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Soil Radiation: Does the Ground We Walk on Give

This experiment was to see if the radiation coming from the soil is enough to cause cancer. Colorado is rated the 2nd highest state in estimated annual terrestrial radiation dosage-radiation coming from the ground, and there was heavy uranium mining in the 1950's and 60's, so there is reason to believe that there would be more cancer rates because of that. The researcher's hypothesis is that there are higher levels of radiation in the soils of the mountainous areas of Colorado; therefore there will be more cases of cancerous diseases in that region. After collecting soil samples from across Colorado, the researcher tested for radioactivity with a Geiger counter. After the data was collected, the researcher got information about the cancer rates in Colorado from health agencies. Then, all the data was put together, and conclusions were made.

The researcher found that after comparing cancer rates to radiation readings from the soil, the soil reading fluctuated greatly at times, but the cancer rates stayed fairly consistent, so a conclusion may be made that the soil radiation does not really affect cancer rates. The radiation dosage coming from the ground does not seem to be enough to cause cancer. The cancer data used in this experiment was for all types of cancer, not just the ones that are mainly affected by terrestrial radiation, like breast cancer, colon cancer, and stomach cancer. The other cancer rates could be caused by many carcinogens, like smoking, living in polluted areas and other environmental factors.