

Appendix M

Renal Assessment

TABLE M-1.

Summary of Dioxin-by-Covariate Interactions for Renal Variables

Ranch Hands - Log2 (Current Dioxin) and Time

Variable/ Assumption-- (Table Ref.)	Interaction	Stratum	Time (Yrs.)	Percent Yes/(n) <u>Current Dioxin</u>			Adj. Relative Risk (95% C.I.) ^a	p-Value
				Low	Medium	High		
Kidney Disease (Minimal-- 14-3 [g])	Current-by- Time-by- Diabetic Class	Normal	≤18.6	11.8 (51)	11.7 (94)	9.5 (42)	0.99 (0.64,1.52)	0.412 ^b
			>18.6	9.1 (33)	6.6 (91)	12.0 (50)	1.28 (0.83,1.95)	0.263 ^c
			Impaired	0.0 (6)	0.0 (17)	20.0 (5)	5.03 (0.63,40.33)	0.063 ^b
	Diabetic	Impaired	≤18.6	0.0 (18)	16.7 (21)	9.5 (12)	0.57 (0.22,1.49)	0.128 ^c
			>18.6	44.4 (9)	0.0 (11)	0.0 (6)	0.10 (0.01,2.36)	0.252 ^c
			Normal	0.0 (6)	11.8 (17)	16.7 (12)	1.35 (0.73,2.50)	0.113 ^b
	Categorized Current Dioxin-by- Diabetic Class	Diabetic	≤18.6	44.4 (9)	0.0 (11)	0.0 (6)	0.10 (0.01,2.36)	0.152 ^c
			>18.6	0.0 (6)	11.8 (17)	16.7 (12)	1.35 (0.73,2.50)	0.344 ^c
			Normal	0.0 (6)	11.8 (17)	16.7 (12)	1.35 (0.73,2.50)	0.344 ^c

Ranch Hands and Comparisons by Current Dioxin Category

Variable/ (Table Ref.)	Interaction	Stratum	Current Dioxin Category	n	Percent Abnormal		Adj. Relative Risk (95% C.I.)	p-Value
					Contrast			
Urinary Occult Blood (14-5 [j])	Categorized Current Dioxin-by- Diabetic Class	Normal	Background	610	8.7	All		0.397
			Unknown	277	6.9	U vs. B	0.80 (0.46,1.37)	0.411
			Low	149	12.1	L vs. B	1.43 (0.81,2.53)	0.218
	Impaired	Background	High	130	9.2	H vs. B	1.11 (0.57,2.14)	0.761
			Background	108	3.7	All		0.069
			Unknown	48	10.4	U vs. B	3.23 (0.82,12.65)	0.093
		Background	Low	28	0.0	L vs. B	--	--
			High	26	11.5	H vs. B	3.37 (0.70,16.19)	0.130
			Background	66	6.1	All		0.158
	Diabetic	Background	Unknown	19	0.0	U vs. B	--	--
			Low	17	17.7	L vs. B	3.20 (0.63,16.14)	0.159
			High	31	3.2	H vs. B	0.52 (0.06,4.91)	0.570

TABLE M-1. (Continued)
Summary of Dioxin-by-Covariate Interactions for Renal Variables

Ranch Hands - Log₂ (Initial Dioxin)									
Variable/ (Assumption-- Table Ref.)	Interaction	Stratum	Initial Dioxin	n	Percent Abnormal	Adj. Relative Risk (95% C.I.) ^a	p-Value		
Urinary White Blood Cell Count (Minimal--14-6 [c])	Initial-by-Age	Born ≥1942	Low	43	7.0	1.40 (0.97,2.04)	0.075		
			Medium	111	7.2				
			High	83	8.4				
	Initial-by-Diabetic Class	Born <1942	Low	87	12.6	0.79 (0.51,1.24)	0.307		
			Medium	149	6.7				
			High	48	6.3				
Urinary White Blood Cell Count (Maximal--14-6 [d])	Initial-by-Diabetic Class	Normal	Low	149	4.7	1.26 (0.98,1.62)	0.070		
			Medium	269	5.2				
			High	128	9.4				
	Impaired		Low	26	15.4	0.53 (0.26,1.06)	0.075		
			Medium	57	7.0				
			High	27	3.7				
	Diabetic		Low	10	0.0	1.02 (0.67,1.56)	0.928		
			Medium	43	16.3				
			High	31	12.9				
Ranch Hands - Log₂ (Current Dioxin) and Time									
Variable/ (Assumption-- Table Ref.)	Interaction	Stratum	Time (Yrs.)	Percent Abnormal/(n) <u>Current Dioxin</u>			Adj. Relative Risk (95% C.I.) ^a	p-Value	
Urinary White Blood Cell Count (Minimal--14-6 [g])	Current-by-Time-by-Race	Black	<18.6	Low	42.9 (7)	0.0 (7)	0.0 (0)	0.04 (0.00,16.46)	0.293 ^c
				Medium	0.0 (4)	9.1 (11)	33.3 (3)	1.99 (0.32,12.40)	0.462 ^c
			>18.6	High	12.3 (65)	5.0 (120)	11.1 (54)		
				Non-Black	5.6 (54)	7.5 (120)	6.8 (74)	1.01 (0.67,1.54)	0.711 ^b
				≤18.6	12.3 (65)	5.0 (120)	11.1 (54)		
				>18.6	5.6 (54)	7.5 (120)	6.8 (74)	1.12 (0.79,1.61)	0.950 ^c
				High	12.3 (65)	5.0 (120)	11.1 (54)		
				Non-Black	5.6 (54)	7.5 (120)	6.8 (74)		
				≤18.6	12.3 (65)	5.0 (120)	11.1 (54)		

TABLE M-1. (Continued)
Summary of Dioxin-by-Covariate Interactions for Renal Variables

Ranch Hands - Log₂ (Current Dioxin) and Time

Variable/ (Assumption-- Table Ref.)	Interaction	Stratum	Time (Yrs.)	Adj. Mean/(n) <u>Current Dioxin</u>			Adj. Slope (Std. Error)	p-Value
				Low	Medium	High		
Blood Urea Nitrogen ^d (Maximal-- 14-7 [h])	Current-by- Time-by- Diabetic	Normal	≤18.6	13.8 (89)	14.6 (146)	14.6 (61)	0.015 (0.022)	0.502 ^e
			>18.6	15.0 (64)	13.2 (117)	13.8 (69)	-0.043 (0.021)	0.039 ^f
			Impaired	14.7 (14)	13.9 (24)	13.0 (8)	-0.074 (0.054)	0.115 ^e
	Class	Impaired	>18.6	13.6 (8)	13.2 (38)	13.5 (18)	0.032 (0.041)	0.428 ^f
			≤18.6	14.6 (3)	14.3 (20)	13.4 (14)	-0.047 (0.059)	0.344 ^e
			>18.6	14.6 (7)	13.4 (23)	14.9 (17)	0.020 (0.039)	0.442 ^f
		Diabetic	≤18.6	14.6 (3)	14.3 (20)	13.4 (14)	-0.047 (0.059)	0.613 ^f
			>18.6	14.6 (7)	13.4 (23)	14.9 (17)	0.020 (0.039)	0.442 ^f

Ranch Hands - Log₂ (Initial Dioxin)

Variable/ (Assumption-- Table Ref.)	Interaction	Stratum	Initial Dioxin	n	Adj. Mean	Adj. Slope (Std. Error)	p-Value
Urine Specific Gravity (Maximal-- 14-8 [d])	Initial-by- Race	Black	Low	4	1.0234	-0.0018 (0.0010)	0.063
			Medium	27	1.0205		
			High	7	1.0163		
	Non-Black	Non-Black	Low	181	1.0199	0.0002 (0.0002)	0.326
			Medium	344	1.0200		
			High	179	1.0201		

TABLE M-1. (Continued)
Summary of Dioxin-by-Covariate Interactions for Renal Variables

Variable/ (Assumption-- Table Ref.)	Interaction	Stratum	Time (Yrs.)	Adj. Mean/(n) <u>Current Dioxin</u>			Adj. Slope (Std. Error)	p-Value
				Low	Medium	High		
Urine Specific Gravity (Minimal-- 14-8 [g])	Current-by- Time-by-Age	Born ≥1942	≤18.6	1.0221 (24)	1.0200 (66)	1.0215 (41)	-0.0002 (0.0004)	0.645 ^e 0.721 ^f
			>18.6	1.0228 (12)	1.0205 (50)	1.0215 (44)	0.0001 (0.0004)	0.769 ^f
		Born <1942	≤18.6	1.0182 (48)	1.0205 (62)	1.0205 (13)	0.0009 (0.0006)	0.053 ^e 0.125 ^f
	Current-by- Time-by-Age	Born ≥1942	>18.6	1.0190 (46)	1.0197 (82)	1.0193 (33)	-0.0005 (0.0004)	0.237 ^f
			≤18.6	1.0221 (47)	1.0205 (84)	1.0209 (57)	-0.00003 (0.00031)	0.540 ^e 0.925 ^f
		Born <1942	>18.6	1.0198 (13)	1.0204 (53)	1.0216 (60)	0.00025 (0.00034)	0.459 ^f
Urine Specific Gravity (Maximal-- 14-8 [h])	Current-by- Time-by-Age	Born ≥1942	≤18.6	1.0185 (59)	1.0196 (107)	1.0201 (26)	0.00065 (0.00041)	0.046 ^e 0.111 ^f
			>18.6	1.0202 (66)	1.0194 (126)	1.0187 (44)	-0.00037 (0.00030)	0.226 ^f

TABLE M-1. (Continued)
Summary of Dioxin-by-Covariate Interactions for Renal Variables

^aRelative risk for a twofold increase in dioxin.

^bTest of significance for homogeneity of relative risks (current dioxin continuous, time categorized).

^cTest of significance for relative risk equal to 1 (current dioxin continuous, time categorized).

