

**Comments on: Fowles et al. A study of 2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD) exposures in Paritutu, New Zealand**

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Generally this is an excellent report. The findings should be published because they are of interest and concern to both the public and to policy makers, as well as being of scientific interest.

I have only minor comments.

P8. Say what the mean values were for the 12 who lived in the area less than 20 years and the 12 who lived in the area more than 20 years.

P9. It is stated that the elevation in dioxin levels is small; it might be helpful to compare the elevated levels to those in occupationally-exposed populations

P9. The statement that the elevation was “up to 2-fold” seems strange since the average for the whole group represented a three-fold elevation

P9. The reference to the ‘worried well’ might be misinterpreted and would be better termed ‘the community’

P9. Presumably the implication of these findings is that there is a much lower risk for people who have moved to the area recently, and that this is little increased risk from continuing to live in the area. If so, perhaps this is worth noting.

P10. Although the purpose of the report was not to examine health effects, the findings will be of considerable public concern and it therefore might be worth considering quoting the findings of studies of occupationally-exposed populations to put an upper limit on the likely cancer risk