

Building the Business Case for Cancer Prevention:

The Economic Burden of Occupational Cancer in Alberta

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Why the "Burden" of Occupational Disease?

- Inherent difficulties with latency, awareness and recognition
- Very useful information as dollar figures attract the attention of employers by helping to define the issue
- Provide guidance to decision makers on how to best utilize limited resources by identifying the major conditions that result in the largest burden



The Economic Burden of Occupational Cancer in Alberta Project and Study







Presentation Outline

- Study team and project history
- Study's definition of occupational cancer
- Our model
- Study approach
- Number of occupational cancers
- Costs of occupational cancers
- Recommendations
- Leveraging findings: Building the business case



Study Team

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Acknowledgement

- To the Cancer Surveillance team, Surveillance and Health Status Assessment, Population and Public Health-Alberta Health Services
- Provided the data on aggregate cancer statistics for 2002–2006, obtained from the Alberta Cancer Registry



Project History

- Was an initiative included in a provincial strategy to prevent occupational cancer
- Study commenced in Dec. 2008 with original scheduled completion date of July 2009
- Human and financial resources, along with time available, were considered key factors in study design



Joint Initiative: AHS & AEI

- AHS (Cancer Bureau) and Alberta Employment and Immigration (AEI) were partners in developing an Occupational Cancer Prevention Strategy.
- Other stakeholders include:
 - Alberta Health & Wellness
 - Alberta Environment
 - Employers and Workers
 - Industry, Labour and Professional Associations
 - Educational Institutions



Strategic Goals

- The study's objectives align with the AHS goal of effective and efficient delivery of programs to keep Albertans healthy, in the areas of chronic disease and injury prevention.
- Also supported the Environment Carcinogens Program's 2008-2011 strategic plan of reducing and eliminating exposure to environmental and occupational carcinogens.



Study Objective

 Fill existing information gaps by providing an estimate of the burden of occupational cancers in Alberta, including both the numbers of workplace-related cancers and their associated economic costs.

This and similar types of information were consider by the AHS project team as crucial to securing ongoing support of our initiatives

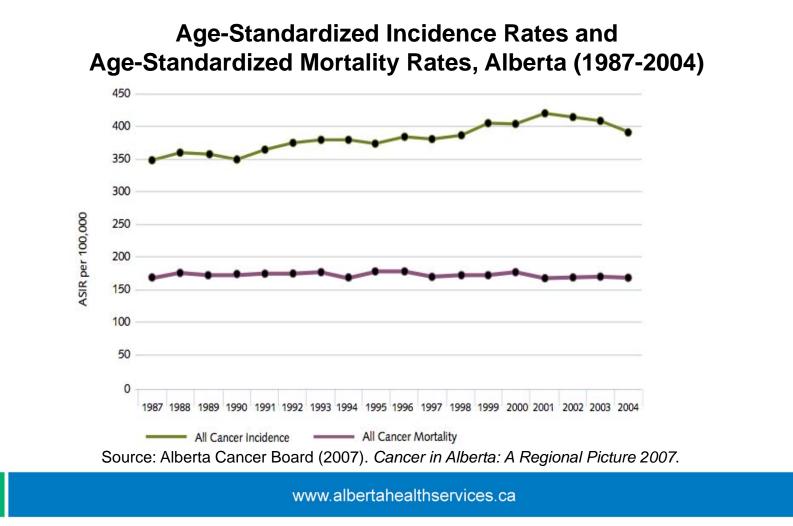


Specific Project Objectives

- To estimate the current number of occupational cancers in Alberta
- To estimate the direct and indirect costs associated with these cancers
- To identify recommendations for the development of a comprehensive occupational cancer prevention strategy for Alberta
- Present a framework that will allow AHS to better understand the business case (costs and benefits) of occupational cancer prevention and leverage findings to assist with implementing future prevention strategies



