

A Review of Yamada-Jones Report at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory[§]

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Abstract

The Yamada-Jones Report was prepared at the U.S. Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) between September 1971 and November 1972. In the Report, two groups of survivors were identified based on their exposure to rain that might have contained radioactive fallout immediately after the bombing. Those survivors categorized as exposed to fallout rain were individually identified using an incomplete set of shielding history records that were available at ORNL at that time. The group that was categorized as not being exposed to fallout rain had their exposure status assigned using data from a general dosimetry dataset available at that time and was based solely on their location at the time of the bombing under the assumption that the southeast quadrant of the city experienced no fallout rain; no individual data checks were performed for survivors in the southeast quadrant. The occurrence frequencies of radiation-associated acute symptoms were compared between the exposed- and not-exposed-to-fallout-rain groups based on the records on the general dosimetry dataset. The Report concluded that the frequencies were 20 times higher in the exposed-to-rain group. However, those evaluations were not meaningful due to the following methodological flaws, including 1) arbitrary selection of the subjects, 2) different criteria for exposure evaluation, 3) lack of information in source data, and 4) misclassified records.

[§]*This report is an in-house production. This is a report for review of the Yamada-Jones Report at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory published in December 1972 and is published as a part of RERF's Commentary and Review Series. A Japanese translation is available. Approved 25 July 2012.*