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Blackford County Concerned Citizens

BlackfordCountyConcernedCitizens.com

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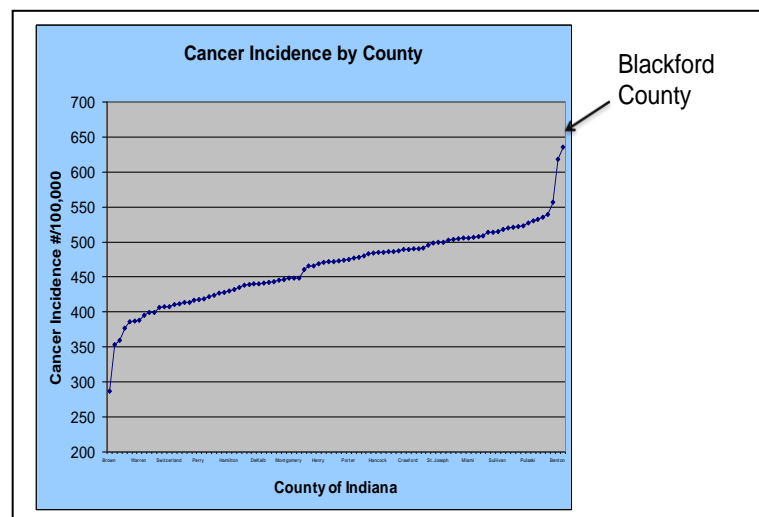
Cancers sites that were statistically higher than the state average

- All Cancer Sites
- Colon, rectum and anus
- Lung and Bronchus
- Malignant Lymphoma
- Thyroid and Other Endocrine Glands
- Bladder

Mission

The mission of Blackford County Concerned Citizens is to improve the quality of life of Blackford County's residents by reducing the incidence of diseases, primarily through citizen action to investigate the diseases that are prevalent and by advocating to have these diseases investigated.

Is Cancer too high in Blackford



The Indiana State Department of Health has found that Blackford County has a higher than expected rate of cancer. Specifically all cancer sites, colon, lung, bladder, lymphoma and thyroid cancers were found to be high. This graph was generated from data on all cancers sites from the National Cancer Institute for the years 2003-2007.

Educate yourself about what is in your environment

- Virtual File Cabinet
<http://12.186.81.89/Pages/Public/Search.aspx>
- Air Permit Status Search
<http://www.in.gov/ai/appfiles/idem-caats/>
- Enforcement Database
http://www.in.gov/apps/idem/oe/idem_oe_order
- ECHO Database
<http://www.epa-echo.gov/echo/index.html>
- Superfund
<http://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/srchsites.cfm>

Donations are now being accepted to help off-set the cost of printing and distributing the surveys, Please make checks to BCCC and mail to PO box 363 Hartford City, IN

Take Action!

Report problems (spills, odors etc) to IDEM 's 24 hour emergency hotline by calling 888-233-7745. Reports can be made anonymously. Write your representatives:
Kevin Mahan: h21@in.gov
Travis Holdman: s19@in.gov



Submit your information

As part of the collaboration with the IU School of Medicine and the Hoosier Environmental Council, a health survey will be available. This information will assist IU in the investigation as to why Blackford County has an apparently high rate of cancer. We even want information from longtime residents who have moved away from Blackford County. If you grew up in Blackford County or lived there for years and later were diagnosed with cancer, ALS, developmental problems or neurological issues please fill out the survey. Please forward the survey to family and friends. The survey will be available for pick up at the News Times. <http://hec.wufoo.com/forms/questionnaire-for-blackford-county-citizens-bccc/>

Please return the completed survey to BlackfordCountyConcernedCitizens@yahoo.com or mail to PO box 363 Hartford City, 47348

Volunteers Needed

We need your help today! If we are going to learn what is happening in Blackford County, we need to get everyone to fill out a survey! We need people to help get these surveys to everyone in Blackford County.

- Take the survey to their church
- Take the survey to their community organization
- Organize a booth at the 4H fair to distribute the survey
- Organize a booth at other community events to distribute the survey
- Enter the data from the surveys
- To search public records on the IDEM Virtual File Cabinet (can be done from any location)

If you are interested in being on the newsletter email list or in volunteering with the group please send an email to

Groups hosted a Public Health Workshop

Fifty citizens from Blackford County BCCC founders Kathy Castelo, Joe Castelo and Kathy Dunsmore and a former State Representative met on May 21st in the county seat of Hartford City to attend a first-ever Public Health Workshop focused on high levels of cancer in the county. Blackford County, once home to a number of automobile, chemical, gas and glass companies, has one of the highest levels of cancer, per person, in Indiana, according to the Indiana State Department of Health.

Participants learned the specifics about the current cancer burden of

cluster might have some relationship with the number of abandoned industrial sites in the county,” remarked Jesse Kharbanda, Executive Director of HEC. Indiana, as a whole, ranks 10th in the nation in terms of hazardous waste production and in the top 5 for arsenic, benzene, chromium, and sulfuric acid toxic releases, according to the US EPA. When releases contaminate the air or water at unsafe levels, they can cause a variety of illnesses, including cancer, according to extensive research by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

BCCC co-hosted the Public Health Workshop with the Hoosier Environmental Council (HEC), the state’s largest environmental policy organization. “We’re concerned that Blackford County’s apparent cancer

News

- [Elevated cancer rates found in ECI counties](#)
- [Hartford City a Cancer Cluster?](#)
- [State investigates cancer rates in Blackford County](#)
- [Local cancer rate too high? BC group gathering data](#)