

New study finds chromosomal changes in residents living near cell phone towers

 ehn.org/cell-phone-tower-chromosomes

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A recent study published in [Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety](#) examined genetic changes that took place in otherwise healthy adults after at least 5 years of living near cell phone towers in Germany.

In short:

- Residents who lived closer to cell towers and were therefore exposed to higher levels of radiofrequency (RF) radiation had significantly more breaks and disruptions to their chromosomes.
- Some previous studies from Germany and other countries have linked proximity to cell phone towers with a potentially elevated risk for cancer.

Key quote:

“Little is known about chronic (years long) exposure with non-thermal RF [radiation].”

Why this matters:

All wireless devices - including cell phones, WiFi routers, and the towers they depend on for service - emit RF radiation. While this radiation is different from high frequency radiation (like the type emitted by X-rays), a [growing body of data](#) suggests that RF radiation may still have the ability to alter cellular molecules, potentially increasing the [risk for negative health impacts](#). As cell towers continue to be constructed within communities in close proximity to residences, experts encourage more research and updated regulations that account for evolving technologies.

Related EHN coverage:

- [Regulations on radiation exposure remain unchanged for decades](#)
- [Opinion: House Bill 6492 may endanger wildlife and public health with increased cell towers](#)

More resources:

Environmental Health Sciences has information on [cell tower health risk](#), [property value impacts](#) and [liability issues](#).

[10 Health, Safety, and Liability Issues of Cell Towers](#)

[American Public Health Association Presentation: Why Addressing Cell Towers at Schools is Primary Prevention](#)

[Factsheets on cell tower radiation and health, wireless impacts to children, and wildlife](#)

[Gulati, Sachin et al. for *Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety* vol. 279, 1. July 1, 2024](#)

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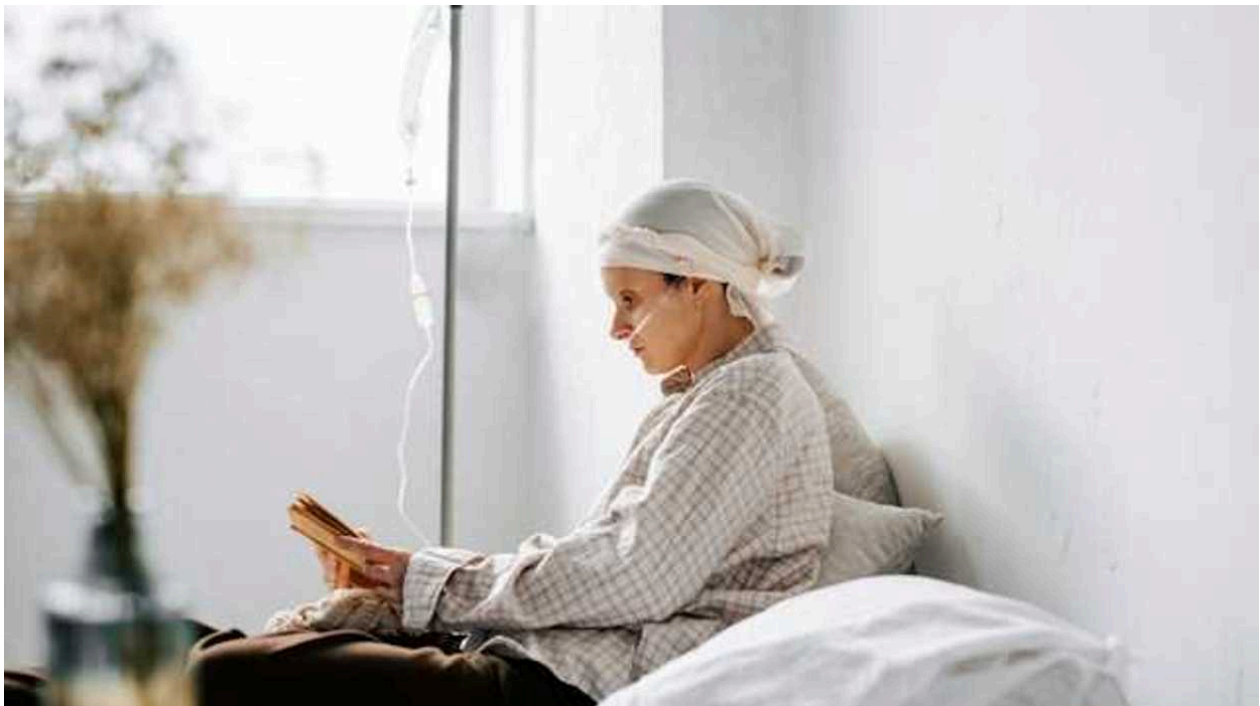
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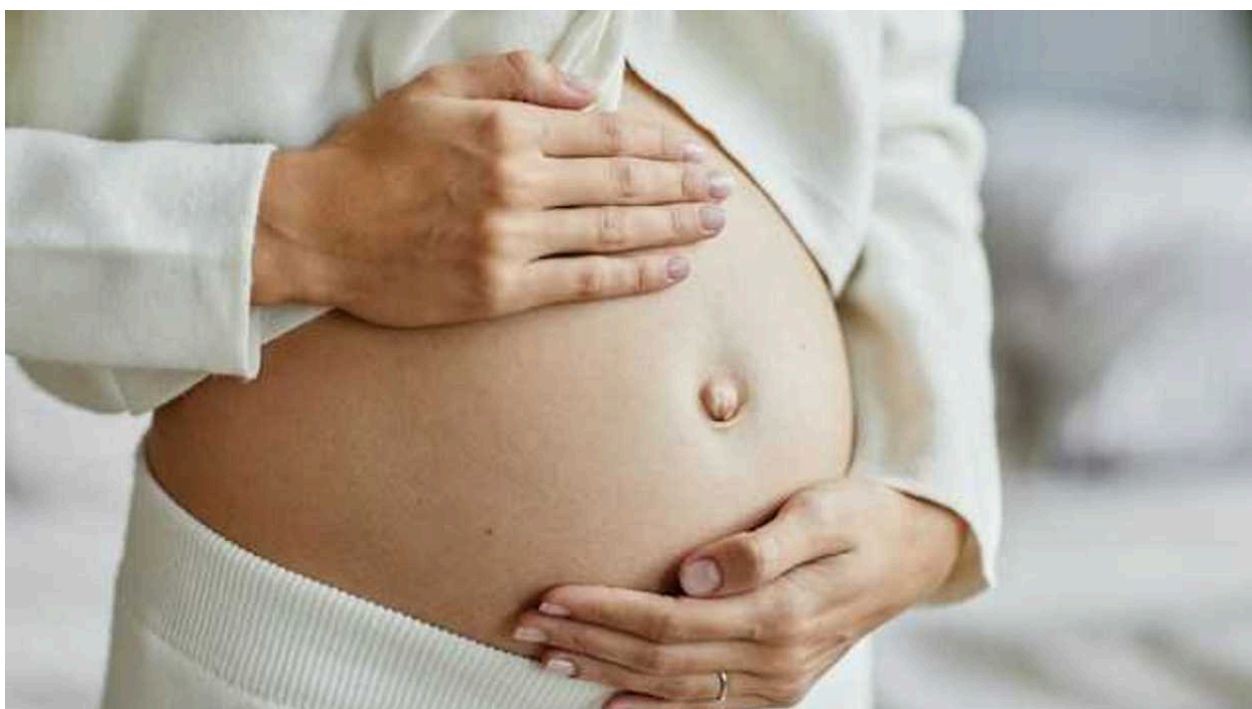


