

World Health Organization Review Finds No Connection Between Cell Phones and Cancer



Harvard Professor Timothy Rebbeck, PhD, who was not involved in the study, noted:

“This review really confirms what we have known for quite a while about the effects of non-ionizing radiation from cell phones and similar sources. I think it’s clear at this point that cancer risks are not elevated from these exposures.”

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“A review commissioned by the World Health Organization into the potential risks of cellphone radiation has found no connection between cellphone use and brain cancer, even for people who spend all day glued to their smartphone.”

— Washington Post

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently commissioned a review where experts from nine countries analyzed 63 studies on cellphones and cancer dating from 1994 through 2022. The researchers found no connection between cellphone use and brain cancer. The review was published in *Environmental International*, a scientific journal, in September 2024.

Key Takeaways from the Review and its Reception in the Press and Scientific Community

1. The review supports the principle that “what the science says” should be based on an overarching body of evidence rather than one or two studies.
2. Often conversations around RF are singularly focused on phones, but this review was broader, looking at cellphones AND cell towers, and finding no evidence of cancer caused by either.
3. Newer generations of mobile technologies produce substantially lower radio frequency emissions. Studies of frequency ranges like those used in 5G networks do not show an increased risk to human health.
4. In addition to showing no connection between cellphone use and brain cancer, the review also concluded that there is no increased risk of other head or neck cancers, non-cancerous tumors, or of brain cancer in children.
5. Although the International Agency for Research on Cancer’s (IARC) had previously classified radio waves as a “possible carcinogen,” the authors of the WHO review noted that their recent analysis is a “systematic review of the epidemiology” and based on “a much larger dataset compared to that examined by IARC.” The lead author of the review separately noted that the IARC analysis was based on limited evidence, and that “a lot more studies have come out” since then that are “quite extensive.” In his words, the results of the WHO review are “very reassuring.”

Learn More

The Washington Post summarized the study in an article: [“Do Cellphones Cause Brain Cancer? A WHO Review of 63 Studies Finds No Link.”](#) Published on September 3rd 2024.

Study: Ken Karipidis, Dan Baaken, Tom Loney, et al, [“The effect of exposure to radiofrequency fields on cancer risk in the general and working population: A systematic review of human observational studies – Part I: Most researched outcomes.”](#) *Environmental International*, Vol. 191, September 2024.