



Jessica Lawrence <cewgnm@gmail.com>

Community Environmental Working Group: Methods of Epidemiology

1 message

Jessica Lawrence <cewgnm@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 11, 2018 at 2:46 PM

To: wathas@salud.unm.edu, arowland@salud.unm.edu

Cc: John Bartlit <jrbartlit@aol.com>

Dr. Rowland and Dr. Athas - I am copying a message below from the Community Environmental Working Group's acting chair.

*Thank you,
Jessie Lawrence
CEWG Facilitator*

Dr. Andy Rowland and
Dr, Will Athas,
Professors of Public Health,
University of New Mexico

You may remember the well-received presentation on the basics of epidemiology that you gave in March of 2008 at a meeting of the Community Environmental Working Group (CEWG) held at the Rio Rancho Public Schools Office. Stephen Littlejohn was our facilitator at that time. The meeting report is attached.

Your joint presentation gave the CEWG useful insights into the work methods of environmental epidemiologists such as yourselves. The CEWG is now working to understand the methods and findings of a recent report issued by the New Mexico Department of Health entitled, "Investigation of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis in Corrales, NM, 2000-2015" (attached).

Your comments on this report would help us better understand the methods of epidemiology. Comments could be written as generally or as specifically as you prefer, and/or you could discuss general or specific elements in person at one of our regular monthly meetings.

A particular question comes up in the report. A prevalence rate for ALS in Corrales is calculated for a 16-year period. The data for comparison purposes are reported as annual prevalence rates. How does the prevalence for a 16-year period relate to the prevalence for the 16 annual rates over the same 16 years? Is the 16-year prevalence rate some sort of average of the 16 annual rates? Are there logical bounds on how widely the 16 annual rates could vary from the rate for the 16-year period? Any clarification you can give us on this point is much appreciated.

We welcome comments you may have on any aspect of the report and its methods. If you are willing to speak with our group, please let us know so we can arrange for you to attend an upcoming meeting.

Thank you again for your help and your interest in our work.

- Very truly yours,
John Bartlit, Acting Chair, on behalf of the Community Environmental Working Group

2 attachments

 **ALS Investigation Report FINAL 11212017.pdf**
159K

 **2008-03-19 CEWG Final Meeting_Summary.pdf**
3584K