

*M.Ramadour et al. Allergy (2000). Vol.55 #12.*

A cross sectional survey of the prevalence of childhood asthma; comparing rural and urban populations.

Average daily exposures to photochemical smog were measured and correlated with symptoms that might be diagnostic of asthma and, actual diagnoses made by physicians.

Sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide were not found to be risk factors for asthma symptoms. Ozone was weakly associated.

Comment

This finding confirms a wide range of previous studies that tend to conclude that the increasing prevalence of childhood asthma is not directly correlated with urban or photochemical pollution.

This work was part of a concerted, worldwide initiative known as ISAAC. Further findings are anticipated in 2001.

The link between increasing prevalence of childhood asthma and air pollution is not as yet directly relevant to liability insurance. However, it is likely that academics will continue to search for a guilty cause for the increasing prevalence of childhood asthma.

It is generally held that childhood asthma does not predispose to occupational asthma.