^dAdjusted means transformed from square root scale; adjusted slope and standard error based on square root blood urea nitrogen versus log₂ dioxin.

^eTest of significance for homogeneity of slopes (current dioxin continuous, time categorized).

^fTest of significance for slope equal to 0 (current dioxin continuous, time categorized).

--: Analysis not performed due to category with no abnormalities.

Note: Initial Dioxin: Minimal--Low: 52-93 ppt; Medium: >93-292 ppt; High: >292 ppt.

Maximal--Low: 25-56.9 ppt; Medium: >56.9-218 ppt; High: >218 ppt.

Current Dioxin: Minimal--Low: >10-14.65 ppt; Medium: >14.65-45.75 ppt; High: >45.75 ppt.

Maximal--Low: >5-9.01 ppt; Medium: >9.01-33.3 ppt; High: >33.3 ppt.

All: All categories.

Background (B) (Comparisons): Current Dioxin ≤10 ppt.

Unknown (U) (Ranch Hands): Current Dioxin ≤10 ppt.

Low (L) (Ranch Hands): 15 ppt < Current Dioxin ≤33.3 ppt.

High (H) (Ranch Hands): Current Dioxin >33.3 ppt.

TABLE M-2.
Summary of Models Without Adjustment for Diabetic Class for Renal Variables

Ranch Hands and Comparisons by Current Dioxin Category

Variable/ (Table Ref.)	Current Dioxin Category	n	Contrast	Adj. Relative Risk (95% C.I.)	p-Value	Covariate Remarks
Urinary Protein (14-4 [j])	Background	786	All Categories		0.919	AGE (p=0.021) RACE (p=0.002)
	Unknown	345	Unknown vs. Background	0.84 (0.45,1.58)	0.589	
	Low	196	Low vs. Background	0.82 (0.37,1.79)	0.612	
	High	187	High vs. Background	1.01 (0.46,2.23)	0.981	
	Total	1,514				

Ranch Hands - Log₂ (Initial Dioxin)

Variable/ (Table Ref.)	Assumption	Adj. Relative Risk (95% C.I.) ^a	p-Value	Covariate Remarks
Urinary Occult Blood (14-5 [c])	Minimal (n=521)	1.21 (0.95,1.55)	0.130	RACE (p=0.002)

Ranch Hands - Log₂ (Current Dioxin) and Time

Variable/ (Table Ref.)	Assumption	Time (Yrs.)	Adj. Relative Risk (95% C.I.) ^a	p-Value	Covariate Remarks
Urinary Occult Blood (14-5 [g])	Minimal (n=521)			0.471 ^b	RACE (p=0.003)
		≤18.6	1.31 (0.82,2.09)	0.251 ^c	
		>18.6	1.07 (0.79,1.45)	0.663 ^c	

Ranch Hands - Log₂ (Initial Dioxin)

Variable/ (Table Ref.)	Assumption	Adj. Relative Risk (95% C.I.) ^a	p-Value	Covariate Remarks
Urinary White Blood Cell Count (14-6 [d])	Maximal (n=742)	1.11 (0.91,1.35)	0.323	RACE (p=0.059)

TABLE M-2. (Continued)
Summary of Models Without Adjustment for Diabetic
Class for Renal Variables

Ranch Hands - Log₂ (Current Dioxin) and Time

Variable/ (Table Ref.)	Assumption	Time (Yrs.)	Adj. Relative Risk (95% C.I.) ^a	p-Value	Covariate Remarks
Urinary White Blood Cell Count (14-6 [g])	Minimal			0.345** ^b	CURR*TIME*RACE (p=0.033)
	(n=521)	≤18.6	0.94 (0.62,1.44)**	0.789** ^c	
		>18.6	1.23 (0.86,1.74)**	0.253** ^c	
Urinary White Blood Cell Count (14-6 [h])	Maximal			0.342 ^b	RACE (p=0.055)
	(n=742)	≤18.6	1.05 (0.78,1.42)	0.739 ^c	
		>18.6	1.28 (0.97,1.70)	0.083 ^c	

Ranch Hands and Comparisons by Current Dioxin Category

Variable/ (Table Ref.)	Current Dioxin Category	n	Adj. Mean	Contrast	Difference of Adj. Means (95% C.I.) ^e	p-Value ^f	Covariate Remarks
Blood Urea Nitrogen ^d (14-7 [jl])	Background	786	14.2	All Categories		0.548	AGE (p<0.001) RACE (p=0.002)
	Unknown	345	14.0	Unknown vs. Background	-0.2 --	0.413	
	Low	196	13.8	Low vs. Background	-0.4 --	0.174	
	High	187	14.1	High vs. Background	-0.1 --	0.812	
	Total	1,514					

^aRelative risk for a twofold increase in dioxin.

^bTest of significance for homogeneity of relative risks (current dioxin continuous, time categorized).

^cTest of significance for relative risk equal to 1 (current dioxin continuous, time categorized).

^dMeans transformed from square root scale.

^eDifference of means after transformation to original scale; confidence interval on difference of means not given because analysis was performed on square root scale.

^fP-value based on difference of means on square root scale.

**Log₂ (current dioxin)-by-time-by-covariate interaction (0.01<p≤0.05); adjusted relative risk, confidence interval, and p-value derived from a model after deletion of this interaction.

Note: Background (Comparisons): Current Dioxin ≤10 ppt.

Unknown (Ranch Hands): Current Dioxin ≤10 ppt.

Low (Ranch Hands): 15 ppt < Current Dioxin ≤33.3 ppt.

High (Ranch Hands): Current Dioxin >33.3 ppt.

TABLE M-3.
Summary of Dioxin-by-Covariate Interactions Without Adjustment for
Diabetic Class for Renal Variables

Variable/ (Assumption-- Table Ref.)	Interaction	Stratum	Time (Yrs.)	Percent Abnormal/(n)			Adj. Relative Risk (95% C.I.) ^a	p-Value
				Current	Dioxin	Low	Medium	High
Urinary White Blood Cell Count (Minimal-- 14-6 [g])	Current-by- Time-by-Race	Black	≤ 18.6	42.9	0.0	0.0	0.02 (0.00,9.20)	0.024 ^b
				(7)	(7)	(0)		0.216 ^c
			>18.6	0.0	9.1	33.3	2.50 (0.43,14.51)	0.307 ^c
	Non-Black		≤ 18.6	(4)	(11)	(3)		
				12.3	5.0	11.1	1.03 (0.67,1.57)	0.633 ^b
			>18.6	(65)	(121)	(54)		0.896 ^c
				5.6	7.4	6.8	1.18 (0.82,1.69)	0.373 ^c
				(54)	(121)	(74)		

^aRelative risk for a twofold increase in dioxin.

^bTest of significance for homogeneity of relative risks (current dioxin continuous, time categorized).

^cTest of significance for relative risk equal to 1 (current dioxin continuous, time categorized).

Note: Current Dioxin: Minimal-Low: >10-14.65 ppt; Medium: >14.65-45.75 ppt; High: >45.75 ppt.

Maximal-Low: >5-9.01 ppt; Medium: >9.01-33.3 ppt; High: >33.3 ppt.

APPENDIX M-1.

Data Displays for the Renal Assessment

The following figures graphically display relationships between the dependent variables and measures of dioxin for the renal assessment. The panels are arranged as follows:

Panel	Group	Assumption	Dioxin Measure
a	Ranch Hand	Minimal	Initial
b	Ranch Hand	Maximal	Initial
c	Comparison	--	Current
d	Ranch Hand	--	Current

Dioxin measures are presented in original units, but spacing of intervals is based on the logarithm (base 2) scale, similar to the statistical analysis. The dependent variable is also presented in original units (or a multiple thereof), but spacing is based on the scale used for analysis, as described in the chapter. For continuous variables, current dioxin values of 0.0 ppt are displayed as 0.3 ppt. For these variables, the reference line indicates the general relationship between the (transform of the) dependent variable and \log_2 dioxin. For discrete variables, the percent of participants that exhibited an abnormal condition is displayed on the vertical axis for given intervals of dioxin. The intervals of dioxin and the sample sizes (assuming no missing data or exclusions) for each of these intervals are given below. A list of figures found in this appendix follows the table.

Dioxin Interval	Dioxin Scale Midpoint	Panel			
		a	b	c	d
0.0-0.5	0.25	0	0	42	8
>0.5-2.0	1	0	0	28	8
>2.0-8.0	4	0	0	681	249
>8.0-32.0	16	0	23	52	408
>32.0-128.0	64	219	417	1	158
>128.0-512.0	256	234	234	0	33
>512.0-2,048.0	1024	65	65	0	2
>2,048.0	4096	3	3	0	0

Figure**Page**

M-1-1	Kidney Disease versus Dioxin.....	M-1-3
M-1-2	Urinary Protein versus Dioxin.....	M-1-4
M-1-3	Urinary Occult Blood versus Dioxin.....	M-1-5
M-1-4	Urinary White Blood Cell Count versus Dioxin.....	M-1-6
M-1-5	Blood Urea Nitrogen versus Dioxin	M-1-7
M-1-6	Urine Specific Gravity versus Dioxin.....	M-1-8

