

# Atlantic County Cancer Fact Sheet

The Atlantic County Cancer Coalition, also known as the Atlantic Healthy Living Coalition, is made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services' Office of Cancer Control and Prevention. The mission of the Atlantic Healthy Living Coalition is to implement the New Jersey Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan in Atlantic County. For more information on Comprehensive Cancer Control in NJ, please visit: [www.njcancer.gov](http://www.njcancer.gov). For more information on the Atlantic Healthy Living Coalition, please visit: [www.achlc.com](http://www.achlc.com).

## County Demographic Profile 2000 vs. 2006

	2000 <sup>1</sup>	2006 <sup>2</sup>
Population	252,552	271,620
Median Age*	37	38
Racial Composition:		
% White	68	66
% Black	18	17
% Asian	5	7
Ethnic Composition:		
% Hispanic	12	14
Median Household Income*	\$43,933	\$52,230
% of Residents ≥ 25 years of age without high school diploma	22	14
% of Residents living below the poverty level*	11	9

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; <sup>1</sup> Census 2000, and

<sup>2</sup> 2006 American Community Survey

\* Compare 2000 and 2006 data with caution; some differences exist due to differences in data methods.

## Overall Cancer Burden

From 2000-2004, an average of 639 men and 463 women per 100,000 were diagnosed with cancer each year in Atlantic County. This is comparable to the New Jersey rate of 614 for men and 447 for women. The average annual cancer death rate was 266 for men and 196 for women in Atlantic County, compared to the state rate of 237 for men and 172 for women. As in the state, the types of cancers which affect the most people in Atlantic County are breast, colorectal, lung, and prostate.

Note: Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Census population standards.

## Overarching Issues

- **Access and Resources:** The number of uninsured residents is estimated to be between 30,000 and 40,000. Fortunately, there are some resources available to uninsured Atlantic County residents.
- **School Health Education:** Cancer education is lacking in many schools. Some schools do not adhere to the recommended NJ Core Curriculum Standards. Many schools do not have a formal school health coordinator.
- **Palliative Care:** Palliative care services are limited in the county and there is a need for professional and public education. A palliative care committee is established in Atlantic County and there are several organizations involved in survivorship and provide support.
- **Nutrition and Physical Activity:** It is estimated that around 123,000 adults are overweight or obese in Atlantic County. Atlantic County does not have an active education or promotional structure to educate the public about the importance of nutrition and fitness.

# Atlantic County & New Jersey

## Average Annual Age-Adjusted Incidence & Mortality Rates by Site 1996-2000 vs. 2000-2004

All Cancers	Incidence Rate per 100,000*				Mortality Rate per 100,000**			
	Atlantic County			NJ	Atlantic County			NJ
	1996-2000 <sup>1</sup>	2000-2004 <sup>2</sup>	% Change	2000-2004 <sup>2</sup>	1996-2000 <sup>3</sup>	2000-2004 <sup>2</sup>	% Change	2000-2004 <sup>2</sup>
Male	619.0	638.9	3.2	614.4	271.7	<b>265.8</b>	-2.2	236.8
Female	465.4	462.6	-0.6	447.0	192.7	<b>196.0</b>	1.7	171.9
NJ-CCCP Priority Cancer by Gender								
Breast, female	127.4	127.6	0.2	131.9	31.8	30.8	-3.1	28.5
Cervical, female	<b>16.9</b>	<b>10.8</b>	-36.1	9.6	<b>3.7</b>	<b>4.1</b>	10.8	2.7
Colorectal, male	75.0	76.1	1.5	70.2	29.6	27.6	-6.8	25.9
Colorectal, female	<b>60.9</b>	53.6	-12.0	50.8	22.1	20.0	-9.5	18.3
Lung, male	101.6	<b>101.1</b>	-0.5	82.4	81.8	<b>79.1</b>	-3.3	66.5
Lung, female	<b>64.5</b>	<b>64.5</b>	0.0	55.4	44.9	<b>52.7</b>	17.4	40.7
Melanoma, male	15.0	24.3	62.0	24.4	4.7	<b>4.4</b>	-6.4	3.9
Melanoma, female	11.8	<b>18.3</b>	55.1	15.0	2.9	<b>2.3</b>	-20.7	1.7
Oral/Oropharyngeal, male	<b>20.8</b>	<b>17.1</b>	-17.8	14.6	3.8	3.2	-15.8	3.8
Oral/Oropharyngeal, female	<b>8.1</b>	<b>6.8</b>	-16.0	6.0	1.3	1.4	7.7	1.4
Prostate, male	177.6	168.4	-5.2	192.7	30.9	27.8	-10.0	27.0

Sources:

- <sup>1</sup> New Jersey State Cancer Registry, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, August 2003.
- <sup>2</sup> New Jersey State Cancer Registry, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. Cancer-Rates. *Info/NJ*. <http://www.nj.gov/health/ces/cancer-rates.shtml> (November 2007).
- <sup>3</sup> National Cancer Institute and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, State Cancer Profiles (Accessed at <http://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/>).

Notes:

Rates are 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**.

The annual rates for relatively uncommon cancers tend to fluctuate substantially from year to year because of small numbers of cases. The % change for cancers with low incidence and/or mortality rates should be interpreted with caution.

\* The number of newly diagnosed cases of disease in a specific population during a specific time period per 100,000 people.

\*\*The number of deaths due to a disease in a specific population during a specific time period per 100,000 people.

### For More Information

New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services  
Office of Cancer Control and Prevention  
P.O. Box 360  
Trenton, NJ 08611-2425  
(609) 984-4978  
[www.njcancer.gov](http://www.njcancer.gov)

