A REGULATORY GAP

No Federal Agency Ensuring 5G or Cell Tower Wireless Safety

There is no U.S. government agency with oversight for cell tower radiation health effects: no research reviews, no reports, no environmental monitoring, no risk mitigation and no post market health surveillance for the daily, full body radio-frequency (RF) radiation exposure from cell towers.















"The FDA does not regulate cell towers or cell tower radiation. Therefore, the FDA has no studies or information on cell towers to provide in response to your questions."

— Ellen Flannery, Director, FDA Policy Center for Devices and Radiological Health to a California mother with a cell tower on her street who asked the FDA about safety, July 11, 2022

"As a Federal research agency, the NCI is not involved in the regulation of radio frequency telecommunications infrastructure and devices, nor do we make recommendations for policies related to this technology"

— National Cancer Institute letter to Denise Ricciardi, member of the New Hampshire State Commission on 5G, July 30, 2020

The ACS does "not have any official position or statement on whether or not radiofrequency radiation from cell phones, cell phones towers, or other sources is a cause of cancer."

— American Cancer Society Website

"EPA's last review was in the 1984 document Biological Effects of Radiofrequency Radiation. The EPA does not currently have a funded mandate for radiofrequency matters."

— Lee Ann B. Veal Director, EPA Radiation Protection Division Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, July 8, 2020 Letter to Theodora Scarato

Fact: There are no scientific reports by the CDC on cell tower radiation safety, nor does the agency have staff with expertise monitoring the science and evaluating risk. Public information requests found that several CDC website pages on radio frequency were found to be drafted with a wireless industry consultant.

"The electromagnetic radiation standards used by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) continue to be based on thermal heating, a criterion now nearly 30 years out of date and inapplicable today." — **U.S. Department of Interior Letter to FCC, 2014**

Fact: The World Health Organization (WHO) EMF Project has not reviewed the science since 1993. The WHO webpages on cell phones and cell towers are not based on a published scientific review. The WHO EMF Project webpages were written by a scientist who used wireless industry money to start the WHO EMF Project and who is now a consultant to industry. In contrast, the WHO International Agency for Research on Cancer (a separate WHO entity vetted for conflicts of interest) determined RF radiation to be a Class 2 B "possible" carcinogen in 2011. Many scientists now state the evidence showing cancer has increased.

Blue text is hyperlinked to source.



FCC EXPOSURE LIMITS DO NOT PROTECT

OUTDATED FCC REGULATIONS FOR RF RADIATION



FCC human exposure limits were adopted in 1996 after the EPA was defunded from creating safety limits. They have not properly reviewed these limits since 1996.

FCC's human exposure limits for the RF microwaves emitted by 5G, 4G, cell towers, cell phones, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, smart devices and wireless networks are based on outdated science and faulty assumptions.

The limits are irrelevant to modern-day technologies and do not reflect the way people are exposed to RF and actually use technology in the 21st century.

Reasons Why FCC's 1996 Limits Do Not Protect:

Heating-Based Only

FCC limits are heat-based "thermal" limits. This means they primarily protect against the overheating of tissue from RF. FCC's limits are not based on protecting against non-heating biological effects such as cancer, oxidative stress, headaches, behavioral problems, memory damage, disrupting bee behavior, tree damage etc.

Short-Term Impacts Only

FCC limits are based on protecting against acute effects. No federal report or research review exists regarding safety from chronic, long-term RF exposures from cell towers, Wi-Fi and wireless networks in the home, school and workplace. The FDA nominated the National Toxicology Program (NTP) to perform animal studies designed to mimic a lifetime of human cell phone exposure. Cancer and DNA damage was found. Another large-scale animal study used cell tower level exposures and found the same tumors as the NTP. However, the FDA rejected these findings.

Children Are Not Protected

FCC limits are misleadingly presented as being "designed to protect children. When safety thresholds were developed decades ago, the science investigating RF impacts to children's developing brains did not exist. Current research concludes the limits should be hundreds of times more protective for children because they are more vulnerable.



