

Additional cancer cases discovered

■ At least 24 cases known; some involve rare forms of the disease.

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At least 24 students who have attended Southside High School have developed cancer since the Elmira school opened in 1979, according to the Chemung County Health Department and Star-Gazette research.

The preliminary numbers — collected during an ongoing investigation into possible connections between the school facility and cancer cases there — are not high, but some of the cancers found are rare, an area oncologist said.

Still, the fact that the investigation continues is a source of concern to officials.

"My gut feeling is that it's significant," Thomas Kump, director of environmental health for the county and an Elmira school board member, said of the reported cancer cases among students.

The investigation has not yet expanded to include staff and faculty members, Kump said.

Twenty-four former and current students of Southside High School have developed

CONCERN^{on the} SOUTHSIDE

Documenting cancer cases

Chemung County health officials have documented 22 cases of cancer among students at Southside High School since 1979. The Star-Gazette has received reports of two other cases.

To report additional cancer cases, call the Chemung County Health Department at 607/737-2019.

cancer. Two of those students have died. The 1,100-student school was built in 1978 on a former industrial property that is contaminated with fuel oil underground.

The reported cancers include leukemia, Hodgkin's disease and lymphoma, and testicular, ovarian, breast, brain, skin, cervical, colon and soft-tissue cancers.

The health department has a list of 22 cases, but Kump said that list does not include a Southside graduate recently

See CANCER/4A

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