

# Camden County Cancer Capacity and Needs Assessment Report

## 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: 508,932**
- **Median Age: 35.8**
- **Racial Composition:**
  - 71% White
  - 18% Black
  - 4% Asian
- **Ethnic Composition:**
  - 10% Hispanic
- **Median Household Income: \$48,097**
- **% of residents ≥ 25 without high school diploma: 19.7%**
- **% of families living below the poverty level: 8.1%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Census 2000

### Overall Cancer Burden

From 1996-2000, an average of 626.8 men and 447.9 women per 100,000 were diagnosed with cancer each year in Camden County, compared to the New Jersey rate of 628.7 for men and 453.7 for women. The average annual death rate was 281.8 for men, and 194.9 for women in Camden 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 Camden 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:** Many residents indicate that their top priority problem is lack of affordable healthcare. Thirteen percent of Camden County residents are without health insurance.
- **Comprehensive Health Education:** Many schools do not teach students breast and testicular self-exams as recommended in curriculum standards. There are no school based smoking cessation programs.
- **Providers and Treatment:** No major gaps were identified in cancer diagnosis and treatment in Camden County.
- **Nutrition and Physical Activity:** The educational message that needs to be disseminated is for residents to become aware of the link between nutrition and physical activity and decreased cancer risks.
- **Education and Prevention:** Too few community intervention programs for cancer and for cancer prevention activities targeted for youth. Many residents may be unsure of the adequacy and availability of cancer services in the county.
- **Research:** There is a 10 year gap since the last health assessment for Camden County as well as any surveys of health providers at the primary care level for cancer care, screening and prevention.

Camden 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>	
	Camden County	NJ	Camden County	NJ
Male	626.8	628.7	281.8	261.1
Female	447.9	453.7	194.9	181.6
<b>NJ-CCCP Priority Cancer by Gender</b>				
Breast, female	128.0	138.5	<b>34.6</b>	31.3
Cervical, female	10.5	10.9	2.3	3.1
Colorectal, male	81.1	79.0	30.5	29.5
Colorectal, female	<b>59.9</b>	54.4	19.7	20.1
Lung, male	<b>107.0</b>	92.5	<b>87.5</b>	74.8
Lung, female	<b>60.1</b>	55.4	<b>47.5</b>	41.6
Melanoma, male	14.1	20.1	<b>5.5</b>	4.4
Melanoma, female	8.1	11.9	1.5	1.9
Oral/Oropharyngeal, male	<b>17.3</b>	15.7	4.5	4.2
Oral/Oropharyngeal, female	5.4	6.4	1.2	1.6
Prostate, male	172.0	194.3	33.6	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

- Join with other healthcare coalitions that promote the benefits of exercise, increased physical activity and good nutrition for decreasing the risk of developing cancer.
- Focus outreach efforts to increase screening for breast, cervical, colorectal, and prostate cancers, as well as anti-smoking campaigns, and smoking cessation promotion. Focus on those groups who have demonstrated health disparities in cancer care e.g. black and Hispanic groups who are low income and without health insurance in the six largest municipalities.
- Work with health coalitions in the county to explore effective interventions in cancer prevention, cancer screening, and early detection for the top four cancers in Camden County and eventually for all seven priority cancers.

#### For More Information

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To access the full Report Summary, visit the website:  
[www.state.nj.us/health](http://www.state.nj.us/health)