

Passaic 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: 489,409**
- **Median Age: 34.8**
- **Racial Composition:**
 - **62% White**
 - **13% Black**
 - **4% Asian**
- **Ethnic Composition:**
 - **30% Hispanic**
- **Median Household Income: \$56,054**
- **% of residents ≥ 25 without high school diploma: 27%**
- **% of residents living below the poverty level: 12.3%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Census 2000

Overall Cancer Burden

From 1996-2000, an average of 602.3 men and 438.9 women per 100,000 were diagnosed with cancer each year in Passaic County, compared to the New Jersey rate of 628.7 for men and 453.7 for women. The average annual death rate was 258.1 for men, and 180.0 for women in Passaic 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 Passaic 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:** Poverty severely limits access to medical treatment and follow up care in Passaic County.
- **School Health Education:** Additional research is required to understand the extent to which Passaic County students receive cancer-related education in their schools.
- **Providers and Treatment:** Services offered through the county's cancer care community are uncoordinated and fragmented. This system is often difficult for health professionals and consumers of health services to understand and navigate.
- **Advocacy:** Advocacy activities intended to affect legislation and promote policies to advance cancer prevention, diagnostic, and therapeutic care in Passaic County are minimal.
- **Palliative Care:** Palliative care services are provided by hospitals, visiting nurse services, and private organizations, but it is unclear if the services are uniformly available and defined by all of their providers.
- **Nutrition and Physical Activity:** Some nutrition and physical activity education is available to limited resource residents of Passaic County.
- **Childhood Cancer:** Childhood cancer services are primarily provided by St. Joseph's Hospital and Regional Medical Center.

Passaic County & New Jersey

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

All Cancers	Incidence Rate ¹		Mortality Rate ²	
	Passaic County	NJ	Passaic County	NJ
Male	602.3	628.7	258.1	261.1
Female	438.9	453.7	180.0	181.6
NJ-CCCP Priority Cancer by Gender				
Breast, female	144.2	138.5	31.1	31.3
Cervical, female	11.1	10.9	2.9	3.1
Colorectal, male	84.4	79.0	29.6	29.5
Colorectal, female	56.0	54.4	18.5	20.1
Lung, male	98.8	92.5	83.8	74.8
Lung, female	65.3	55.4	46.3	41.6
Melanoma, male	25.5	20.1	5.2	4.4
Melanoma, female	16.7	11.9	3.0	1.9
Oral/Oropharyngeal, male	16.6	15.7	3.1	4.2
Oral/Oropharyngeal, female	7.0	6.4	1.0	1.6
Prostate, male	194.4	194.3	29.6	32.9

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

² 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

- Create an infrastructure to develop a Passaic County Cancer Control Plan.
- Coordinate cancer control and prevention activities.
- Initiate a program of cancer services advocacy.
- Provide programs of health professional education.
- Create a Passaic County Cancer Control Plan.

For More Information

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To access the full Report Summary, visit the website:
www.njcancer.gov

