

level, with an indicator of the work-week adjustment; second, each man's work history was recorded annually from the year in which he started to the year in which he finished, thus reducing the maximum number of years from 82 to 59; and thirdly, the format was changed slightly. With these changes, the complete file was reduced in size by over one-quarter, but remained enormous (5.9 Megabytes)."

Despite these manipulations, the QAMA-McGill researchers themselves cast doubt on the reliability of the exposure estimates for pneumoconiosis and mesothelioma. "Pneumoconiosis death rates per 100,000 subject-years were clearly associated with exposure at the two main places of employment, but the exclusions from this table [early deaths: 12 from pneumoconiosis and 1 from mesothelioma] may have distorted these associations, and certainly make comparison between the Asbestos mine and mill and Company 3 particularly difficult. There is little sign of corresponding associations with mesothelioma." [Emphasis added] (Liddell et al. 1997b)