FCC EXPOSURE LIMITS DO NOT PROTECT

OUTDATED FCC REGULATIONS FOR RF RADIATION

No Risk Analysis or Review of Totality of Science

No agency has reviewed all of the latest science. Usually the EPA and FDA use risk assessment to characterize the nature and magnitude of risks to human health for various populations such as children and pregnant women. The EPA also estimates ecological risks, including plants, birds, other wildlife and aquatic life. When groundbreaking studies are published, a quantitative risk analysis of the data is performed. This has never been done for RF.

"The FCC and FDA have failed in their obligation to prescribe safe RFR guidelines produced from wireless communication devices to protect the public health and safety. Devices are becoming more sophisticated, and their usage is as common to daily life as brushing your teeth."

— Pittsburgh Law Review "The FCC Keeps Letting Me Be: Why Radiofrequency Radiation Standards Have Failed to Keep Up With Technology" by Hala Mouzaffar

"The wireless industry reaction features stonewalling public relations and hyper aggressive legal action. It can also involve undermining the credibility and cutting off the funding for researchers who do not endorse cellular safety. It is these hardball tactics that look a lot like 20th century Big Tobacco tactics. It is these hardball tactics—along with consistently supportive FCC policies—that heighten suspicion the wireless industry does indeed have something to hide."

— Norm Alster in the Harvard Press Book "Captured Agency: How the Federal Communications Commission is Dominated by the Industries it Presumably Regulates"







THE NEED FOR ACCOUNTABILITY ON WIRELESS SAFETY

EXPERT VOICES



"The National Toxicology Program studies clearly showed that non-ionizing cell phone radiofrequency radiation can cause cancers and other adverse health effects. An important lesson that should be learned is that we cannot assume any current or future wireless technology such as 5G is safe without adequate testing."

- Ronald Melnick PhD 28 year scientist at National Institutes of Health

"I recommend public health organizations raise awareness and educate the public on why and how to reduce our daily exposure to wireless radio frequency radiation. Protective public health policy is needed now. It is time for regulatory bodies to fully evaluate the research and develop science based exposure limits that truly protect the public and the environment."

 Linda S. Birnbaum, PhD, Former Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and National Toxicology Program of the National Institutes of Health.

"Now we have 5G rolling out in massive quantities, without due diligence to determine are these sources of radiation safe not only for humans but for wildlife. And the answer is, no, they are not."

Albert M. Manville II, Ph.D. Adjunct Professor, Johns Hopkins University,
 Wildlife Biologist (17 years), retired from Division of Migratory Bird
 Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

"Given the human, animal and experimental evidence, I assert that, to a reasonable degree of scientific certainty, the probability that RF exposure causes gliomas and neuromas is high."

— Christopher Portier PhD former Director of the United States National Center for Environmental Health at the CDC, former Director of the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

"We should not wait to protect children's brains. The science is now clear and compelling indicating that wireless technology is harmful to health, especially to for children. Wireless radiation is repeating the history of lead, tobacco and DDT."

— Devra Davis PhD, MPH, President of Environmental Health Trust, founding director of the Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology of the U.S. National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences, and a member of the team of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change scientists who were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007



THE URGENT NEED FOR SAFER TECHNOLOGY

EXPERT VOICES

"I am calling on my industry to bring safer technology to market. The current implementation of technology is not safe. Take a good look at the science. This is about our children's future. Do not be lulled into believing that 25-year-old standards can protect the youngest and most vulnerable. They simply cannot."

— Frank Clegg, Former President of Microsoft Canada, CEO of Canadians for Safe Technology

"A moratorium is urgently needed on the implementation of 5G for wireless communication."

— Lennart Hardell, MD, PhD, advisory to World Health Organization international Agency for Research on Cancer, Department of Oncology, University Hospital, Örebro, Sweden (retired), leads the Environment and Cancer Research Foundation

"The evidence indicating wireless is carcinogenic has increased and can no longer be ignored. If the World Health Organization International Agency for Research on Cancer were to meet to review all of the evidence, we believe the weight of evidence supports a new determination- that wireless radiofrequency radiation is a human carcinogen."