Cancer in Alberta

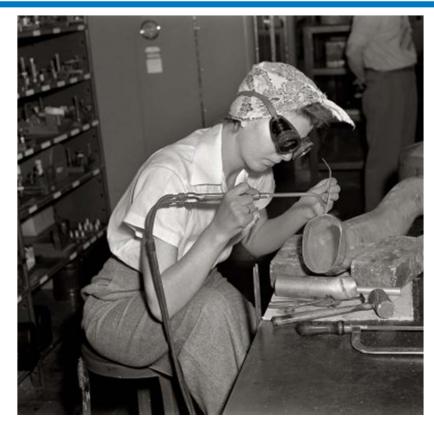




Quick Occupational Cancer Overview



What is Occupational Cancer?



"Cancer cases that would be eliminated if exposure to carcinogens in the workplace were completely removed"



International Agency for

Research on Cancer (IARC) Classification

Group	Definition
1	Carcinogenic to humans; Sufficient evidence in humans
2A	Probably carcinogenic to humans; Limited evidence in humans and sufficient evidence in experimental animals
2B	Possibly carcinogenic to humans; Limited evidence in humans and insufficient evidence in animals or inadequate evidence in humans and sufficient evidence in experimental animals
3	Not classifiable as to carcinogenicity to humans; Inadequate or unavailable evidence in humans and inadequate or limited evidence in animals
4	Probably not carcinogenic to humans



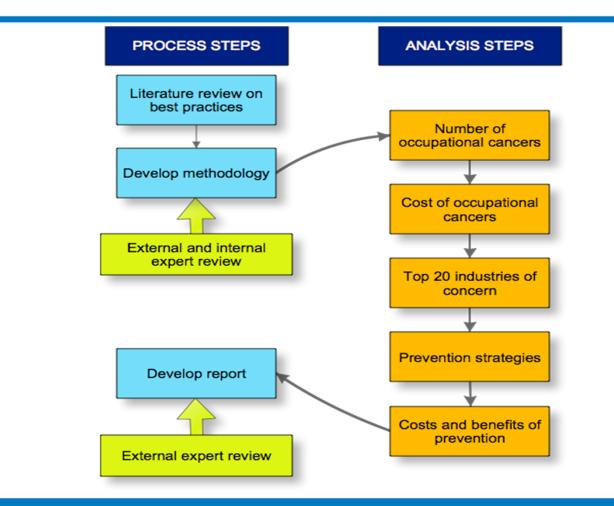
Study Approach



Bladder	Melanoma
Bone	Mesothelioma
Larynx	Nose / nasal sinuses
Leukemia	Non-melanoma skin
Liver	
Lung	

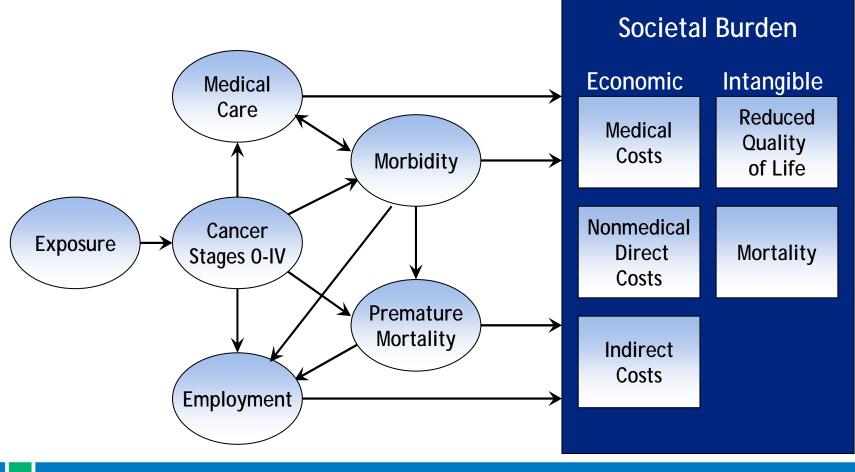


Study Approach





Conceptual Framework





Excel-Based Model

Cost of Occupational Cancers in Alberta

for the Alberta Cancer Board (ACB)

