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Kalispel Tribal Health Survey - 2006

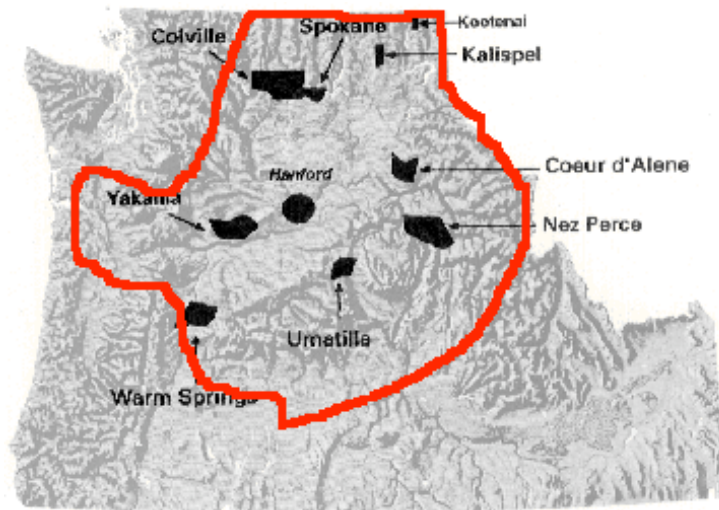
Kalispel Tribe of Indians

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K A L I S P E L T R I B A L H E A L T H
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Project Supervisor - David Bonga - Gregory deBruler

Funded by the Citizens Monitoring and Technical Assessment Fund

Objectives

The primary objective of this second Grant from the Citizens Monitoring and Technical Assessment Fund finalizing in 2006 the primary objective was to identify the prevalence of diseases and to analyze possible environmental factors that might be associated with such diseases. The other objective of this grant was to outreach to other Columbia River Basin Tribes to inform them of the Tribal Health Survey and to let them know of the availability of the software for their use.

The 2004 Tribal Health Survey was designed to enable the Tribe to better understand the overall health of the Kalispel tribal community and how it may have been affected by releases from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. The goal was to create a baseline of disease prevalence among Kalispel Tribal members.

The Kalispel Tribe has no disease registry or other means of knowing the possible impacts to the health of the tribe from exposures to environmental contaminants. Knowledge of patterns of diseases will allow the tribe to create an Environmental Health Program that will be better able to service the health needs of the tribal community.

Study Conclusions

In 2004 and 2005 during the implementation of the Tribal Health Survey the total number of respondents was 86. Most of those responding live on or near the Kalispel Reservation. According to the most recent census 110 tribal members live on the reservation and 267 live off the reservation, so participating numbers were good on or near the reservation.

The NW Radiation Health Alliance (NWRHA) did a similar health survey of people who considered themselves Hanford downwinders (exposed to radiation and suffering from that exposure.) The Kalispel survey incidence of disease was significantly lower than in the downwinder survey. The results of the Kalispel Health Survey might indicate a fairly healthy population, although there are some indications of environmental disease prevalence. Of the 86 respondents, only 10 people noted diseases. The others reported no disease. We do not know if this is from people not wanting to report their diseases or if it is an accurate reflection of the health of these members.

At this point we have a small picture of the health of 86 people, most living on or near the reservation. The current membership is 377, as of September 2005. When the study was initiated in 2004, the membership was around 315. Roughly 1/3 of the members responded to the numerous requests for their participation.

Because the number of reported diseases were small and statistically not significant, it is virtually impossible to make any conclusions about what these numbers mean compared with a general population. What was learned from this study is that the people who lived on the reservation or very close to the reservation were more willing to participate than those who lived in Spokane or other locations.

After surveying the environmental factors, it was concluded that there was no single source that could possibly be linked to any particular disease. Even though we found 6 cases of thyroid disease, 3 cases of lupus, and 2 cases of chronic fatigue syndrome, no single environmental factor or even multiple factors could be identified.

The results of the survey were shared with the Coeur D'Alene Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), Nez Perce, Colville, and Kootenai. We mailed information to the Spokane, Yakama, and Warm Springs tribes but were unable to set up meetings. The purpose was to inform them of the survey and to explain how the software was created and the possible benefits of using this software for their own use. The overall response was supportive of our effort and a few of the tribes expressed interest in doing similar work.

