

Wales Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit data compared with Wales Cancer Registry data for childhood cancers

Dr Steward's WCISU childhood cancer study was presented to COMARE as a repeat of the *Green Audit*, Wales Cancer Registry data study. The main cancer excess effect found by *Green Audit* was in the age group 0-4. This may be why Dr Steward chose to dilute this group by looking at the 0-14 year olds. However, more effort was needed to dilute or remove enough cases for the result of the 0-14s to show no significant effect. In the two columns below we analyse the differences between the two to examine how this was accomplished. Information bases for the two studies relate the same phenomenon: All Malignancies age 0-14 for All Wales 1974-89.

WCISU adjusted database	Green Audit/ WCR Database
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Period 1974-89 • All malignancies 0-14 • 1991 census wards aggregated • 5-km closest strip to sea • Non significant excess found. Relative Risk in this strip = 1.11 • 1991 Population used totals 569900 children aged 0-14 and 204,800 children aged 0-4. (21% higher than 1981 population) • Total cancers 0-14 recorded in WCISU datafiles = 1006 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Period 1974-89 • All malignancies 0-14 • 1981 census wards aggregated • 800 metre closest strip to sea. • Significant excess found. Relative Risk in this strip = 1.4 P = 0.01 (RR = 2.2 in the 0-4s) • 1981 Population used totals 564870 children aged 0-14 and 169,200 children aged 0-4. • Total cancers 0-14 recorded in WCR datafiles used = 1188

The shortfall of 1188 minus 1006 represents 182 cases, or about 15% of the total number recorded by Wales Cancer Registry in their 1994 and 1992 publications. Astonishingly, Steward has even taken 50 cases or more from his own dataset published by WCISU in April 1998, where the number of Childhood cancers for 1974-89 was recorded as 1054. The exclusion of the non-malignant skin cancers has very little effect. The totals for NMS are about 10 in Wales over the whole period. How did COMARE validate such outrageous differences in Steward's own data? How did Dr Draper confirm these figures?