

Union County

Cancer Fact Sheet

The Union 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 Union County Cancer Coalition is to implement the New Jersey Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan (NJ-CCCP) in Union County.

For more information on Comprehensive Cancer Control in NJ, please visit: www.njcancer.gov.

Overarching Issues

County Demographic Profile 2000 vs. 2006		
	2000 ¹	2006 ²
Population	522,541	531,088
Median Age*	37	38
Racial Composition:		
% White	66	60
% Black	21	22
% Asian	4	5
Ethnic Composition:		
% Hispanic	20	25
Median Household Income*	\$55,339	\$62,260
% of Residents \geq 25 years of age without high school diploma	21	18
% of Residents living below the poverty level*	6	8

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; ¹Census 2000, ²2006 American Community Survey

*Compare 2000 and 2006 data with caution; differences may exist due to differences in data methods.

Overall Cancer Burden

From 2000-2004, an average of 620 men and 421 women per 100,000 were diagnosed with cancer each year in Union County, compared to the New Jersey rate of 614 for men and 447 for women. The average annual death rate was 231 for men, and 157 for women in Union 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 Union County are prostate, breast, lung, and colorectal.

Note: Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Census population standards.

- **Access:** Lack of access to cancer screening and oncology services for the county's medically underserved population is the principal cancer problem facing Union County. Many adults in this population do not seek care, especially preventive care including cancer screening, mainly because they cannot afford it.
- **Resources:** Union County's hospitals, along with many private physicians and several mammography facilities, offer access to site-specific cancer screening, diagnostic, and treatment resources throughout the county. But cancer services appear to be fragmented and the county lacks a comprehensive plan to address cancer.
- **School Health Education:** Although it is standard practice in New Jersey for each school district to have a school health coordinator or curriculum development position, it is not known whether this is the case in all Union County school districts.
- **Advocacy:** Several organizations are actively engaged in advocacy activities regarding the county's cancer education, screening and treatment needs, such as the Union County Cancer Coalition, the American Cancer Society, and the county's NJ CEED (Cancer Education and Early Detection) Program.
- **Nutrition and Physical Activity:** The provision of widespread cancer specific nutrition programs generally does not appear to exist throughout Union County. Programs and policies do exist that can be used to advance good nutrition and to adapt them for cancer patient and survivor use.
- **Childhood Cancer:** Overlook Hospital's Valerie Fund Center provides a full range of services for children with cancer.

Union County & New Jersey
Average Annual Age-Adjusted Incidence &
Mortality Rates by Site
1996-2000 vs. 2000-2004

All Cancers	Incidence Rate				Mortality Rate			
	Union County			NJ	Union County			NJ
	1996-2000 ¹	2000-2004 ²	% Change	2000-2004 ²	1996-2000 ¹	2000-2004 ²	% Change	2000-2004 ²
Male	649.4	619.8	-4.6	614.4	254.7	231.3	-9.2	236.8
Female	455.9	420.8	-7.7	447.0	178.8	157.3	-12.0	171.9
NJ-CCCP Priority Cancer by Gender								
Breast, female	142.5	129.7	-9.0	131.9	33.1	25.8	-22.1	28.5
Cervical, female	10.2	9.2	-9.8	9.6	3.0	2.0	-33.3	2.7
Colorectal, male	75.8	69.2	-8.7	70.2	28.4	27.4	-3.5	25.9
Colorectal, female	53.4	49.0	-8.2	50.8	19.7	17.5	-11.2	18.3
Lung, male	89.0	76.4	-14.2	82.4	67.1	62.2	-7.3	66.5
Lung, female	48.6	44.6	-8.2	55.4	36.6	32.9	-10.1	40.7
Melanoma, male	20.4	18.6	-8.8	24.4	3.8	2.4	-36.8	3.9
Melanoma, female	12.6	12.4	-1.6	15.0	1.5	1.6	6.7	1.7
Oral/Oropharyngeal, male	14.3	12.2	-14.7	14.6	4.7	3.7	-21.3	3.8
Oral/Oropharyngeal, female	6.1	5.8	-4.9	6.0	1.8	1.6	-11.1	1.4
Prostate, male	215.7	216.8	0.5	192.7	37.8	28.1	-25.7	27.0

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

²New 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).

³National 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***.

For More Information

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