

Somerset County Cancer Fact Sheet

The Somerset 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 Somerset County Cancer Coalition is to implement the New Jersey Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan in Somerset County. For more information on Comprehensive Cancer Control in NJ, please visit: www.njcancer.gov. For more information on the Somerset County Cancer Coalition, please visit: www.co.somerset.nj.us/Health/ccc_index.htm.

County Demographic Profile 2000 vs. 2006		
	2000 ¹	2006 ²
Population	297,490	324,186
Median Age*	37	39
Racial Composition:		
% White	79	76
% Black	8	9
% Asian	8	13
Ethnic Composition:		
% Hispanic	9	12
Median Household Income*	\$76,933	\$91,688
% of Residents ≥ 25 years of age without high school diploma	10	7
% of Residents living below the poverty level*	4	4

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 571 men and 432 women per 100,000 were diagnosed with cancer each year in Somerset County, compared to the New Jersey rate of 614 for men and 447 for women. The average annual cancer death rate was 221 for men and 156 for women in Somerset 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 Somerset 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:** The National Cancer Institute estimated that 13,808 of Somerset County's residents in year 2000 were medically underserved.
- **School Health Education:** Not all schools are teaching about breast self-exam, testicular self-exam, nutrition and fitness, or cancer awareness.
- **Providers and Treatment:** Somerset Medical Center provides or contracts for many cancer services and supportive services in the area. A new out-patient cancer treatment facility is now open in northern Somerset County.
- **Advocacy:** Within Somerset County there are advocacy efforts and a number of ongoing activities, as well as an active cancer coalition.
- **Palliative Care:** Cancer survivorship issues are addressed primarily through the local office of the American Cancer Society, Somerset Medical Center, The Wellness Community and the associated support groups of these organizations. Hospice and palliative care are also available in Somerset County.
- **Nutrition and Physical Activity:** Somerset County has a greater percentage of overweight and obese residents than New Jersey as a whole. A number of nutritional and physical activity programs that serve Somerset County have been identified.
- **Childhood Cancer:** Somerset County has no childhood cancer treatment facilities, although there are services located in surrounding areas.

Somerset 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**			
	Somerset County			NJ	Somerset County			NJ
	1996-2000 ¹	2000-2004 ²	% Change	2000-2004 ²	1996-2000 ³	2000-2004 ²	% Change	2000-2004 ²
Male	546.6	570.9	4.4	614.4	236.1	221.0	-6.4	236.8
Female	396.4	431.6	8.9	447.0	159.8	156.4	-2.1	171.9
NJ-CCCP Priority Cancer by Gender								
Breast, female	125.5	137.7	9.7	131.9	27.2	27.1	-0.4	28.5
Cervical, female	8.0	8.5	6.3	9.6	2.2	2.9	31.8	2.7
Colorectal, male	65.5	64.0	-2.3	70.2	22.9	22.9	0.0	25.9
Colorectal, female	40.5	46.5	14.8	50.8	16.7	16.9	1.2	18.3
Lung, male	72.9	68.2	-6.4	82.4	67.2	60.4	-10.1	66.5
Lung, female	43.2	41.3	-4.4	55.4	32.0	29.3	-8.4	40.7
Melanoma, male	20.3	28.8	41.9	24.4	3.3	4.0	21.2	3.9
Melanoma, female	14.3	18.7	30.8	15.0	2.8	2.6	-7.1	1.7
Oral/Oropharyngeal, male	12.6	13.9	10.3	14.6	3.4	3.3	-2.9	3.8
Oral/Oropharyngeal, female	5.2	4.7	-9.6	6.0	0.7	0.7	0.0	1.4
Prostate, male	182.3	180.0	-1.3	192.7	31.8	25.1	-21.1	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

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