

NCI STUDY OF THE CANCER RISKS FROM THE TRINITY NUCLEAR TEST

PURPOSE OF NCI TRINITY STUDY

The National Cancer Institute is conducting a study to estimate the Radiation dose and the cancer risks to the New Mexico population from the Trinity nuclear test in 1945.



To make this assessment, scientists need a good understanding of the diet, activities and way of life of Native Americans, Latinos, and other ethnic groups living in New Mexico at the time.

Scientists will conduct interviews of groups and individual people in tribal and other communities living at the time of the test to gather information about lifestyles and diet in 1945.

NCI will share results from this study with the people of New Mexico via the media and tribal and community newsletters.

WHY ESTIMATE EXPOSURE?

- ❖ People living in New Mexico at the time of the Trinity test were exposed to different levels of radiation depending on where they lived and the kinds of food they ate.
- ❖ People who were exposed to radiation from the Trinity test in 1945 could face higher cancer risk.
- ❖ Scientists estimate radiation exposure as a preliminary step to estimating the number of cancers that might have occurred from exposures.
- ❖ Accurate estimates of radiation exposure cannot yet be made because of lack of information on diets and ways of life in the 1940s.

STUDY ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Reach out to communities to help identify those who were alive in 1945 and living in New Mexico.
- ❖ Conduct group and individual interviews with community members now 70 years of age and older to gather detailed information on typical ways of life.
- ❖ Analyze individual and group interview data to develop a good description of typical diet and lifestyle in 1945.
- ❖ Estimate radiation exposures for typical persons in all ethnic and age groups in New Mexico from the Trinity nuclear test.
- ❖ Estimate the number of cancers likely to have occurred in the New Mexico population as a consequence of exposure to fallout from Trinity.

Contact Person:

Emily Haozous
University of New Mexico
College of Nursing
Albuquerque, NM
(505) 272- 8568

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

- ✓ **Better understanding** of diet and way of life in New Mexico tribal and other communities in the 1940s.
- ✓ **Improved estimates** of radiation exposure and cancer risk for those alive at the time of the nuclear test in all ethnic groups.
- ✓ **Gift card** to honor community members who participate in the interviews.