

# STATISTICAL NEWS

Pennsylvania Department of Health ♦ Bureau of Health Statistics ♦ Vol. 24 No. 4 ♦ July 2001

## Behavioral Risk Factors: PA and Other States

*A Comparison of 2000 Health Risk Data for PA and Other States*

**H**ow does Pennsylvania compare to other states in terms of risky health behaviors? Pennsylvania compares favorably in some cases, such as women aged 40+ ever having had a mammogram, adults having health insurance, and participation in leisure time physical activities. However, in a few other health risk factors, Pennsylvania does not compare as well to other states – such as adults having diabetes.

The source for this information is the 2000 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) as funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The BRFSS is a random sample telephone survey of adults 18 years of age and older.

The BRFSS survey has been conducted annually in Pennsylvania since 1989. It provides valuable data for the public health community on adult health issues such as mammograms, diabetes, and many other health risk-related subject areas.

In the 2000 BRFSS survey, 3,537 Pennsylvanians

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**Pennsylvania compares favorably in some cases, such as women aged 40+ ever having had a mammogram, adults having health insurance, and leisure time activity.**

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were interviewed through this program regarding their health risks and demographic characteristics.

The table on page 3 includes a list of selected health risks, the number of states asking the item, the Pennsylvania percent, the median, the low and high states, and the Healthy People 2000 objective, if applicable. Information on additional health risks is available upon request.

The entire national data set can be accessed on the Internet at [www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/brfss/](http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/brfss/).

You can also contact the Bureau of Health Statistics at 717-783-2548 if you have any questions regarding the BRFSS data presented on page 3 or would like additional information.

*Continued on Page 3...*

## 2000 Census Data Show Changes for Pennsylvania

*Population Is Older, More Diverse And Fewer Families with Parents*

**P**ennsylvania's population has grown (slowly), become older but more diverse in terms of race and ethnicity, and includes fewer traditional family households, according to results from the 2000 United States Census. With the recent release of some general demographic statistics by the United States Bureau of the Census, we can begin to get a better picture of how Pennsylvania has changed (or not changed) compared to other states, compared to the United States as a whole, and since 1990.

### **RACE and ETHNICITY:**

In the May issue of Statistical News, we focused on the 2000 Census figures which were the first ever collected on multiple race categories. Across the United States, 2.4 percent of Americans identified themselves as belonging to two or more racial groups – twice as many as the 1.2 percent of Pennsylvanians who did the same.

While Pennsylvania may not be as racially or ethnically diverse as the United States or other states (non-Hispanic whites accounted for 85.4 percent of Pennsylvania's 2000

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**...(Pennsylvania's minority population grew)...from 12 percent in 1990 to 16 percent in 2000.**

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population compared to 69.1 percent for the United States), our minority population is growing (from 12 percent in 1990 to 16 percent in 2000).

*Continued on Page 4...*

### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

<b>Updated Reports Available in Print/Web Site .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Employment Opportunities .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1998 Annual Cancer Report on Web Site ..</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Update:HealthyPeople 2010 Objectives .....</b>	<b>7</b>

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# Updated Reports Available in Print/Web Site

## *MCH and Health Status Indicators; Pennsylvania Vital Statistics 1999*

Several ongoing major health statistics reports have recently been updated by the Bureau of Health Statistics and are currently available in hard copy or on the Health Statistics web pages of the Department's web site at [www.health.state.pa.us](http://www.health.state.pa.us).

### **PENNSYLVANIA VITAL STATISTICS 1999:**

This official annual report of births, deaths, induced abortions, and reported pregnancies for 1999 is now available in hard copy upon request or can be easily accessed on the Internet. This report contains approximately 120 data tables on vital statistics and population data. On the web site, you can access all of the tables or just the county tables or those with data for major municipalities. Department of Health staff can access this vital statistics report on their network shared drive (Q) in the folder entitled 1999 Vital Statistics Report.

If the specific vital statistics you are looking for are not among these data tables, please check the list of Additional Vital Statistics Available that appears in the Appendices in

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**Department of Health  
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Statistics 1999)  
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in the folder entitled  
1999 Vital Statistics  
Report.**

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the hard copy format or via the link on the web site. This list contains numerous data tables that we can e-mail you upon request. Please be aware that a lot of these additional statistics are also readily available on-line via the Data Table Generator, our interactive web site that allows you construct your own custom data table of births and deaths by county and municipality and then view and download the results.