Run Scenario	
View Results	



Excel-Based Model

Model purpose

- Repository for data collected from literature/analysis
- Equations and linkages document model logic Model capabilities
- Estimate current cancer burden
- Easy to update/maintain
- Platform for adding additional cancers
- Platform for developing the business case for intervention



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			2	Auramine, manufacture of	2	30-39		2	Female	digit 2	industry
	4	A	3	Boot and shoe manufacture and repair	3	40-49				digit 3	sex
	- 7	в	4	Coal gasification	4	50-54		Bace <i>l</i> ethnicity		digit 4	age
	5	NOT	5	Coke production	5	55-59		1	Race1		
	6	в	6	Furniture and cabinet making	6	60-64		2	Race2	3 d	ligit Key
	7	в	7	Hematite mining (underground) with exposure to ra	7	65-69		3	Race3	digit 1	cancer
uteri	8	NOT	8	Iron and steel founding	8	70+		4	Race4	digit 2	sex
jus	9	в	9	Isopropanol manufacture (strong-acid process)						digit 3	age
der	10	NOT	10	Magenta, manufacture of				Years			
's disease	11	NOT	11	Painter				Start Year		2-A	digit Key
	12	в	12	Rubber industry				End Year		digit 1	sex
	13	A	13	Strong-inorganic-acid mists containing sulfuric ac	id			Current Year	2008	digit 2	age
a	14	A	14	Hairdresser or barber				Reference Year	2006		
	15	A	15	Manufacture of art glass, glass containers, and pressed glassware Assumptions			2-B	digit Key			
	16	A	16	Spraying and application of non-arsenical insectic	des			Discount Rate	5%	digit 1	industry
na	17	A	17	Petroleum refining				Discount Not Vorking	75%	digit 2	sex
elioma	18	A	18	Textile manufacturing industry				Vork Veeks/Yr	48		
dgkin lymphoma	19	в	19	Carpentry and joinery				Vork Days/Yr	240		
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	TABLE 1.				TABLE 2.								TABLE 3.
	Cancer cases ar	able occupa	tional risk	s in 2008 by tumo:	r Costs attributable	occupational	risks in	2008 by tu	lmor site				Indirect costs attribut
	Cancer Site	Attributed disability cases	Attributed early mortality cases	Attributed lost work days due to absenteeism per year	Cancer Site	Total annua attributable cost	Attrib		al cost (\$) and (%) in the toal	Attributed i cost (\$) a proportion (toal	nd its %) in the		Cancer Site
3	Bone	1	2	73	Bone	\$ 98	9 5	23	2%	\$ 966	98%		Bone
13	Larynz	6	3	339	Larynx	5 97	4 S	215	22%	\$ 758	78%		Larynz
14	Leukemia	18	12	2,410	Leukemia	5 3,71	5 5	496	13%	\$ 3,219	87%		Leukemia
15	Liver	4	8	242	Liver	5 2,44	7 \$	100	4%	\$ 2,347	96%		Liver
16	Lung	99	91	6,713	Lung	5 21,48	2 \$	2,971	14%	\$ 18,511	86%		Lung
17	Melanoma	10	5	516	Melanoma	5 2,09	2 5	147	7%	\$ 1,945	93%		Melanoma
18	Mesothelioma	5	3	888	Mesothelioma	5 84	3 5	293	35%	\$ 554	65%		Mesothelioma
20	Nose and nasal sinuses	1	0	119	Nose and nasal sinuses	5 8	3 \$	41	47%	S 47	53%		Nose and nasal sinuses
27	Skin (NMSC)	53	2	1,455	Skin (NMSC)	\$ 4,62	9 5	3,354	72%	\$ 1,276	28%		Skin (NMSC)
	SUBTOTAL	217	137	14,211	SUBTOTAL	\$ 39,81	5\$	8,148	20%	\$ 31,667	80%		SUBTOTAL
	Group B - Cane	occupation	al esposure		Group B - Cancers wi	th a suspected l	ink to occ	upational e	xposure				Group B - Cancers wit
4	Brain	6	11	812	Brain	\$ 5,70	6 5	355	6%	\$ 5,351	94%		Brain
6	Cerviz	14	1	434	Cervix	5 62		195	31%	\$ 430	69%		Cerviz
7	Colon	13	25	1,009	Colon	5 5,39	7 5	414	8%	5 4,984	92%		Colon
9	Esophagus	3	9	276	Esophagus	5 2,35	_	119	5%	5 2,239	95%		Esophagus
12	Kidney	11	9	389	Kidney	5 2,44	6 5	163	7%	\$ 2,283	93%		Kidney
19	Non-Hodgkin Iymphoma	62	14	4,529	Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	\$ 6,98	95	2,240	32%	\$ 4,749	68%		Non-Hodgkin Iymphoma
21	Oral Cavity	1	6	157	Oral Cavity	5 1,72	0 5	29	2%	5 1,692	98%		Oral Cavity
22	Ovary	4	2	279	Ovary	5 48) S	120	25%	\$ 360	75%		Ovary
23	Pancreas	8	18	786	Pancreas	\$ 4,00	8 5	253	6%	\$ 3,755	94%		Pancreas
24	Pharynz	0	3	51	Pharynx	5 1,03	7 S	14	1%	\$ 1,024	99%		Pharynz
26	Rectum	3	11	260	Rectum	\$ 2,26	1 5	101	4%	\$ 2,160	96%		Rectum
+	Main Key	(Output_e	q / Sensit	ivity Summary	Sum_cancer / Inc	& Prev / Pre	valence	/ Incidenc	e / Pop / ALB	top indus / A	F0716	4	



