

# Study: Fukushima Radiation Has Already Killed 14,000 Americans

By [Washington's Blog](#)

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Already 14,000 U.S. Deaths From Fukushima ?

A new study published in the peer-reviewed journal [International Journal of Health Services](#) alleges that 14,000 people have already died in the United States due to Fukushima.

Specifically, the authors of the study [claim](#):

An estimated 14,000 excess deaths in the United States are linked to the radioactive fallout from the disaster at the Fukushima nuclear reactors in Japan, according to a major new article in the December 2011 edition of the International Journal of Health Services. This is the first peer-reviewed study published in a medical journal documenting the health hazards of Fukushima.

[The authors] note that their estimate of 14,000 excess U.S. deaths in the 14 weeks after the Fukushima meltdowns is comparable to the 16,500 excess deaths in the 17 weeks after the Chernobyl meltdown in 1986. The rise in reported deaths after Fukushima was largest among U.S. infants under age one. The 2010-2011 increase for infant deaths in the spring was 1.8 percent, compared to a decrease of 8.37 percent in the preceding 14 weeks.

The authors seem - at first glance - to have pretty solid credentials. [Janette Sherman, M.D.](#) worked for the Atomic Energy Commission (forerunner of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission) at the University of California in Berkeley, and for the U.S. Navy Radiation Defense Laboratory in San Francisco. She served on the EPA's advisory board for 6 years, and has been an advisor to the National Cancer Institute on breast cancer. Dr. Sherman specializes in internal medicine and toxicology with an emphasis on chemicals and nuclear radiation.

[Joseph J. Mangano](#) is a public health administrator and researcher who has studied the connection between low-dose radiation exposure and subsequent risk of diseases such as cancer and damage to newborns. He has published numerous articles and letters in medical and other journals in addition to books, including *Low Level Radiation and Immune System Disorders: An Atomic Era Legacy*.

Sherman also claims that a study in British Columbia of infants under 1 year of age allegedly corroborates the increased deaths due to Fukushima:

But a [Scientific American blog post](#) and [Med Page Today](#) slam the study as being voodoo science. However, Scientific American does admit:

Certainly radiation from Fukushima is dangerous, and could very well lead to negative health effects—even across the Pacific.

## What Do Other Experts Say?

Pediatrician Helen Caldicott [said](#) recently:

May I say that North America has received quite a large fallout itself.

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We're going to see an incredible increase in cancer, leukemia, and — down the time track — genetic disease. Not just in Japan but in the Northern Hemisphere, particularly North America.

Caldicott also [wrote](#) in a New York Times Op-Ed:

Children are innately sensitive to the carcinogenic effects of radiation, fetuses even more so. Like Chernobyl, the accident at Fukushima is of global proportions. Unusual levels of radiation have been discovered in British Columbia, along the West Coast and East Coast of the United States and in Europe, and heavy contamination has been found in oceanic waters.

Nuclear engineer Gunderson says that the Japanese will suffer one million cancer deaths from Fukushima, and that we'll see a [statistically meaningful increase in cancer on the West Coast of America and Canada from Fukushima](#). Gunderson says that - after Japan - the most radioactive areas are the Cascades and Portland.

There is certainly evidence that West Coast residents - especially in [Seattle](#), Portland and other areas near the Cascades - have been hit with some radiation. And there is certainly evidence that radioactive [contamination has spread in the United States, and will continue to spread](#) for some time to come.

## Why Is The Science So Hotly Debated?

Why is there so much dispute about the number of deaths which Fukushima could cause on the West Coast?

Because radiation safety standards are set based on the assumption that [everyone exposed is a healthy man in his 20s - and that radioactive particles ingested into the body cause no more damage than radiation hitting the outside of the body](#).

However - in the real world - radiation affects [small children much more than full-grown adults](#). And small particles of radiation - called "internal emitters" - which get inside the body are much more dangerous than general exposures to radiation. See [this](#) and [this](#).

In addition, [American](#) and [Canadian](#) authorities have virtually stopped monitoring airborne radiation, and are [not testing fish](#) for radiation. (Indeed, the EPA reacted to Fukushima by [raising "acceptable" radiation levels](#).)

So - as in Japan - radiation is usually discovered by citizens and the handful of research

scientists with funding to check, and not the government. See [this](#), [this](#), [this](#), [this](#), [this](#) and [this](#).

The Japanese government's entire strategy from day one has been to [cover up the severity of the Fukushima accident](#). This has likely led to [unnecessary, additional deaths](#).

Indeed, the core problem is that [all of the world's nuclear agencies are wholly captured by the nuclear industry](#) ... as are [virtually all of the supposedly independent health agencies](#).

So the failure of the American, Canadian and other governments to test for and share results is making it difficult to hold an open scientific debate about what is happening.

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