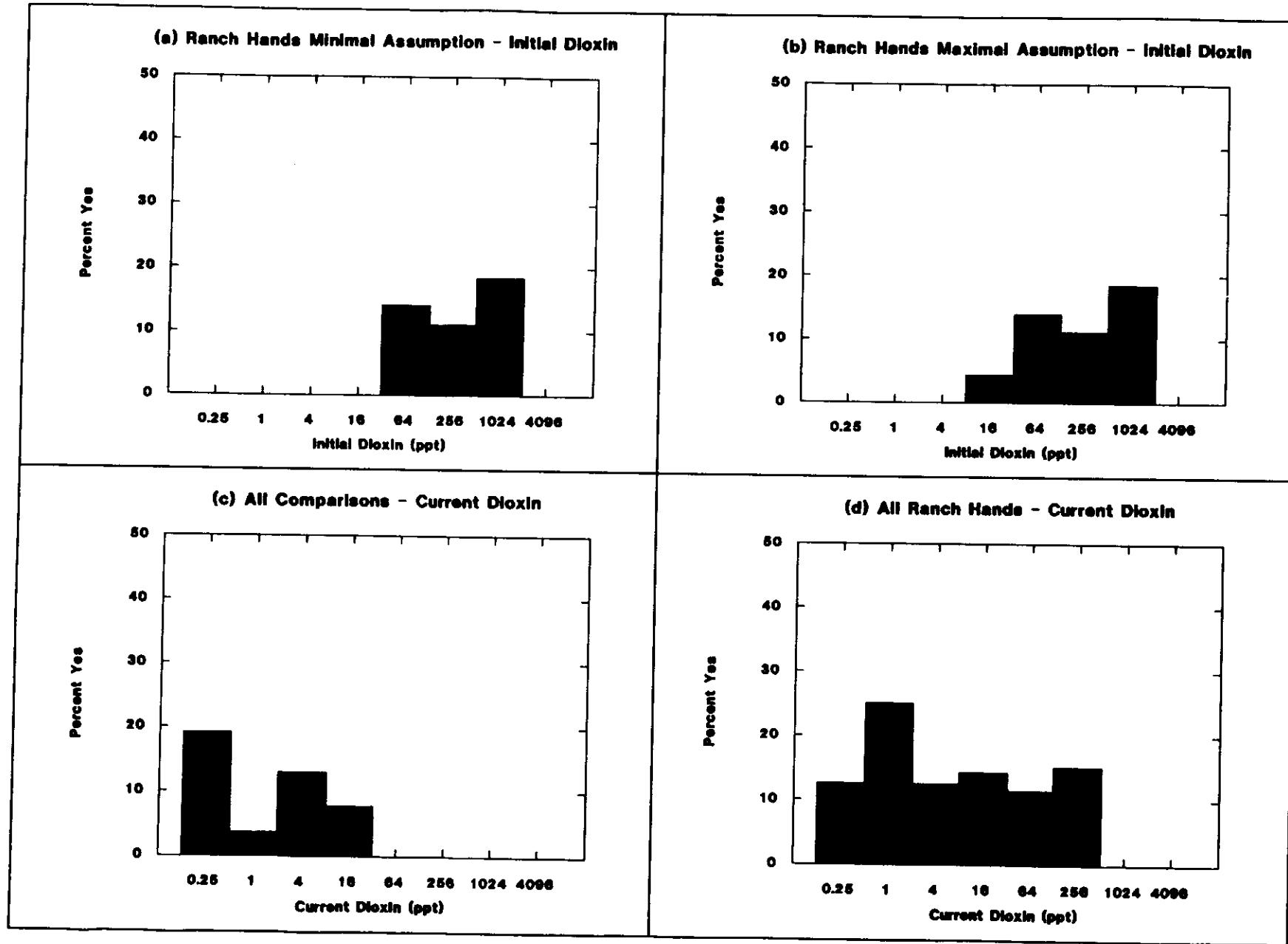


FIGURE M-1-1. Kidney Disease versus Dioxin

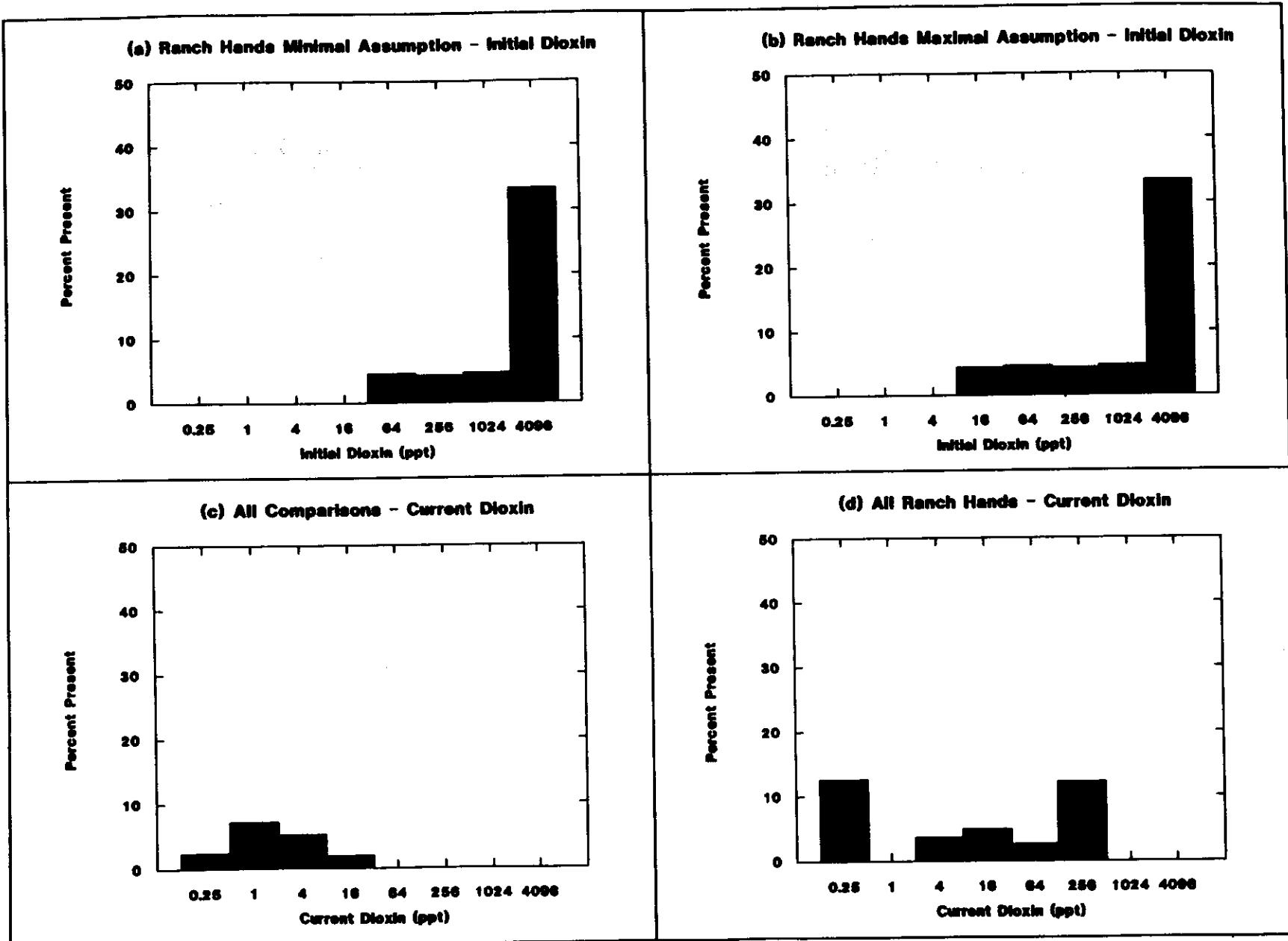


FIGURE M-1-2. Urinary Protein versus Dioxin

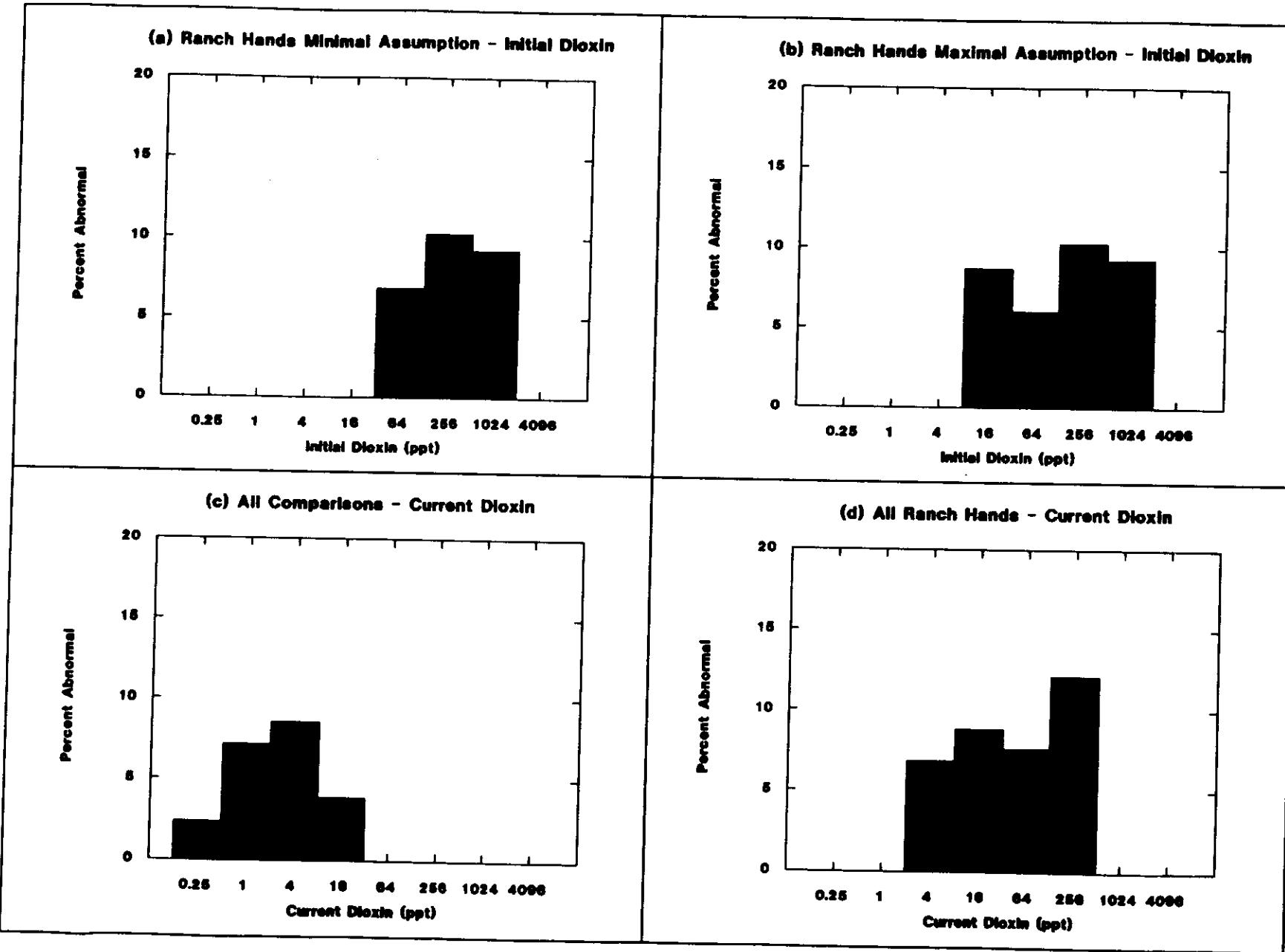


FIGURE M-1-3. Urinary Occult Blood versus Dioxin

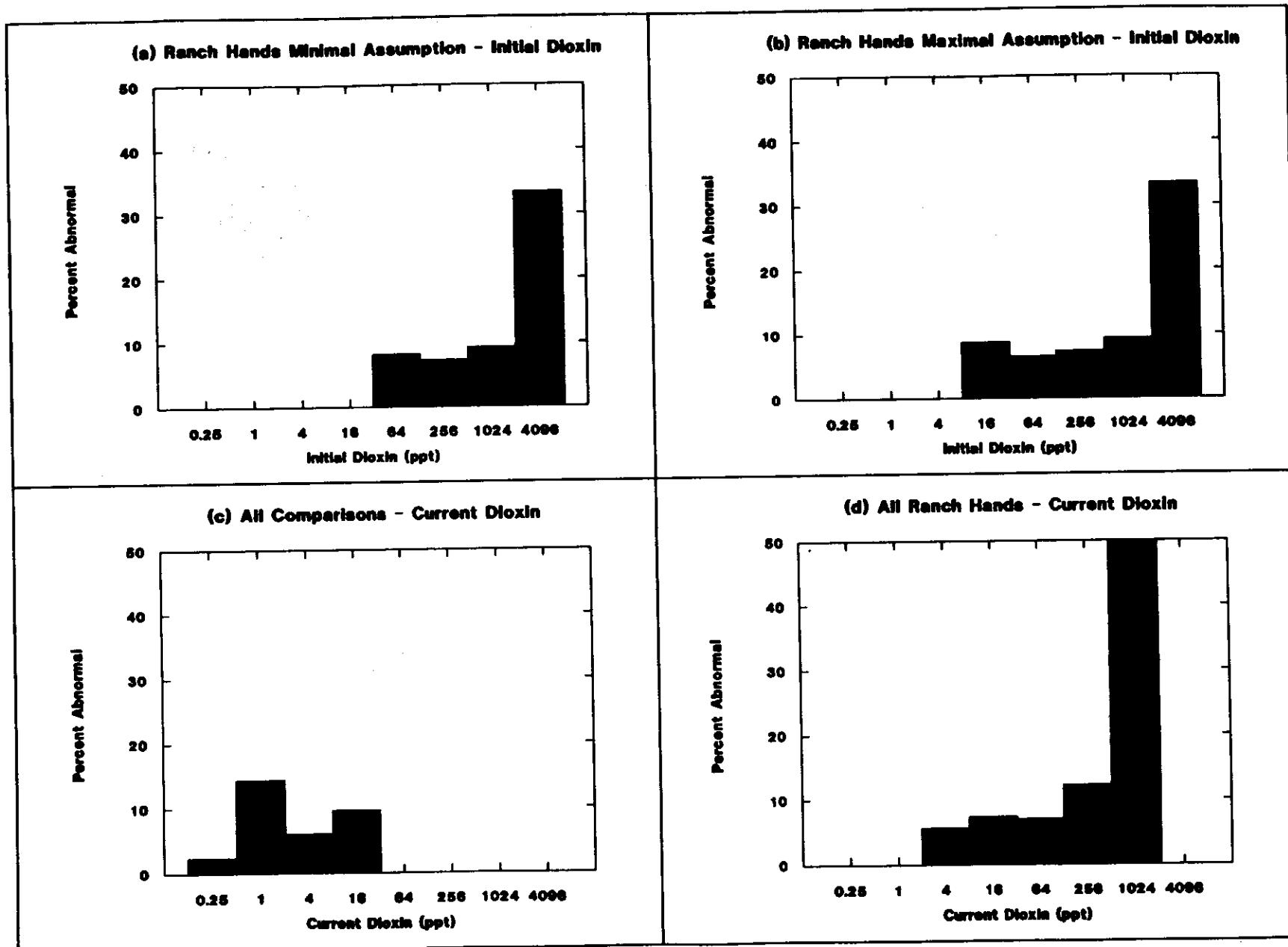


FIGURE M-1-4. Urinary White Blood Cell Count versus Dioxin

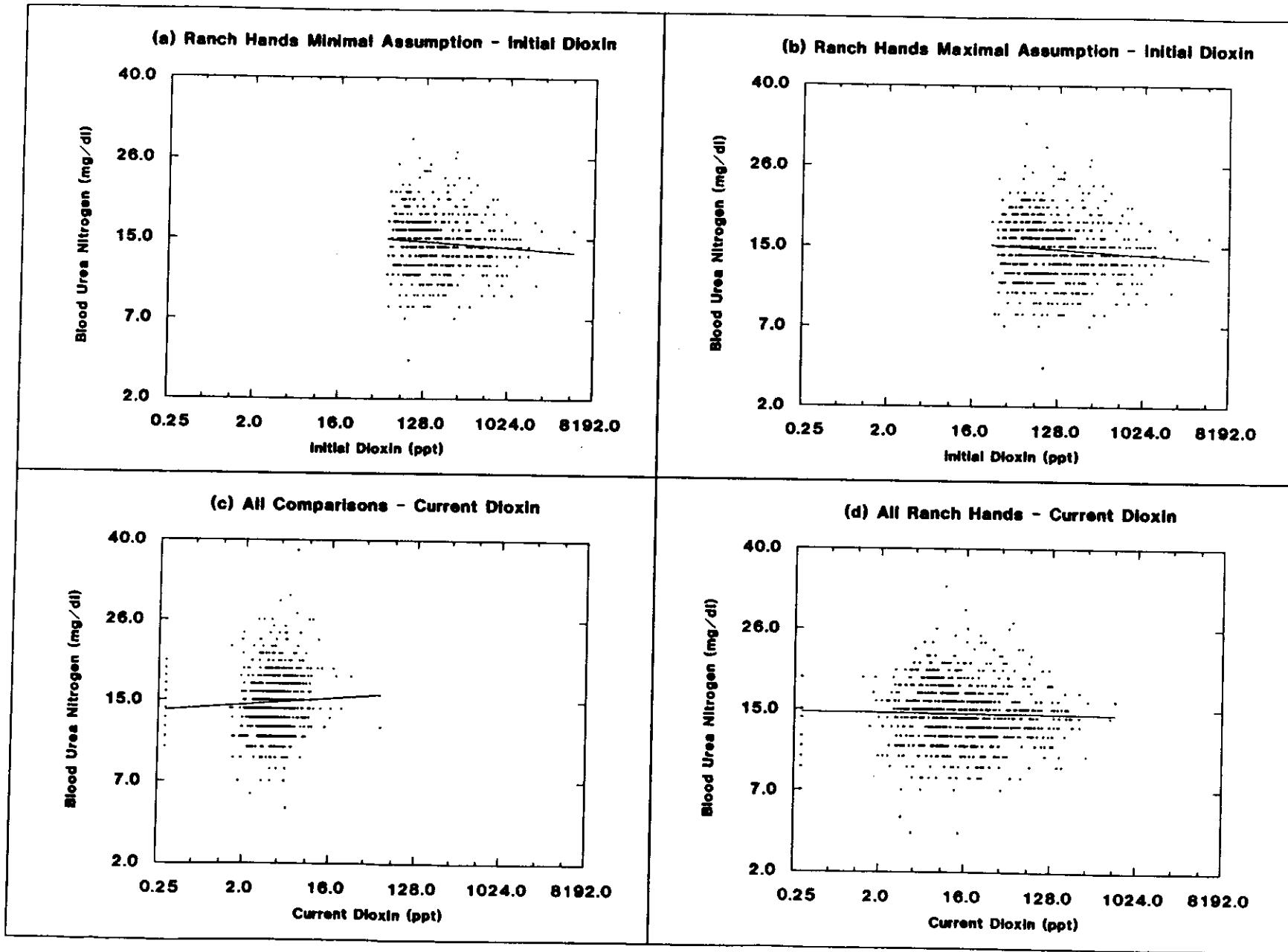


FIGURE M-1-5. Blood Urea Nitrogen versus Dioxin

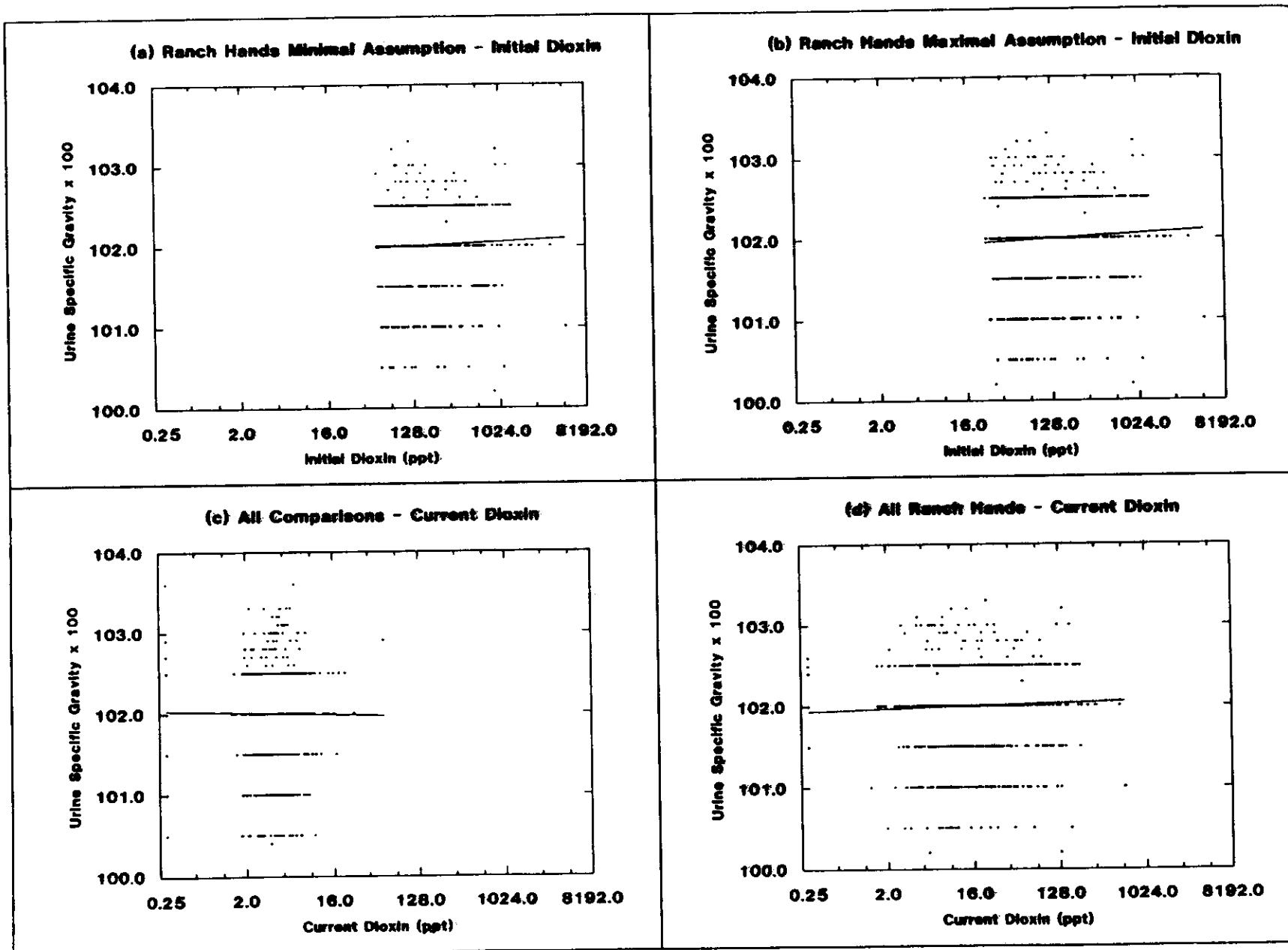


FIGURE M-1-6. Urine Specific Gravity versus Dioxin

APPENDIX M-2.

Interaction Displays for the Renal Assessment

The following figures graphically display dioxin-by-covariate interactions found in the statistical analyses of the dependent variables in the renal assessment. For interactions with initial dioxin in the Ranch Hands involving continuous dependent variables, bivariate plots are presented with observations in each stratum represented by different symbols. Initial dioxin is shown in original units (ppt) but spacing of intervals is based on the logarithm (base 2) scale. The dependent variable is also displayed in original units (or a multiple thereof), but spacing is based on the scale used for analysis, as described in the chapter. The reference lines indicate the general relationship, unadjusted for any covariates, between the (transform of the) dependent variable and \log_2 (initial dioxin). For each stratum, the lines span the range of initial dioxin. For interactions with initial dioxin in the Ranch Hands