### **BIRTHS and DEATHS for 2000:**

We expect to have preliminary 2000 birth and death statistics by county and municipality on the web site soon and these statistics may possibly be there by the time this newsletter is released. Please check our web site for the most current availability of these statistics. However, please note that these figures are preliminary and are subject to change when final data are released at a later date.

### **HEALTH STATUS INDICATORS for PA COUNTIES and HEALTH DISTRICTS:**

This report contains listings of selected health status indicators (age-adjusted death rates for all causes and selected causes, infant death rates, morbidity rates for selected diseases, selected birth statistics, work-related injury death rates, and childhood poverty statistics) for the state, the United States, by county and by Health District (as designated and used by the PA Department of Health).

Data tables include 95% confidence intervals and the results of significance or comparison testing of single or three-year summary data. County outline maps also graphically depict the results of significance and comparison testing. Thus, the report provides descriptive and analytical statistics at the county and health district level in one convenient publication for health data users.

Some indicator data include figures on blacks and Hispanics for those counties with significant populations of these minorities. Figures for all six Health Districts include blacks and Hispanics.

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**...the age-adjusted rates  
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previous versions...**

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An important note for users of this report is that the age-adjusted death rates have been calculated using a standard population that is different than has been used in the past for these reports. **Therefore, the age-adjusted rates that appear in this latest report are not comparable to any of the age-adjusted death rates that appeared in previous versions of this report.**

This report is available upon request in hard copy or can be viewed, copied or downloaded from our web site.

### **MATERNAL and CHILD HEALTH STATUS INDICATORS for MAJOR MUNICIPALITIES:**

For the past six years, the Bureau of Health Statistics has put together a data set of maternal and child health status indicators for 18 cities in the state with a population of 25,000 or more, as well as the borough of Norristown. These indicators have again been updated in 2001 with data up to 1999. These one-page profiles provide those concerned with maternal and child health with a perspective on the types of urban health problems facing Pennsylvania's major cities. Much of the data are also shown by race (white and black) and for Hispanics since a large portion of the state's minority population resides in its major cities.

The indicators include the leading causes of death among residents 1 to 17 during 1997-99, infant death rates, children below the poverty level, low birth weight, mothers with no prenatal care in first trimester, teen births, and reported cases of vaccine-preventable diseases among residents under age 20.

The eighteen cities and one borough included in the report are Allentown, Altoona, Bethlehem, Chester, Easton, Erie, Harrisburg, Johnstown, Lancaster, McKeesport, New Castle, Norristown, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Reading, Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Williamsport, and York.