Estimating Numbers of Occupational Cancers



Estimating

Numbers of Occupational Cancers

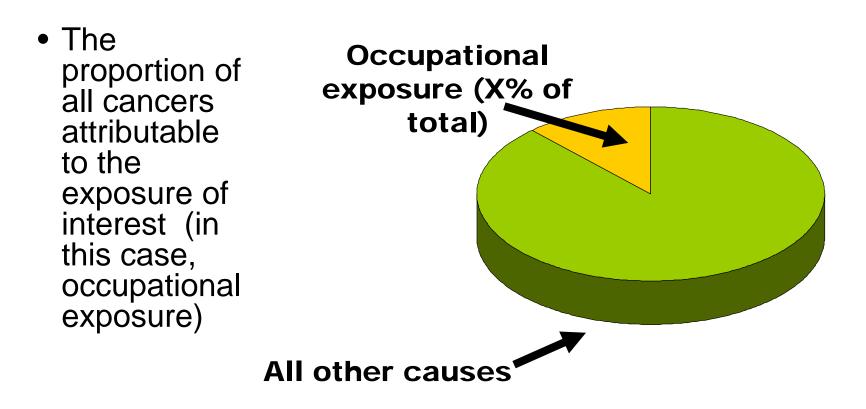
Two possible methodologies

- Measure or estimate exposure in Alberta workers.
- Calculate numbers of occ. cancers based on RR associated with exposure.

Apply existing "attributable fractions" to Alberta cancer estimates.



Attributable Fractions





Methodology Overview

Calculating the Numbers of Occupational Cancers

- 1. Systematic review of the literature to identify Attributable Fractions for each cancer site
- 2. Categorize cancers by strength of evidence
- 3. Identify "best" values for Alberta
- 4. Apply AFs to local cancer data



Step # 1 Systematic Review of the Literature

Comprehensively identify original research that provided AFs for occupational cancers, the research team conducted a systematic literature search in April and May of 2009.

