New York State Department of Health  
Bureau of Chronic Disease Epidemiology and Surveillance

**SUMMARY OF METHODS AND FINDINGS**  
**INVESTIGATION OF CANCER INCIDENCE IN THE BELLEVUE AREA, TOWN OF CHEEKTOWAGA, ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK, 1985-2001**

A study of the occurrence of newly diagnosed cancers in the Bellevue area of the Town of Cheektowaga, Erie County, was done as a refinement of a prior screening study (March 2002) of a much larger geographic area. These studies were done in response to citizen concerns over the possibility of health effects related to the presence of the Buffalo Crushed Stone quarry and three landfills in this area. The screening study was conducted for ZIP Code areas 14043 and 14227 for the time period 1994-1998, while the second study, designed in cooperation with local residents, was conducted in a smaller area centered on the Bellevue neighborhood for the longer time period 1985-2001.

**METHODS**

- The actual observed numbers of people diagnosed with cancer during the years of the study, by sex and type of cancer, were counted from the New York State Cancer Registry.

- The expected numbers of people diagnosed with cancer during the years of the study, by sex and type of cancer, were calculated based on the age and sex distribution of people living in the study area.

**FINDINGS**

- The total number of cancers diagnosed in males was similar to the number expected (186 cancers observed, 204 cancers expected).

  - Looking at specific types of cancer, there was no single cancer type that showed a difference between observed and expected numbers that was greater than the differences that frequently occur by chance.

- The total number of cancers diagnosed in females was similar to the number expected (189 cancers observed, 212 cancers expected).

  - Looking at specific types of cancer, there was no single cancer type that showed a difference between observed and expected numbers that was greater than the differences that frequently occur by chance. In particular, the actual number of cases of cancer of the uterus, which was diagnosed in excess in the screening study, was similar to the number expected.

**CONCLUSION**

This study provides no evidence of any unusual patterns of cancer incidence among people living in the Bellevue area. No further investigation is indicated at this time.

*For further information on the occurrence of cancer or for additional questions regarding this investigation, please contact Ms. Aura L. Weinstein, Cancer Surveillance Program, New York State Department of Health, at (518) 474-2354. 04/06*