Scare-Mongering on Birth Defects

Researchers, according to the news, have found that different occupations may increase birth defects. Sounds scary. The researchers linked birth defects to fathers with certain jobs. For instance, newborns of photographers are more likely to get glaucoma. Researchers used the national birth defects surveillance system to identify fathers who had children with birth defects. I'll talk about this government database another day.

But go to the last line of the news article and you'll get the real story: “While [the study] uncovered an association between parents' occupations and birth defects, [the research] did not prove a cause-and-effect relationship.” So in other words, the researchers know nothing. This news report is just scare-mongering.