The literature search was initially conducted using PubMed and Google Scholar to identify articles (peer-reviewed journal articles, official reports or grey literature) based on the following search strategy. The research team searched for all variants on the following three sets of terms:

- 1. cancer or neoplasm
- 2. work, workplace or occupation
- 3. attributable fraction, attributable risk, PAR or etiologic fraction

Reference lists of relevant publications were hand-searched to identify additional related material. All materials with published information on methods were initially considered for review, and were not restricted by language or location. Studies were limited to those published since 1989 and for reasons described in Step 2 below.

The PubMed search, last repeated on July 12, 2009, turned up an initial 401 articles for consideration.



Step # 2 Occupational Cancer Groupings

- Group A: Cancers with a strong link to occupational exposures
- Group B: Cancers with a suspected link to occupational exposure
- Cancers associated with elevated risk in some occupations

Note: Only Group A & B cancers used for further analysis



Step # 3 Averaged Attributable Fractions

	Aver	age	Low		High		
	М	W	М	W	М	W	
Bladder	11.0%	3.5%	1.2%	0.4%	27.0%	19.0%	
Bone	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	
Larynx	8.6%	0.5%	1.0%	0.5%	20.0%	0.5%	
Leukemia	5.1%	6.3%	1.8%	0.5%	18.5%	3.0%	
Liver	2.1%	5.3%	0.0%	5.3%	3.5%	5.3%	
Lung	15.9%	3.2%	6.0%	1.0%	33.0%	5.5%	
Melanoma	4.3%	0.4%	4.3%	0.4%	4.3%	0.4%	
Mesothelioma	89.6%	42.1%	83.0%	1.0%	98.0%	90.0%	
Nose / nasal sinuses	43.1%	9.0%	24.0%	2.0%	64.3%	18.4%	
Skin (NMSC)	9.5%	3.4%	1.2%	3.0%	13.1%	3.8%	
All cancer deaths	9.8%	1.3%	3.3%	0.1%	13.8%	2.2%	



Step # 4 Example of how occupational cancer

numbers were generated (bladder cancer example)

	Average	Low	High		
Number of bladder cancers in men in Alberta per year	206.2	206.2	206.2		
x AF for bladder cancer in men	11.0 %	1.2 %	27.0 %		
= Subtotal (Men)	22.7	2.5	55.7		
Number of bladder cancers in women in Alberta per year	67.8	67.8	67.8		
x AF for bladder cancer in women	3.5%	0.4%	19.0%		
= Subtotal (women)	2.4	0.3	12.9		
Total	25.1	2.7	68.6		
www.albertahealthservices.ca					



Occupational Cancers: Results

	AVERAGE estimate	LOW estimate	HIGH estimate
ANNUAL INCIDENCE			
Cancers with a strong link to occupational exposure	626.4	217.1	996.6
Cancers with a <i>strong</i> or <i>suspected</i> link to occupational exposure	761.0	313.6	1283.0
All cancers	858	351	1,520
All cancer deaths	262.7	81.5	377.6



Occupational Cancers: Results

5-YEAR PREVALENCE	Average	Low	High
Cancers with a <i>strong</i> link to occupational exposure	2358.5	786.6	3614.0
Cancers with a <i>strong</i> or <i>suspected</i> link to occupational exposure	2733.5	1055.1	4457.1
All cancers (including NMSC)	3045.3	1083.6	5432.9
All cancers (not including NMSC)	1282.3	509.7	3123.4



Estimating Costs of Occupational Cancers



Estimating Costs of Occupational Cancers

Overview

- -Cost per case
 - Methods
 - Results
- -Total costs
 - Methods
 - Results



Cancer Cost Components

	Hospitalizations
	Physician visits
	Home health care
Medical Costs	Hospice
	Pharmaceutical agents
Direct Costs	Chemotherapy
	Radiation
	Equipment and medical devices
	Transportation to hospital or physician's office
Nonmedical	Housekeeping services
Costs	Costs of moving
	Alterations to property
	Time spent seeking medical care
Indirect Costs	Time lost from work/lost productivity
	Economic productivity lost due to premature death
	Caregiver time or changes in caregivers employment
	Pain
Intangible Costs /Lost QALYs	Suffering
	Grief
www.a	lbertahealthservices.ca



Methodology

Calculation of Direct Medical Costs

- Step 1. Obtain previously estimated Albertaspecific direct medical costs per cancer case from existing studies
- Step 2: Obtain and apply estimates of ratios between known Alberta-specific cancer cost per case and other occupational cancers.



