

# Essex County Cancer Fact Sheet

The Essex County Cancer Coalition is made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services' Office of Cancer Control and Prevention. The mission of the Essex County Cancer Coalition is to implement the New Jersey Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan in Essex County. For more information on Comprehensive Cancer Control in NJ, please visit: [www.njcancer.gov](http://www.njcancer.gov). For more information about the Essex County Cancer Coalition, please visit: [www.UMDNJ.edu/EssCaWeb/](http://www.UMDNJ.edu/EssCaWeb/).

## County Demographic Profile 2000 vs. 2006

	2000 <sup>1</sup>	2006 <sup>2</sup>
Population	793,633	786,147
Median Age*	35	36
Racial Composition:		
% White	45	43
% Black	41	42
% Asian	4	4
Ethnic Composition:		
% Hispanic	16	18
Median Household Income*	\$44,944	\$51,879
% of Residents ≥ 25 years of age without high school diploma	24	20
% of Residents living below the poverty level*	13	15

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; <sup>1</sup> Census 2000, and

<sup>2</sup> 2006 American Community Survey

\* Compare 2000 and 2006 data with caution; some differences exist due to differences in data methods.

## Overall Cancer Burden

From 2000-2004, an average of 633 men and 430 women per 100,000 were diagnosed with cancer each year in Essex County, compared to the New Jersey rate of 614 for men and 447 for women. The average annual cancer death rate was 248 for men and 179 for women in Essex County, compared to the state rate of 237 for men and 172 for women. As in the state, the types of cancers which affect the most people in Essex 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:** The uninsured (estimated 15%) as well as the underinsured are less likely to get screened for cancer. Over 1/6 of Essex County's population is Latino; many are linguistically isolated. In suburban areas, pockets of medically underserved may be overlooked and publicly funded cancer initiatives are limited. Using materials geared to cultural, ethnic and linguistic needs continues as an integral part of comprehensive cancer control efforts in Essex County. The Essex County Cancer Coalition (ECCC) also focuses on increasing health officers' and other organizations' access to screening information and opportunities.
- **Providers and Treatment:** We are encouraging providers to conduct education and screening locally in the community. Hospitals and many other providers (e.g., NJCEED agencies, FQHCs, health departments, community clinics) contribute to cancer-related efforts. Several hospitals have closed in recent years and others continue to face closure, straining remaining resources. Accessibility is thus a growing problem in the county due to the loss of local health resources caused by structural changes in the health care system that are beyond the ECCC's control.
- **Transportation:** The ECCC is working to improve transportation to alleviate a key access barrier.
- **Advocacy:** Advocacy for the needs of inner cities should continue. Another focus is statewide implementation of presumptive eligibility of NJCEED patients for Medicaid-funded treatment of colorectal and prostate cancer, modeled after existing breast and cervical cancer policies.
- **Palliative Care:** There are several hospice providers in Essex County. Many patients could benefit from earlier access to hospice and palliative care. Organizations devoting significant effort to palliative care, reaching out to families in need and to physicians, are collaborating with the ECCC.

# Essex County & New Jersey

## Average Annual Age-Adjusted Incidence & Mortality Rates by Site 1996-2000 vs. 2000-2004

All Cancers	Incidence Rate per 100,000*				Mortality Rate per 100,000**			
	Essex County			NJ	Essex County			NJ
	1996-2000 <sup>1</sup>	2000-2004 <sup>2</sup>	% Change	2000-2004 <sup>2</sup>	1996-2000 <sup>3</sup>	2000-2004 <sup>2</sup>	% Change	2000-2004 <sup>2</sup>
Male	658.6	633.4	-3.8	614.4	278.4	247.9	-11.0	236.8
Female	451.8	430.2	-4.8	447.0	188.1	179.3	-4.7	171.9
NJ-CCCP Priority Cancer by Gender								
Breast, female	138.5	130.1	-6.1	131.9	<b>34.6</b>	31.1	-10.1	28.5
Cervical, female	<b>15.7</b>	<b>13.4</b>	-14.6	9.6	<b>5.0</b>	<b>4.2</b>	-16.0	2.7
Colorectal, male	74.7	68.6	-8.2	70.2	30.6	25.3	-17.3	25.9
Colorectal, female	54.5	50.9	-6.6	50.8	20.6	18.4	-10.7	18.3
Lung, male	96.8	79.3	-18.1	82.4	76.9	64.7	-15.9	66.5
Lung, female	51.1	50.1	-2.0	55.4	38.9	37.7	-3.1	40.7
Melanoma, male	14.1	17.2	22.0	24.4	2.7	2.7	0.0	3.9
Melanoma, female	8.5	9.1	7.1	15.0	1.0	1.3	30.0	1.7
Oral/Oropharyngeal, male	<b>17.6</b>	16.0	-9.1	14.6	<b>5.6</b>	<b>4.7</b>	-16.1	3.8
Oral/Oropharyngeal, female	6.9	5.3	-23.2	6.0	<b>2.6</b>	1.5	-42.3	1.4
Prostate, male	<b>227.4</b>	<b>232.6</b>	2.3	192.7	<b>39.6</b>	<b>35.8</b>	-9.6	27.0

Sources:

- <sup>1</sup> New Jersey State Cancer Registry, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, August 2003.
- <sup>2</sup> New Jersey State Cancer Registry, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. Cancer-Rates. *Info/NJ*. <http://www.nj.gov/health/ces/cancer-rates.shtml> (November 2007).
- <sup>3</sup> National Cancer Institute and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, State Cancer Profiles (Accessed at <http://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/>).

Notes:

Rates are 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**.

The annual rates for relatively uncommon cancers tend to fluctuate substantially from year to year because of small numbers of cases. The % change for cancers with low incidence and/or mortality rates should be interpreted with caution.

\* The number of newly diagnosed cases of disease in a specific population during a specific time period per 100,000 people.

\*\* The number of deaths due to a disease in a specific population during a specific time period per 100,000 people.

### For More Information

New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services  
Office of Cancer Control and Prevention  
P.O. Box 360  
Trenton, NJ 08611-2425  
(609) 984-4978  
[www.njcancer.gov](http://www.njcancer.gov)