involving discrete variables, the stratum-specific percentage of participants that exhibited an abnormal condition is displayed for low, medium, and high initial dioxin categories (as defined in Appendix M, Table M-1), and each stratum is represented by a different design. Appendix Table M-1 also displays the sample sizes for each bar on the graph.

In the Ranch Hands, for current dioxin-by-time-by-covariate interactions with continuous dependent variables, separate bivariate plots (dependent variable versus current dioxin) are presented for each stratum of the covariate. Different symbols represent late tours (time since tour ≤ 18.6 years) and early tours (time since tour > 18.6 years) within each plot. The spacing for current dioxin and the dependent variable follows the same conventions as described above, as do the reference lines. For current dioxin-by-time-by-covariate interactions in the Ranch Hands with discrete dependent variables, a stratum-specific percentage of participants that exhibited an abnormal condition is displayed for low, medium, and high current dioxin. Different designs represent separate time since tour categories, and covariate strata are given on separate panels. Appendix Table M-1 provides the sample sizes for each bar on the graph.

For covariate interactions with current dioxin categorized within the Ranch Hand and Comparison groups involving discrete dependent variables, bars representing the percentage of participants that exhibited an abnormal condition are displayed for the background category in the Comparisons, and the unknown, low, and high categories in the Ranch Hands. Different designs represent covariate categories. Appendix Table M-1 presents the definition of these categories and the sample sizes for each bar on the graph.

Figure		Page
M-2-1	Interaction of Current Dioxin, Time, and Diabetic Class for Kidney Disease (Ranch Hands, Minimal Assumption)	M-2-3
M-2-2	Interaction of Categorized Current Dioxin and Diabetic Class for Urinary Occult Blood.....	M-2-4
M-2-3	Interaction of Initial Dioxin and Age for Urinary White Blood Cell Count (Ranch Hands, Minimal Assumption).....	M-2-5

Figure		Page
M-2-4	Interaction of Initial Dioxin and Diabetic Class for Urinary White Blood Cell Count (Ranch Hands, Maximal Assumption).....	M-2-6
M-2-5	Interaction of Current Dioxin, Time, and Race for Urinary White Blood Cell Count (Ranch Hands, Minimal Assumption).....	M-2-7
M-2-6	Interaction of Current Dioxin, Time, and Diabetic Class for Blood Urea Nitrogen (Ranch Hands, Maximal Assumption)	M-2-8
M-2-7	Interaction of Initial Dioxin and Race for Urine Specific Gravity (Ranch Hands, Maximal Assumption)	M-2-9
M-2-8	Interaction of Current Dioxin, Time, and Age for Urine Specific Gravity (Ranch Hands, Minimal Assumption).....	M-2-10
M-2-9	Interaction of Current Dioxin, Time, and Age for Urine Specific Gravity (Ranch Hands, Maximal Assumption)	M-2-11

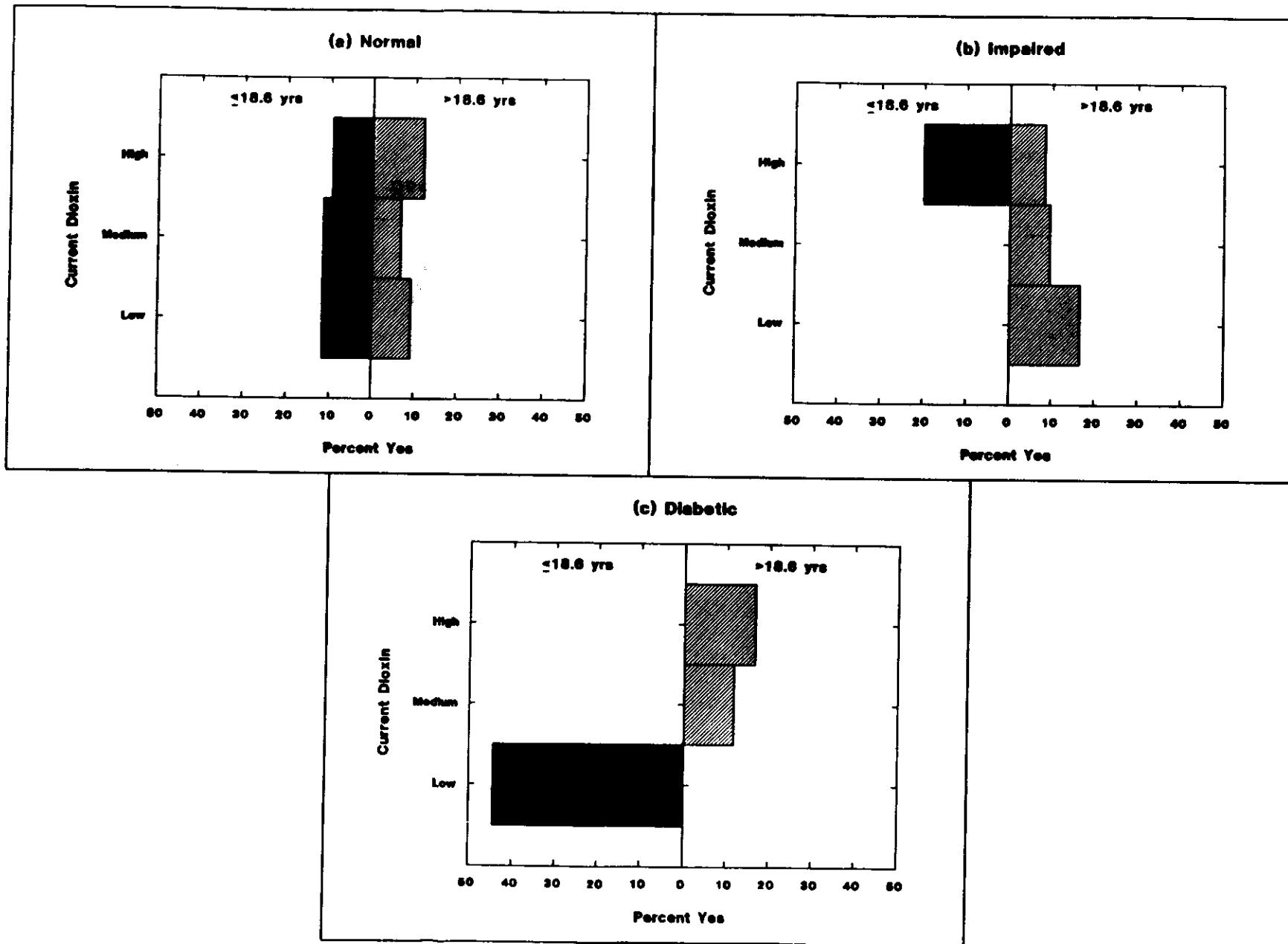


FIGURE M-2-1. Interaction of Current Dioxin, Time, and Diabetic Class for Kidney Disease (Ranch Hands, Minimal Assumption)