The importance of this work is that the Kalispel Tribe now have a baseline of disease prevalence. In the future if they chose to do another survey they can compare the results. It appears in general that the overall health of the Kalispel people is good.

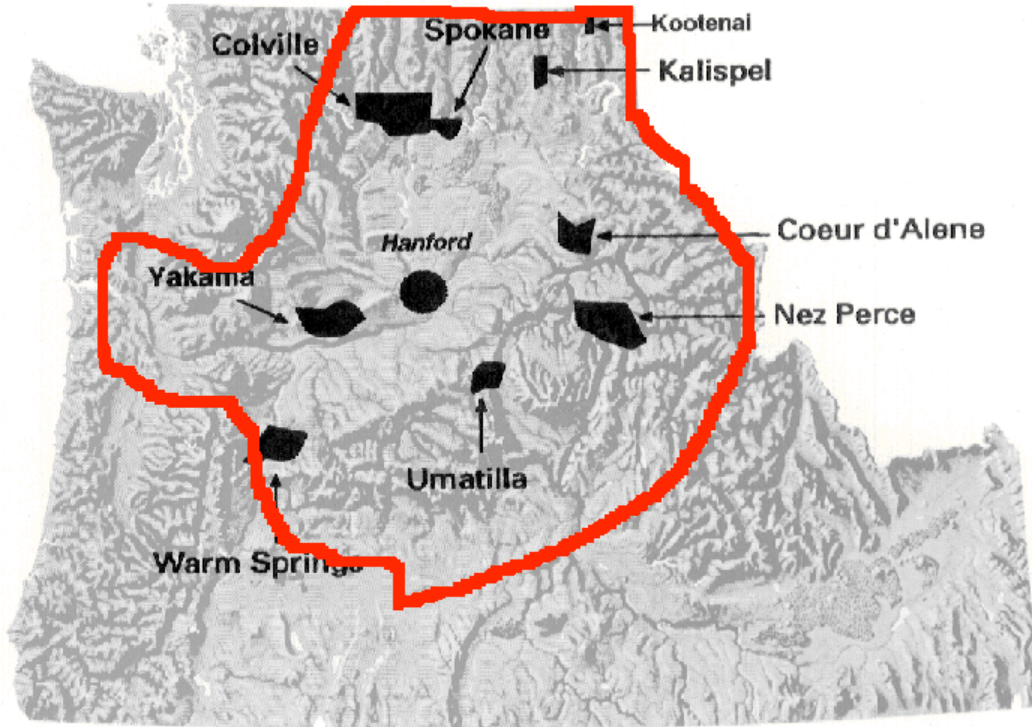
We want to thank the Citizens Monitoring and Technical Assessment Fund for providing the funding to do this important work. The Kalispel Tribe is in the process of creating a Wellness Center that can further promote the health of their people.

