

IXb. Disease Specific- Cancer

Title:	Data Source:	Publish Date:	Contact:
You Think You Know...But You Have No Idea: A Community Health Survey Report	Prepared by the Youth United for Community Action (YUCA) Health Survey Team	August 2005	YUCA 2135 Clarke Ave. EPA, CA 94303 (650) 322-9165 www.youthunit ed.net

Major Findings

- 3% of people in EPA have cancer.
 - 88% of people with cancer have lived in EPA for 10+ years
 - 71% of people in EPA who suffer from cancer are African-American
 - 54% of people in EPA who suffer from cancer are women
 - 100% of people who have cancer report being exposed to pollutants at least on a weekly basis
 - 3% of males who live in EPA suffer from cancer compared to 0.5% of the males who suffer from cancer in San Mateo County
 - 3.5% of females who live in EPA suffer from cancer compared to 0.4% of the females who suffer from cancer in San Mateo County
 - 5% of African American males who live in EPA suffer from cancer compared to 0.59% of African American males who suffer from cancer in San Mateo County

Why is this Topic Important?

In 1983, when the City of East Palo Alto became incorporated, residents gained direct control over our community for the first time. Since then, the city has struggled with a land-use jigsaw puzzle created by years of racist and classist policies that shaped the city to be Silicon Valley's dumping ground. Tracks of land that were and are host to a railspur right of way, auto wrecking yards, negligent chemical waste facilities, and the county dump remain contaminated by toxic substances including arsenic, chromium, pesticides, herbicides, and chlorinated solvents. East Palo Alto suffers from many environmental problems, like ground water contamination, contaminated land, air pollution, and corporate polluters. These hazardous problems could all be negatively affecting people's health. That is why when people ask us why we fight for environmental justice, it is ultimately because we are fighting for our lives.