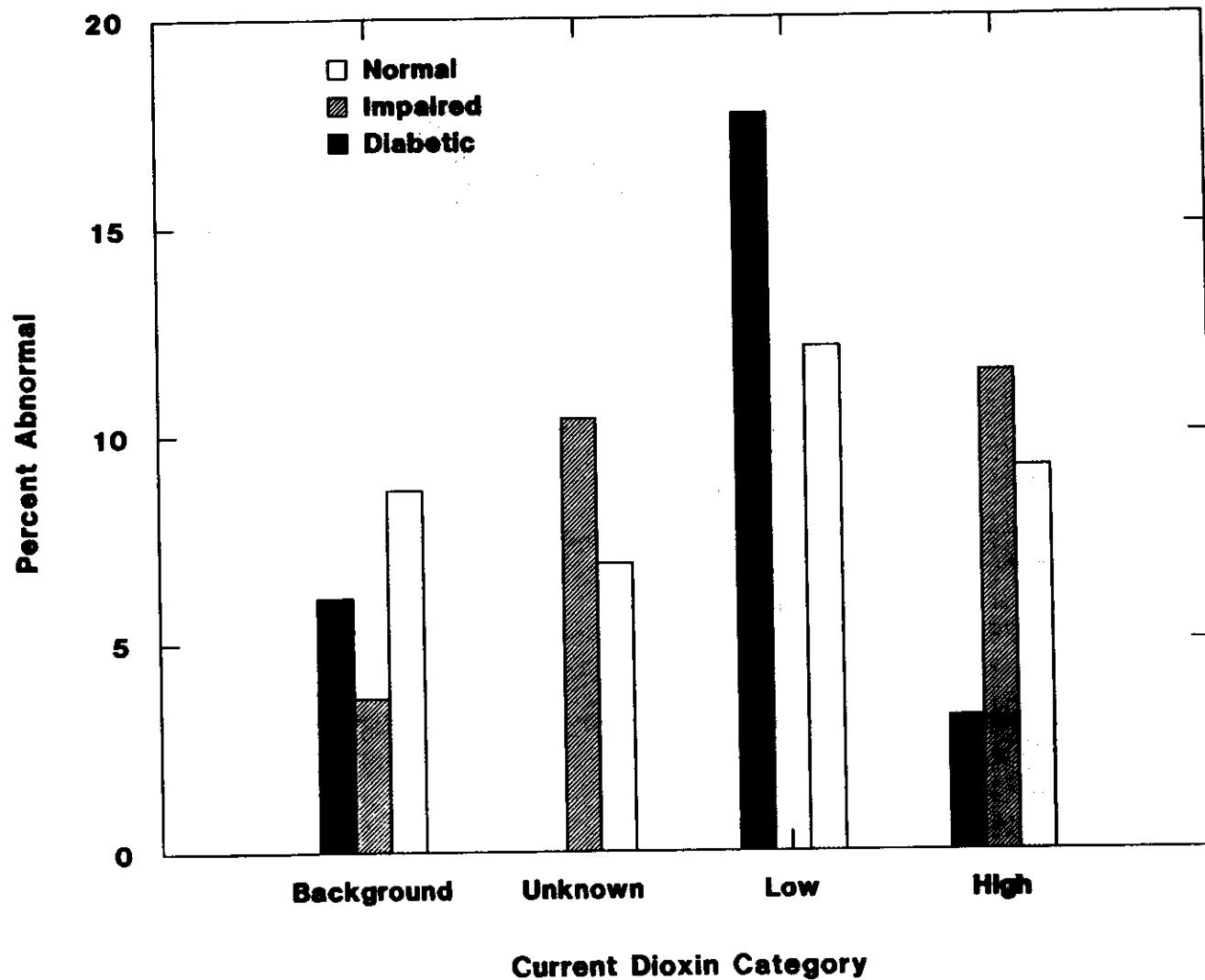


FIGURE M-2-2. Interaction of Categorized Current Dioxin and Diabetic Class for Urinary Occult Blood

M-2-3

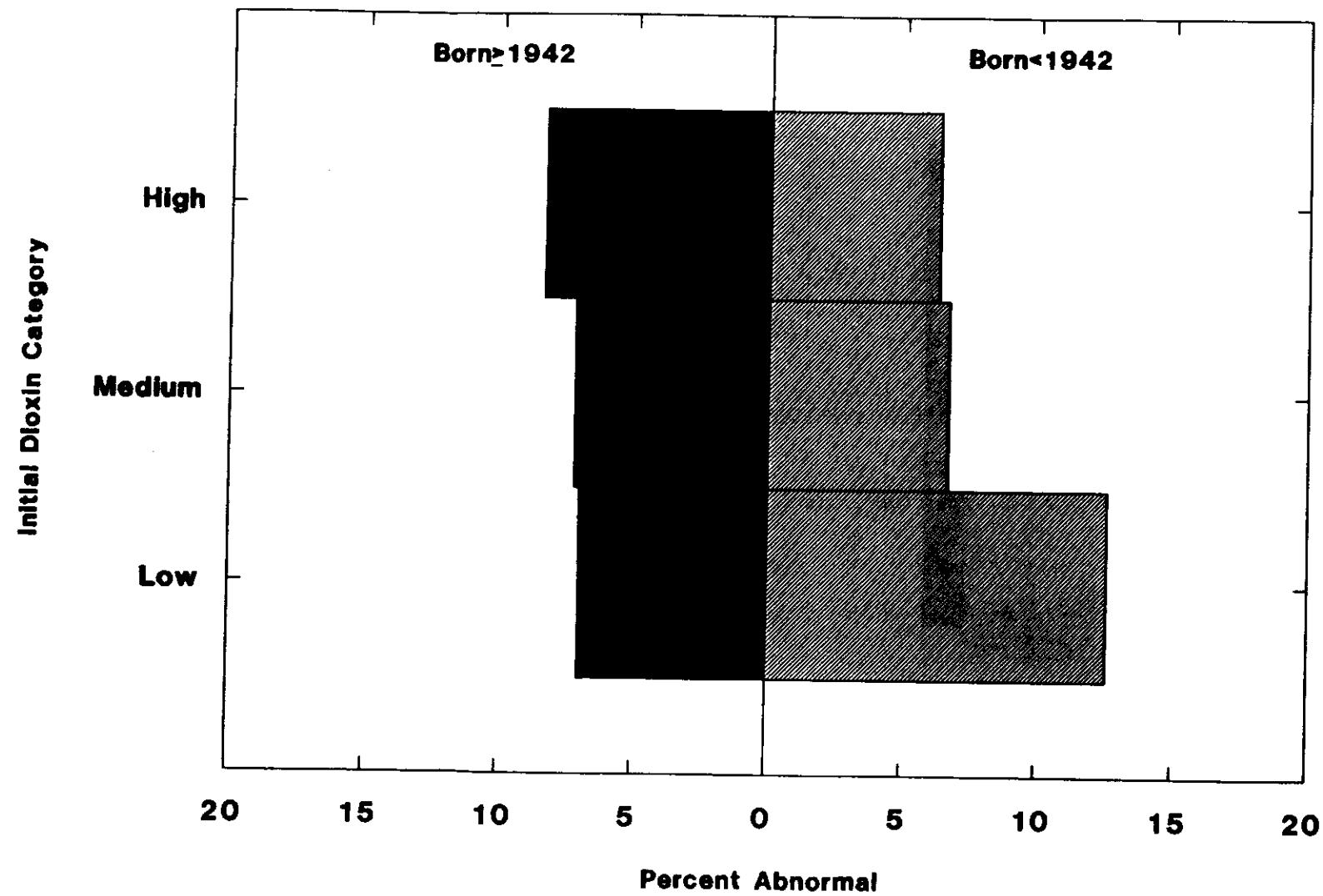


FIGURE M-2-3. Interaction of Initial Dioxin and Age for Urinary White Blood Cell Count (Ranch Hands, Minimal Assumption)

