

er Hammond

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10/89 = 17%
15/94 = 15%

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49
50

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Asbestos Bodies in the New York City Population

ASBESTOS BODIES IN N.Y.C. 1966-1968

We are studying 3,000 consecutive autopsies (1966-1968) in 3 large N.Y.C. hospitals (Mount Sinai, Manhattan; Elmhurst, Queens; and the Veterans Administration Hospital in the Bronx). Concomitantly with the asbestos bodies studies, we are collecting much personal, clinical, pathological, residence and occupational information.

40% of housewives showed asbestos bodies, 50% of 'white collar' males (clerical and professional work), 50% of 'blue collar' males (manual work), except those 'blue collar' males who had any history, however brief, of ever having done shipyard or construction work (all trades—carpenters, electricians, plumbers, laborers, etc.)—they showed asbestos bodies in 70 of 129 cases or 70% (Table 5).

TABLE 4: DISTRIBUTION OF ASBESTOS BODIES IN GENERAL POPULATION—IN 1,975 CASES

Male				Female			
Age	Total Cases	Total +	% +	Age	Total Cases	Total +	% +
0-1	40	0	—	0-1	34	0	—
2-9	2	1	—	2-9	2	0	—
10-19	4	0	—	10-19	8	3	38%
20-29	22	4	18%	20-29	12	4	33%
30-39	50	14	28%	30-39	18	7	39%
40-49	178	83	47%	40-49	58	18	31%
50-59	280	149	53%	50-59	85	38	45%
60-69	359	205	57%	60-69	147	57	39%
70-79	321	180	56%	70-79	151	65	43%
80-89	105	62	59%	80-89	80	40	50%
90+	7	4	57%	90+	12	8	66%
Total	1,368	702	51%	Total	607	240	39%

We have analyzed the results in our first 1,975 cases (Table 4); asbestos bodies were found in 942 (47.7%). In 772, they were few in number (1-4); in 170, they were more numerous (5 or more).

Moreover, when housewives or white collar males were positive, they generally had few asbestos bodies; when men who had worked in the construction industry were positive, often many bodies were present (Table 6).

TABLE 5: ASBESTOS BODIES IN 856 AUTOPSIES IN NYC, CORRELATED WITH OCCUPATION

	Number Examined	Number with Asbestos Bodies	Percentage with Asbestos Bodies
Females	275	108	39%
Male 'white collar' employment	206	97	47%
Male 'blue collar' employment (no construction nor shipyard)	246	121	50%
Male—construction or shipyard employment	129	90	70%
Total	856	416	

We have so far completed the investigation of the lifetime occupational history of 856 cases. The data obtained suggests that asbestos bodies are not randomly distributed among the general population of N.Y.C.

In addition to variations with sex and age (Table 4), there was significant variation by occupational category. Broadly considered,

Parentetically, there is evidence that examination by smear tends to demonstrate highly positive cases more readily; smears are negative much more frequently when few bodies are seen in the sections (Table 3).

These data warrant the following tentative conclusions:

First, that while asbestos bodies are