

Melanoma of the skin 2016-2020

Key Findings:

- ◇ Melanoma is the most dangerous type of skin cancer because it is more likely to spread if not caught and treated early. It has the highest risk of death compared to other skin cancers.
- ◇ Melanoma remains in the top 10 most common cancers in New Jersey – 6th most common cancer among men (22.6 per 100,000) and 8th most common cancer among women (13.9 per 100,000).
- ◇ New Jersey residents have a similar rate of melanoma compared to the U.S. (21.0 per 100,000).
- ◇ Non-Hispanic Whites, men aged 65 and older, and those residing in Cape May, Ocean, Hunterdon, Monmouth, and Sussex counties had the highest rate of new cases.
- ◇ Hispanics had the highest rate of new cases after non-Hispanic Whites. (3.8 per 100,000).
- ◇ 36% of New Jersey residents reported having a sunburn at least one time in the past year.¹

Melanoma Diagnosis by Age, Race & Ethnicity, 2016-2020

Age at Diagnosis	Rate of New Cases ^a			Number of New Cases
	Men	Women	All	
All Races				
All Ages	27.1	16.6	21.0	11,472
00-14	0.3	^	0.2	14
15-39	3.1	5.9	4.5	626
40-64	27.7	24.5	26.0	4,436
65+	138.9	55.7	90.3	6,396
Non-Hispanic White				
All Ages	37.5	25.2	30.3	10,748
00-14	0.3	^	0.2	7
15-39	5.7	11.2	8.4	568
40-64	41.4	39.2	40.2	4,090
65+	180.5	73.3	118.6	6,083
Non-Hispanic Black				
All Ages	1.0	1.0	1.0	62
00-14	^	^	^	^
15-39	^	^	^	^
40-64	1.3	1.2	1.2	27
65+	4.8	4.4	4.5	33
Non-Hispanic Asian or Pacific Islander				
All Ages	1.1	0.6	0.8	39
00-14	^	^	^	^
15-39	^	^	^	^
40-64	1.1	1.2	1.1	18
65+	5.6	^	3.4	18
Hispanic^b				
All Ages	4.3	3.5	3.8	269
00-14	^	^	0.2	5
15-39	0.7	1.1	0.9	31
40-64	3.6	4.0	3.8	105
65+	23.0	14.7	18.0	128

¹Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, Center for Health Statistics, New Jersey Department of Health, <http://www.state.nj.us/health/chs/njbrfs/>

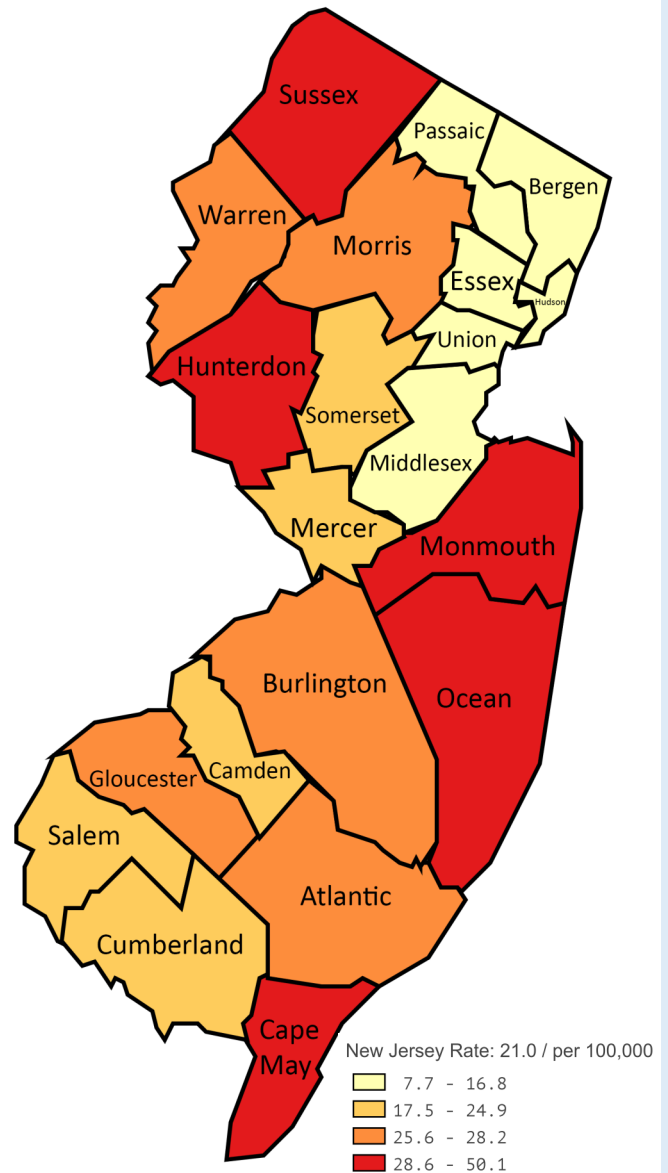
Data Source: New Jersey State Cancer Registry March 2023 file, New Jersey Department of Health.

^aRates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 US population standard. Note an approximate 10% decrease in the number of cancer cases diagnosed in 2020 compared to 2019, partly due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

^bPersons of Hispanic ethnicity may be of any race or combination of races. The categories of race and ethnicity are not mutually exclusive. ^Data are suppressed for fewer than five cases to ensure confidentiality and statistical reliability.

Melanoma Diagnosis by County, 2016-2020

County	Rate of New Cases ^a			Number of New Cases
	Men	Women	All	
Cape May	65.3	38.0	50.1	394
Hunterdon	45.7	25.6	34.7	303
Ocean	39.8	25.8	31.6	1,367
Monmouth	37.8	24.0	29.9	1,226
Sussex	35.2	24.0	28.6	264
Gloucester	34.4	23.8	28.2	496
Atlantic	35.6	20.0	26.9	468
Morris	33.1	21.3	26.1	832
Warren	32.5	20.3	25.7	184
Burlington	34.0	19.5	25.6	728
Somerset	32.5	19.4	24.9	511
Salem	29.7	19.1	23.7	99
Camden	27.9	18.8	22.6	675
Mercer	29.9	16.0	21.8	479
Cumberland	20.6	15.5	17.5	150
Bergen	21.7	13.3	16.8	1,014
Middlesex	20.0	12.1	15.4	747
Union	18.9	11.1	14.2	462
Passaic	16.2	9.6	12.2	348
Essex	12.9	8.9	10.4	461
Hudson	9.5	6.6	7.7	264



Data Source: New Jersey State Cancer Registry March 2023 file, New Jersey Department of Health.

^aRates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 US population standard. Note an approximate 10% decrease in the number of cancer cases diagnosed in 2020 compared to 2019, partly due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- ◇ Ultraviolet radiation exposure from sunlight is a major risk factor for melanoma. Although skin cancer risk is higher among those with fair skin, and personal or family history of melanoma, skin cancer can affect anyone.
- ◇ Reduce your risk by protecting yourself from the sun, including applying sunscreen, seeking shade, wearing sun-protective clothing, and avoiding tanning beds. Check your skin for warning signs like a new spot on your skin or a spot that is changing in size, shape, or color. Talk to your health care provider if you see something abnormal or if you have risk factors for melanoma.²

² American Cancer Society, 2022, <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/melanoma-skin-cancer.html>