*Continued on page 5...*

# SELECTED ADULT HEALTH RISK BEHAVIORS, BRFSS\*, 2000

RISK FACTOR	No. of States**	Pa. Percent	Median Percent	Low State Percent	High State Percent	HP 2000 Objective
<b>GENERAL HEALTH STATUS:</b>						
Health status is fair or poor .....	52	14.4	14.0	MN-9.7	PR-32.8	n/a
<b>PHYSICAL and MENTAL HEALTH:</b>						
Mean number of days physical health not good .....	52	3.2 (days)	3.3	HI, MN-2.6	WV-5.2	n/a
Mean number of days mental health not good .....	52	3.2 (days)	3.2	PR-2.1	KY-4.4	n/a
<b>HEALTH INSURANCE:</b>						
No health care plan, ages 18-64 .....	52	11.1	13.9	HI, MN-8.3	NM-27.7	0
<b>DIABETES AWARENESS:</b>						
Ever told you have diabetes .....	52	7.1	6.1	AK-3.8	PR-8.6	2.5%
Age at onset of diabetes .....	47	50.8 (years)	48.9	AK-41.2	NV-53.6	n/a
Diabetics taking insulin .....	47	26.5	29.8	HI-18.7	AZ-43.7	n/a
<b>SMOKING:</b>						
Current cigarette smoker .....	52	24.3	23.2	UT-12.9	KY-30.5	15%
<b>PHYSICALACTIVITY:</b>						
No leisure time physical activity .....	52	23.0	26.9	UT-15.5	PR-54.1	15%
<b>NUTRITION:</b>						
Did not eat 5 or more fruit/vegetable servings per day .....	52	76.7	76.9	AZ-63.1	PR-92.8	Lower
<b>OVERWEIGHT:</b>						
Overweight (age 18+) .....	52	57.7	57.1	CO-48.0	MS-61.7	20%***
<b>HIV INFECTION (Ages 18-64):</b>						
Chance of getting infected with HIV medium/high .....	52	6.0	6.0	MT-4.2	CA-11.8	n/a
Did not have blood test for HIV in past year .....	52	65.7	64.3	HI-49.8	VT-73.6	n/a
<b>CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE:</b>						
Ever informed had heart attack or myocardial infarction ...	14	4.6	4.3	DC-3.0	WV-7.6	n/a
Ever informed of having a stroke .....	14	2.4	2.4	OK, SC-1.7	WV-3.1	n/a
<b>MAMMOGRAPHY:</b>						
Never had a mammogram, females 40+ .....	51	10.0	12.0	DC-7.0	OK-17.7	n/a
Did not have a mammogram in past 2 years, age 50+ .....	51	21.3	21.2	DE-9.7	WY-29.1	40%
<b>BREAST EXAM:</b>						
Never had breast exam, age 18+ .....	51	9.2	10.2	NH-5.6	PR-21.6	n/a
Never had breast exam, age 40 + .....	51	9.2	9.3	NH-4.3	AZ-17.6	n/a
Did not have breast exam in past 2 years, age 50+ .....	51	21.5	22.3	NH-11.8	NV-32.2	40%
<b>MAMMOGRAM and BREAST EXAM:</b>						
Never had mammogram and breast exam, age 40+ .....	51	16.2	18.1	NH-11.7	AZ-24.4	20%
No mammogram & breast exam past 2 years, age 50+ .....	51	29.0	28.9	NH-18.2	MS-37.9	40%
<b>CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING:</b>						
Never had Pap smear, age 18+ .....	51	5.8	5.1	AK-2.5	PR-15.3	5%
Did not have Pap smear in past 3 years, intact cervix .....	51	14.5	13.2	DE-8.0	PR-27.3	15%

NOTE: Unknowns excluded in calculations.

\*Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System \*\*50 states, District of Columbia and Puerto Rico \*\*\*ages 20+

## 2000 Census Data Show Changes for Pennsylvania

The state's non-Hispanic white population declined slightly (by 1.0 percent or almost 100,000 persons) between 1990 and 2000.

The number of black residents increased by almost 135,000 or 12.4 percent between 1990 and 2000 – from 1,089,795 to 1,224,612. Blacks now comprise 10.0 percent of the Pennsylvania population. However, in the United States, blacks account for 12.3 percent of the population.

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**The number of Hispanic residents increased quite dramatically between 1990 and 2000 – by almost 70 percent...**

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The number of Hispanics residents increased quite dramatically between 1990 and 2000 – by almost 70 percent, from 232,262 to 394,088. Hispanics now represent 3.2 percent of Pennsylvania's population; however, in the United States, they account for 12.5 percent of the total population.

The number of Asian residents also increased dramatically in Pennsylvania but, as occurred with blacks and Hispanics, the United States percentage for this minority group was still much higher. Although Asians accounted for only 1.8 percent (219,813) of the state's 2000 population, this was a 62 percent increase from the 1990 figure of 135,784. In the United States, Asians accounted for 3.6 percent of the 2000 population.

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**Pennsylvania lagged far behind most of the other states in population growth. In fact, the state's percentage growth of 3.4 was the third lowest in the country.**

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### TOTAL POPULATION:

The state's total population is not growing as fast as its minority population. The state grew by only about 400,000 persons between 1990 and 2000, a 3.4 percent increase (from 11,881,643 to 12,281,054). The United States grew by 13.2 percent. So, Pennsylvania lagged far behind most of the other states in population growth. In fact, the state's percentage growth of 3.4 between 1990 and 2000 was the third lowest in the country. In addition, Pennsylvania went from the fifth most populous state in 1990 to the sixth in 2000, with Illinois moving up from sixth to fifth.

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**Pennsylvania also has one of the oldest state populations. The median age in 2000 was 38.0, the fourth highest in the country...**

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### MEDIAN AGE OF POPULATION:

Pennsylvania also has one of the oldest state populations. The median age in 2000 was

38.0, the fourth highest in the country, and a three-year increase from the 1990 median age of 35.0. Only West Virginia, Maine, and Florida claimed slightly higher median ages in 2000. The median age for the United States according to the 2000 Census was 35.3.

