

## A Comparison. Incidence of mesothelioma in Great Britain and the USA.

Great Britain has a serious asbestos problem in their schools.

At least three quarters of schools contain asbestos.

Great Britain was the largest importer of amosite in the world.(brown)<sup>1</sup> Many schools contain amosite, some contain crocidolite. (blue)

Chrysotile (white asbestos) can cause mesothelioma. Crocidolite is 500 times more dangerous and amosite 100 times more so.<sup>2</sup>

All the asbestos is now old and much is deteriorating.

The standards of asbestos management in schools are frequently poor.

Frequent incidents occur in schools.

Children are more susceptible to the dangers of asbestos than adults.<sup>3</sup>

Great Britain has the highest incidence of mesothelioma in the world. (See graph)

Most asbestos in public buildings, including schools, in the USA is chrysotile asbestos.<sup>4</sup>

In the 1980's an audit was carried out of all friable asbestos in schools.

A risk assessment was also carried out.

Because of the particular vulnerability of children in 1986 stringent asbestos laws were introduced for schools, surveys were made mandatory, a policy of openness was adopted. People were trained. A system of regulation introduced and funds allocated so that schools had the resources so that they can manage their asbestos.<sup>5</sup>

In the USA the incidence of mesothelioma is far lower than in Great Britain and over the last few years has stabilised.

**USA: 14.1 per million in 1999 and 14.0 in 2005<sup>6</sup>**

Neither a risk assessment nor an audit have been carried out in schools in Great Britain. A campaign to improve asbestos management in schools was scrapped

In Great Britain the incidence of mesothelioma has been increasing year on year.

**GB: 26.54 per million between 1997-1999 and 33.82 per million 2003-2005 and 36.5 between 2006-2008.<sup>7</sup>**

GB: The incidence was 12.93 per million between 1985-1987 and has been rising steadily<sup>8</sup>

(Australia: 12 per million in 1982 and 29 per million in 2004.<sup>9</sup>)

A graphic illustration of the significantly greater incidence of mesothelioma in Great Britain (and Australia) than the remainder of the world is given in the following HSE graph :

*Michael Lees 6<sup>th</sup> September 2010. Amended 5<sup>th</sup> November 2010*

<sup>1</sup>HSE Occupational, domestic and environmental mesothelioma risks in Britain.A case-control study Mar 2009

<sup>2</sup>The Quantitative risks of mesothelioma and lung cancer in relation to asbestos exposure Hodgson and Darnton HSE Statistics Unit Ann Occup Hyg Vol 44 No 8 pp 565 -601 Jun 2000

<sup>3</sup>Increased vulnerability of children.

<http://www.asbestosexposureschools.co.uk/pdfnewslinks/CHILDREN%20increased%20vulnerability%20to%20asbestos%20%20Nov%2009.pdf>

<sup>4</sup>Toxicological Profile for Asbestos US Department of Health and human services Sep 2001 P15, 163.

<sup>5</sup>American Academy of Pediatrics Asbestos Exposure in schools. Pediatrics Vol 79 no 2 Feb 87 p304.

US Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response act (AHERA) 1986. EPA Asbestos in schools Rule (40 CFR Part 763 subpart E)

<sup>6</sup>Malignant Mesothelioma Mortality --- United States, 1999—2005. **Reported by:** KM Bang, PhD, JM Mazurek, MD, E Storey, MD, MD Attfield, PhD, PL Schleiff, MS, JM Wood, MS, Div of Respiratory Disease Studies, JT Wassell, PhD, Div of Safety Research, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, CDC.

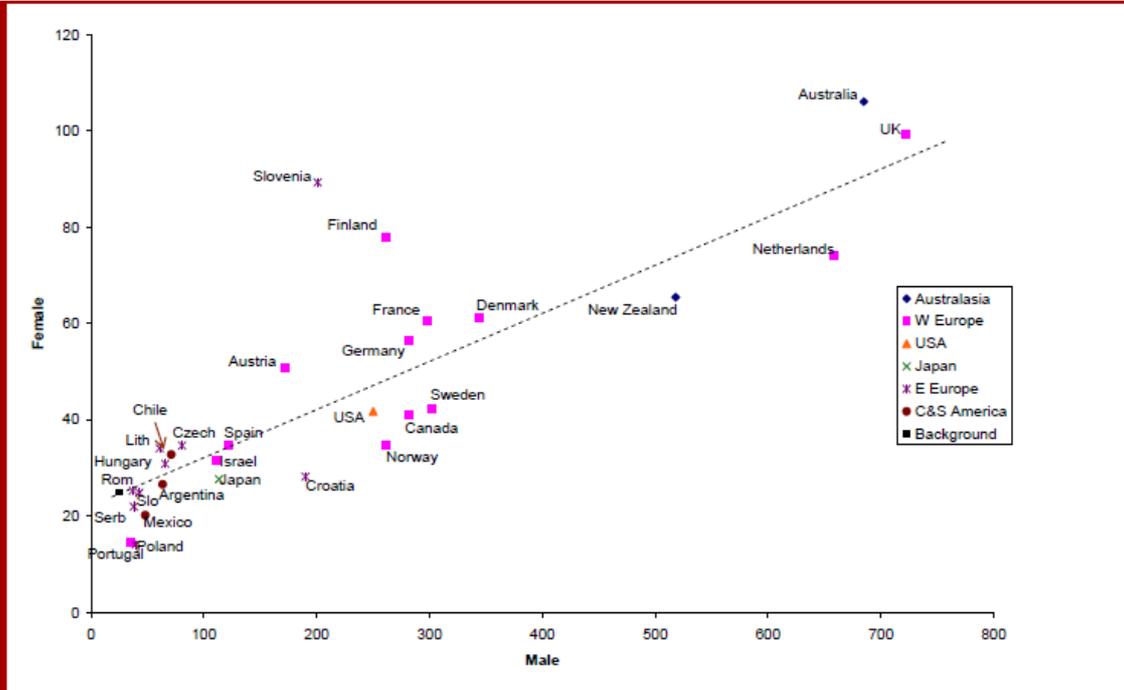
<sup>7</sup>HSE MESO04 Annual mesothelioma deaths and average annual rate per million 1970-

2008<http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/mesothelioma/scale.htm>

<sup>8</sup>HSE Table Meso04; Number of mesothelioma deaths and average annual rates per million by age and sex in three year periods, 1969-2005 [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/meso04.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/meso04.htm)

<sup>9</sup>Mesothelioma incidence and trends Australia. [www.asbestos.com/mesothelioma/australia/](http://www.asbestos.com/mesothelioma/australia/)

## Cumulative mesothelioma death rate to age 85



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<sup>10</sup> HSE Consequence of asbestos use in Great Britain. Dr A. Darnton HSE Statistics Unit 2010