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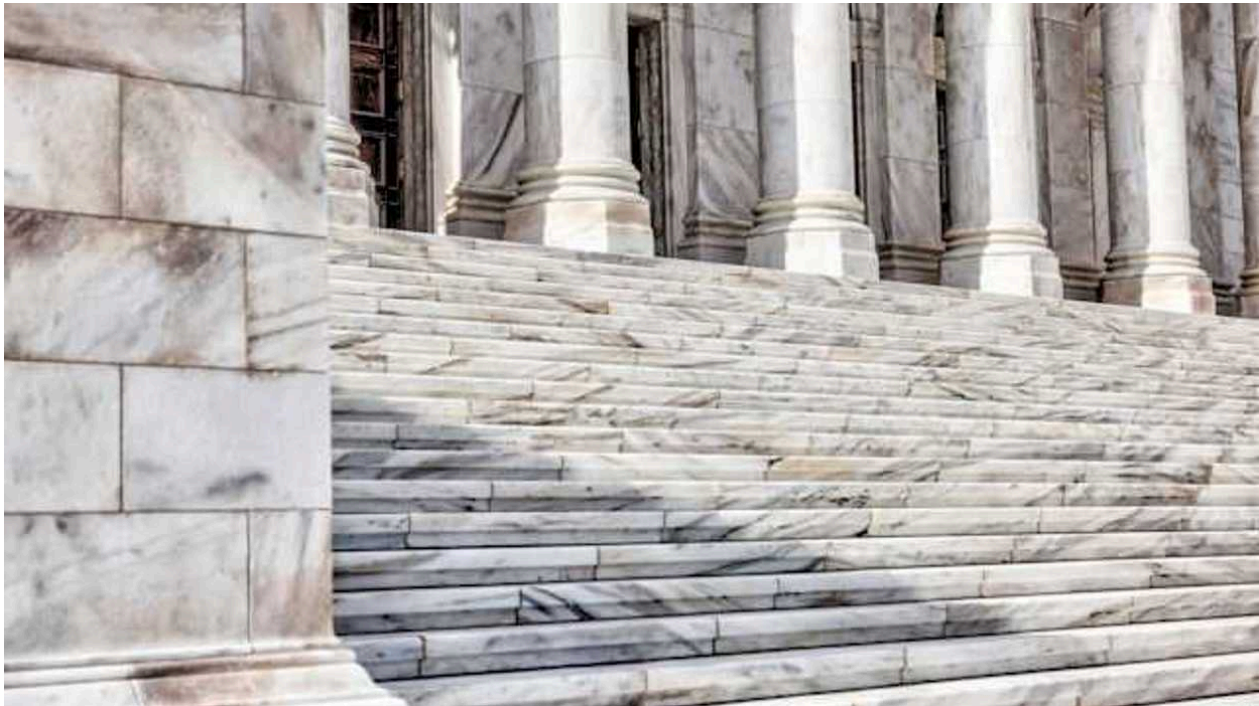


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