

**Table 2.10. Summary of epidemiological studies of arsenic in drinking-water and prostate cancer**

Reference	Location	End-point	Exposure	Site	No. of cases	Study outcome	Comments
<i>Ecological studies</i>							
<b>Taiwan</b>							
Chen <i>et al.</i> (1988a)	42 villages on the SW coast	Mortality 1973–86, all ages	Median level of arsenic in drinking-water grouped into 3 strata, 1962–64	Prostate		Age-standardized mortality rates per 100,000	899 811 person–years, rate per 100 000, age-standardized to 1976 world population
			General population				
			< 300 µg/L			1.5	
			300–600 µg/L			0.5	
			> 600 µg/L			5.8	
						8.4	
Wu <i>et al.</i> (1989)	42 villages (SW)	Mortality 1973–86, age ≥ 20 years	Median level of arsenic in drinking-water grouped into 3 strata, 1962–64			Age-adjusted mortality rates (per 100,000)	Age-adjusted mortality. All results are nonsignificant. Men, 257 935 person–years; rate per 100 000, age-standardized to 1976 world population
			< 30 µg/L		1	0.95	
			300–600 µg/L		5	9.00	
			>600		3	9.18	
Chen & Wang (1990)	42 villages on the SW coast	Mortality 1972–83, all ages	National survey of 83 656 wells (1974–76); average arsenic content for each of 314 precincts or townships			Increase in age-adjusted mortality rate/100 000 person–years per increase of 0.1 ppm in arsenic level of well water (standard error).	
						0.5 (0.2)	

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Tsai <i>et al.</i> (1999)	Four townships (SW)	Mortality 1971–94, all ages	Endemic area for chronic arsenic toxicity		48	SMR (95% CI) 2.52 (1.9-3.3) 1.95 (1.4-2.6)	Men, 1 508 623 person–years Local rates as referent national rates in 1971–94 used as the referent for SMR estimation
<b>Chile</b>							
Rivara <i>et al.</i> (1997)	Regions II and VIII, northern Chile	Mortality 1990	Arsenic-contaminated Region II			Relative risk (Region II versus Region VIII), 0.9 (95% CI, 0.54-1.53)	Population: 411 000 in Region II, 1 700 000 in Region VIII. Antofagasta (Region II) versus Region VIII.