

# Bergen 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: 884,118**
- **Median Age: 39.1**
- **Racial Composition:**
  - 78% White
  - 5% Black
  - 11% Asian
- **Ethnic Composition:**
  - 10% Hispanic
- **Median Household Income: \$65,241**
- **% of Residents  $\geq$  25 years of age without high school diploma: 13%**
- **% of Residents living below the poverty level: 5%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Census 2000

### Overall Cancer Burden

From 1996-2000, an average of 633.3 men and 456.8 women per 100,000 were diagnosed with cancer each year in Bergen County. This is comparable to the New Jersey rate of 628.7 for men and 453.7 for women. The average annual cancer death rate was 241.2 for men, and 173.2 for women in Bergen 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 Bergen 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

- **Education and Prevention:** Awareness of and participation in cancer education and prevention programs should increase.
- **Comprehensive School Education:** Curricula should be reviewed for comprehensive and unilateral coverage of cancer-related issues.
- **Palliation/Survivorship:** Although resources are available, the general public is not aware of services.
- **Providers and Treatment:** There are no major gaps in cancer services.
- **Access to Care:** Minority and low-income residents may experience cultural, language, and economic barriers which decrease access to care.
- **Transportation:** There is a lack of centralized, efficient public transportation within the county.
- **Advocacy:** Advocacy efforts have led to cancer-related policy development and legislation.
- **Nutrition and Physical Activity:** Because obesity is a major cancer risk factor, the percentage of residents who eat an appropriate diet and exercise regularly should be increased.
- **Childhood Cancer:** Bergen County hospitals offer treatment, home care and support services for pediatric cancer patients.

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# Bergen County & New Jersey

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

All Cancers	Incidence Rate <sup>1</sup>		Mortality Rate <sup>2</sup>	
	Bergen County	NJ	Bergen County	NJ
Male	633.3	628.7	241.2	261.1
Female	456.8	453.7	173.2	181.6
NJ-CCCP Priority Cancer by Gender				
Breast, female	146.6	138.5	30.1	31.3
Cervical, female	8.8	10.9	1.9	3.1
Colorectal, male	76.5	79.0	26.3	29.5
Colorectal, female	54.9	54.4	19.2	20.1
Lung, male	80.7	92.5	65.5	74.8
Lung, female	50.5	55.4	37.8	41.6
Melanoma, male	<b>23.3</b>	20.1	4.6	4.4
Melanoma, female	<b>14.1</b>	11.9	<b>2.1</b>	1.9
Oral/Oropharyngeal, male	12.2	15.7	3.3	4.2
Oral/Oropharyngeal, female	5.9	6.4	1.5	1.6
Prostate, male	208.7	194.3	30.2	32.9

Sources: <sup>1</sup> New Jersey State Cancer Registry, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, August 2003

<sup>2</sup> 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

- Strive to meet the Healthy New Jersey 2010 recalculated goals for incidence, mortality, or staging for breast, colorectal, melanoma, and prostate cancers.
- Improve access to cancer resources for low-income, disabled, undocumented, and elderly residents.
- Increase awareness of cancer prevention and healthy lifestyle practices.
- Expand the list of priority cancers and enhance current strategies to decrease the cancer burden in Bergen County.

### For More Information

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To access the full Report Summary, visit the website:  
[www.njcancer.gov](http://www.njcancer.gov)

