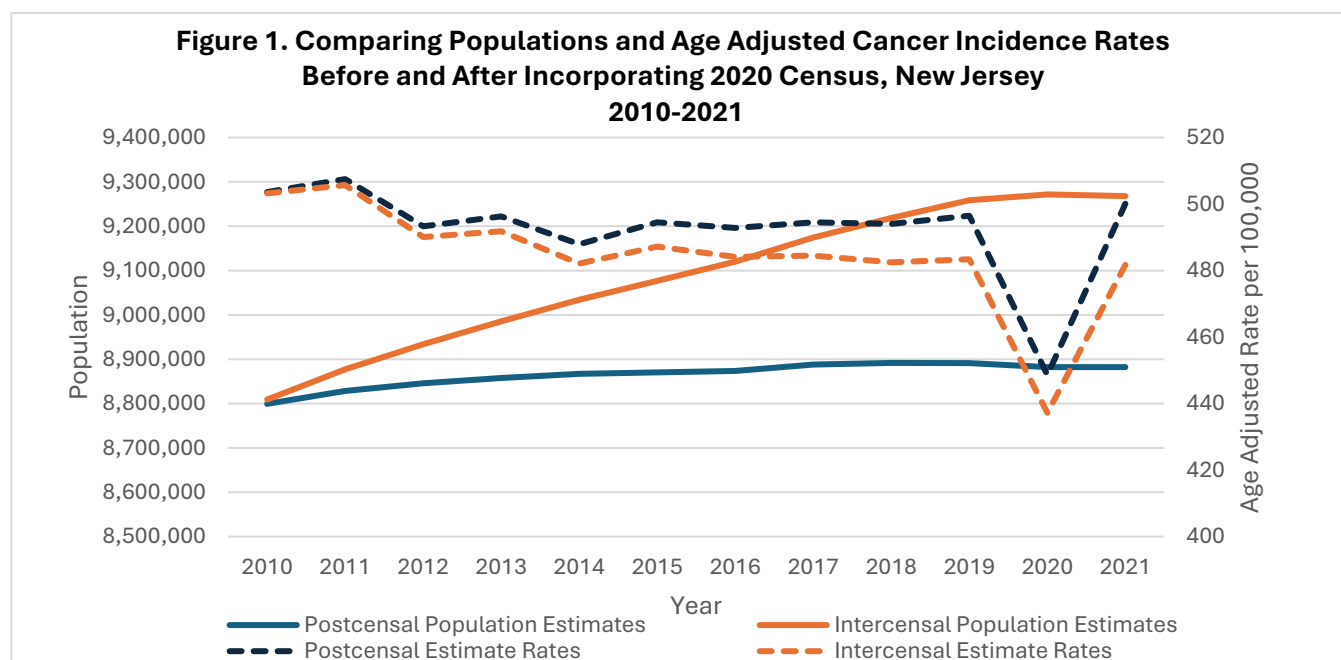


Impact of Changes in New Jersey Census Population Estimates on Cancer Rates, 2010-2021

The 2020 Census indicated population estimates for New Jersey were higher than earlier estimates suggested by projections from the 2010 census¹. While the updated population estimates for individuals aged 65 -74 and 75+ were largely consistent with previous estimates, population estimates for the 0–14, 15–24, 25–39, and 40–64 age groups were higher than earlier projections¹. As a result, age adjusted rates of new cancer cases (incidence), calculated as the number of new cancer cases relative to the size of the population, are lower than rates generated from those earlier estimates. **Postcensal population estimates** for 2010-2021 were produced by projecting forward from the 2010 Census data and did not account for the 2020 census estimates². **Intercensal population estimates** were produced using both the 2010 and 2020 Census data to estimate populations for 2010-2020, and by projecting the 2021 population using the 2020 Census². The impact of the updated intercensal population estimates is evident when comparing the postcensal and intercensal age-adjusted incidence rates (Figure 1). Both rates use identical cancer case counts but are based on different population estimates.



