

# Burlington 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:** 423,394
- **Median Age:** 37.1
- **Racial Composition:**
  - 78% White
  - 15% Black
  - 3% Asian
- **Ethnic Composition:**
  - 4% Hispanic
- **Median Household Income:** \$58,608
- **% of residents  $\geq 25$  without high school diploma:** 12.8%
- **% of families living below the poverty level:** 3.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Census 2000

### Overall Cancer Burden

From 1996-2000, an average of 615.5 men and 448 women per 100,000 were diagnosed with cancer each year in Burlington County, compared to the New Jersey rate of 628.7 for men and 453.7 for women. The average annual death rate was 268.2 for men, and 181.0 for women in Burlington 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 Burlington County are prostate, breast, lung, and colorectal.

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

### Overarching Issues

- **Access and Resources:** One in ten County residents are without health insurance and are thereby less likely to receive cancer screening.
- **School Health Education:** Private and parochial schools are not required to adhere to NJ Core Content Standards.
- **Providers and Treatment:** Follow-up and treatment for men diagnosed with cancer through the NJCEED program is currently lacking.
- **Advocacy:** Efforts to reach out to established groups that advocate for young people need to be furthered.
- **Palliative Care:** There are a number of organizations providing palliative services in Burlington County, including hospital-based, residential, and in-home care. Many reach out to both patients and providers.
- **Nutrition and Physical Activity:** At the current time there are no Burlington County surveys that would give a baseline for objectives to increase nutrition and physical activity.
- **Childhood Cancer:** There is one center providing pediatric cancer care to Burlington County residents. Patient support services include information, education, and support designed for individuals or as support groups.

# Burlington County & New Jersey

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

All Cancers	Incidence Rate <sup>1</sup>		Mortality Rate <sup>2</sup>	
	Burlington County	NJ	Burlington County	NJ
Male	615.5	628.7	268.2	261.1
Female	448.0	453.7	181.0	181.6
NJ-CCCP Priority Cancer by Gender				
Breast, female	141.7	138.5	29.3	31.3
Cervical, female	7.5	10.9	3.1	3.1
Colorectal, male	76.7	79.0	31.2	29.5
Colorectal, female	53.9	54.4	21.4	20.1
Lung, male	94.6	92.5	75.8	74.8
Lung, female	59.4	55.4	45.3	41.6
Melanoma, male	18.2	20.1	4.4	4.4
Melanoma, female	8.5	11.9	<b>2.2</b>	1.9
Oral/Oropharyngeal, male	14.0	15.7	<b>5.1</b>	4.2
Oral/Oropharyngeal, female	6.5	6.4	<b>1.9</b>	1.6
Prostate, male	193.8	194.3	35.6	32.9

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

<sup>2</sup> 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

- Target multi-media campaigns to include the cancer message along with general health benefits of exercise.
- Pursue affiliations with physicians in the county to provide cancer services to patients.
- Encourage collaboration among cancer coalitions in the county with the American Cancer Society on issues of cancer prevention, screening, and early detection.
- Advocate for participation in pilot testing a Cancer Behavioral Risk Factor Survey.
- Support research-tested intervention programs.
- Work with Faith Based organizations to provide education and to promote increased cancer screening.

### For More Information

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To access the full Report Summary, visit the website:

[www.njcancer.gov](http://www.njcancer.gov)

