

Atlantic County Cancer Capacity and Needs Assessment Report Summary

Fact Sheet

The Office of Cancer Control and Prevention of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, in conjunction with a mandate from the Governor's Task Force on Cancer Prevention, Early Detection and Treatment in New Jersey and in collaboration with the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health of the UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, has developed comprehensive cancer capacity and needs assessment reports for each county in the state. These reports are a result of initial implementation steps of the New Jersey Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan (NJ-CCCP). The purpose of the reports is to identify the major cancer issues affecting each county and the county's available resources for cancer prevention, screening, and treatment, as well as to offer recommendations for improvement. Each report was written by county evaluators from a county-level point of view.

County Demographic Profile

- **2000 Population: 252,552**
- **Median Age: 37.0**
- **Racial Composition:**
 - **68 % White**
 - **18 % Black**
 - **5 % Asian**
- **Ethnic Composition:**
 - **12 % Hispanic**
- **Median Household Income: \$43,933**
- **% of Residents \geq 25 years of age without high school diploma: 22%**
- **% of Residents living below the poverty level: 11%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Census 2000

Overall Cancer Burden

From 1996-2000, an average of 619.0 men and 465.4 women per 100,000 were diagnosed with cancer each year in Atlantic County. This is comparable to the New Jersey rate of 628.7 for men and 453.7 for women. The average annual cancer death rate was 271.7 for men and 192.7 for women in Atlantic County, compared to the state rate of 261.1 for men and 181.6 for women. As in the state, the types of cancers which affect the most people in Atlantic County are breast, colorectal, lung, and prostate.

Note: Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Census population standards.

Overarching Issues

- **Access and Resources:** The number of uninsured residents is estimated to be between 30,000 and 35,000. Fortunately, there are some resources available to uninsured Atlantic County residents.
- **School Health Education:** Cancer education is lacking in many schools. Some schools do not adhere to the recommended NJ Core Curriculum Standards. Many schools do not have a formal school health coordinator.
- **Providers and Treatment:** Services in Atlantic County are scattered throughout the county with the majority of services located along the boundaries of the county.
- **Advocacy:** Atlantic County wants to enact a cancer coalition to focus on cancer issues in the county and ensure that more advocacy strides will be made in Atlantic County.
- **Palliative Care:** At this time there are no coalitions or task groups discussing survivorship issues in Atlantic County, however, there are support groups available.
- **Nutrition and Physical Activity:** It is estimated that around 100,000 adults are overweight or obese in Atlantic County. Atlantic County does not have an active education or promotional structure to educate the public about the importance of nutrition and fitness.
- **Childhood Cancer:** A lack of resources exists within the county due to specialization of the field and low number of cases; however there are childhood cancer care services located nearby.

Atlantic County & New Jersey

1996-2000 Average Annual Age-Adjusted Incidence & Mortality Rates by Site

All Cancers	Incidence Rate ¹		Mortality Rate ²	
	Atlantic County	NJ	Atlantic County	NJ
Male	619.0	628.7	271.7	261.1
Female	465.4	453.7	192.7	181.6
NJ-CCCP Priority Cancer by Gender				
Breast, female	127.4	138.5	31.8	31.3
Cervical, female	16.9	10.9	3.7	3.1
Colorectal, male	75.0	79.0	29.6	29.5
Colorectal, female	60.9	54.4	22.1	20.1
Lung, male	101.6	92.5	81.8	74.8
Lung, female	64.5	55.4	44.9	41.6
Melanoma, male	15.0	20.1	4.7	4.4
Melanoma, female	11.8	11.9	2.9	1.9
Oral/Oropharyngeal, male	20.8	15.7	3.8	4.2
Oral/Oropharyngeal, female	8.1	6.4	1.3	1.6
Prostate, male	177.6	194.3	30.9	32.9

Sources: ¹ New Jersey State Cancer Registry, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, August 2003

² National Cancer Institute and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, State Cancer Profiles (Accessed at <http://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/>)

Note: Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Census population standards.
A rate at least 10% higher than the corresponding state rate is shown in **bold italics**.

County Recommendations

- Expand the NJCEED Cancer Coalition within the county to address pressing cancer control and treatment issues and implement the New Jersey Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan.
- Continue to improve outreach and access for minority groups and high-risk populations.
- Encourage community groups to reach the *Healthy New Jersey 2010* goals by educating county residents about the importance of cancer prevention, screening, health insurance coverage, and nutrition and obesity issues.

For More Information

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To access the full Report Summary, visit the website:

www.njcancer.gov