### FAMILY & NON-FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS:

While the number of households in Pennsylvania increased between 1990 and 2000, the number of traditional (married couple with children) households declined. There were 4,777,003 households (family and non-family) counted in the 2000 Census (compared to 4,495,966 in 1990) and just over half (51.7 percent) were married-couple families and only 21.8 percent were married couples with children under 18 years of age. In 1990, 55.7 percent were married-couple households and 24.1 percent were married couples with children under 18.

The percent of households run by a female without a husband present increased only slightly from 11.3 to 11.6 percent. And, the percent of female-run households with children under 18 increased from 5.5 to 6.2 percent.

The number and percent of non-family households with persons living alone increased from 1,150,694 or 25.6 percent in 1990 to 1,320,941 or 27.7 percent in 2000. However, the percent of non-family households with people aged 65 and older living alone actually declined but only very

slightly, from 11.7 to 11.6.

On the opposite page you will find a table that shows most of the Census statistics for 2000, 1990, Pennsylvania, and the United States that were mentioned here. The United States Bureau of the Census will continue in the next few months to release many more detailed population characteristics and other demographic statistics from the 2000 Census. The best place to obtain Census data, review recent data releases, and find out what will be coming soon is the web site of the United States Bureau of the Census at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

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**While the number of households in Pennsylvania increased between 1990 and 2000, the number of traditional (married couple with children) households declined.**

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Another major source of Census data, especially on Pennsylvanians, is the Pennsylvania State Data Center at Penn State Harrisburg. It is the official state affiliate of the United States Bureau of the Census and its web site can be viewed at [www.psd.c.hbg.psu.edu](http://www.psd.c.hbg.psu.edu). Also, please remember that these web sites and many other national and local sites with health-related data are conveniently listed for you on the Health Statistics web pages of the Department's web site at [www.health.state.pa.us](http://www.health.state.pa.us) (click on LINKS).

# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**The Bureau of Health Statistics currently has several job openings for Statistical Analysts, Registry Specialists, and Program Analysts. There will also be more openings in the future. These are State Civil Service positions with full benefits.**

Applicants for the Registry Specialist openings must have RHIA credentials from the American Health Information Management Association and only need to submit a State Civil Service Application. Questions concerning these job openings should be directed to Frank Caniglia at 717-783-2548.

Applicants for the Statistical Analyst openings must have a bachelor's degree in statistics or mathematics, including or supplemented by completion of 12 semester hours of course work in statistical theory and methods or in courses placing major emphasis on the application of statistical methods to specific subject matter fields, or any equivalent combination of experience and training. After submitting a State Civil Service Application, you will be assigned a date and site for testing. Your final test score is added to a statewide eligibility list and interviews are scheduled as vacancies occur or new positions become available.

Applicants for the Program Analyst openings must have a

bachelor's degree, two years of program analysis work involving the use of statistical and quantitative data analysis techniques, and only need to submit a State Civil Service Application.

Current state employees who meet the qualifications for either the Statistical Analyst or Registry Specialist positions may also bid on these job openings when the vacancies are posted by their agency's personnel office. If you do not know where these job openings are posted, please contact your agency's personnel office.

If you are currently a state employee and are interested in bidding on one of these job openings, please follow the directions at the bottom of the posted Job Opening form.

If you are not currently a state employee and would like to apply for one of these positions, please contact the Pennsylvania State Civil Service Commission at 717-783-3058 or apply directly on-line via the Commission's web site at [www.scsc.state.pa.us](http://www.scsc.state.pa.us).

## Selected Population Characteristics Pennsylvania 2000 and 1990 and United States 2000

	<u>PA - 2000</u>	<u>PA - 1990</u>	<u>U.S. - 2000</u>
TOTAL POPULATION .....	12,281,054	11,881,643	281,421,906
% CHANGE 1990-2000 .....	3.4	n/a	13.2
MEDIAN AGE .....	38.0	35.0	35.3
% 65 + .....	15.6	15.4	12.4
% WHITE .....	85.4	88.5	75.1
% BLACK .....	10.0	9.2	12.3
% HISPANIC .....	3.2	2.0	12.5
% ASIAN .....	1.8	1.1	3.6
% HOUSEHOLDS MARRIED COUPLE w/CHILDREN .....	21.8	24.1	23.5
% HOUSEHOLDS FEMALE w/CHILDREN/NO HUSBAND .....	6.2	5.5	7.2
% HOUSEHOLDS PERSON LIVING ALONE .....	27.7	25.6	25.8
% HOUSEHOLDS PERSONS 65 + LIVING ALONE .....	11.6	11.7	9.2

*Continued from Page 2...*

## Updated Reports Available in Print and on Web Site

Separate trends reports are also available for these cities. Line graphs and data tables depict the latest five years of data on percents of low birth weight, mothers with no prenatal care in first trimester, and teen births,

as well as infant death rates.

