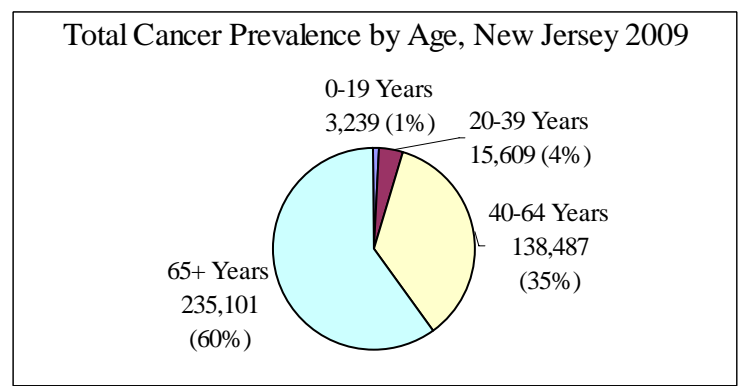# Cancer Prevalence in New Jersey on January 1, 2009

Background

- The statistic, cancer prevalence, represents the number of people who have ever been diagnosed with cancer and are alive on a certain date (January 1, 2009 for this fact sheet).
- Cancer prevalence is a statistic of primary interest in public health because it identifies the current burden of cancer in a population and on the health care system.
- Cancer prevalence is related to both the cancer incidence and survival.
- The prevalence of cancer continues to increase in New Jersey and the United States as our populations grow, age and as survival improves for many types of cancer.

Estimated Total Cancer Prevalence

- On January 1, 2009, in New Jersey there were 392,436 men and women alive who had a history of any type of invasive cancer, 179,618 (46%) men and 212,818 (54%) women. About 86% of the cancer survivors were white and 9% were black.

- The majority of the cancer survivors were 65 years or older.

Total Cancer Prevalence by Age, New Jersey 2009

- 0-19 Years 3,239 (1%)
- 20-39 Years 15,609 (4%)
- 40-64 Years 138,487 (35%)
- 65+ Years 235,101 (60%)

Estimated Prevalent Cases by Top Ten Cancer Types

Male All Types	179,618
Prostate	77,451 (43%)
Colorectal	18,653 (10%)
Urinary Bladder	14,611 (8%)
Melanoma	10,269 (6%)
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma	7,714 (4%)
Kidney and Renal Pelvis	6,353 (4%)
Testis	5,999 (3%)
Lung	5,749 (3%)
Leukemia	4,494 (3%)
Oropharyngeal	4,420 (2%)

Female All Types	212,818
Breast	83,606 (40%)
Colorectal	20,081 (9%)
Corpus and Uterus	18,734 (9%)
Thyroid	12,577 (6%)
Melanoma	10,703 (5%)
Cervix Uteri	9,194 (4%)
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma	7,371 (3%)
Lung	7,143 (3%)
Ovary	6,437 (3%)
Urinary Bladder	5,657 (3%)

- Prostate cancer is the top contributor to the male cancer prevalence. Nearly 80% of the prostate prevalent cases were 65 or older.

- Female breast cancer contributed the most to the total female cancer prevalence. Over 50% of the breast prevalent cases were 65 or older.

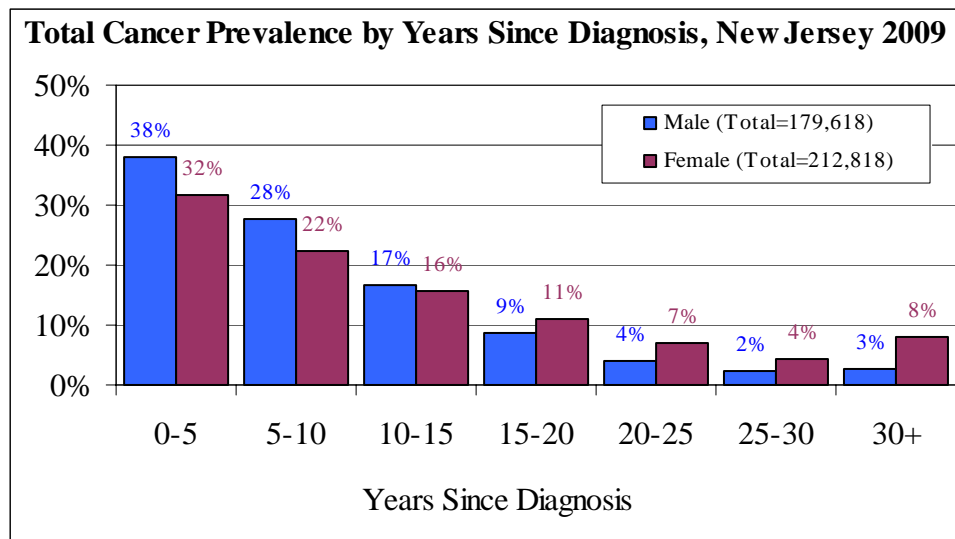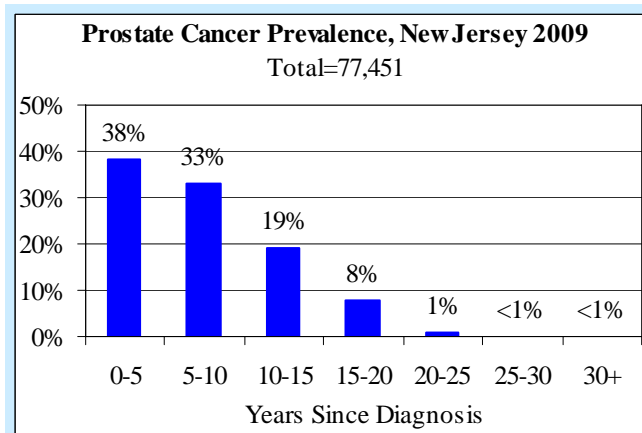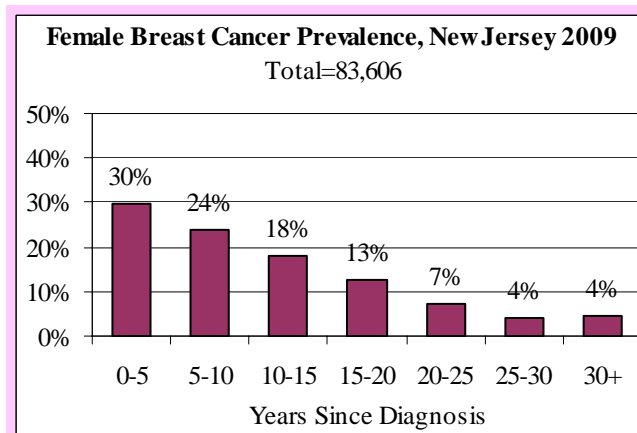## Prevalence by Years Since Diagnosis

