Ocean 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: 510,916**
- **Median Age: 41**
- **Racial Composition:**
  - **93% White**
  - **3% Black**
  - **1% Asian**
- **Ethnic Composition:**
  - **5% Hispanic**
- **Median Household Income: $46,443**
- **% of Residents ≥ 25 years of age without high school diploma: 17%**
- **% of Residents living below the poverty level: 7%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Census 2000

Overall Cancer Burden

From 1996-2000, an average of 654.3 men and 479.7 women per 100,000 were diagnosed with cancer each year in Ocean County. This is comparable to the New Jersey rate of 628.7 for men and 453.7 for women. The average annual cancer death rate was 266.7 for men, and 182.2 for women in Ocean 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 Ocean 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

- **County Infrastructure:** An active cancer committee exists; however, there is currently no comprehensive county-level plan to address cancer.
- **Prevention and Education:** Cancer education and early detection programs are offered, but it may be difficult for the elderly, low-income, and minority residents to access them.
- **Transportation:** A good countywide transportation system is in place, however, limitations exist such as scheduling requirements and geographic boundaries.
- **Palliation/Survivorship:** Many support groups exist, but coordinated and palliative care services are not well advanced and awareness should be increased.
- **Providers and Treatment:** Patient care is considered to be excellent, however, needs exist in the areas of oral screenings for low-income persons, thoracic surgery, and surgical and pediatric oncology.
- **Childhood Cancer:** Childhood cancer is more common in Ocean County than other areas of the state; however, treatment is unavailable within the county.

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Ocean County & New Jersey

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

	Incidence Rate[1]		Mortality Rate[2]	
All Cancers	**Ocean County**	**NJ**	**Ocean County**	**NJ**
Male	654.3	628.7	266.7	261.1
Female	479.7	453.7	182.2	181.6
NJ-CCCP Priority Cancer by Gender				
Breast, female	144.2	138.5	31.1	31.3
Cervical, female	11.1	10.9	2.9	3.1
Colorectal, male	84.4	79.0	29.6	29.5
Colorectal, female	56.0	54.4	18.5	20.1
Lung, male	98.8	92.5	***83.8***	74.8
Lung, female	***65.3***	55.4	***46.3***	41.6
Melanoma, male	***25.5***	20.1	***5.2***	4.4
Melanoma, female	***16.7***	11.9	***3.0***	1.9
Oral/Oropharyngeal, male	16.6	15.7	3.1	4.2
Oral/Oropharyngeal, female	7.0	6.4	1.0	1.6
Prostate, male	194.4	194.3	29.6	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

- **Improve early detection and access to cancer services for older adults, minority populations and other medically underserved persons.**
- **Continue focusing on childhood cancer and the related environmental factors that may affect Ocean County residents.**
- **Increase early detection and enrollment in clinical trials for breast, colorectal, and prostate cancers by increasing awareness, education, and access to services.**
- **Decrease the use of tobacco by strengthening enforcement of tobacco age-of-sale laws and improving smoking cessation and prevention efforts.**

For More Information

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

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