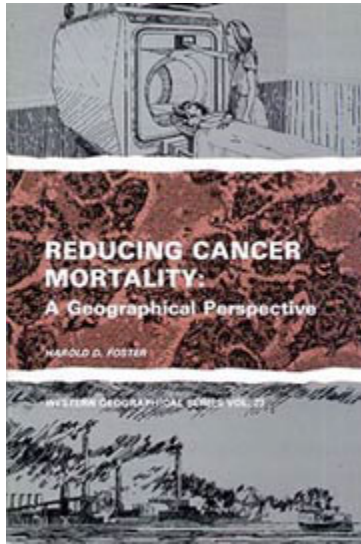


Volume 23 Reducing Cancer Mortality: A Geographical Perspective



Harold D. Foster

This volume presents in excess of 12,000 Pearson correlation co-efficients and stepwise multiple regression analyses that allow the examination of possible links between cancer and the environment. Emphasis is placed on the situation in the United States, although corroborating evidence is presented from Britain, the People's Republic of China, the USSR, Australia, Senegal, and elsewhere. It is argued that high mortality from cancer has often been associated with manufacturing and coal mining and with the use of road salt. In addition, very high or very low concentrations of certain bulk or trace elements in the environment appear linked to elevated or depressed mortality from specific cancers. Of major importance are the soil and water levels of calcium, magnesium, zinc, selenium, sodium, potassium, phosphorus, and manganese. Elevated levels of calcium and magnesium, for example, appear linked to increased mortality from some cancers, such as cancer of the liver, while they were apparently associated with reduced death rates from others, for example, cancer of the esophagus. Selenium appears to play a protective role against many specific cancers, while mercury, which probably reduces the body's ability to utilize selenium, seems to be very detrimental.

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