

In one of these cases, the suspicion of cancer of the lung is based upon the x-ray interpretation and, although no autopsy was performed, the death certificate indicates that death was due to lung cancer. It is well known that the x-ray appearance of fibrosis, especially if a localized density or a superimposed tuberculous lesion is present, can simulate that of a tumor, and by itself, does not justify the inclusion of this case as one of "proved" cancer of the lung. A second case was certified as having died by reason of hydrothorax, possibly due to lung cancer, but again there was no surgery and no post-mortem examination. In the third case, although it was subjected to autopsy, two pathologists disagreed as to whether lung cancer was present. The death was certified as having been due to chronic myocarditis with nephritis and pulmonary congestion, and possibly cancer of the lung. On the basis of these facts, it seems unwarranted to include these three cases among "proved" instances of lung cancer. On the other hand, they cannot, in fairness, be disregarded completely. It is for this reason that mortality rates have been calculated both ways.

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Table 8 gives the rates by age groups.