

Increased Incidence of Brain Cancer. Caused by Exposure to Pesticides and Electromagnetic Fields?

4 Times More New Cases of Glioblastoma in 2018 According to Public Health France

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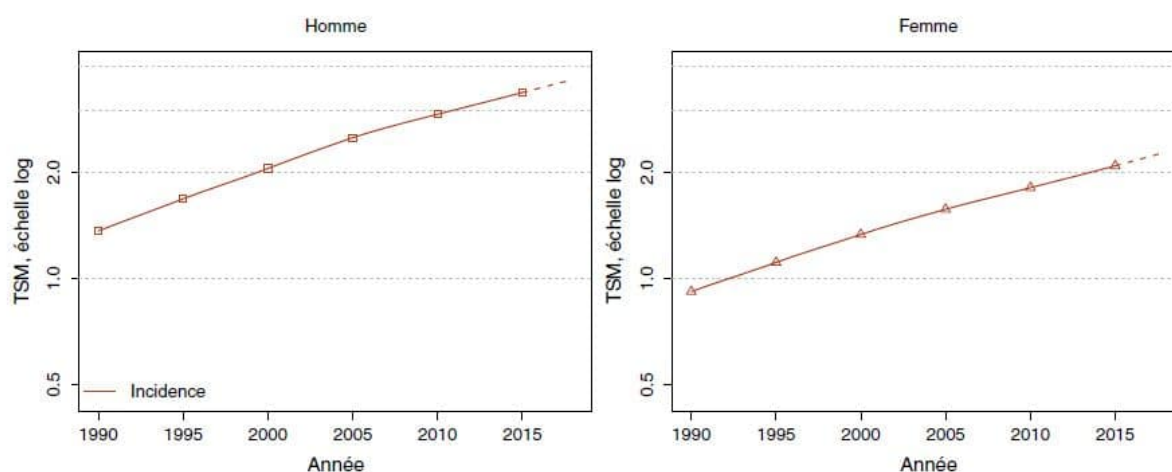
Region: [Europe](#)

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In July 2019 (updated in September 2019), the French Public Health Agency "[Santé Publique France](#)", together with the Francim cancer registries, the Hospices Civils de Lyon and the Institut National du Cancer, published national estimates of cancer incidence and mortality in metropolitan France between 1990 and 2018. These are based on the modeling of observed incidence data (new cases) until 2015 by cancer registries, supplemented by projections until 2018.

Volume 1 of the report is devoted to solid tumors (27 tumors and 22 subtypes). Between 1990 and 2018, the overall incidence rate of solid tumors remained relatively stable in men and continued to increase in women. At the same time, the annual number of new cases of [glioblastoma](#) with histological confirmation (one of the most aggressive types of brain cancer) has increased fourfold and more for both sexes.

FIGURE 2 | Taux d'incidence en France selon l'année (taux standardisés monde) - Échelle logarithmique - Système nerveux central - Glioblastomes avec confirmation histologique



In 30 years, the number of glioblastomas multiplied by 4, affecting all ages

Santé Publique France estimates that there will be 3,481 new cases of these glioblastomas in metropolitan France in 2018, 58% of them in men. There were only 823 in 1990.

TABLEAU 4 | Nombre de cas en France selon l'année - Système nerveux central - Glioblastomes avec confirmation histologique

	Année						
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2018
INCIDENCE							
Homme	471	626	818	1 094	1 393	1 756	2 003
Femme	352	465	604	780	987	1 270	1 478

Age trends show an increase in incidence regardless of age and gender between 1990 and 2018.

Tendances par âge

TABLEAU 6 | Taux d'incidence en France selon l'année et par âge - Système nerveux central - Glioblastomes avec confirmation histologique

Âge (années)	Homme			Femme		
	1990	2018	VAM* (%)	1990	2018	VAM* (%)
INCIDENCE						
40	1,0	2,5	3,3 [1,8 ; 4,8]	0,6	1,3	3,1 [1,1 ; 5,1]
50	2,9	6,3	2,8 [1,8 ; 3,9]	2,1	3,3	1,7 [0,4 ; 3,0]
60	6,2	14,8	3,1 [2,3 ; 4,0]	4,0	9,5	3,1 [2,2 ; 4,1]
70	5,9	21,3	4,7 [3,8 ; 5,6]	4,8	12,8	3,6 [2,6 ; 4,6]
80	2,9	20,4	7,2 [5,7 ; 8,7]	0,8	17,0	11,7 [9,8 ; 13,6]

* : Variation Annuelle Moyenne

According to Santé Publique France, similar observations are observed in the United States where an increase in the incidence of glioblastoma was also observed in the years 1980-1990 in connection with diagnostic progress. In addition, an Australian study reports an increasing incidence of histological confirmed glioblastoma over the period 2000-2008.

Exposure to waves is one of the possible factors

In conclusion of its analysis, Santé Publique France considers that the extrinsic factors that may play a role in increasing the incidence of glioblastoma could be:

“brain radiation therapy and possibly intense and prolonged exposure to pesticides (farmers)[14]. The latest epidemiological studies and animal experiments would support the carcinogenic role of exposure to electromagnetic fields[15]”

Absolute duty to protect children and young people

For Dr Annie Sasco, cancer epidemiologist, former Director of Research Unit at IARC-WHO:

“The evolution of incidence and mortality rates of central nervous system tumors as a whole and especially glioblastoma over the past 30 years is of particular concern. Of course, diagnostic behaviours have evolved and play a role, especially for older people. Nevertheless, there is a real increase, even among the youngest, for whom it is likely that diagnostic modalities have changed less than among the elderly and which may therefore be linked to environmental factors and primarily to the use of mobile or wireless phones. Informing the public should make it possible not to continue on this upward trajectory, especially among young people, with an absolute duty to protect children by not allowing them to use a cellular phone and in general by

protecting them from exposure to electromagnetic fields“.

Urgency for public authorities to act in the face of tens of thousands of deaths

For Dr. Marc Arazi, President of Phonegate Alert:

“Over the last 2 decades, nearly 50,000 people have been affected in France by this extremely aggressive brain tumor, which has a very high mortality rate. It was also during this period that mobile telephony exploded and industrialists knowingly overexposed us to the waves of our mobile phones. This industrial and health scandal has a name, the “Phonegate”! Public authorities can no longer deny the evidence and must urgently protect the health of tens of millions of users.

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Featured image: Demonstrators at the anti-5G protest in Bern on Friday. (© Keystone / Peter Klaunzer)

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