

Mercer County Cancer Fact Sheet

The Mercer County Cancer 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 Mercer County Cancer Coalition is to implement the New Jersey Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan in Mercer County. For more information on Comprehensive Cancer Control in NJ, please visit: www.njcancer.gov.

County Demographic Profile 2000 vs. 2006

	2000 ¹	2006 ²
Population	350,761	367,605
Median Age*	36	37
Racial Composition:		
% White	69	67
% Black	20	20
% Asian	5	8
Ethnic Composition:		
% Hispanic	10	12
Median Household Income*	\$56,612	\$65,305
% of Residents ≥ 25 years of age without high school diploma	18	15
% of Residents living below the poverty level*	9	8

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

From 2000-2004, an average of 626 men and 457 women per 100,000 were diagnosed with cancer each year in Mercer County, compared to the New Jersey rate of 614 for men and 447 for women. The average annual cancer death rate was 226 for men and 167 for women in Mercer 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 Mercer 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:** Factors contributing to lack of access to healthcare resources in Mercer County include transportation, socioeconomic, lack of health insurance, cultural and belief systems, and household structure. The lack of health insurance for county residents and inadequate charity care reimbursement place economic burdens on county hospitals.
- **School Health Education:** All school systems address cancer-related topics, though some only superficially. There is no mandate for teaching sun protection guidelines.
- **Palliative Care:** There are four hospice programs that provide care to Mercer County.
- **Nutrition and Physical Activity:** Several organizations and hospitals in Mercer County offer nutrition and exercise counseling or programs. However, access to these programs is a problem for many residents.
- **Childhood Cancers:** There are no pediatric cancer services within Mercer County. Palliative care is available through local hospice organizations.
- **Advocacy:** The disproportionate burden of cancer within the black and Hispanic communities of Mercer County has been acknowledged by various advocacy groups. Cancer awareness, education, and early detection programs are planned at the county level.

Mercer 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**			
	Mercer County			NJ	Mercer County			NJ
	1996-2000 ¹	2000-2004 ²	% Change	2000-2004 ²	1996-2000 ³	2000-2004 ²	% Change	2000-2004 ²
Male	636.6	626.1	-1.6	614.4	266.1	225.8	-15.1	236.8
Female	452.4	457.1	1.0	447.0	180.9	166.9	-7.7	171.9
NJ-CCCP Priority Cancer by Gender								
Breast, female	140.4	136.8	-2.6	131.9	33.1	28.7	-13.3	28.5
Cervical, female	9.7	10.2	5.2	9.6	3.1	2.7	-12.9	2.7
Colorectal, male	78.4	67.7	-13.6	70.2	32.3	21.0	-35.0	25.9
Colorectal, female	52.9	50.1	-5.3	50.8	20.6	18.6	-9.7	18.3
Lung, male	93.0	86.4	-7.1	82.4	73.3	62.3	-15.0	66.5
Lung, female	52.6	52.8	0.4	55.4	37.2	36.9	-0.8	40.7
Melanoma, male	19.8	26.3	32.8	24.4	2.9	3.3	13.8	3.9
Melanoma, female	10.5	16.0	52.4	15.0	1.3	1.7	30.8	1.7
Oral/Oropharyngeal, male	20.5	16.2	-21.0	14.6	4.5	3.2	-28.9	3.8
Oral/Oropharyngeal, female	7.7	7.3	-5.2	6.0	1.7	1.9	11.8	1.4
Prostate, male	201.7	201.7	0.0	192.7	36.5	28.0	-23.3	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.

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

