

Leading Causes of Death among New Jersey Residents Preliminary 2020 Death Certificate Data

Leading cause-of-death data represent the most frequently occurring causes of death among those causes eligible to be ranked.

Certain causes of death – even some that are of great public health importance – are not ranked individually because they are part of a broader category. For example, motor vehicle accidents are included under “unintentional injuries,” and lung cancer is included under “cancer.”

Leading causes of death are always ranked in relationship to one another. This means the rank of a specific cause may change even if its mortality rate has not changed. On the other hand, the ranking can remain the same even if its mortality rate increases or decreases.¹

Cause of death ranking is based on the underlying cause of death from the death certificate record.

The counts and rankings in this document are based on death certificate data as of February 11, 2021. Subsequent updates to the 2020 database may result in changes to some counts which may in turn affect rankings where the number of deaths due to one cause is very close to the number of deaths due to another cause.

1. Leading Causes of Death, National Vital Statistics System, National Center for Health Statistics. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/leading-causes-of-death.htm>

<https://www.state.nj.us/health/chs/documents/Prelim2020LCOD.pdf>



Leading Causes of Death among New Jersey Residents by Sex, Preliminary 2020 Data

Rank	All NJ residents		Male		Female	
	Cause	Count	Cause	Count	Cause	Count
	All causes of death	95,472	All causes of death	48,646	All causes of death	46,821
1	Heart disease	19,501	Heart disease	10,162	Heart disease	9,339
2	COVID-19	16,318	COVID-19	9,037	Cancer	7,823
3	Cancer	15,492	Cancer	7,668	COVID-19	7,280
4	Unintentional injuries	4,369	Unintentional injuries	3,017	Stroke	2,042
5	Stroke	3,688	Stroke	1,646	Alzheimer disease	1,945
6	CLRD	2,925	Diabetes	1,377	CLRD	1,692
7	Alzheimer disease	2,666	CLRD	1,233	Unintentional injuries	1,352
8	Diabetes	2,424	Septicemia	1,010	Septicemia	1,054
9	Septicemia	2,064	Influenza and pneumonia	896	Diabetes	1,047
10	Kidney disease	1,666	Kidney disease	862	Kidney disease	804

Notes:

CLRD is chronic lower respiratory diseases

Unintentional injuries include injuries due to unintentional poisonings (including drugs), motor vehicle crashes, falls, drownings, fires, etc.

Source:

New Jersey Resident Death Certificate Database. Retrieved on February 16, 2021 from New Jersey Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data website:

<https://www.doh.state.nj.us/doh-shad/query/builder/provdth/Mort/Count.html>.

This table is based on the data file as of February 11, 2021 at 8:12 pm. Rankings may change in cases where very few deaths separate different causes.

Prepared by: Center for Health Statistics, Office of Population Health, New Jersey Department of Health

<https://nj.gov/health/chs/covid/index.shtml>

Leading Causes of Death among New Jersey Residents by Age Group, Preliminary 2020 Data

Rank	< 25 years old		25-44 years old		45-64 years old		65-84 years old		85+ years old	
	Cause	Count	Cause	Count	Cause	Count	Cause	Count	Cause	Count
	All causes of death	1,144	All causes of death	4,248	All causes of death	16,843	All causes of death	40,338	All causes of death	32,898
1	Unintentional injuries	282	Unintentional injuries	1,482	Cancer	3,573	Cancer	8,421	Heart disease	8,706
2	Homicide	91	COVID-19	409	COVID-19	3,007	Heart disease	7,710	COVID-19	5,239
3	Suicide	79	Cancer	351	Heart disease	2,708	COVID-19	7,647	Cancer	3,090
4	Cancer	57	Heart disease	341	Unintentional injuries	1,406	Stroke	1,543	Alzheimer disease	1,870
5	Heart disease	36	Suicide	192	Diabetes	570	CLRD	1,501	Stroke	1,612
6	COVID-19	15	Homicide	187	Chronic liver disease	505	Diabetes	1,210	CLRD	1,051
7	Stroke	12	Chronic liver disease	107	Stroke	453	Septicemia	1,013	Septicemia	648
8			Diabetes	73	Septicemia	353	Kidney disease	779	Influenza and pneumonia	634
9			Stroke	68	CLRD	341	Alzheimer disease	778	Kidney disease	623
10			Septicemia	42	Influenza and pneumonia	243	Influenza and pneumonia	713	Diabetes	565

Notes:

Causes with fewer than 10 deaths are not shown.

Chronic liver disease includes cirrhosis

CLRD is chronic lower respiratory diseases

Unintentional injuries include injuries due to unintentional poisonings (including drugs), motor vehicle crashes, falls, drownings, fires, etc.

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Leading Causes of Death among New Jersey Residents by Race/Ethnicity, Preliminary 2020 Data

Rank	White, non-Hispanic		Black, non-Hispanic		Hispanic (of any race)		Asian, non-Hispanic	
	Cause	Count	Cause	Count	Cause	Count	Cause	Count
	All causes of death	65,243	All causes of death	13,623	All causes of death	10,831	All causes of death	3,795
1	Heart disease	14,585	COVID-19	2,544	COVID-19	3,505	COVID-19	947
2	Cancer	11,415	Heart disease	2,502	Heart disease	1,478	Heart disease	623
3	COVID-19	8,801	Cancer	1,867	Cancer	1,301	Cancer	610
4	Unintentional injuries	2,785	Unintentional injuries	742	Unintentional injuries	640	Stroke	168
5	Stroke	2,550	Stroke	585	Diabetes	352	Diabetes	149
6	CLRD	2,366	Diabetes	536	Stroke	305	Unintentional injuries	119
7	Alzheimer disease	2,163	Kidney disease	345	Alzheimer disease	210	Septicemia	89
8	Septicemia	1,401	CLRD	335	Influenza and pneumonia	203	Kidney disease	82
9	Diabetes	1,293	Septicemia	324	Septicemia	193	Influenza and pneumonia	80
10	Influenza and pneumonia	1,103	Essential hypertension	276	Chronic liver disease	169	Alzheimer disease	58

Notes:

Chronic liver disease includes cirrhosis

CLRD is chronic lower respiratory diseases

Essential hypertension includes hypertensive renal disease

Unintentional injuries include injuries due to unintentional poisonings (including drugs), motor vehicle crashes, falls, drownings, fires, etc.