This report (as well as all our other reports) is available upon request in hard copy or can be viewed, copied or downloaded from our web site.

All of the updated reports

available on the web site are in PDF file format and require Adobe Acrobat Reader software to view, copy, and download. This software is free on the Internet and we provide links for you to download it.

You can e-mail us via our webmaster directly from the web pages if you still cannot find the data you need or have questions about any of the data on the web site. You can also contact us at 717-783-2548.

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# 1998 Annual Cancer Report On Web Site

## *Number & Rate of Cancer Cases Rise; Death Number & Rate Fall*

The latest annual cancer report, *Pennsylvania Cancer Incidence and Mortality 1994-1998*, is now available on the Health Statistics web pages of the Department of Health's web site at [www.health.state.pa.us/stats/](http://www.health.state.pa.us/stats/). Hard copies of this report should be available sometime in late August. This is the fourteenth annual publication to present cancer incidence and mortality statistics for the state and counties.

The report is organized into 25 sections: an all sites section, 23 sections for each major cancer site, and a section for 1998 summary data by site. These 23 major cancer sites represent approximately 93 percent of the male and female cancer cases diagnosed among residents in 1998 and reported to the Pennsylvania Cancer Registry (PCR). Each of the 23 cancer sites sections and the all sites section contain a summary of descriptive incidence and mortality analyses along with listings of the major risk factors and early detection methods.

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**Staging data...show that approximately 43 percent of cancer cases among white males and white females were diagnosed in the regional or distant stages, compared to 48 percent for black males and 52 percent for black females.**

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**The 1998 number and age-adjusted rate were higher than the number and rate reported for 1997...**

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With the availability of several years of statewide cancer incidence data, these reports, beginning with the 1985-1989 edition, have focused on multiple-year summary statistics. Average annual age-specific and age-adjusted rates for five-year periods (1994-1998 in this report) provide more accurate and reliable figures since they are based on larger numbers of events. This is especially helpful in reviewing data for those cancer sites with relatively small numbers of annual occurrences and in reviewing county level data.

Annual statewide age-adjusted cancer incidence and mortality rates by sex and race are also presented for all cancers and 23 major primary sites back to 1989. In addition, this is the first year that 95% confidence intervals for the age-adjusted rates were added to this publication since statewide reporting began. The previous two reports only showed the range for 95% confidence intervals.

Age-adjusted rates are point estimates and should only be used for comparison purposes and only if the same standard population was used in the calculation. In this report, all age-adjusted rates are calculated using the direct method and are adjusted to the

1970 standard million population.

In 1998, a total of 71,655 new cancer cases were diagnosed among 12,001,451 Pennsylvania residents and reported to the PCR. This resulted in an age-adjusted cancer incidence rate of 435.8 per 100,000 (1970 standard million population). The 1998 number and age-adjusted rate were higher than the number and rate reported for 1997 (70,612 cases with a rate of 431.2). Staging data for 1998 presented by sex and race show that approximately 43 percent of the primary cancer cases (excluding lymphomas) among white males and white females were diagnosed in the regional or distant stages, compared to 48 percent for black males and 52 percent for black females.

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**The 1998 age-adjusted mortality rate for all cancers among all residents was the lowest ever recorded between 1985 and 1998.**

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The average annual age-adjusted incidence rates for all cancer sites for the five-year period of 1994-1998 was 30.2 percent higher for males (490.6 per 100,000), compared to females (376.9). Black males had the highest average annual age-adjusted incidence rate among the four sex/race groups, with 646.9 cases per 100,000, while white females had the lowest rate of 372.3.

In 1998, there were a total of 29,721 cancer deaths among Pennsylvania's residents. The 1998 age-adjusted mortality rate (164.8 per 100,000) for all cancers among all residents was the lowest ever recorded between 1985 and 1998. The average annual age-adjusted mortality rate for 1994-1998 among males was fifty percent higher than the rate for females (211.2 versus 140.9). Among the four sex/race groups, black males had the highest average annual age-adjusted rate (321.1), while white females had the lowest rate of 137.4.

We hope this updated edition continues to provide a more complete description of the cancer burden among Pennsylvania's residents. This publication, and many others, can be found on the Pennsylvania Department of Health's web site at [www.health.state.pa.us/stats/](http://www.health.state.pa.us/stats/).

