Lung cancer is the second most common cancer diagnosed among New Jersey men and women and the leading cause of cancer death in the state.

With the drop in cigarette smoking, lung cancer incidence rates decreased in New Jersey; declines occurred earlier in men than women, although rates remain higher in men.

Lung cancer incidence rates in NJ men declined by 0.5% per year from 1979-1991 and by 2.1% from 1991-2013. In NJ women, lung cancer incidence increased by 3.6% per year during 1979-1990, followed by a 0.6% increase per year during 1990-2007 and a 2% decrease per year after 2007.

NJ black men had higher lung cancer incidence than NJ white men, but experienced larger declines over time, with rates approaching those of white men by 2013. The decline in lung cancer incidence started earlier in NJ black women than in NJ white women.

Cigarette smoking is the main cause of lung cancer and increases the risk of oral, larynx, and other cancers\(^1\), emphasizing the importance of smoking prevention and cessation programs in New Jersey to reduce the substantial morbidity and mortality caused by tobacco use.

For additional information on incidence trends in cancers associated with cigarette smoking in New Jersey, click here.

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