➢ Of the estimated 392,436 prevalent cancer cases, 35% of them were diagnosed within the past five years and 60% within the past ten years.

➢ An estimated 68,239 male cancer survivors and 67,301 female cancer survivors were diagnosed with cancer within the past five years.

Total Cancer Prevalence by Years Since Diagnosis, New Jersey 2009

Male (Total=179,618)
Female (Total=212,818)

Years Since Diagnosis	Male	Female
0-5	38%	32%
5-10	28%	22%
10-15	17%	16%
15-20	9%	11%
20-25	4%	7%
25-30	2%	4%
30+	3%	8%

➢ Over 70% of the total prostate cancer survivors were diagnosed within the past ten years and 88% within the past 20 years. About 2% of the prostate cancer survivors were diagnosed more than 20 years ago.

➢ Over a half of the total female breast cancer survivors were diagnosed within the past ten years and 15% within the past 20 years. About 15% of the breast cancer survivors were diagnosed more than 20 years ago.

Prostate Cancer Prevalence, New Jersey 2009
Total=77,451

Years Since Diagnosis	Percent
0-5	38%
5-10	33%
10-15	19%
15-20	8%
20-25	1%
25-30	<1%
30+	<1%

Female Breast Cancer Prevalence, New Jersey 2009
Total=83,606

Years Since Diagnosis	Percent
0-5	30%
5-10	24%
10-15	18%
15-20	13%
20-25	7%
25-30	4%
30+	4%

➢ Colorectal cancer was the second highest prevalent cancer with 33% diagnosed within the past five years and 57% within the past ten years.

➢ Although the incidence of lung cancer was the second highest, lung cancer ranked eighth in prevalence due to the low survival rate. Nearly 60% of lung cancer survivors were diagnosed within the past five years.

Data Sources and Methods [1]

The cancer prevalence estimates were based on the New Jersey State Cancer Registry database prepared in December 2011 which included cancers diagnosed between 1979 and 2008. The vital status follow-up using state and national sources was complete through December 31, 2009.

The estimates for prevalent cancers diagnosed within 30 years (e.g. 0-5 years, 5-10 years, etc) were generated using the Limited-Duration Prevalence Session in SEER*Stat software [2]. The estimates were based on the first invasive primary cancers only. The counting method was used to estimate prevalence from incidence and vital status follow-up information from the New Jersey State Cancer Registry. This method estimates prevalence by counting the number of persons who are known to be alive at a specific calendar time (January 1, 2009 for this fact sheet) and adjusting for those lost to follow-up (unknown if they are alive or deceased at the specific time). The adjustment is made by estimating the probability that each individual is alive on the specific date using the survival information of individuals not lost to follow-up who had the same cancer type, stage at diagnosis, age at diagnosis, sex, race, and year of diagnosis.

The complete prevalence, the number of persons who were ever diagnosed with cancer and alive at the specific time, was calculated using the completeness index by cancer type, sex, and race in the ComPrev software [3] based on 30-year (1979-2008) prevalence estimates.

References

1. Methods and Software: Prevalence of Cancer at http://surveillance.cancer.gov/software/prevalence.html

2. Surveillance Research Program, National Cancer Institute SEER*Stat software (www.seer.cancer.gov/seerstat) version 7.1.0.

3. Complete Prevalence Program, Version 2.0. April 2011, National Cancer Institute.

More information about the New Jersey State Cancer Registry and cancer incidence data can be found on the Cancer Epidemiology Services website http://nj.gov/health/ces/.