Calculation of Direct Medical Costs

- Step 3. Multiply the number of attributable occupational cancer cases and estimated average cost per case to calculate the total medical cost of cancers attributable to workplace exposure.
- Step 4. Validate and benchmark cost estimates.



Annual Medical Cost per Cancer Case

		1 st approach for cost ratio: from 2002-06	2 nd approach for cost ratio: from literature	Sources for 2 nd	Cost ratio used in the	Estimated annual medical cost per case in
Group	Tumor Site	MEPS	review	approach	model	Alberta
	Bladder	0.46	0.35	AIHW 2005, Bosanquet 2004, Hertz 2005, Kim 2008	0.46	\$4,790
	Bone	1.00	0.68	AIHW 2005, Hertz 2005	1.00	\$10,520
	Larynx	1.10	0.42	AIHW 2005	1.10	\$11,477
	Leukemia	0.85	1.07	AIHW 2005, Bosanquet 2004, Hertz 2005, Kim 2008	0.85	\$8,898
	Liver	1.08	0.91	AIHW 2005, Kim 2008	1.08	\$11,364
Group A	Lung	1.00	1.00	AIHW 2005, Bosanquet 2004, Chang 2004, Hertz 2005, Kim 2008	1.00	\$10,480
	Melanoma	0.30	0.22	AIHW 2005, Bosanquet 2004, Hertz 2005, Kim 2008	0.30	\$3,136
	Mesothelioma	N/A	1.23	AIHW 2005, Bosanquet 2004, Chang 2004, Kim 2008	1.23	\$12,847
	Nose and nasal sinuses	N/A	0.60	Bosanquet 2004, Hertz 2005	0.60	\$6,327

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Indirect Costs (Including Reduced Productivity)

- Absenteeism—missed work days
 - Estimates from literature
- Presenteeism—reduced productivity while at work
 - Insufficient data to model this
- Disability
 - Inability to be gainfully employed (estimates from literature)
 - Working part time or under employed (insufficient data to model this)
- Early mortality
 - Modeled using Human Capital Approach
 - Alternative for comparison: Willingness-to-pay Approach



	_	_	Per capita			
	Per capita <u>total</u>	Per capita annual	annual			
	annual attributable	attributed <u>medical</u>	attributed			
Cancer Site	cost (\$)	cost (\$)	<u>indirect cost</u> (\$)			
Group A - cancers with a <i>strong</i> link to occupational exposure						
Bladder	\$24,110	\$4,790	\$19,320			
Bone	\$452,736	\$10,520	\$442,216			
Larynx	\$51,918	\$11,477	\$40,441			
Leukemia	\$66,679	\$8,898	\$57,781			
Liver	\$277,291	\$11,364	\$265,927			
Lung	\$75,765	\$10,480	\$65,285			
Melanoma	\$44,575	\$3,136	\$41,439			
Mesothelioma	\$37,135	\$12,847	\$24,288			
Nose and nasal sinuses	\$13,456	\$6,327	\$7,129			
Skin (NMSC)	\$2,719	\$1,970	\$749			
Group B - Cancers with a suspected link to occupational exposure						
Brain	\$221,707	\$13,790	\$207,917			
Cervix	\$16,401	\$5,119	\$11,282			
Colon	\$93,186	\$7,143	\$86,043			
Esophagus	\$284,981	\$14,407	\$270,574			
Kidney	\$118,954	\$7,943	\$111,012			
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	\$41,509	\$13,303	\$28,206			
Oral Cavity	\$239,555	\$3,989	\$235,565			
Ovary	\$43,745	\$10,955	\$32,790			
Pancreas	\$202,924	\$12,794	\$190,130			
Pharynx	\$497,598	\$6,532	\$491,066			
Rectum	\$151,418	\$6,746	\$144,671			
Stomach	\$111,972	\$8,608	\$103,364			

