



Cancer Rates in Southeast and North Portland Residents

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In response to high environmental levels of heavy metals (e.g., cadmium, arsenic) found in areas of Southeast and North Portland, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) analyzed cancer rates in the affected areas. Results are summarized below.

Southeast Portland

- Available environmental data were used to identify geographic areas of most concern for exposures to cadmium and arsenic in Southeast Portland.
- Using this information, the Oregon State Cancer Registry (OSCaR) analyzed cancer rates for the Census tracts near Bullseye Glass with the highest reported environmental levels of cadmium and arsenic.
- These analyses focused on lung and bladder cancers, the two cancers tracked by public health that are most strongly associated with exposures to cadmium and arsenic.
- Initial results showed that rates for these cancers were no higher than expected for these areas during 2009 to 2013.
- The full report on these cancer analyses is available here:
<http://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/ChronicDisease/Cancer/oscar/Documents/se-portland-cadmium-arsenic-report-2009-2013.pdf>.

North Portland

- Similar analyses were done in the areas of inner North Portland with the highest reported environmental levels of cadmium.
- Initial results showed that rates for lung and bladder cancer were no higher than expected for these areas during 2009 to 2013.
- The full report for these cancer analyses is available here:
<http://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/ChronicDisease/Cancer/oscar/Documents/n-portland-cadmium-arsenic-report-2009-2013.pdf>.

Additional analyses

- Further analyses of lung and bladder cancer rates in these neighborhoods dating back to 1999 have also been completed and are available here:
<http://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/ChronicDisease/Cancer/oscar/Documents/se-and-n-portland-cancer-rate-report-1999-2013.pdf>