— Anthony B. Miller MD, Professor Emeritus, Dalla Lana School of Public Health of the University of Toronto. Former Senior Epidemiologist for the International Agency for Research on Cancer and former Director of the Epidemiology Unit of the National Cancer Institute of Canada

"Most parents believe that cellphones were safety-tested before they came on the market. We assume that our federal health and environmental agencies regularly review the latest research and ensure that these incredible devices are safe. They do not. Children are not little adults. As we sadly learned with early childhood lead exposures leaving long-lasting impairments, the developing brain is particularly susceptible."

Jerome Paulson, MD, Professor Emeritus, George Washington University,
 Milliken School of Public Health, former Chair of American Academy of
 Pediatrics Committee on Environmental Health

"The exposure levels of the Federal Communications Commission are totally outdated and do not protect the health of the public, especially of children. I urge you to take strong and active steps to reduce exposure of children and staff to excessive levels of radiofrequency EMFS within your schools."

— David O. Carpenter, M.D. Director, Institute for Health and the Environment University at Albany









Numerous environmental groups have written letters and appeals cautioning that the unfettered proliferation of 5G and new wireless networks will result in environmental impacts such as increased energy consumption, damage to the tree canopy, harm to pollinators and wildlife.

"Scientists are now realizing that nonionizing radiation also can cause biological effects in all systems of the body and in wildlife, including changes in DNA." Natural Resources Defense Council

Natural Resources Defense Council: Amicus Brief in EHT et al v. the FCC documents critical regulatory gaps regarding environmental effects.

Environmental Working Group: Published research on the need for FCC limits to be hundreds of times stronger to protect children and sent letters to lawmakers in opposition to 5G streamlining laws.

Berkshire-Litchfield Environmental Council: Amicus Brief on the environmental effects and lack of adequate regulations.

Greenpeace France: Position statement on 5G as creating "digital pollution" that will increase carbon emissions, increase e-waste, strip the earth of natural resources and contribute to human tragedies on a global scale.

Ecologists in Action: Position on 5G calls for precaution.

Green Party, California: Statement on 5G recommends adopting recommendations of New Hampshire State 5G Commission to reduce wireless exposures and promote safer alternative technologies.

Sierra Club Washington DC: Testified that street trees could be at risk from the proliferation of 5G small cells and equipment.

Sierra Club California: Opposed streamlining 5G "small cell" installations because they not only would create aesthetic blight, but also increase RF radiation levels.

Los Cerritos Wetlands Task Force of the Sierra Club Angeles: Opposed 5G cell tower referencing studies indicating RF radiation could harm birds and insects. They called for an environmental impact report on health and biological impacts from 5G towers in the city.

Sierra Club California and Nevada Desert Committee: 2022 Desert Report includes a chapter with information on 5G's "immense infrastructure that will certainly be costly not only in financial terms but also in energy costs."

Extinction Rebellion Belgium: Protesting the increased energy consumption of the large-scale deployment of the 5G "which is unacceptable while we are currently fighting against global warming."

Extinction Rebellion Orléans" France:

Actions protesting the ecological impacts of 5G include posters and dramatic protests.





NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE COMMISSION

2020 REPORT: 5G HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

In 2020, the <u>New Hampshire State Commission issued a Final Report</u> with 15 recommendations to "to protect people, wildlife, and the environment from harmful levels of radiation" after a year-long investigation with numerous meetings and expert testimony.



"A likely explanation as to why regulatory agencies have opted to ignore the body of scientific evidence demonstrating the negative impact of cellphone radiation is that those agencies are "captured."

Recommendations To Update RF Exposure Regulations With New Science

- A resolution to U.S. Congress to require the FCC to commission an independent health study and review of safety limits.
- New measurement protocols needed to evaluate high data rate, signal characteristics associated with biological effects and summative effects of multiple radiation sources.

Recommendations To Address Impacts to Wildlife And Environment

- Engage agencies with ecological knowledge to develop RF-radiation safety limits that will protect the trees, plants, birds, insects and pollinators.
- Under the National Environmental Policy Act, FCC should do an environmental impact statement as to the effect on New Hampshire and the country as a whole from 5G and the expansion of RF wireless technologies.