- Between 2010-2021, the New Jersey population increased by more than 5% based on the intercensal population estimates. By comparison, the postcensal population estimates indicated a population increase of less than 1% over the same period.
- When calculating cancer incidence rates using the postcensal population estimates, there was a 0.69% decrease in overall cancer rates from 2010 to 2021. However, when calculating rates from the intercensal populations, there was a significant decrease of 4% from 2010 to 2021.

Impact of Changes in New Jersey Census Population Estimates on Cancer Rates, 2010-2021

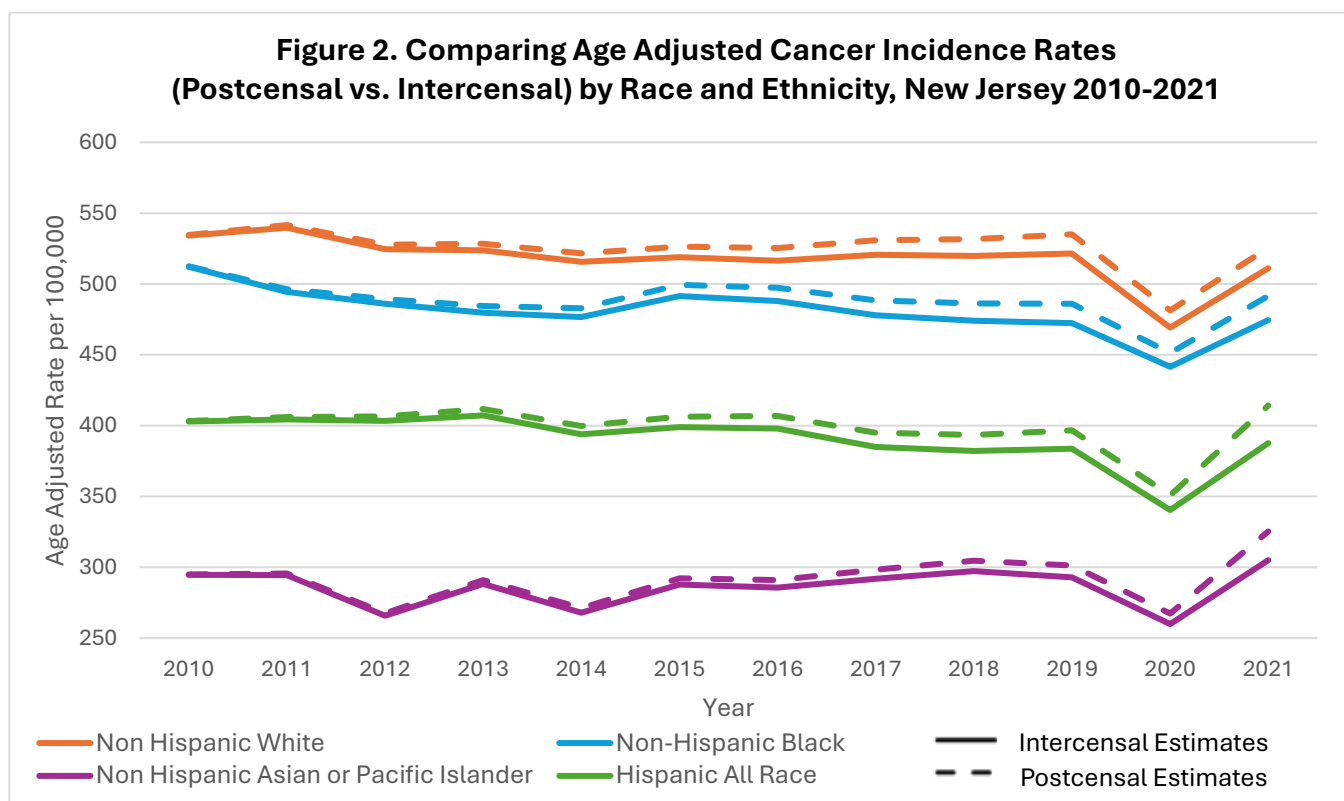


Table 1. Percent Change in Age Adjusted Rates of New Cancer Cases Between Postcensal and Intercensal Population Estimates by Year and Race/Ethnicity

