

Cape May County Cancer Fact Sheet

The Cape May County Cancer Coalition, also known as the Chronic Illness Coalition of Cape May, 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 Cape May County Cancer Coalition is to implement the New Jersey Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan in Cape May County. For more information on Comprehensive Cancer Control in NJ, please visit: www.njcancer.gov. For more information on the Cape May County Cancer Coalition, please visit: www.chronicillnesscoalition.com.

County Demographic Profile 2000 vs. 2006		
	2000 ¹	2006 ²
Population	102,326	97,724
Median Age*	42	44
Racial Composition:		
% White	92	92
% Black	5	6
% Asian	1	0.4
Ethnic Composition:		
% Hispanic	3	4
Median Household Income*	\$41,591	\$50,024
% of Residents ≥ 25 years of age without high school diploma	18	13
% of Residents living below the poverty level*	9	9

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; ¹ Census 2000, and

² 2006 American Community Survey

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

Overall Cancer Burden

Cape May County men have the highest incidence rates of cancer in New Jersey. From 2000-2004, an average of 690 men and 470 women per 100,000 were diagnosed with cancer each year in Cape May County, compared to the New Jersey rate of 614 for men and 447 for women. The average annual cancer death rate was 252 for men and 182 for women in Cape May 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 Cape May 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

- **Access and Resources:** An estimated 18,000 to 22,000 Cape May County residents are without health insurance.
- **School Health Education:** Many schools teach about cancer, but there is no standard curriculum.
- **Providers and Treatment:** No major deficiencies were identified among providers and treatment. There are a number of healthcare facilities servicing Cape May County.
- **Advocacy:** Most local initiatives focus on smoking and breast cancer. Efforts are needed to impact state legislation that will ultimately affect each county by providing resources or mandating levels of care for residents.
- **Palliative Care:** Although there is pain management available through both hospices and hospitals, due to the small size of Cape May County, there are no freestanding hospice centers.
- **Nutrition and Physical Activity:** It is estimated that approximately 43,000 Cape May County adults are overweight or obese. Preventative nutrition services are needed in hospitals and physicians' offices.
- **Childhood Cancers:** A lack of resources exists due to specialization of the field and low number of cases.

Cape May 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**			
	Cape May County			NJ	Cape May County			NJ
	1996-2000 ¹	2000-2004 ²	% Change	2000-2004 ²	1996-2000 ³	2000-2004 ²	% Change	2000-2004 ²
Male	666.0	689.8	3.6	614.4	262.1	251.6	-4.0	236.8
Female	454.5	470.1	3.4	447.0	180.6	181.9	0.7	171.9
NJ-CCCP Priority Cancer by Gender								
Breast, female	133.6	135.4	1.3	131.9	35.9	32.1	-10.6	28.5
Cervical, female	9.9	9.1	-8.1	9.6	2.8	2.5	-10.7	2.7
Colorectal, male	79.8	80.8	1.3	70.2	25.6	28.5	11.3	25.9
Colorectal, female	51.5	51.5	0.0	50.8	18.2	21.5	18.1	18.3
Lung, male	113.9	101.0	-11.3	82.4	83.2	79.3	-4.7	66.5
Lung, female	69.2	71.3	3.0	55.4	49.8	50.2	0.8	40.7
Melanoma, male	32.1	40.3	25.5	24.4	5.1	6.2	21.6	3.9
Melanoma, female	17.1	22.7	32.7	15.0	1.8	1.1	-38.9	1.7
Oral/Oropharyngeal, male	21.3	25.9	21.6	14.6	4.2	3.8	-9.5	3.8
Oral/Oropharyngeal, female	5.8	5.0	-13.8	6.0	0.8	***		1.4
Prostate, male	194.6	189.0	-2.9	192.7	32.8	26.7	-18.6	27.0

Sources:

- ¹ New Jersey State Cancer Registry, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, August 2003.
- ² 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).
- ³ 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.
- *** Data not available because number is too small.

For More Information

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