

## Key Persisting Barriers to Cancer Screening & Treatment

- ❖ Lack of Medical Insurance
- ❖ Inability to Buy Medications
- ❖ Language & Cultural Barriers
- ❖ Fragmented Medical Care

## What we are doing

**The Essex County Cancer Coalition was formed as a partnership of diverse volunteers to:**

*Increase cancer awareness & reduce the impact of cancer on all Essex residents through improved screening, access to treatment & follow-up*

*Promote awareness of and participation in cancer clinical trials and support investigations that seek to find the causes of cancer, improve care, reduce health disparities, or increase access*

*Increase collaboration & communication among all stakeholders to maximize utilization/identification of resources*

*Examine and prioritize an expansion of cancer control efforts throughout the county.*

### For more information, please contact:

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Essex County  
 Cancer Coalition

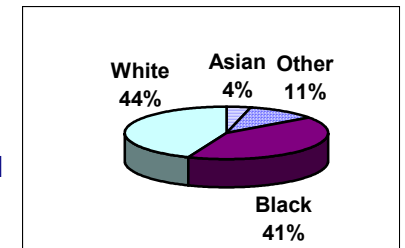
In 2002, the Governor commissioned the first New Jersey Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan (NJ-CCCP). As part of this initiative, a Cancer Capacity and Needs Assessment (C/NA) was conducted in each county, supported by the Office of Cancer Control and Prevention in the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. A summary of the findings from the Essex County C/NA Report [www.umdnj.edu/EssCaWeb](http://www.umdnj.edu/EssCaWeb) is presented here.

## Essex County Demographics

2004 Population Estimate: 796,684

### 2000 Racial Profile:

- **56% of Essex County residents belong to a minority group**
- **One-third (1/3) of NJ's total Black population lives in Essex County**



### Common Foreign Languages Spoken: Spanish, Portuguese, French-Creole

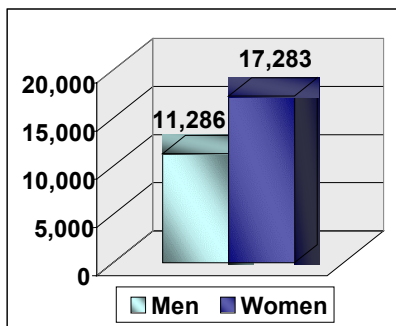
	Essex County	New Jersey
Population Density (people per square mile)	6,285.4	1,134.4
Median Age (Years)	34.7	36.7
% Adults ≥25 years without high school diploma	24.4	17.9
% Linguistically Isolated Households	7.5	6.3
% Unemployed	9.3	5.8
% Estimated Uninsured	17.0	13.0
% Population Below Poverty Level		
Individuals (all ages)	15.6	8.5
Children (<18 years)	22.1	11.1
Single, female householders	28.3	19.4
Elderly (65 years and older)	12.2	7.8
Median Household Income		
1989	\$34,518	\$40,927
1999	\$44,944	\$55,146

U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000. Available at: <http://factfinder.census.gov>, 2004.

# CANCER BURDEN IN ESSEX COUNTY, 1996–2000

Prevalence is a measure of the burden of disease at a given point in time. It is an estimate of the number of persons who are still living and have ever been diagnosed with cancer. (Skin cancers other than melanoma are excluded.\*)

## Estimated Number of Essex County Residents Diagnosed with Cancer (All\* Cancer Sites)



## Estimated Prevalence by Cancer Site

Cancer Site, Gender	No. Persons
Breast, female	6,721
Cervical, female	1,120
Colorectal, male	1,209
Colorectal, female	1,895
Lung, male	421
Lung, female	490
Melanoma, male	455
Melanoma, female	598
Oral, male	379
Oral, female	257
Prostate, male	5,089

From 1996 through 2000, an average of **8,297 deaths due to cancer (mortality)** AND **3,990 new cases of cancer (incidence)** were reported in Essex County **each year**.

## Racial Disparities in Cancer Incidence & Mortality Rates:

### Among **WOMEN** in Essex County:

- Cervical cancer incidence and mortality rates: **over 2 times higher** in Blacks than whites.
- Oral and breast cancer mortality: **higher** in Blacks than whites **despite similar** incidence rates.

### Among **MEN** in Essex County:

- Oral cancer incidence: **over 2 times higher** in Blacks than whites.
- Prostate cancer incidence: **about 50% higher** in Blacks than whites.
- Oral and prostate cancer mortality: **over 2–3 times higher** in Blacks than whites.

Rates in Essex were **over 10% higher** than in NJ for:

<b>Breast cancer mortality</b>	<b>Oral cancer incidence</b>
<b>Cervical cancer incidence</b>	<b>Oral cancer mortality</b>
<b>Cervical cancer mortality</b>	<b>Prostate cancer incidence</b>
<b>Oral cancer mortality among women</b>	<b>Prostate cancer mortality among men</b>

Essex County also had the **highest mortality rates** for cervical, oral, and prostate cancers in NJ.

## Average Annual Age-Adjusted Incidence & Mortality Rates (per 100,000 persons)

FEMALES			MALES		
Essex County		New Jersey	Essex County		New Jersey
	<b>ORAL</b>			<b>ORAL</b>	
6.9	Incidence	6.4	17.6	Incidence	15.7
2.6	Mortality	1.6	5.6	Mortality	4.2
	<b>BREAST</b>			<b>LUNG</b>	
138.5	Incidence	138.5	96.8	Incidence	92.5
34.6	Mortality	31.3	76.9	Mortality	74.8
	<b>LUNG</b>			<b>MELANOMA</b>	
51.1	Incidence	55.4	14.1	Incidence	20.1
38.9	Mortality	41.6	2.7	Mortality	4.4
	<b>MELANOMA</b>			<b>CERVICAL</b>	
8.5	Incidence	11.9	15.7	Incidence	10.9
1.0	Mortality	1.9	5.0	Mortality	3.1
	<b>CERVICAL</b>			<b>COLORECTAL</b>	
54.5	Incidence	54.4	74.7	Incidence	79.0
20.6	Mortality	20.1	30.6	Mortality	29.5
	<b>COLORECTAL</b>			<b>TOTAL</b>	
	Incidence			(All* sites, not just those listed above)	
451.8	Incidence	453.7	658.6	Incidence	628.7
188.1	Mortality	181.6	278.4	Mortality	261.1