

NJSHAD New Jersey State Health Assessment Data

New Jersey's Public Health Data Resource

Path: [NJSHAD](#) » [indicator](#) » [index](#) » [report](#)

Complete Health Indicator Report of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), Incidence & Prevalence

Definition

A case of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is defined as a New Jersey resident meeting the El Escorial criteria and reported by a neurologist as under their care between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2011. Rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population and are per 100,000 population.

Numerator

Annual Incidence Rate: Number of newly diagnosed cases in 2009, 2010, or 2011.

Point Prevalence: Number of cases alive as of December 31, 2011.

Denominator

Annual Incidence Rate: Defined population in a specified time interval.

Point Prevalence: Population at defined point in time.

Why Is This Important?

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), better known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a rare, incurable, progressive neurological disease. When nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord responsible for muscle movement degenerate and die, muscles begin to atrophy and eventually patients may become completely paralyzed. Five to 10% of ALS cases are inherited, and the causes of remaining cases are not well understood. ALS is not a reportable disease in New Jersey. New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) undertook a surveillance project to establish disease incidence and prevalence rates, and to examine how incidence varied by demographic characteristics in New Jersey.

How Are We Doing?

In NJ there were 493 incident cases reported in 2009-2011. The average annual age-adjusted incidence rate was 1.67 cases per 100,000 persons. Age-specific average annual incidence increased with age until 70-79 years of age. Average annual age-adjusted incidence rates and point prevalence varied by sex, race, and ethnicity.

ALS incidence varied across and within counties, but no statistically significant geographic clusters were found. Geographic variation in ALS incidence in NJ appears to be influenced by socioeconomic status and race.

How Do We Compare With the U.S.?

There are limited population-based epidemiological data in the United States. The National ALS Registry, launched in 2008, is maintained by the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). The main goals of the Registry are to better describe the incidence and prevalence of ALS; to examine risk factors that might be associated with the disease; and to better outline demographic factors associated with the disease.

The New Jersey ALS Surveillance Project was one of 11 projects to collect case reports for ALS patients in the defined three-year period of 2009-2011. The surveillance projects were established by ATSDR to evaluate the completeness of the National ALS Registry and to describe incidence and prevalence in defined geographic areas.

Available Services

For more information on ALS surveillance, visit <http://www.nj.gov/health/als/als-state-meta.html>.

For more information on ALS surveillance: <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/ALS/ALSStateMIETRO.aspx>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/ATSDR ALS National Registry:

<https://wwwn.cdc.gov/als/default.aspx>

For more information on ALS services:

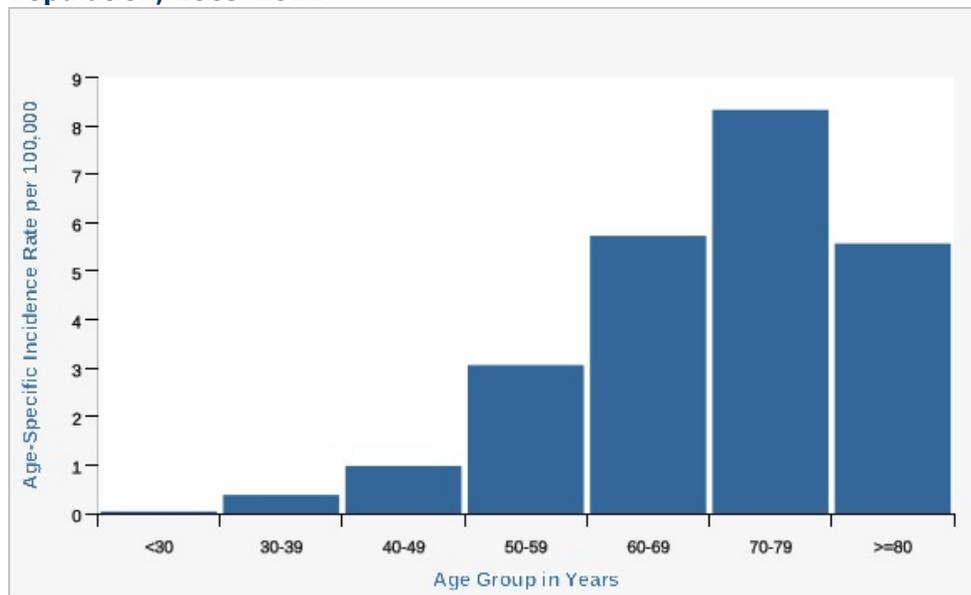
ALS Association National Office: <http://www.alsa.org/>

The ALS Association, Greater New York Chapter: <http://als-ny.org/>

The ALS Association, Greater Philadelphia Chapter: <http://www.alsphiladelphia.org/>

Graphical Data Views

ALS in New Jersey, Age-Specific Average Annual Incidence Rates Per 100,000 Population, 2009-2011



Age Group in Years	Age-Specific Incidence Rate per 100,000	Numerator
<30	0.04	4
30-39	0.38	13
40-49	0.98	40
50-59	3.06	114
60-69	5.73	143
70-79	8.33	119
>=80	5.57	60