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Alberta Health Services The Economic Burden of Occupational Cancer in Alberta

The direct cost to the Alberta medical system is estimated to be approximately <u>\$15,682,000</u> per year.

In addition, indirect costs—resulting from loss of economic resources and reduced productivity—are estimated at approximately <u>\$64.1 million per year</u>.

Direct Costs + Indirect Costs: ~ **<u>\$ 80 million per year</u>**



Strategies for Occupational Cancer Prevention



Recommendations

Two areas:

- General recommendations
- Process recommendations



Study Recommendation Highlights

www.albei

Target level of the workplace rather than the worker

Effectiveness	Prevention Level	Prevention Target	Hierarchy of Controls
Most Effective	Primary	Control at the Source of Hazard	Elimination Substitution Use Reduction
	Primary	Controlling Dispersion	Engineering Controls (e.g., local exhaust ventilation, process enclosure)
			Exposure Assessment Administrative Controls (e.g., workplace policies and procedures)
	Primary	Primary Control at the Worker	Safe Work Practices Personal Protective Equipment
			Biological Monitoring for absorption of a toxicant
	Secondary	Control at the Worker	Pre-clinical medical exams/screening
			Biological monitoring for effects of absorbed toxicants
Least Effective	Tertiary	ry Control at the Worker	Diagnosis
			Therapy Rehabilitation



Study Recommendation Highlights

- Need to consider "who" and "how"
- Ascertaining the occupational history of cancer patients is also a key component in understanding workplace exposures



- Data on Alberta workplace exposure is critical but currently very limited
- Increased awareness for all occupational diseases is needed, including cancer
- Treatment/costing data also limited



Economic framework

- Allocate scarce public health resources to interventions with highest expected return on investment
- Optimally, continue allocating resources until benefits of last dollar spent = \$1.00

Business case must compare anticipated intervention costs and benefits (both financial and non-monetary)



Business Case

Intervention costs examples:

- Cost to government (budgeted)
- Total cost to society could include:
 - Cost to employers (e.g., to comply with mandate)
 - Cost to workers (e.g., wearing a filter mask can be uncomfortable)



Business Case

Intervention benefits

Three factors needed to estimate potential benefits:

- Economic burden, or cost of "doing nothing"
- Potential impact of intervention on exposure
- Potential impact of reduced exposure on cancer incidence
- Economic burden avoided per case prevented (Net present value of future costs)



Utilizing Study Findings

Our team has found study findings provide convincing evidence to justify program and project funding

Examples of Projects to Date:

- Recently completed an internal State of the Evidence report on Occupational Health Surveillance
- Exploratory review and analysis of usage and exposure to pesticides by golf course workers in AB
- Outdoor Workers Skin Cancer prevention strategy

Alberta Health Services Outdoor Workers Skin Cancer Prevention Project

Activity to Date

- The ECP has developed a comprehensive strategy targeting outdoor workers to reduce their exposure to solar ultraviolet radiation
- Identified Outdoor Workers as an at risk population and target setting

Developed foundational documents:

- Business Case:
 - Rates and Trends
 - Economic Burden
 - Why Outdoor Workers in Alberta
 - Prevention Best Practices



Why Outdoor Workers in Alberta?