Recommendations To Reduce Public Exposure

- Require setbacks of 1,640 feet for new wireless antennas from residences, businesses and schools.
- Cell phones and wireless devices should be equipped with updated software that stops cell phones from radiating when positioned against the body.
- Establish RF radiation-free zones in commercial and public buildings.
- New Hampshire health agencies should educate the public on minimizing RF exposure with public service announcements on radio, television, print.

Recommendations To Utilize Safer Alternatives

- New Hampshire schools and libraries should replace Wi-Fi with hardwired connections.
- Support statewide deployment of fiber optic cable connectivity with wired connections inside homes.

Recommendations To Increase Transparency

- State should measure RFR and post maps with RF measurements..
- Require 5G structures to be labeled for RFR at eye level and readable from nine feet away.
- RFR signal strength measurements for cell sites should be done by independent contractors.
- NH professional licensure to offer RF measurement education for home inspectors.
- Warning signs posted in commercial and public buildings.



T-Mobile Warns of the Risk of 5G and Lawsuits The Data on Risk Could Change, Impacting Cash Flow



T Mobile

T-Mobile 10-K Report 2/2023

"Negative public perception of, and regulations regarding, the perceived health risks relating to 5G networks could undermine market acceptance of our 5G services" (page 13)

"We, along with equipment manufacturers and other carriers, are subject to current and potential future lawsuits alleging adverse health effects arising from the use of wireless handsets or from wireless transmission equipment such as cell towers."

"In addition, the FCC has from time to time gathered data regarding wireless device emissions, and its assessment of the risks associated with using wireless devices may evolve based on its findings. Any of these allegations or changes in risk assessments could result in customers purchasing fewer devices and wireless services, could result in significant legal and regulatory liability, and could have a material adverse effect on our business, reputation, financial condition, cash flows and operating results." (T- Mobile 10-K Report page 21)



A 2000 Ecolog Institute Report commissioned by T-Mobile and DeTeMobil Deutsche Telekom MobilNet recommended an RF exposure limit 1000x lower than the FCC's current power density limit after reviewing the research on biological effects, including impacts to the immune system, central nervous system, hormones, cancer, neurotransmitters and fertility



5G, CELL TOWERS AND WIRELESS

LEGAL & LIABILITY ISSUES





When a new cell tower is proposed, the first question to ask is: "Do you have insurance for damages from long-term exposure to the radiofrequency radiation (RFR)?"

Usually the answer is "No." Why? Insurance companies rank the risk as "HIGH."

5G and Cell Towers Are an Uninsurable Risk

- Insurers rank wireless, cell tower, and 5G RFR non-ionizing electromagnetic field (EMF) radiation as a "high" risk, comparing the issue to lead and asbestos.
- Most insurance plans have "electromagnetic field exclusions" and do not insure for long-term RFR damages.
- Additionally, some insurance plans will not provide a defense for any supervision instruction or recommendation given "or which should have been given" in connection to EMFs.
- Wireless RFR and non-ionizing electromagnetic radiation are defined as a type of "pollution" by wireless companies themselves.
- U.S. mobile operators have been unable to get insurance to cover liabilities related to damages from long-term RFR exposure.
- Wireless companies warn their shareholders of RFR risk but do not warn users of their products, nor do the companies warn the people exposed to emissions from their infrastructure.



Cell Tower Companies Warn Shareholders of Risk From Cell Tower Radiation

Why Don't They Warn Families Living Near Cell Towers?









Verizon 10-K Report

"Our wireless business also faces personal injury and wrongful death lawsuits relating to alleged health effects of wireless phones or radio frequency transmitters. We may incur significant expenses in defending these lawsuits. In addition, we may be required to pay significant awards or settlements."

Crown Castle 10-K Report

"We cannot guarantee that claims relating to radio frequency emissions will not arise in the future or that the results of such studies will not be adverse to us...If a connection between radio frequency emissions and possible negative health effects were established, our operations, costs, or revenues may be materially and adversely affected. We currently do not maintain any significant insurance with respect to these matters."

AT&T 10-K Report

"In the wireless area, we also face current and potential litigation relating to alleged adverse health effects on customers or employees who use such technologies including, for example, wireless devices. We may incur significant expenses defending such suits or government charges and may be required to pay amounts or otherwise change our operations in ways that could materially adversely affect our operations or financial results."

