

Santa Barbara County  
**PUBLIC Health**  
DEPARTMENT

Tri-Counties Regional Cancer Registry

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Thank you very much for your call this morning to share your concerns about cancer incidence in your community. Following our phone conversation, I completed a preliminary analysis and would like to share the result with you.

During 1988 to 1996, a total of 129 newly diagnosed invasive cancer cases of all types were observed in census tract 75.03 in Ventura County that includes your neighborhood. For this same period, a total of 124 cases were expected. The difference between 129 and 124 is not significant and reflects normal variation in the occurrence of this type of biological phenomena. For better evaluation of this analysis, please consider the following points:

1. The observed numbers are limited to 1988-1996 period due to the fact that data collection about new cases of cancer is complete for these years. Data collection for 1997 and 1998 are not yet complete and cannot be used.
2. The expected numbers are based on the average regional age, sex, and site-specific incidence rates over the 1990 population counts. Use of the five year average is standard practice and 1990 census is the only accurate population information available for census tracts. Expected numbers for 1990 are multiplied by nine to estimate expected numbers for 1988-1996 period.
3. The analysis used is the Poisson evaluation of the observed and expected numbers at the confidence level of 99%. At this level, the chance of erroneous conclusion is only 1%.

Based on this analysis, I am confident to state that residents of census tract 75.03 in Ventura County that includes your neighborhood, are not at higher risk of being diagnosed with cancer when compared to the rest of the population in the Tri-Counties Region.

I hope that this information will help you with evaluation of cancer issues in your neighborhood. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Cordially,

*K. Nasser*  
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Research Epidemiologist

cc. Cynthia Creech, CTR. Director, Tri-Counties Regional Cancer Registry  
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