- 27.4% of Albertans have a job that requires them to work outdoors:
 - 82% male, 18% female.
 - 44% are between 16 35 years of age; 83% are below 55 years.
- 96% spend ~ 30 minutes in the sun while at work
- 73% spend two hours or more in the sun while at work

Source: Second National Sun Survey 2006 (NSS2)



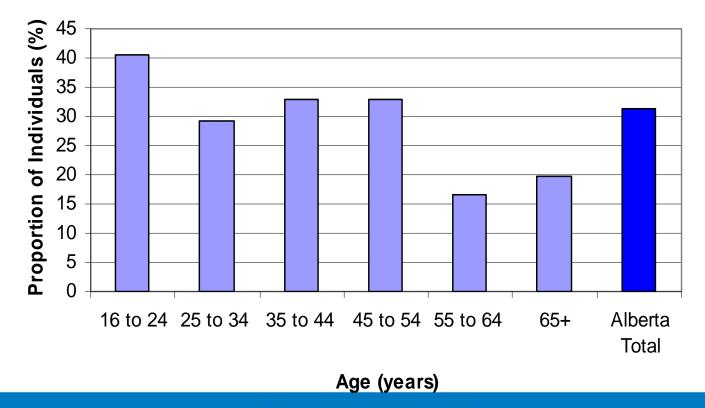
Why Outdoor Workers in Alberta?

- CAREX identified solar radiation as the number 1 workplace carcinogen for BC.
- Nature of the work environment for many outdoor occupations is a likely barrier for practicing UVR protective behaviors.
- Studies have shown a substantial number of workers who do not follow recommended UVR protection.



Outdoor Workers in Alberta

• Prevalence of outdoor workers by age reporting they always or often used **SUNSCREEN** on their face when in the sun for 30 minutes or more at work.



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- 1,703 cases of non-melanoma and 47 melanoma, new and prevalent skin cancers attributable to occupation in 2008.
- In 2008, the cost per case \$45,393 for melanoma and \$3,233 for non-melanoma.
- Assuming a 10% reduction of skin cancer among outdoor workers,
 - \$763,927 per year saved and ~ 175 cases of skin cancer averted.



OW Advisory Committee

- Alberta Health Services (ECP, WW, MOH)
- Alberta Employment & Immigration
- Lifesaving Society of AB/NWT
- Alberta Construction Safety Association
- UFA Cooperative Ltd.
- College and Association of Registered Nurses



Conclusions

- Burden of occupational cancer is significant!
- Best estimates: 761 new cancers per year, >2,700 prevalent cases
- May be as low as 217 / 786 or as high as 1,520 / 5,400



Conclusions

- Direct medical costs: \$15.7M/year
- Indirect costs: \$64.1M/year



Key Points to Remember

- Costs of cancer treatment & drugs are high and sharply rising - will be more expensive in the future
- Occupational cancer is preventable
- Clear need to increase our understanding of carcinogen exposures in Alberta workplaces



Presenter's Contact Information

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Steps to calculate Alberta-specific prevalence data using bladder cancer as example

Step	Description	Μ	F
1	2002–2006 new bladder cancer cases from the Alberta Cancer Registry	1,026	304
2	Divide 2002–2006 data by 5 to calculate annual new bladder cancer cases in 2004 and fill data gaps with Annual Reports	206	69
3	To estimate the five-year bladder cancer prevalent cases in 2008, use the average relative survival at five years after diagnosis for bladder cancer patients diagnosed between 2004 and 2008 and the number of incident cases for 2004 to provide a conservative estimate of the number of individuals with bladder cancer expected to be alive by the end of 2008	890	290
4	Convert bladder cancer prevalent cases into prevalent individuals in Alberta	863	283



Population Attributable Risk (PAR) approach

- The PAR is the proportion (often expressed as a percentage) of all cases of a particular condition that is due to a particular exposure (or group of exposures). By applying this proportion to the total number of a particular condition (the number of deaths from that condition due to that exposure can be estimated.
- The PAR is dependent only on the relative risk of developing the condition due to the exposure, and the proportion of the population that has that exposure.



$$AF = \frac{P(E)(RR - 1)}{1 + P(E)(RR - 1)}$$