T- MOBILE 10-K Report

"Our business could be adversely affected by findings of product liability for health or safety risks from wireless devices and transmission equipment, as well as by changes to regulations or radio frequency emission standards."



Cell Tower Companies Warn Shareholders of Risk From Cell Tower Radiation

Why Don't They Warn Families Living Near Cell Towers?









American Tower 10-K

"If a scientific study or court decision resulted in a finding that radio frequency emissions pose health risks to consumers, it could negatively impact our tenants and the market for wireless services, which could materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations or financial condition. We do not maintain any significant insurance with respect to these matters."

Nokia 10-K

"Although our products are designed to meet all relevant safety standards and other recommendations and regulatory requirements globally, we cannot guarantee we will not become subject to product liability claims or be held liable for such claims, which could have a material adverse effect on us."

Qualcomm 10-K

"If wireless handsets pose health and safety risks, we may be subject to new regulations, and demand for our products and those of our licensees and customers may decrease."

Ericsson Annual Report

"Any perceived risk or new scientific findings of adverse health effects from mobile communication devices and equipment could adversely affect us through a reduction in sales or through liability claims."



You work best when your tech works too. Total Mobile Protection for Business Applicable for Business customers outside of New York. New York customers, please see the Total Mobile Protection for Business brochure for New York.

Verizon Total Mobile Protection Plan Defines Non-ionizing Radiation as "Pollution"

16. Pollution

The discharge, dispersal, seepage, migration or escape of pollutants. Pollutants means any solid, liquid, gaseous, or thermal irritant or contaminant including smoke, vapor, soot, fumes, acid, alkalis, chemicals, artificially produced electric fields, magnetic field, electromagnetic field, sound waves, microwaves, and all artificially produced ionizing or non-ionizing radiation and/or waste. Waste includes materials to be recycled, reconditioned or reclaimed.

AT&T, Sprint and T -Mobile also have similar "pollution" definitions and they refuse to cover damages.

Click on image to view the policy.



HEALTH TRUST

Insurance Companies Exclude EMF As Industry Standard

THIS ENDORSEMENT CHANGES THE POLICY. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY.

ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION EXCLUSION

This endorsement modifies insurance provided under the following:

GENERAL LIABILITY COVERAGE PART
PUBLIC RISK GENERAL LIABILITY RETAINED LIMIT COVERAGE FORM
LAW ENFORCEMENT COVERAGE PART
LAW ENFORCEMENT LIABILITY RETAINED LIMIT COVERAGE FORM
PUBLIC OFFICIALS COVERAGE PART
PUBLIC OFFICIALS LIABILITY RETAINED LIMIT COVERAGE FORM
EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES LIABILITY COVERAGE PART
EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES LIABILITY RETAINED LIMIT COVERAGE FORM

The following Exclusion is added:

This policy does not apply to and we will not provide a defense for:

- a. "Bodily injury," "property damage", "personal and advertising injury", "employee benefits wrongful acts", "personal injury", "law enforcement wrongful acts", "public officiels wrongful acts", "educator's legel wrongful acts", or "employment practices wrongful acts" arising out of, or which result in, the actual, alleged, threatened, perceived, latent, sudden and accidental or incidental exposure to or contact with electromegnetic radiation in any form, from any source.
- b. The costs of abatement or mitigation of:
 - (1) Electromagnetic radiation; or
 - (2) Exposure to electromagnetic rediation.
- **c.** Any supervision, instruction, recommendation, warning or advice given or which should have been given in connection with **a.** or **b.** above.

Electromagnetic radiation includes but is not limited to, magnetic energy, waves, fields or forces generated, produced, transmitted or maintained by the charges, currents, frequencies, energy or forces of electricity that is generated, flowing or otherwise transmitted through or via the medium, methods and equipment designed to generate, produce, distribute, trensport or transmit the electrical charges, currents, frequencies, energy or forces.

CITIES AND TOWNS WITH STRONG ORDINANCES

SETBACKS FOR CELL ANTENNAS





Many communities have setbacks for cell towers and small cells.