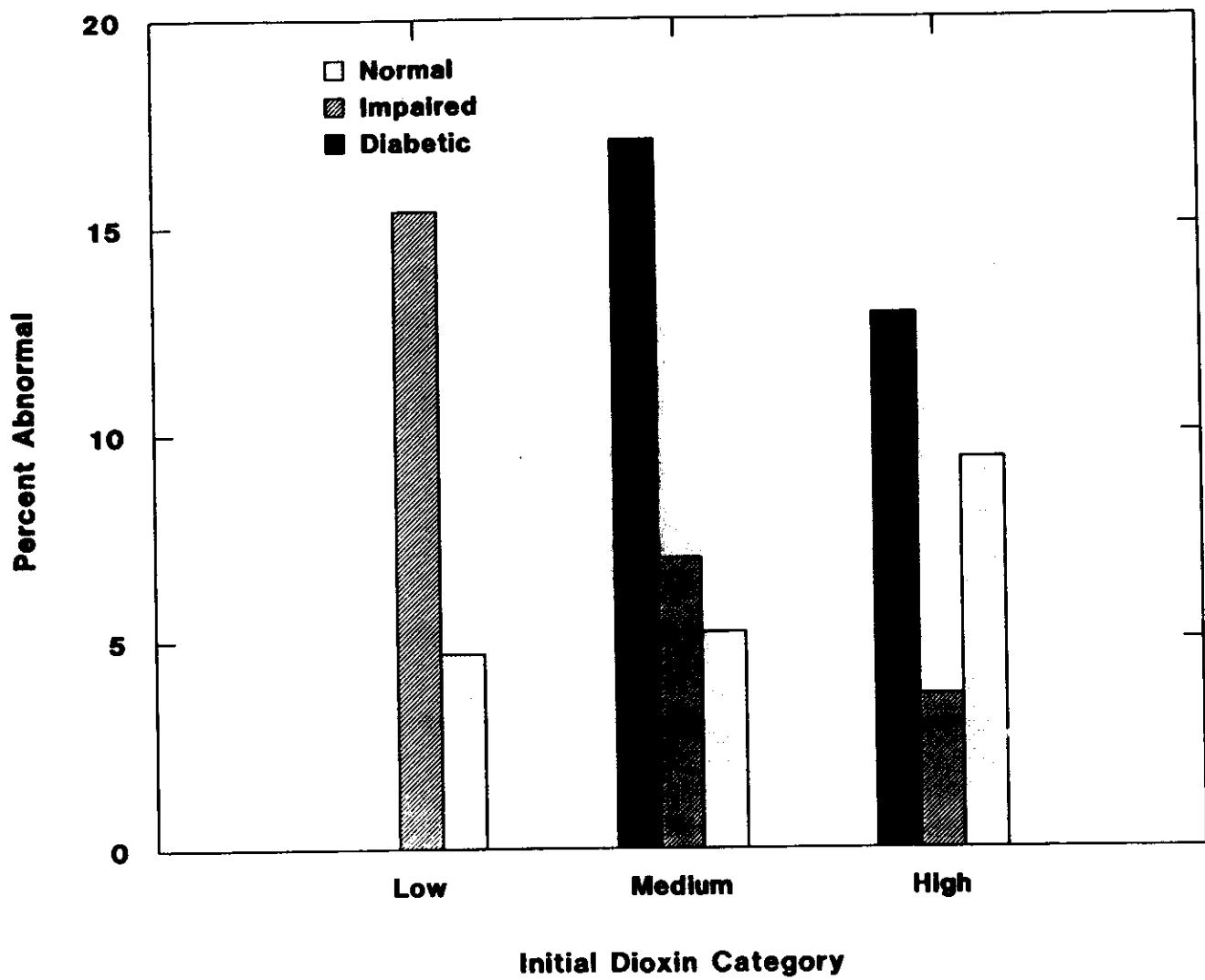


FIGURE M-2-4. Interaction of Initial Dioxin and Diabetic Class for Urinary White Blood Cell Count (Ranch Hands, Maximal Assumption)

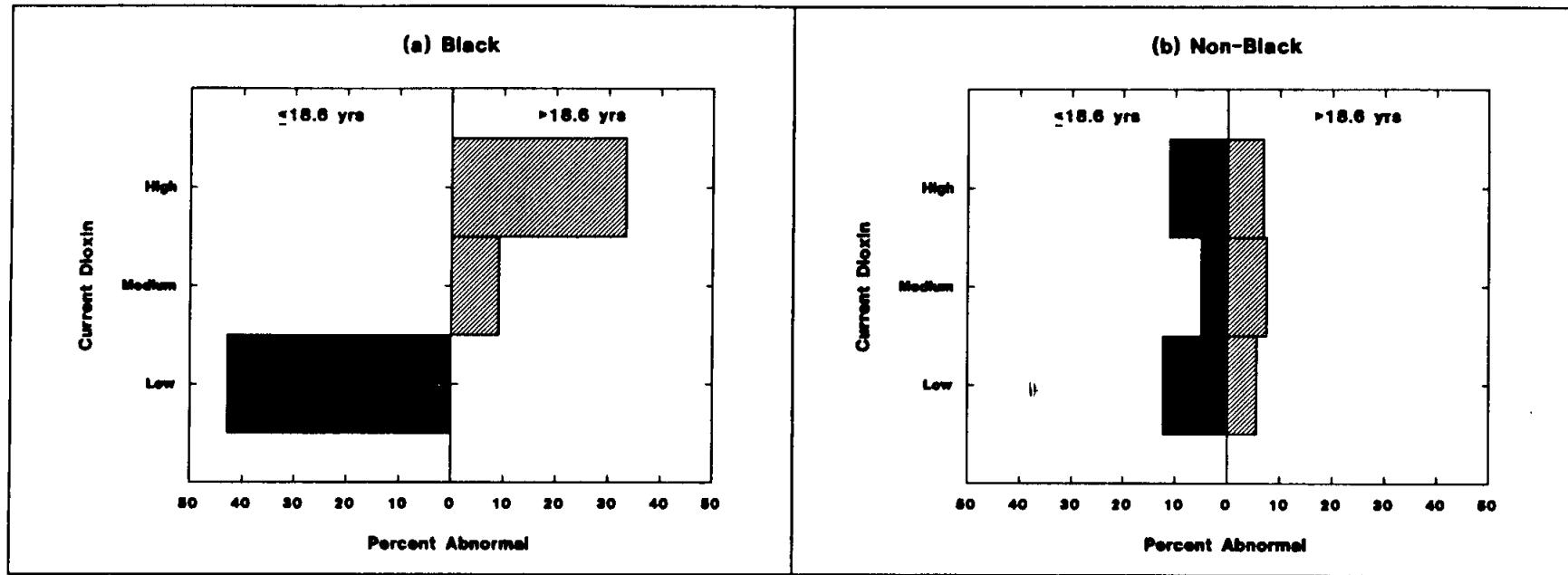


FIGURE M-2-5. Interaction of Current Dioxin, Time, and Race for Urinary White Blood Cell Count (Ranch Hands, Minimal Assumption)

M-2-8

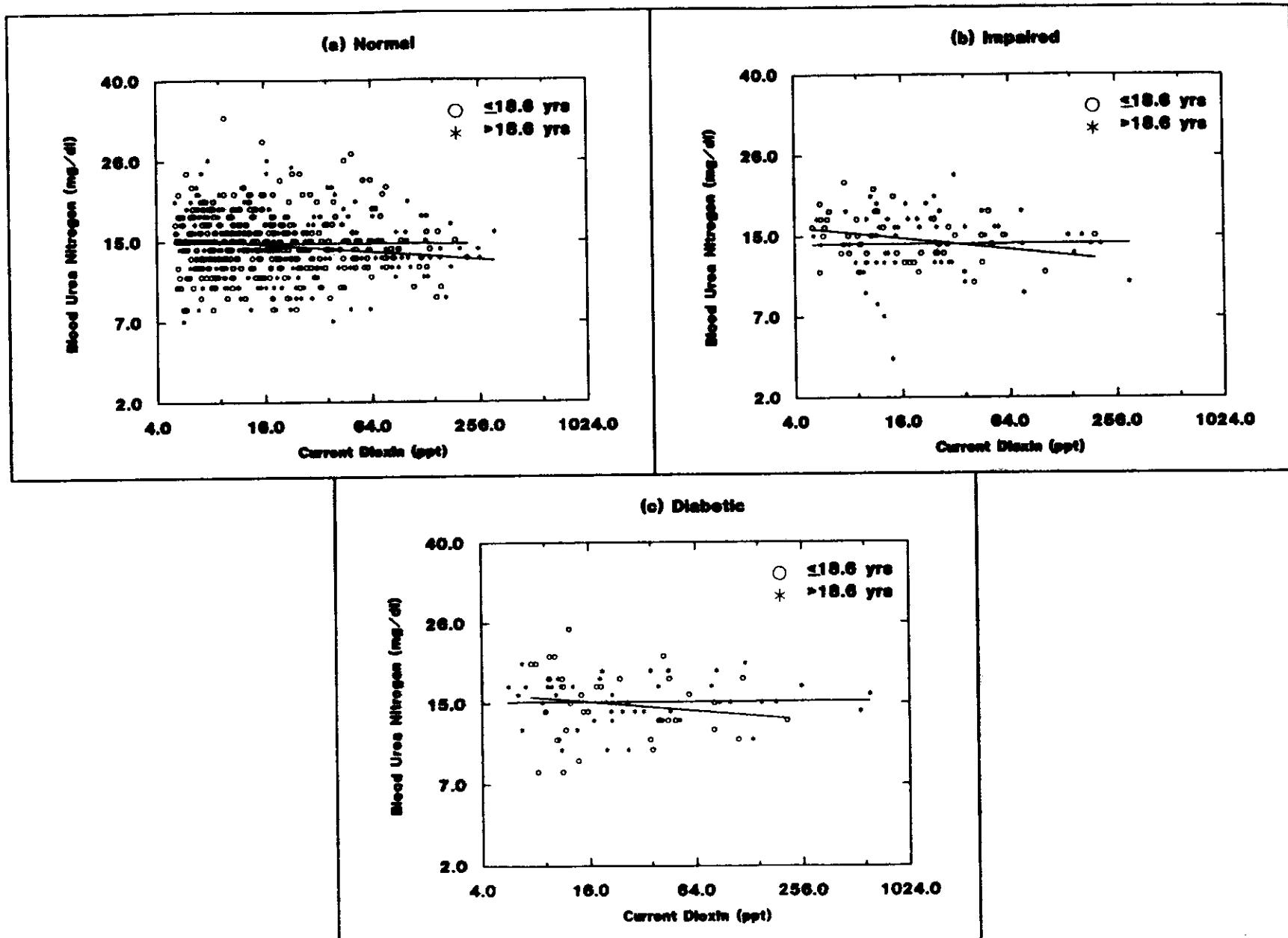
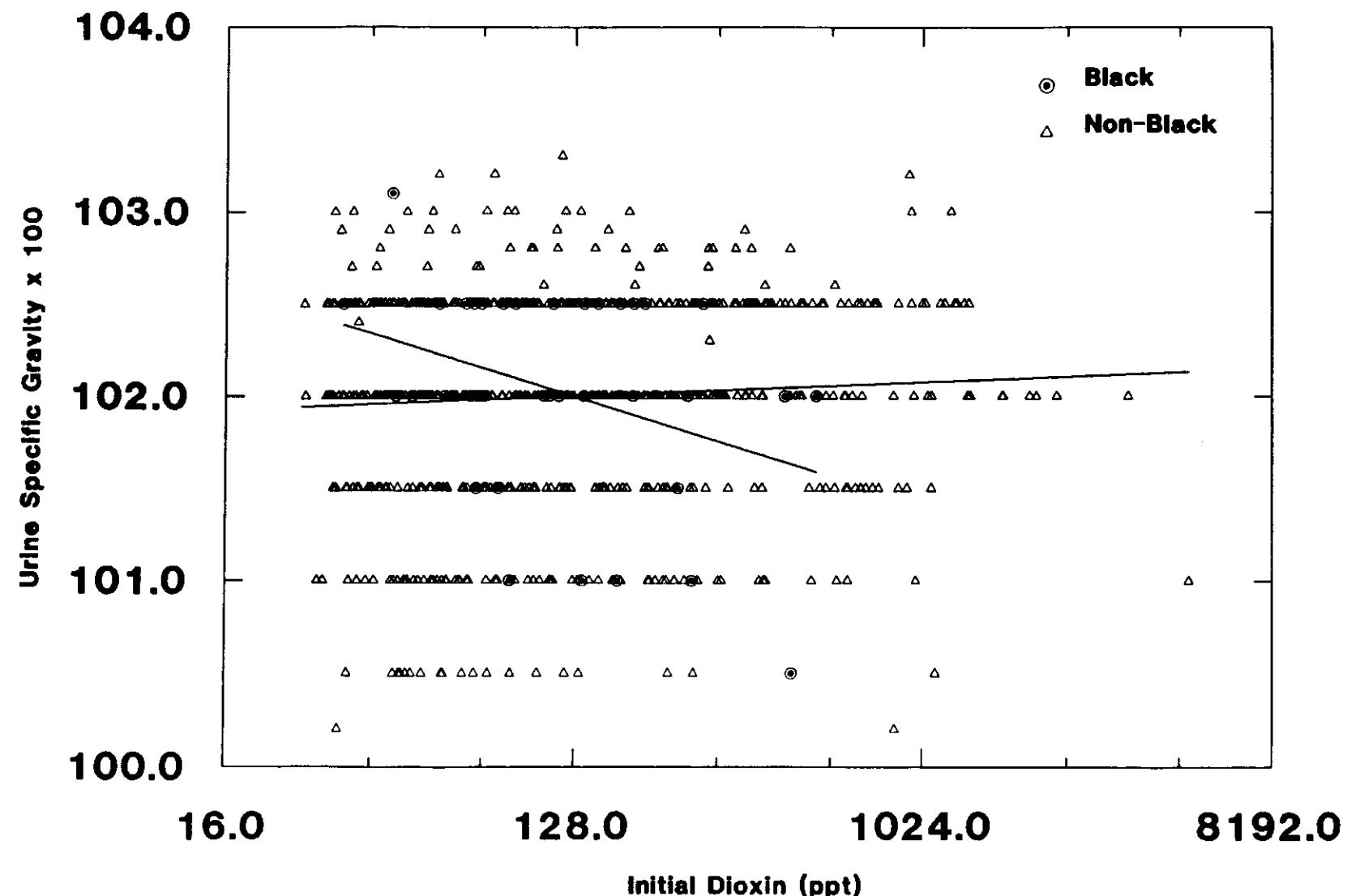


