

Hunterdon 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: 121,989**
- **Median Age: 38.9**
- **Racial Composition:**
 - **94% White**
 - **2% Black**
 - **2% Asian**
- **Ethnic Composition:**
 - **3% Hispanic**
- **Median Household Income: \$79,888**
- **% of residents ≥ 25 years of age without high school diploma: 8.5%**
- **% of families living below the poverty level: 1.6%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Census 2000

Overall Cancer Burden

From 1996-2000, an average of 565.2 men and 484.2 women per 100,000 were diagnosed with cancer each year in Hunterdon County, compared to the New Jersey rate of 628.7 for men and 453.7 for women. The average annual death rate was 239.3 for men, and 172.9 for women in Hunterdon 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 Hunterdon 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:** Hunterdon Medical Center is the county's only hospital and is located in the center of the county (i.e., Flemington). While there has been a history of cancer education/ screening efforts near the medical center, these efforts have been conducted less frequently in municipalities near the perimeter of the county.
- **School Health Education:** Most public schools are lacking a formal health education coordinator and have not participated in county-wide cancer coalition efforts. Few schools have developed partnerships with staff at the Cancer Center or county health department to assure adequacy of cancer education provided to students.
- **Providers and Treatment:** While there are some medical providers that practice in municipalities near the perimeter of the county, most of the facilities that provide mammographies and colonoscopies are located only in the center of the County.
- **Advocacy:** A Partnership for Health, under the Healthy Communities Initiative, has had a history of advocating for cancer prevention and treatment.
- **Palliative Care:** Some services exist, but more are needed throughout the county.
- **Nutrition and Physical Activity:** There are a number of organizations and programs that focus on increasing physical activity; however, few agencies, and few programs in Hunterdon County focus on improving nutritional habits of the residents.
- **Childhood Cancer:** There are few, if any, pediatric cancer services in Hunterdon County.

over

Hunterdon County & New Jersey

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

All Cancers	Incidence Rate ¹		Mortality Rate ²	
	Hunterdon County	NJ	Hunterdon County	NJ
Male	565.2	628.7	239.3	261.1
Female	484.2	453.7	172.9	181.6
NJ-CCCP Priority Cancer by Gender				
Breast, female	158.1	138.5	30.5	31.3
Cervical, female	10.2	10.9	3.3	3.1
Colorectal, male	78.8	79.0	26.2	29.5
Colorectal, female	59.1	54.4	21.9	20.1
Lung, male	74.4	92.5	65.2	74.8
Lung, female	53.0	55.4	37.5	41.6
Melanoma, male	24.4	20.1	8.7	4.4
Melanoma, female	12.6	11.9	3.2	1.9
Oral/Oropharyngeal, male	9.0	15.7	3.3	4.2
Oral/Oropharyngeal, female	5.2	6.4	1.5	1.6
Prostate, male	164.4	194.3	37.6	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 role and resources of the Hunterdon County Cancer Coalition to promote early detection to reduce cancer mortality by expanding educational outreach efforts, concentrating on making available low literacy cancer educational materials for those in need. In addition, improve access to cancer education, screening, and treatment services for low-income individuals located near the perimeter of the county that do not have easy access to the hospital.
- Develop formal partnerships between schools, churches, and worksites with organizations capable of providing cancer education to assure residents are being educated on the importance of cancer prevention and screening, including reducing risk behaviors such as tobacco use.
- Develop a county-based cancer education website that can function as a clearinghouse of information for health and social service staff, schools, churches, worksites and residents of the county.

For More Information

New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services
Office of Cancer Control and Prevention
P.O. Box 369
Trenton, NJ 08625-0369
(609) 588-5038

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