Shelburne, MA: 3,000 feet for schools and 1,500 feet for homes; no new wireless antennas in residential zones **Copake, NY:** 1,500 feet from homes, schools, churches or other buildings containing dwelling units

Sallisaw, OK: No commercial wireless telecommunications towers within 1,500 of homes.

Calabasas, CA: No "Tier 2" wireless telecommunications facilities within 1,000 feet of homes and schools **Bedford, NH:** 750 feet from residentially-zoned y

Scarsdale, NY: No wireless facilities within 500 feet from

homes, schools, parks, and houses of worship

Walnut City, California: 1,500 feet

Stockbridge, Massachusetts: 1,000 feet

San Diego County California: 1,000 feet (small cells)

Bar Harbor Maine: 1500 setback for schools

School Boards

Palo Alto, California: School Board supports the City of Palo Alto immediately establishing local municipal zoning setback rules of 1,500 feet or more from an operating wireless transmitter and a school site.

West Linn-Wilsonville Oregon School Board prohibits cell towers on school y.

Los Angeles California School District: Resolutions opposing cell towers on school y and a cautionary level for radiofrequency radiation 10,000 times lower than FCC limits.



5G, Small Cells & Cell Towers Can Drop Property Values

Would you buy a home with cell antennas outside the bedroom window?



Legal filings by cities and municipalities to the FCC highlight how small cell deployment could impact aesthetics and property values.

"many deployments of small cells could affect property values, with significant potential effect..."

— Reply Comments of Smart Communities Siting Coalition (local governments and associations representing 1,854 communities)
4/7/2017,Docket No. 16-421, April 7, 2017

"Considering that the Smart Communities' prior filings show that the addition of facilities of this size diminish property values, it is strange for the Commission to assume that approval can be granted in the regulatory blink of an eye...."

"...allowing poles to go up in areas where poles have been taken down has significant impacts on aesthetics (not to mention property values)."

— *Ex Parte* Submission of Smart Communities Letter to Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, September 19, 2018



5G, CELL TOWERS AND WIRELESS

DECREASED PROPERTY VALUE



"An overwhelming 94 percent of home buyers and renters surveyed by the National Institute for Science, Law & Public Policy (NISLAPP) say they are less interested and would pay less for a property located near a cell tower or antenna."

"of the 1,000 survey respondents, 79 % said that under no circumstances would they ever purchase or rent a property within a few blocks of a cell tower or antennas, and almost 90% said they were concerned about the increasing number of cell towers and antennas in their residential neighborhood."

"Cell Towers, Antennas Problematic for Buyers"

— Realtor Magazine

"While the magnitude of the impact varies, the studies uniformly indicate that there is a significant impact on residential property values from installation of cell phone towers..."

— Report and Analysis by David E. Burgoyne, ASA, SR/WA Certified General Real Estate Appraiser to the FCC in Docket 16-421

"In some areas with new towers, property values have decreased by up to 20%."- "Your new neighbor, a cell tower, may impact the value of your home" National Business Post, 2022.

"...cell towers are concerning to many people and drop property values."

"While most states do not require disclosure of neighborhood nuisances, such as cell towers or noisy neighbors, a few states do, and more are likely to in the future."

— Real Estate Attorney, South Florida Sun Sentinel, 2021

The California Association of Realtors' Property Sellers Questionnaire specifically lists "cell towers" on the disclosure form for sellers of real estate.

Click to go to the California
 Association of Realtors' Property Sellers
 Questionnaire
 (p. 3-4 under K. Neighborhood)



The 2022 study "Measurements of radiofrequency electromagnetic fields, including 5G, in the city of Columbia, South Carolina, USA" published in World Academy of Sciences Journal authored by Tarmo Koppel and Lennart Hardell, MD of the Environment and Cancer Research Foundation found the highest RF exposure readings were registered close to cell phone base station antennas mounted on top of utility poles, street lamps or traffic lights.



Figure 7. Gervais Street: Cell phone base station antenna placed close to street level and causing high exposure to pedestrians and nearby café visitors (exposure scenario illustration). The antenna appears camouflaged and seemingly part of a utility pole. The measurer only discovered the antenna due to the high radiofrequency levels in the vicinity.



