

# Cumberland 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: 146,438**
- **Median Age: 35.6**
- **Racial Composition:**
  - **66% White**
  - **20% Black**
  - **1% Asian**
- **Ethnic Composition:**
  - **19% Hispanic**
- **Median Household Income: \$34,935**
- **% of residents  $\geq$  25 without high school diploma: 31.5%**
- **% of residents living below the poverty level: 15%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Census 2000

### Overall Cancer Burden

From 1996-2000, an average of 576.5 men and 440.2 women per 100,000 were diagnosed with cancer each year in Cumberland County, compared to the New Jersey rate of 628.7 for men and 453.7 for women. The average annual death rate was 265.3 for men, and 187.7 for women in Cumberland 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 Cumberland 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:** Lack of health insurance is a major barrier to accessing healthcare in Cumberland County that can delay or prevent appropriate cancer screening and treatment. Nearly three out of every four county residents meet the criteria used to identify them as medically underserved.
- **School Health Education:** Health educators should strive to introduce new programs to ensure they are effectively covering core curriculum topics related to cancer prevention. Smoking prevention, other risk factors and early detection are taught in less than one half of schools in Cumberland County. Resources are available to assist schools in developing thorough health education curricula.
- **Providers and Treatment:** Timely follow-up of positive cancer screening test results needs to be monitored and improved.
- **Palliative Care:** Hospice benefits are currently available for home care patients without regard for ability to pay. (Transportation may be a barrier for accessing other palliative care resources.)
- **Nutrition and Physical Activity:** Obesity and lack of regular exercise are two general life style issues that are related to higher rates of cancer.
- **Childhood Cancer:** There are no specific efforts or treatment facilities for Childhood Cancer in Cumberland County. Children with cancer are referred to pediatric oncology centers that partner with Cumberland County pediatricians.

# Cumberland 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>	
	Cumberland County	NJ	Cumberland County	NJ
Male	576.5	628.7	265.3	261.1
Female	440.2	453.7	187.7	181.6
NJ-CCCP Priority Cancer by Gender				
Breast, female	125.6	138.5	27.1	31.3
Cervical, female	<b>16.8</b>	10.9	<b>4.1</b>	3.1
Colorectal, male	81.6	79.0	32.0	29.5
Colorectal, female	53.8	54.4	21.7	20.1
Lung, male	<b>105.0</b>	92.5	80.2	74.8
Lung, female	56.0	55.4	45.7	41.6
Melanoma, male	11.8	20.1	3.0	4.4
Melanoma, female	6.6	11.9	<b>3.2</b>	1.9
Oral/Oropharyngeal, male	15.5	15.7	4.2	4.2
Oral/Oropharyngeal, female	5.9	6.4	<b>2.0</b>	1.6
Prostate, male	154.7	194.3	29.9	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

- Educate physicians and dentists on assessing tobacco cessation needs and anti-smoking medication and provide them with patient education resources.
- Establish tracking systems for screening and re-screening guidelines and for timely follow-up of positive cancer screening tests.
- Partner with the County Department of Planning and Development to encourage worksites to offer on-site health promotion events.
- Promote legislation to improve specific cancer topic presentation in school core curriculum.
- Develop initiatives to improve early disease detection among immigrants.

### For More Information

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To access the full Report Summary, visit the website:  
[www.njcancer.gov](http://www.njcancer.gov)