FIGURE M-2-8. Interaction of Current Dioxin, Time, and Diabetic Class for Blood Urea Nitrogen (Ranch Hands, Maximal Assumption)



**FIGURE M-2-7. Interaction of Initial Dioxin and Race for Urine Specific Gravity
(Ranch Hands, Maximal Assumption)**

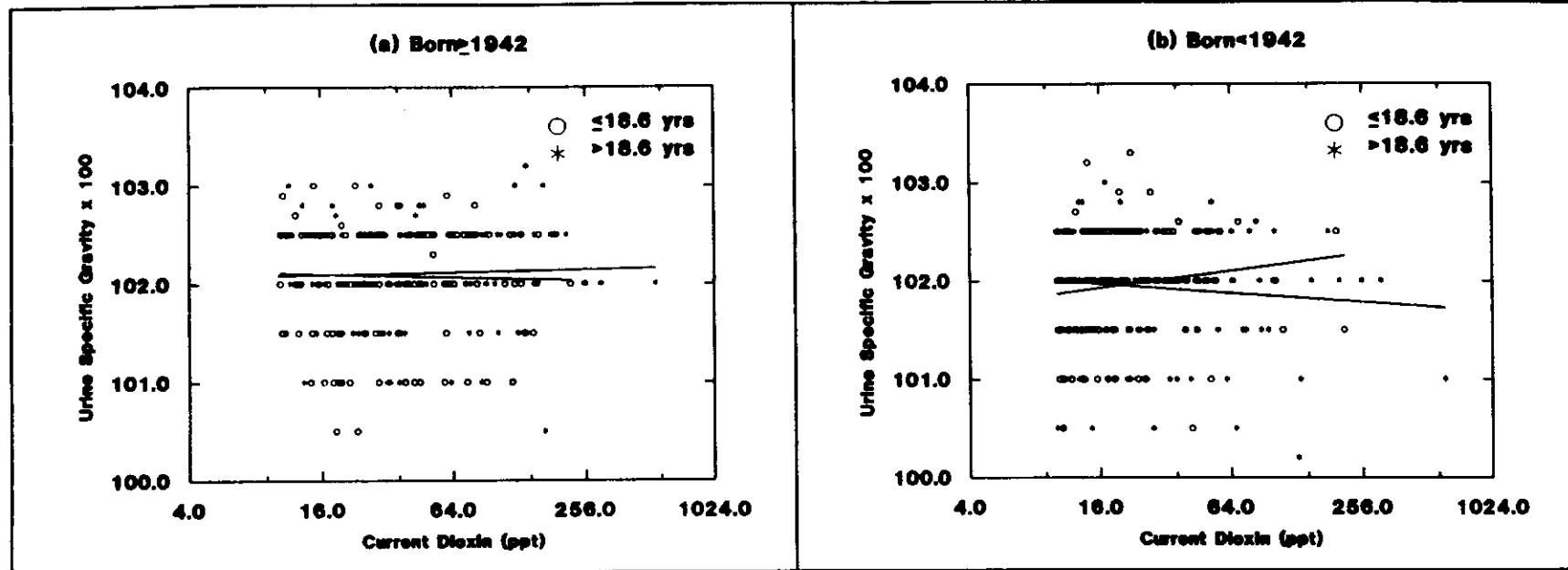


FIGURE M-2-8. Interaction of Current Dioxin, Time, and Age for Urine Specific Gravity (Ranch Hands, Minimal Assumption)

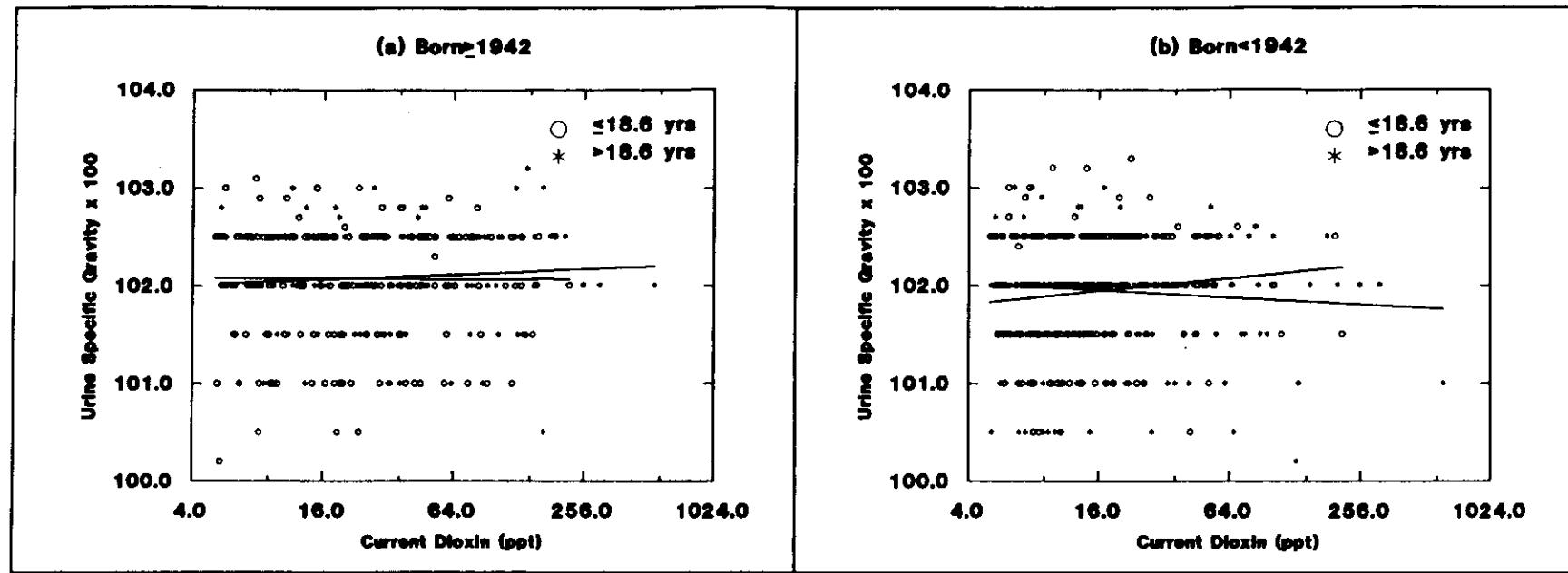


FIGURE M-2-9. Interaction of Current Dioxin, Time, and Age for Urine Specific Gravity (Ranch Hands, Maximal Assumption)