2004 Study Results

The Problem

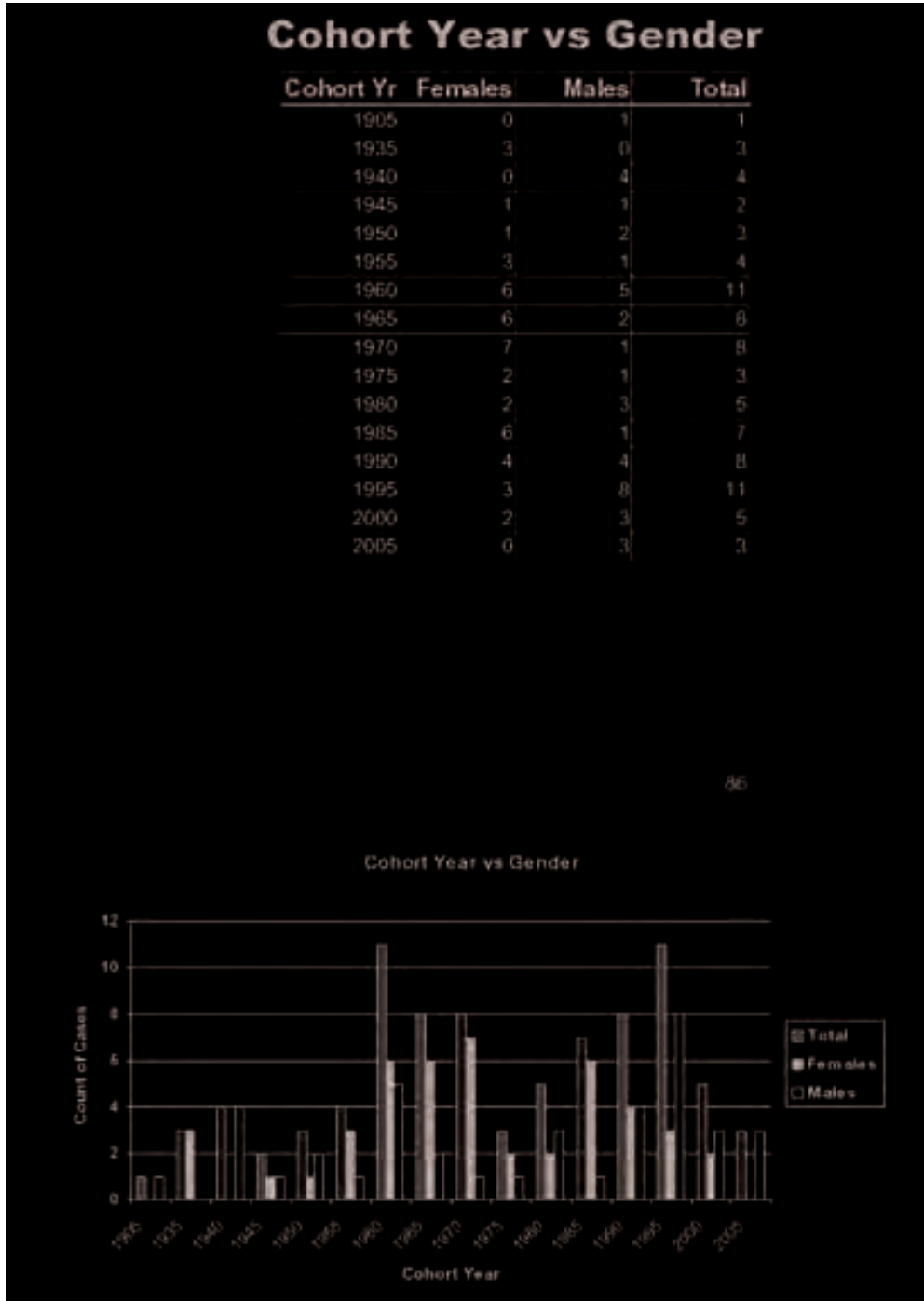
Between 1943 and the 1970's, the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Southeastern Washington released over 700,000 curies of Iodine 131. Iodine 131 has been linked to increased incidents of thyroid cancer. The Kalispel Indian Tribe is located fifty miles north of Spokane, Washington. According to the CDC, tribal members received an estimated 9 rad of radiation from releases from the Hanford Reservation. Native Americans typically have life styles that rely on natural resources like roots and fish that cause them to have higher exposures than the general public. Other contaminants like industrial pollutants compound the problem.

Radiation Area Released From Hanford



Radiation risk has been a hotly debated topic for the last 50 years. In June a National Academy of Sciences Panel on the Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation (BEIR VII) concluded that even very low doses of radiation pose a risk of cancer over a person's lifetime. The NAS panel flatly rejected the pro-nuclear scientist arguments that tiny doses are harmless or may in fact be beneficial. These findings are significant because it now allows those that have been exposed the ability to seek compensation and it hopefully will change how we use radioactive substances and how we cleanup contaminated sites like Hanford.

Study Results



Thyroid Problem Counts by Type and Gender Crosstab

Thyroid Problem	Females		Males		Both	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
HyPOthyroidism	4	9%	0	0%	4	5%
Thyroidectomy	1	2%	0	0%	1	1%
HyPERthyroid or Toxic	1	2%	0	0%	1	1%
Goiter, non-toxic	1	2%	0	0%	1	1%
Total Sample:	46	100%	40	100%	86	100%

Cancer Problem Counts by Type & Gender

Cancer Type	Females		Males		Both	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Reproductive Sys	1	2%	0	0%	1	1%
Lung	0	0%	1	3%	1	1%
One Cancer	1	2%	1	3%	2	2%
2 or More Cancers	1	2%	0	0%	1	1%
One or More Cancers	2	4%	1	3%	3	2%
Total Sample:	46	100%	40	100%	86	100%

