

TABLE 11
PREVALENCE OF RADIOGRAPHIC ABNORMALITIES BY YEAR OF ONSET OF EXPOSURE*

Year of Onset of Exposure	Total Examined	Small Opacities	Pleural† Thickening	Pleural† Calcification	One or more† Abnormalities
1941-1946	434	79 (18%)	98 (23%)	46 (11%)	172 (40%)
1946-1950	113	19 (17%)	21 (19%)	5 (4%)	38 (34%)
1950-1955	129	16 (12%)	9 (7%)	3 (2%)	29 (22%)
Total	676*	114 (17%)	128 (19%)	54 (8%)	239 (35%)

*Three individuals with uncertain year of onset excluded.

†Prevalence of abnormality greater among those with earlier onset of exposure. ($p < .01$).

for the pleural abnormalities. Statistical significance was not reached for a similar increase in combined small opacities.

The relationship of the household contact to the worker was also important (TABLE 12). Wives had the highest prevalence of abnormalities (48%) and daughters had the lowest (21%). Mean duration of exposure was the same for all relationship categories. The prevalence of abnormalities was statistically significantly lower among the daughters when compared to the other exposure groups.

With only a few exceptions, household contact clinic participants were unaware that they had any asbestos-associated disease. The prevalence of other disease processes was unrelated to asbestos exposure (arthritis, diabetes, hypertension, gout, etc.). The household contacts considered themselves to be in good health; the clinical examinations generally confirmed this.

Current symptoms and clinical findings detected among the household contacts examined are summarized in TABLE 13. Rhonchi were the most common physical findings, not significantly associated with the prevalence of any type of radiographic abnormality. On the other hand, dyspnea, rales, cyanosis and clubbing were significantly more prevalent among those with small opacities and/or pleural abnormalities on their x-rays.

TABLE 12
PREVALENCE OF RADIOGRAPHIC ABNORMALITIES BY HOUSEHOLD CONTACT'S RELATIONSHIP TO INDEX WORKER

Relationship	Total Examined	Small Opacities	Pleural Abnormality	Parenchymal and/or Pleural	Mean Duration of Exposure
Wives	162	40 (25%)	58 (36%)	77 (48%)	2.2 ± 2.4 yrs.
Daughter	224	15 (7%)	34 (15%)	46 (21%)*	2.4 ± 2.6 yrs.
Sons	151	31 (21%)	47 (31%)	63 (42%)	2.3 ± 2.8 yrs.
Siblings	81	15 (19%)	22 (27%)	30 (37%)	2.1 ± 2.1 yrs.
Others	61	12 (21%)	17 (28%)	23 (38%)	3.6 ± 3.3 yrs.
Total	679	129 (19%)	178 (26%)	239 (35%)	

*Prevalence of radiographic abnormalities significantly higher among sons than daughters.
 $\chi^2 = 19.6$ $p < .001$.