

# Salem 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: 64,285**
- **Median Age: 38.0**
- **Racial Composition:**
  - 81% White
  - 15 % Black
  - 1% Asian
- **Ethnic Composition:**
  - 4% Hispanic
- **Median Household Income: \$45,573**
- **% of Residents  $\geq$  25 years of age without high school diploma: 14%**
- **% of Residents living below the poverty level: 9.5%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Census 2000

### Overall Cancer Burden

From 1996-2000, an average of 580.4 men and 461.4 women per 100,000 were diagnosed with cancer each year in Salem 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 285.3 for men, and 209.0 for women in Salem 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 Salem 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:** Between 8,000 and 9,000 Salem County residents are uninsured. Without health insurance, access to healthcare may be diminished, which may result in cancer diagnoses occurring at later stages and higher morbidity and mortality rates.
- **School Health Education:** Since there is no standardized curriculum, cancer-related subjects may not be adequately addressed in schools.
- **Providers and Treatment:** No significant gaps were identified among providers and treatment facilities.
- **Advocacy:** Most initiatives focus on smoking ordinances or take place at the state level. A county cancer coalition will ensure that more advocacy strides will be made in Salem County.
- **Palliation Care:** Hospice care is widely available and can be provided in the home or in a nursing home.
- **Nutrition and Physical Activity:** There are approximately 23,000 overweight and 11,000 obese residents in Salem County. Salem County does not have an active education or promotional structure to educate the public about the importance of nutrition and fitness.
- **Childhood Cancer:** A lack of resources exists due to the specialization of the field and the low number of cases.

# Salem 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>	
	Salem County	NJ	Salem County	NJ
Male	580.4	628.7	285.3	261.1
Female	461.4	453.7	<b>209.0</b>	181.6
<b>NJ-CCCP Priority Cancer by Gender</b>				
Breast, female	136.7	138.5	27.4	31.3
Cervical, female	<b>12.5</b>	10.9	<b>3.8</b>	3.1
Colorectal, male	76.7	79.0	31.5	29.5
Colorectal, female	50.5	54.4	<b>23.7</b>	20.1
Lung, male	<b>105.0</b>	92.5	82.0	74.8
Lung, female	<b>63.5</b>	55.4	<b>55.7</b>	41.6
Melanoma, male	16.9	20.1	<b>7.4</b>	4.4
Melanoma, female	10.2	11.9	1.0	1.9
Oral/Oropharyngeal, male	16.4	15.7	<b>6.4</b>	4.2
Oral/Oropharyngeal, female	7.0	6.4	<b>2.1</b>	1.6
Prostate, male	157.9	194.3	26.5	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

- Establish a Cancer Coalition within the county to address pressing cancer control and treatment issues and implement the New Jersey Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan.
- Continue to improve cancer education in school health classes by focusing on the importance of prevention, screening, health insurance coverage and nutrition and obesity issues.
- Promote tobacco reduction by advertising smoking cessation programs and increasing the number of smoke free public areas.
- Increase the number of people getting screened for cancer by educating community groups as well as health care providers about the importance of cancer screenings.

### For More Information

New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services  
Office of Cancer Control and Prevention  
P.O. Box 369  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0369  
(609) 588-5038

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

