

Lynn Lake Cancer Study Results

Background

In 2013, Lynn Lake residents expressed concerns there might be a higher number of cancer cases in the town of Lynn Lake, possibly due to potential exposure to mine tailings. CancerCare Manitoba, in partnership with Manitoba Health, Healthy Living, and Seniors and the Northern Regional Health Authority, investigated the concern by conducting a study examining the numbers of invasive cancer cases for Lynn Lake residents between 1985-2011.

How the cancer study was conducted

Specially trained staff compiled, reviewed and compared the invasive cancer rates in Lynn Lake from 1985-2011 to invasive cancer rates in the Burntwood Regional Health Authority (now part of the Northern Health region), and the province as a whole for that same period of time. The basis of the analysis was to explore any possible patterns or systemic causes regarding cancer rates in the community.

The information on cancer provided to the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer by Lynn Lake residents was reviewed by CancerCare Manitoba as part of the study process.

Study results

The study found:

- Invasive cancer rates in Lynn Lake were not any higher when compared to cancer rates from the former Burntwood region or for the rest of the province.
- For the past 26 years (1985-2011), the most commonly diagnosed types of cancers in Lynn Lake were breast, colorectal, lung and prostate.
 - The incidence of these cancers matches those being diagnosed in other areas of the province.
- This study did not find any groups or clusters of unusual cancer types or a more frequent diagnosis of a certain cancer type in Lynn Lake (cancer clusters can be an indicator of a potential environmental cause of invasive cancer).
- The results of this study confirm the findings of a similar study done in 2002 which examined cancer rates in Lynn Lake from 1969-1998.

Conclusion

A higher rate of cancers was not found in Lynn Lake. Study results show the rate of cancer in Lynn Lake compares to what the former Burntwood Regional Health Authority and the rest of the province of Manitoba are experiencing.

Lynn Lake Respiratory Health Information Study Results

Background

The human health risk assessment (HHRA) of mine tailings in 2002 predicted that breathing effects may occur for residents of Lynn Lake during dust storms in the area, which could increase the amount of particulate matter in the air. Due to this concern, a study was conducted to examine the burden of illness of lung conditions in Lynn Lake using 1993-2012 as the time period.

How the health information study was conducted

Statistical analysis of lung conditions of Lynn Lake residents was undertaken and compared with those living in the Northern Health region and the province of Manitoba overall for that same time period.

Study results

The results of the study showed that the number of lung conditions was lower for residents in Lynn Lake compared with either the Northern Health Region, or the Province of Manitoba as a whole for the same time period.