

Draft: Email to NMDOH

Ms Heidi Krapfl:

The Community Environmental Working Group (CEWG) has particular interest in the recent report of the NMDOH entitled "Investigation of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis in Corrales, NM, 2000 – 2015," dated Nov. 21, 2017. The CEWG's mission and its work methods, work products and members are shown at <http://www.cewg.org/>. Our members have a range of backgrounds, but none of us is a specialist in the methods of epidemiology.

As part of our mission to improve community dialogue regarding issues related to Intel New Mexico, the CEWG has discussed details of the report of ALS in Corrales at our last three regular monthly meetings. In these discussions, and in related time spent online, a significant point in the report has come to light that requires further effort on our part for us to understand clearly.

The point we need to understand is how to compare the prevalence rate over a 16 year period with an annual prevalence rate for the nation. From looking online, it seems that comparisons between prevalence rates are best made for the same length of time. Can you help us learn more? Can the calculations for the 16 year period be made for each of 16 annual rates? As best we understand, this approach is often made difficult by insufficient data about when each case was diagnosed.

If data were sufficient to calculate 16 annual prevalence rates as well as a prevalence rate for the 16-year period, how would the results from each method relate? Is the 16-year prevalence rate some kind of average of the 16 annual prevalence rates? Are the available data sufficient to calculate 16 annual prevalence rates to compare with the 16-year prevalence rate? If so, this would give us the most detail about the highest annual prevalence rate and also the prevalence in years when the annual rate is lower than the 16-year prevalence rate. Can you refer us to online information or parts of a workbook or manual that would help us understand these statistical techniques in epidemiology?

As is our practice, we are seeking deeper understanding of this report from a variety of sources to help us better discuss the report and better share information with each other and with others. Thank you for your time and your help in improving public dialogue.

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