Immune + Other Diseases Counts by Type and Gender Crosstab

Health Problem	Females		Males		Both	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Chronic Fatigue Synd	2	4%	0	0%	2	2%
Lupus	3	7%	0	0%	3	3%
Allergies	8	17%	4	10%	12	14%
Other Immune	1	2%	0	0%	1	1%
Arthritis	6	13%	3	7%	9	10%
Cardio-vascular	2	4%	2	5%	4	5%
Diabetes	1	2%	5	13%	6	7%
Endometriosis	1	2%	0	0%	1	1%
Irritable Bowel	1	2%	1	3%	2	2%
Seizures	0	0%	2	5%	2	2%
Depression	7	15%	1	3%	8	9%
Headaches	5	11%	3	7%	8	9%
Total Sample:	46	100%	40	100%	86	100%

Miscellaneous Statistics

2.a 2 Cases w/ Cancer vs Parents w/ Cancer

Parents w/ Cancer	Females	Males	Both
Neither	1	0	1
One	0	1	1
No Answer	1	0	1

2.f Hanford Worker vs Cancer Probs

Hanford Worker	No Cancer Probs	Yes Cancer Probs
No	83	3

2.f Hanford Worker vs Thyroid Probs

Hanford Worker	No Thyroid Probs	Yes Thyroid Probs
No	81	5

Kalispel Tribal Health Survey Respondents with Parents Who had Cancer Problems

Subject's Cohort Yr	Father w/ Cancer Problems	Mother w/ Cancer Problems
1935		Yes
1935	Yes	Yes
1935	No	Yes
1940	No	Yes
1940	Yes	No
1945	Yes	Yes
1950	No	Yes
1955	Yes	No
1960	Yes	No
1960	Yes	No
1960	Yes	No
1960		Yes
1970	Yes	No
1975	Yes	Yes
1990		Yes

Hypothyroidism by 5-Yr Period of Diag and Gender Crosstab

<i>Yrs of Diag (± 2 yrs)</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Total Reported</i>
1970	1	0	1
1980	2	0	2
1995	1	0	1
<i>Totals:</i>	4	0	4

HyPOthyroidism by Period of Diagnosis: Avg Age Summary

<i>Yrs of Diag (± 2 yrs)</i>	<i># of Cases</i>	<i>Avg Age at Diagnosis:</i>
1970	1	27
1980	2	28
1995	1	34

Kalispel Tribal Health Survey Instructions

Each survey should take about 10 minutes to complete.

All information about your health is confidential. This survey is designed with no personal identifiers, name, address, etc. on the survey form. Your identity cannot be identified from these survey forms.

Instructions

Please complete each section/all boxes, and both sides. Incomplete forms cannot be used. For every properly completed survey form you will be paid \$ 25.00.

One person in your family should be chosen as the “**informant**” who will complete a survey form for each family member.

1. **Who is the “Subject”:** The “subject” is the person whose health history is being reported. **Please Do Not put information for more than one person on a form.** Make sure you check the box “self” in section # 2 when filling out your health survey.

2. **Who is the “Informant”:** An “informant” is a person who fills out the survey for another family member. Make sure you check the appropriate box in section # 2 for the person you are filling out their health history. (parent, spouse, sister, etc.)

It’s easier to have one family member be the “informant” for all others. Once the “informant” completes their own survey, their survey number (top right corner) becomes their “informant” number that will be used on all family members forms. Place your “informants” number in top right box 2A when filling out any family members survey form. **Ignore “office use only” for this box.**

3. Box # 10 “**Subject’s Parents Exposed**” exposure is referring to Hanford’s radiation releases or other sources of radiation a person was exposed to.

4. Box # 5 –7 “**Places where Subject was Possibly Exposed**” If you lived in the NW during the 1940’s to the 1980’s you were more than likely exposed to Hanford’s radioactive releases. **If you do not remember the exact year a rough estimate is fine.** Please list the various places you lived in the NW. Please also list any place you worked where you might have been exposed to radiation.

5. If you do not remember the exact year **estimating the year is OK.** Please make sure you **fill in all the boxes and all the years.**

**If you have any questions filling out these forms please call Greg deBruler
509-493-3950 or cell: 503-522-9483**

For \$25.00 Payment For Each Family Member: put your name, return address, and number of surveys enclosed **on a separate piece of paper and return with your completed Tribal Health Surveys.**

**Please send completed forms to the Kalispel Tribe, Attn: Darren Holmes,
Box 39, USK, WA 99180**