persons.