

Title \*

Jefferson Parish, Louisiana: A follow-up of America's largest current mesothelioma epidemic.

Abstract \*

At **Inhaled Particles X** in 2008 we reported 22 mesothelioma cases (ten female) in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana (<http://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1742-6596/151/1/012008/pdf>). Environmental exposure to Johns-Manville crocidolite-containing scrap had been used on 1500 properties later remediated by EPA. In September of 2014 NIOSH updated data for US counties, finding that over the most recent ten years the age-adjusted rate remained 32 per million adult population, age adjusted. Jefferson Parish remains 12th in the nation for mesothelioma death rate, and is the highest among the top fifty counties in terms of absolute deaths (118 over ten years). This is one order of magnitude greater than Lincoln County, Montana, where Libby is located and over \$50 million has been spent on remediation and research. The female proportion remains the highest in the nation at 36%. Over the last decade we reviewed some 50 additional new cases. Exposure information is from deposition testimony and lung burden study; over half of new cases had JM scrap on or near their properties during childhood years. Additional exposures were derived from proximity to the cement pipe plant during operations, domestic exposures, and occupational exposures. I report on these new cases with summaries of exposure data and an approach to causation analysis which emphasizes time from first exposure and exposure to commercial amphiboles. Exposure continues due to poor site remediation. This worst US mesothelioma epidemic mirrors similar clusters around crocidolite-using cement pipe plants worldwide. It continues to receive little attention from government or academia, and underlines the importance of legacy exposures.

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