

Sussex 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:** 144,166
- **Median Age:** 37.1
- **Racial Composition:**
 - 96% White
 - 1% Black
 - 1% Asian
- **Ethnic Composition:**
 - 3% Hispanic
- **Median Household Income:** \$65,266
- **% of residents \geq 25 without high school diploma:** 10.2%
- **% of families living below the poverty level:** 4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Census 2000

Overall Cancer Burden

From 1996-2000, an average of 637.8 men and 485.2 women per 100,000 were diagnosed with cancer each year in Sussex County, compared to the New Jersey rate of 628.7 for men and 453.7 for women. The average annual death rate was 264.0 for men, and 190.0 for women in Sussex 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 Sussex 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:** Cancer services in Sussex County are informed and guided by a worldwide system of cancer research and known successful practices.
- **School Health Education:** Only a minority of schools reported providing the required education on breast and testicular self-examination.
- **Providers and Treatment:** A variety of services are available to county residents, including prevention, early detection, and treatment.
- **Advocacy:** At present, there are no specific Sussex County-centered advocacy efforts being conducted on behalf of the cancer needs of county residents.
- **Palliative Care:** Although services exist within the county, some barriers to utilization include transportation, lack of funding/reimbursement for services, and the need to educate physicians regarding hospice to overcome a continued reluctance to refer patients.
- **Nutrition and Physical Activity:** Cancer-specific nutrition programs do not appear to be widespread in Sussex County. However, area organizations are cooperating to provide a school nutrition project.
- **Childhood Cancer:** While there are no childhood cancer services within Sussex County, services are available through nearby facilities.

Sussex County & New Jersey

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

All Cancers	Incidence Rate ¹		Mortality Rate ²	
	Sussex County	NJ	Sussex County	NJ
Male	637.8	628.7	264.0	261.1
Female	485.2	453.7	190.0	181.6
NJ-CCCP Priority Cancer by Gender				
Breast, female	138.4	138.5	32.8	31.3
Cervical, female	8.6	10.9	3.3	3.1
Colorectal, male	94.3	79.0	34.6	29.5
Colorectal, female	60.3	54.4	19.8	20.1
Lung, male	94.5	92.5	78.0	74.8
Lung, female	65.0	55.4	50.2	41.6
Melanoma, male	19.9	20.1	4.5	4.4
Melanoma, female	16.3	11.9	2.5	1.9
Oral/Oropharyngeal, male	12.8	15.7	3.3	4.2
Oral/Oropharyngeal, female	9.6	6.4	1.0	1.6
Prostate, male	180.7	194.3	27.5	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

- Initiate a program of cancer services advocacy in Sussex County.
- Create a Sussex County Cancer Control Plan.
- Use the new Sussex County Cancer Coalition to enlist healthcare providers in: (a) tobacco-related treatment, and (b) changing patients' unhealthy behaviors.
- Increase the use of computer-based resources, including online support groups, by County residents with cancer.
- Target outreach efforts to county physicians to change patients' unhealthy behaviors.
- Encourage the use of existing county programs and resources related to lung cancer.
- Initiate breast cancer outreach efforts, especially to senior women, based upon approaches with demonstrated effectiveness.

For More Information



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