

als, along with a control group of three plants producing cotton textiles, with the employees of the producer of asbestos friction materials merged with the employees of the nine producers of asbestos textiles. This report presents data separately for workers in 15 asbestos building products plants, 11 asbestos friction material plants, 9 asbestos textile products plants, and 3 cotton textile plants.

The 35 asbestos products producers whose workers were studied were selected from a list of 100 employers classified as manufacturers of asbestos products in the 1959 edition of *County Business Patterns*.¹¹ The asbestos products plants chosen were those which, it was believed, had most of their workers in production, as opposed to sales or other services, which had a sizeable work force, and for which it was believed some information could be obtained on asbestos-dust levels. It was hoped that past dust levels in these plants could be associated with mortality data. Unfortunately, historical data regarding dust levels proved to be inadequate and this part of the project was abandoned. It is believed, however, that the general levels of asbestos-dust exposure vary considerably among the four groups of plants, ranging from no exposures in the cotton textile plants to heavy exposures in the asbestos textile plants. Exposures varied considerably within plants and many of the

workers studied were in areas or engaged in activities where exposures were almost nonexistent. The general impression gained from surveying some of these plants is that asbestos dust is less in building products plants than in friction materials plants, and both of these are considerably less dusty than asbestos textile products plants (Craley, L., communication, 1966). It seems likely that these relative levels of dust exposure probably existed for some time.

Observations regarding the levels of asbestos dust in the three groups of asbestos products plants studied are borne out by data shown in Table 1. During the period ending June 30, 1963 the cohort of 21,755 asbestos products workers produced a total of 63 persons who died with asbestosis either as an underlying cause of death or as a contributory cause of death. As Table 1 shows, deaths with asbestosis mentioned varied considerably among the three industries, ranging from less than 1 per 1,000 persons studied in the asbestos building products industry to 13 per 1,000 persons studied in the asbestos textile industry. There were no deaths with asbestosis mentioned among cotton textile workers. Of the 19 death certificates with asbestos listed as a contributory cause, seven gave cancer of the lung as the underlying cause of death.

Data shown in Table 1 confirm more subjective impressions regarding general level

Table 1.—Number of White Males, Aged 15 to 64, Who Worked in Selected US Asbestos and Cotton Textile Plants at Some Time During 1948-1951

		By Age and Type of Product			
		Type of Product			
		Asbestos			Cotton:
	Age in 1950	Building Products	Friction Materials	Textile Products	Textile Products
Total	15-64	12,402	7,510	1,843	6,281
	15-24	2,770	1,402	316	1,448
	25-34	4,572	2,489	593	1,709
	35-44	2,807	1,845	524	1,566
	45-54	1,480	1,053	274	985
	55-64	773	721	136	573

By Deaths at Ages Under 65 With Asbestosis Mentioned, as of June 30, 1963					
		Deaths		Asbestosis Listed As	
Industry	No. of Workers	With Asbestosis Mentioned	Per 1,000 Workers	Underlying	Contributory
Asbestos building products	12,402	10	0.81	8	2
Asbestos friction materials	7,510	29	3.86	21	8
Asbestos textile products	1,843	24	13.02	15	9