Figure 8. Gervais Street: Another cell phone base station antenna close to street level and causing high exposure to pedestrians (exposure scenario illustration). Note the antenna appears undistinguishable from the utility pole an unnoticeable between the trees.



Health impact of 5G

STUDY

Panel for the Future of Science and Technology

EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service

Scientific Foresight Unit (STOA) PE 690.012 – July 2021

Health impact of 5G

Current state of knowledge of 5G-related carcinogenic and reproductive/developmental hazards as they emerge from epidemiological studies and in vivo experimental studies

The upcoming deployment of 5G mobile networks will allow for significantly faster mobile broadband speeds and increasingly extensive mobile data usage. Technical innovations include a different transmission system (MIMO: use of multiple-input and multiple-output antennas), directional signal transmission or reception (beamforming), and the use of other frequency ranges. At the same time, a change is expected in the exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF) of humans and the environment. In addition to those used to date, the 5G pioneer bands identified at EU level have frequencies of 700 MHz, 3.6 GHz (3.4 to 3.8 GHz) and 26 GHz (24.25 to 27.5 GHz). The first two frequencies (FR1) are similar to those used for 2G to 4G technologies and have been investigated in both epidemiological and experimental studies for different end points (including carcinogenicity and reproductive/developmental effects), while 26 GHz (FR2) and higher frequencies have not been adequately studied for the same end points.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified radiofrequency (RF) EMF as 'possibly carcinogenic to humans' (Group 2B) and recently recommended RF exposure for re-evaluation 'with high priority' (IARC, 2019). Since 2011 a great number of studies have been performed, both epidemiological and experimental. The present review addresses the current knowledge regarding both carcinogenic and reproductive/developmental hazards of RF as exploited by 5G. There are various *in vivo* experimental and epidemiological studies on RF at a lower frequency range (450 to 6000 MHz), which also includes the frequencies used in previous generations' broadband cellular networks, but very few (and inadequate) on the higher frequency range (24 to 100 GHz, centimetre/MMW).

The review shows: 1) 5G lower frequencies (700 and 3 600 MHz): a) limited evidence of carcinogenicity in epidemiological studies; b) sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in experimental bioassays; c) sufficient evidence of reproductive/developmental adverse effects in humans; d) sufficient evidence of reproductive/developmental adverse effects in experimental animals; 2) 5G higher frequencies (24.25-27.5 GHz): the systematic review found no adequate studies either in humans or in experimental animals.

Conclusions: 1) cancer: FR1 (450 to 6 000 MHz): EMF are probably carcinogenic for humans, in particular related to gliomas and acoustic neuromas; FR2 (24 to 100 GHz): no adequate studies were performed on the higher frequencies; 2) reproductive developmental effects: FR1 (450 to 6 000 MHz): these frequencies clearly affect male fertility and possibly female fertility too. They may have possible adverse effects on the development of embryos, foetuses and newborns; FR2 (24 to 100 GHz): no adequate studies were performed on non-thermal effects of the higher frequencies.

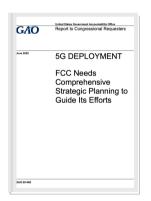
Government Accountability Office Reports

These GAO reports confirm zero review of the totality of the science and bust the industry myth that 5G will bridge the digital divide.



2020: 5G Wireless: Capabilities and Challenges for an Evolving Network

"The FCC relies on the FDA as well as other organizations—principally IEEE and the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP)—to review scientific research and provide recommendations for setting RF safety standards. However, each of these organizations has only reviewed a subset of the relevant research..."



2020 5G DEPLOYMENT: FCC Needs Comprehensive Strategic Planning to Guide Its Efforts

"The experts GAO convened also stated that 5G deployment would likely exacerbate disparities in access to telecommunications services, known as the "digital divide."



2012 TELECOMMUNICATIONS: Exposure and Testing Requirements for Mobile Phones Should Be Reassessed

"By not formally reassessing its current limit, FCC cannot ensure it is using a limit that reflects the latest research on RF energy exposure..."

"Some consumers may use mobile phones against the body, which FCC does not currently test, and could result in RF energy exposure higher than the FCC limit."