	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020	2021
All Races/Ethnicities	▼ 0.08%	▼ 0.65%	▼ 1.19%	▼ 1.77% ^a	▼ 2.33% ^a	▼ 2.54% ^a	▼ 3.68% ^a
Non-Hispanic White	▼ 0.07%	▼ 0.61%	▼ 1.15%	▼ 1.69% ^a	▼ 2.24% ^a	▼ 2.51% ^a	▼ 2.74% ^a
Non-Hispanic Black	▼ 0.08%	▼ 0.67%	▼ 1.28%	▼ 1.87%	▼ 2.49%	▼ 2.17%	▼ 3.48% ^a
Non-Hispanic API	▼ 0.07%	▼ 0.64%	▼ 1.22%	▼ 1.86%	▼ 2.40%	▼ 2.77%	▼ 6.24% ^a
Hispanic All Races	▼ 0.07%	▼ 0.79%	▼ 1.45%	▼ 2.19%	▼ 2.87%	▼ 2.96%	▼ 6.42% ^a

^a Statistically significant $p < 0.05$. ▼ decrease in rates from postcensal to intercensal.

- For All Races/Ethnicities, intercensal rates were lower than postcensal rates with the difference increasing over time and peaking at a significant 3.68% decrease in 2021.
- Non-Hispanic White intercensal rates were lower than postcensal rates, with the difference becoming more pronounced over time. A significant difference was observed beginning in 2016.
- Among Non-Hispanic Blacks, the 2021 intercensal rate was significantly lower compared to the postcensal rate by 3.48%.
- The greatest decline in incidence rates from postcensal to intercensal estimates was observed among Hispanics (all races), with the intercensal rate 6.42% lower than the postcensal rate in 2021.

Impact of Changes in New Jersey Census Population Estimates on Cancer Rates, 2010-2021



Definitions

- **Postcensal Estimates:** Population estimates produced for the years after a decennial census when only the beginning population is known². They are produced and revised each year as new populations are released.
- **Intercensal Estimates:** Intercensal estimates are population estimates for years between two decennial census years, adjusted so the intercensal years align smoothly between both census counts². They differ from annual postcensal estimates because they redistribute the gap between the postcensal estimate and the census count across the entire decade. When both are available, intercensal estimates are preferred.

Technical notes

- More information about the intercensal and postcensal populations estimates can be found at:
 - [Impact of Revisions on 2020 U.S. Population Estimates - SEER Population Data](https://seer.cancer.gov/endofdecade-pops/)
 - <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/guidance.html>

References

1. *Impact of Revisions on 2020 U.S. Population Estimates - SEER Population Data.* (2020). SEER. <https://seer.cancer.gov/endofdecade-pops/>
2. Bureau, US Census. "Guidance for Data Users." Census.gov, 29 Sept. 2025, www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/guidance.html. Accessed 10 June 2026.

Cancer statistics may change slightly as additional information is reported.

Source: NJ State Cancer Registry SEER*Stat Database: October 31, 2023 analytic file. Created on 2/27/24. NJ State Cancer Registry SEER*Stat Database: October 31, 2023 analytic file. Created on 12/14/23.

NOTES: 2020 rates for some cancers may reflect a decline due to Covid-19 pandemic access to care disruptions.

Postcensal Estimates: Taken from December 2023 SEER*Stat Database which uses the population estimates without incorporating the actual 2020 census. **Intercensal Estimates:** Taken from February 2024 SEER*Stat Database after incorporating the 2020 census.



The New Jersey State Cancer Registry (NJSCR) Data Guidelines contains comprehensive data analysis methods, race and ethnicity classification, population and mortality data sources, and additional information: [NJSCR Data Guidelines](#)
Looking for more cancer data? [NJSCR interactive cancer data](#)