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## Assessment of Cancer Incidence in Counties Adjacent to Oak Ridge Reservation

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### Historical Document

This Web site is provided by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) ONLY as an historical reference for the public health community. It is no longer being maintained and the data it contains may no longer be current and/or accurate.



### Assessment of Cancer Incidence

- [Current and Future Chemical Exposures Evaluation](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hac/PHA/OakRidgeReservationCancer/Assessment_of_Cancer_Incidence_final_HC_508.pdf)  
([http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hac/PHA/OakRidgeReservationCancer/Assessment\\_of\\_Cancer\\_Incidence\\_final\\_HC\\_508.pdf](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hac/PHA/OakRidgeReservationCancer/Assessment_of_Cancer_Incidence_final_HC_508.pdf))

Some area residents expressed concerns about a perceived increase in cancer in communities around the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Oak Ridge Reservation. To address these concerns, the Oak Ridge Reservation Health Effects Subcommittee requested that the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) conduct an assessment of cancer incidence ([http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hac/PHA/OakRidgeReservationCancer/Assessment\\_of\\_Cancer\\_Incidence\\_final\\_HC\\_508.pdf](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hac/PHA/OakRidgeReservationCancer/Assessment_of_Cancer_Incidence_final_HC_508.pdf)) [PDF, 623 KB] in these communities.

An assessment of cancer incidence evaluates the number of new cancer cases in a particular geographic area, such as a county, in a given time period. It provides information about the cancer rates in a community and is used to determine if any unusual pattern or higher frequency of a disease is occurring within the community relative to a reference population, usually the state.

ATSDR evaluated cancer incidence data over a 10-year period (1991–2000) for 42 different cancer types for each of the eight counties surrounding the Oak Ridge Reservation:

- Anderson
- Blount
- Knox
- Loudon
- Meigs
- Morgan
- Rhea
- Roane

The results indicated that there were both higher and lower rates of certain cancers in some of the counties examined when compared to Tennessee state cancer incidence rates, but no consistent pattern of cancer occurrence was identified.

## Additional Resources

- **Fact Sheet**  
([http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hac/PHA/OakRidgeReservationCancer/Assessment\\_of\\_Cancer\\_Incidence\\_factsheet\\_508.pdf](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hac/PHA/OakRidgeReservationCancer/Assessment_of_Cancer_Incidence_factsheet_508.pdf))  
[PDF, 1.3 MB]
- **Community Health Concerns**  
([http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hac/PHA/OakRidgeReservationCancer/Answers\\_to\\_Community\\_Health\\_Concerns\\_508.pdf](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hac/PHA/OakRidgeReservationCancer/Answers_to_Community_Health_Concerns_508.pdf))  
[PDF, 25 KB]

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