

**Findings Of The Panel Discussion That I Took From CJ's Draft Meeting Summary**  
by John Bartlit

These tentative findings are for discussion by CEWG members, perhaps with review by the panelists. The purpose is to find and record an agreed-on basis for taking further steps, or for not doing so.

1. Panelists agreed that epidemiology is faced with known difficulties in ascertaining the relative rate and its significance for a rare disease found in small populations. Populations are still small when more nearby census tracts are included.
2. Panelists agreed the NMDOH study was done in an appropriate way for coping with these difficulties. This finding does *not* mean that no further steps are appropriate.
3. Panelists made different suggestions for how the study might be extended to learn more about the issue, although many questions would remain.
4. Ideas for extending the study began to crystallize when CEWG members and community members joined in the discussion.
5. Funds for extended epidemiological studies are always a problem, yet they aid in coping with the known difficulties.
6. Panelists expressed a willingness to help guide an extended study in directions that make the best use of the additional funds required.