Please contact the Bureau of Health Statistics with any questions, comments, or requests for additional data at (717) 783-2548.

NOTE: Starting in 1996, cases of cervix uteri cancer staged as in situ (non-invasive) are no longer collected or reported by the Pennsylvania Cancer Registry (PCR). This decision follows the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) recommendation of discontinuing routine collection of data on pre-invasive cervical neoplasia. The use of various systems for classification of cervical neoplasia has resulted in ambiguity in terminology.

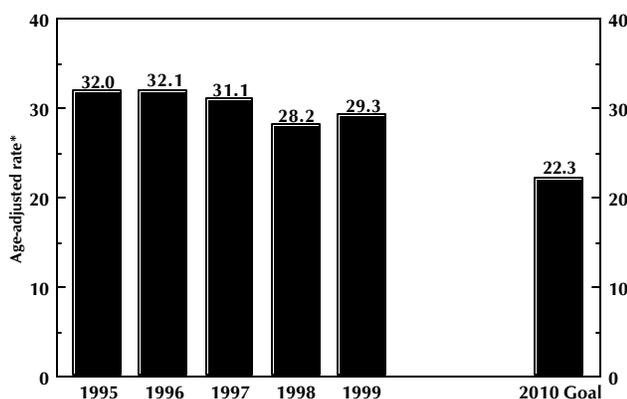
# Update: Healthy People 2010 Objectives

## Focus Area 3 - Cancer

3-3. Reduce the breast cancer death rate.

**2010 Target: 22.3**

Age-Adjusted Death Rate\* for Female Breast Cancer  
Pennsylvania Residents, 1995-1999



\*per 100,000 U.S. standard million 2000 population

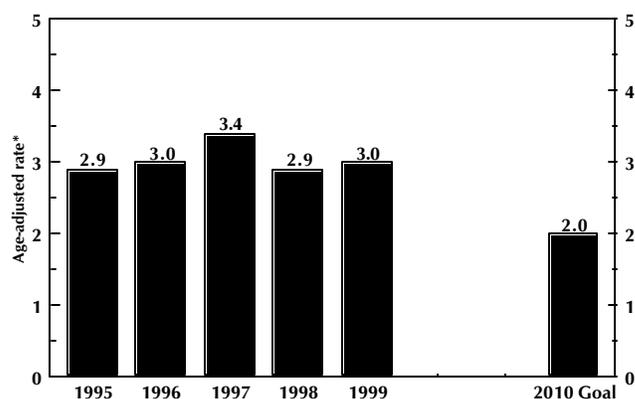
Between 1995 and 1999, Pennsylvania's age-adjusted mortality rate for deaths due to female breast cancer declined from 32.0 per 100,000 U.S. standard million 2000 population to 29.3. The national Healthy People 2010 objective has been set for a rate of 22.3. There were 2,371 deaths due to breast cancer among female residents in 1999. The

Pennsylvania rates are declining but there will need to be much more significant improvement in this rate for Pennsylvania to have any chance in meeting the national 2010 objective. Pennsylvania's rate would have to drop by at least 24 percent between 1999 and 2010 to meet the national objective. It only declined by 8 percent between 1995 and 1999.

3-4. Reduce the death rate from cancer of the uterine cervix.

**2010 Target: 2.0**

Age-Adjusted Death Rate\* for Cancer of the Uterine Cervix  
Pennsylvania Residents, 1995-1999



\*per 100,000 U.S. standard million 2000 population

Pennsylvania's age-adjusted rate for cervical cancer has fluctuated between 2.9 and 3.4 during the five-year period of 1995-1999. The national Healthy People 2010 objective has been set for a rate of 2.0 per 100,000 U.S. standard million 2000 population. There were 213 deaths due to cervical cancer among Pennsylvania

women in 1999. To meet the national 2010 objective of 2.0, Pennsylvania's rate would have to be reduced by one-third between 1999 and 2010. With little improvement demonstrated in the state's rate over the last five years, it seems unlikely that Pennsylvania will meet this national objective.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Please be aware that the age-adjusted rates that appear on this page were calculated based on the 2000 U. S. standard million population. Therefore, they are not comparable to other age-adjusted rates that were calculated using a different standard population (e.g., those that appeared in the Healthy People 2000 objectives).

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*Robert S. Zimmerman, Jr., M.P.H.  
Secretary of Health*

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