Record Count: 7

Data Notes

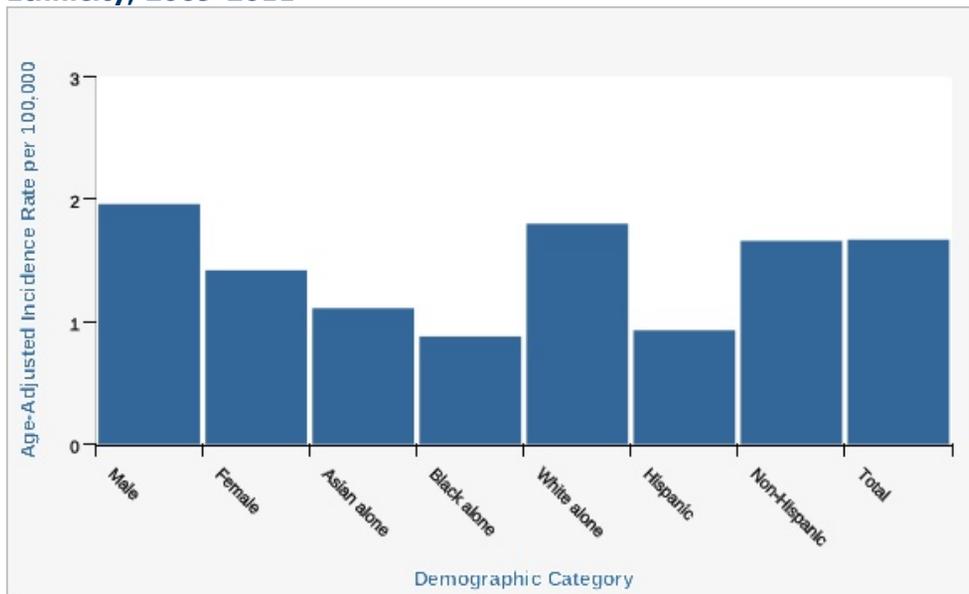
The numerator is the number of newly diagnosed cases during 3 years (2009-2011).

Additional information is available at http://www.nj.gov/health/als/documents/als_dec2013.pdf.

Data Sources

- ALS Surveillance Project, Environmental and Occupational Health Surveillance Program, NJ Department of Health
- U.S. Census Bureau

ALS in New Jersey, Age-Adjusted Annual Average Incidence by Sex, Race, and Ethnicity, 2009-2011



Demographic Category	Age-Adjusted Incidence Rate per 100,000	Lower Limit	Upper Limit	Numerator
Male	1.96	1.72	2.2	265
Female	1.42	1.23	1.6	228
Asian alone	1.11	0.62	1.6	22
Black alone	0.88	0.57	1.2	31
White alone	1.8	1.62	1.98	413
Hispanic	0.93	0.57	1.29	30
Non-Hispanic	1.66	1.5	1.82	438
Total	1.67	1.52	1.82	493

Record Count: 8

Data Notes

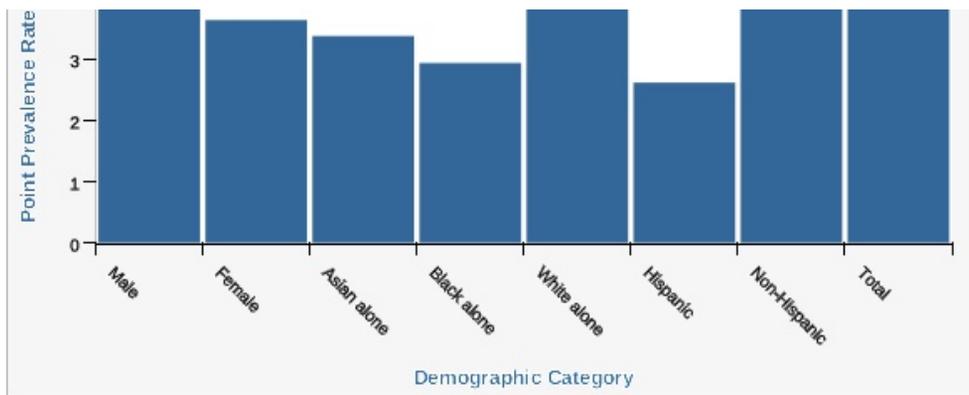
The numerator is the number of newly diagnosed cases during 3 years (2009-2011). Additional information is available at http://www.nj.gov/health/als/documents/als_dec2013.pdf.

Data Sources

- ALS Surveillance Project, Environmental and Occupational Health Surveillance Program, NJ Department of Health
- U.S. Census Bureau

ALS in New Jersey, Age-Adjusted Point Prevalence by Sex, Race, and Ethnicity, December 31, 2011





Demographic Category	Point Prevalence Rate per 100,000	Lower Limit	Upper Limit	Numerator
Male	5.21	4.54	5.88	242
Female	3.63	3.11	4.15	192
Asian alone	3.37	1.95	4.8	24
Black alone	2.93	1.94	3.92	35
White alone	4.62	4.12	5.12	342
Hispanic	2.61	1.63	3.6	30
Non-Hispanic	4.29	3.85	4.74	372
Total	4.4	3.98	4.82	434

Record Count: 8

Data Notes

The numerator is the number of cases alive as of December 31, 2011.

Additional information is available at http://www.nj.gov/health/als/documents/als_dec2013.pdf.

Data Sources

- ALS Surveillance Project, Environmental and Occupational Health Surveillance Program, NJ Department of Health
- U.S. Census Bureau

Page Content Updated On 03/31/2016, Published on 11/15/2016

Environmental Public Health Tracking Project, New Jersey Department of Health, PO Box 369, Trenton, NJ 08625-0369, Phone: 609-826-4984, e-mail: nj.epht@doh.nj.gov, Web: www.nj.gov/health/epht