

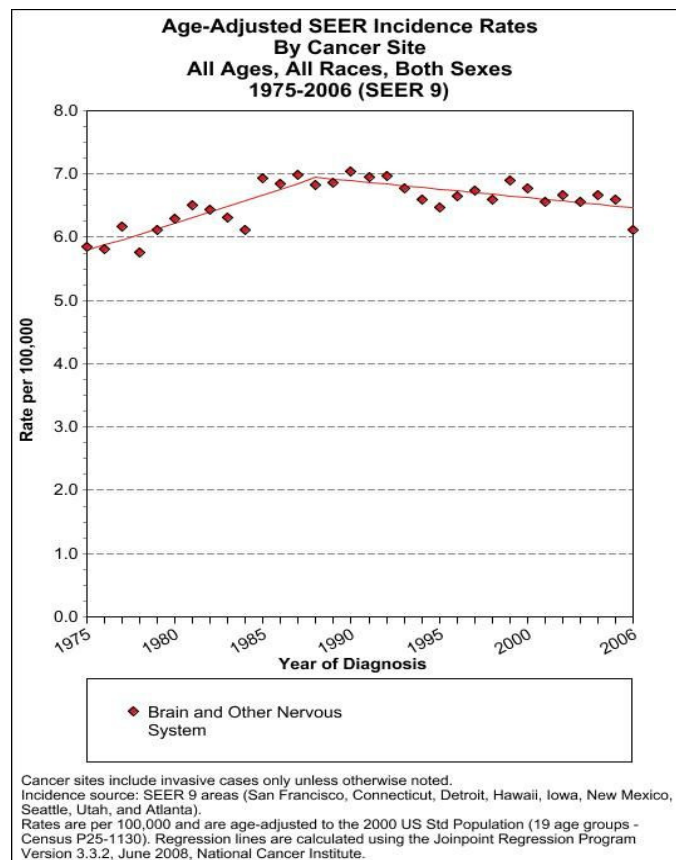
## Cell Phones, Ham Radio, and Brain Cancer

by Jeff Liebermann

Does using a cell phone or ham radio walkie talkie near the head cause brain cancer? There are plenty of studies attempting to connect cell phones with brain cancer, but none that I would consider definitive. Perhaps RF causes cancer of the vocabulary, but I won't go there.

If cell phones really did cause brain cancer, one would expect the incidence of brain cancer to follow the rapid increase in the use of cell phones. However, that's not the case. The incidence of brain and central nervous system cancer is fairly flat for the past 35 years. Since 1983, when Motorola introduced the first cellular handset, cell phone use has increased dramatically to about 240 million (US) and 2 billion world wide.

Incidence of cancer statistics can be found online at the National Cancer Institute at: [http://seer.cancer.gov/cgi-bin/csr/1975\\_2003/search.pl](http://seer.cancer.gov/cgi-bin/csr/1975_2003/search.pl)



The graph shows that the incidence of brain and central nervous system cancer is actually decreasing slightly. If there were a connection between cell phone use and brain cancer, one would expect to see a dramatic increase. Lacking any statistical evidence of an epidemic of brain cancer, methinks it's safe to use a cell phone and ham radio handie talkie.