Gloucester 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: 254,673**
- **Median Age: 36.1**
- **Racial Composition:**
  - **87% White**
  - **9% Black**
  - **2% Asian**
- **Ethnic Composition:**
  - **3% Hispanic**
- **Median Household Income: $54,273**
- **% of residents≥25 without high school diploma: 15.7%**
- **% of families living below the poverty level: 4.3%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Census 2000
Note: Hispanics may be of any race.

Overall Cancer Burden

From 1996-2000, an average of 620.8 men and 461.9 women per 100,000 were diagnosed with cancer each year in Gloucester County. This is comparable to the New Jersey rate of 628.7 for men and 453.7 for women. The average annual death rate was 288.3 for men, and 195.3 for women in Gloucester 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 Gloucester 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:** Some organized coalition and collaboration activities address the cancer needs of the county's residents, but more needs to be done to broaden the scope of cancer care available for county residents.
- **School Health Education:** Little health prevention and promotion is taught in younger grades. The textbooks used for high school lack information on cancer prevention, risk factors, and early detection. Private schools are not required to adhere to New Jersey State Core Curriculum Content Standards.
- **Providers and Treatment:** Two acute care hospitals offer a range of services in Gloucester County. Both hospitals are centrally located and easily accessible via NJ Transit bus routes.
- **Advocacy:** Internal structure and funding for cancer awareness, education and early detection programs and access to care need to be developed.
- **Palliative Care:** While organizations provide palliative care services to Gloucester County residents, it is unknown what percentage of patients have access to the full range of palliative care services throughout the course of their illness.
- **Nutrition and Physical Activity:** Nutrition and physical activity in school curricula and mass media campaigns are recommended.
- **Childhood Cancer:** There is one center providing pediatric care to Gloucester County residents. Patient support services include information, education, and support designed for individuals or as support groups.

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Gloucester County & New Jersey

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

	Incidence Rate[1]		Mortality Rate[2]	
All Cancers	**Gloucester County**	**NJ**	**Gloucester County**	**NJ**
Male	620.8	628.7	288.3	261.1
Female	461.9	453.7	195.3	181.6
NJ-CCCP Priority Cancer by Gender				
Breast, female	137.1	138.5	27.0	31.3
Cervical, female	10.1	10.9	2.8	3.1
Colorectal, male	85.2	79.0	28.2	29.5
Colorectal, female	59.7	54.4	***25.6***	20.1
Lung, male	***117.2***	92.5	***95.3***	74.8
Lung, female	***66.2***	55.4	***48.8***	41.6
Melanoma, male	17.9	20.1	***6.2***	4.4
Melanoma, female	9.9	11.9	1.5	1.9
Oral/Oropharyngeal, male	14.1	15.7	3.1	4.2
Oral/Oropharyngeal, female	5.0	6.4	0.9	1.6
Prostate, male	161.1	194.3	29.3	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

- **Join with other healthcare coalitions that promote the benefits of exercise and increased physical activity and advocate promotion of decreasing cancer risks as an added benefit.**
- **Focus outreach efforts to increase screening for breast, cervical, colorectal, and prostate cancers, as well as anti-smoking campaigns, and smoking cessation promotion. Focus on black and Hispanic groups in the largest municipalities.**
- **Work with cancer coalitions in the county to explore effective interventions in cancer prevention, cancer screening, and early detection for the top four cancers in Gloucester County and eventually for all seven priority cancers**

For More Information

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To access the full Report Summary, visit the website:
www.njcancer.gov

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