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Leading Causes of Death among New Jersey Residents by Nativity, Preliminary 2020 Data

Rank	All NJ residents		US-born (50 states and D.C.)		Foreign-born	
	Cause	Count	Cause	Count	Cause	Count
	All causes of death	95,472	All causes of death	72,204	All causes of death	20,058
1	Heart disease	19,501	Heart disease	15,507	COVID-19	5,662
2	COVID-19	16,318	Cancer	12,107	Heart disease	3,377
3	Cancer	15,492	COVID-19	9,977	Cancer	2,979
4	Unintentional injuries	4,369	Unintentional injuries	3,602	Stroke	774
5	Stroke	3,688	Stroke	2,815	Diabetes*	609
6	CLRD	2,925	CLRD	2,510	Unintentional injuries*	609
7	Alzheimer disease	2,666	Alzheimer disease	2,073	Alzheimer disease	507
8	Diabetes	2,424	Diabetes	1,693	Septicemia	401
9	Septicemia	2,064	Septicemia	1,588	Influenza and pneumonia	393
10	Kidney disease	1,666	Kidney disease	1,296	CLRD	329

Notes:

* tie

CLRD is chronic lower respiratory diseases

Unintentional injuries include injuries due to unintentional poisonings (including drugs), motor vehicle crashes, falls, drownings, fires, etc.

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Leading Causes of Death among New Jersey Residents by Race/Ethnicity and Sex, Preliminary 2020 Data

Male										
Rank	All males		White, non-Hispanic		Black, non-Hispanic		Hispanic (of any race)		Asian, non-Hispanic	
	Cause	Count	Cause	Count	Cause	Count	Cause	Count	Cause	Count
	All causes of death	48,646	All causes of death	31,922	All causes of death	7,025	All causes of death	6,475	All causes of death	2,110
1	Heart disease	10,162	Heart disease	7,465	COVID-19	1,367	COVID-19	2,312	COVID-19	573
2	COVID-19	9,037	Cancer	5,657	Heart disease	1,299	Heart disease	849	Heart disease	362
3	Cancer	7,668	COVID-19	4,469	Cancer	898	Cancer	652	Cancer	311
4	Unintentional injuries	3,017	Unintentional injuries	1,849	Unintentional injuries	535	Unintentional injuries	501	Diabetes	93
5	Stroke	1,646	Stroke	1,110	Diabetes	287	Diabetes	194	Stroke	81
6	Diabetes	1,377	CLRD	986	Stroke	264	Stroke	154	Unintentional injuries	77
7	CLRD	1,233	Diabetes	748	Homicide	189	Influenza and pneumonia	129	Septicemia	54
8	Septicemia	1,010	Septicemia	681	Kidney disease	155	Chronic liver disease	121	Influenza and pneumonia*	50
9	Influenza and pneumonia	896	Alzheimer disease	592	CLRD	141	Septicemia	110	Kidney disease*	50
10	Kidney disease	862	Influenza and pneumonia	572	Septicemia	139	Kidney disease	87	Suicide	34

Female										
Rank	All females		White, non-Hispanic		Black, non-Hispanic		Hispanic (of any race)		Asian, non-Hispanic	
	Cause	Count	Cause	Count	Cause	Count	Cause	Count	Cause	Count
	All causes of death	46,821	All causes of death	33,317	All causes of death	6,598	All causes of death	4,355	All causes of death	1,685
1	Heart disease	9,339	Heart disease	7,120	Heart disease	1,203	COVID-19	1,193	COVID-19	374
2	Cancer	7,823	Cancer	5,757	COVID-19	1,177	Cancer	649	Cancer	299
3	COVID-19	7,280	COVID-19	4,331	Cancer	969	Heart disease	629	Heart disease	261
4	Stroke	2,042	Alzheimer disease	1,571	Stroke	321	Diabetes	158	Stroke	87
5	Alzheimer disease	1,945	Stroke	1,440	Diabetes	249	Alzheimer disease	152	Diabetes	56
6	CLRD	1,692	CLRD	1,380	Unintentional injuries	207	Stroke	151	Alzheimer disease	45
7	Unintentional injuries	1,352	Unintentional injuries	936	CLRD	194	Unintentional injuries	139	Unintentional injuries	42
8	Septicemia	1,054	Septicemia	720	Kidney disease	190	CLRD	88	Septicemia	35
9	Diabetes	1,047	Diabetes	545	Septicemia	185	Septicemia	83	Kidney disease	32
10	Kidney disease	804	Influenza and pneumonia	531	Alzheimer disease	163	Influenza and pneumonia	74	Influenza and pneumonia	30

Notes:

Chronic liver disease includes cirrhosis

CLRD is chronic lower respiratory diseases

Unintentional injuries include injuries due to unintentional poisonings (including drugs), motor vehicle crashes, falls, drownings, fires, etc.

* tie

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Leading Causes of Death among New Jersey Residents by Race/Ethnicity and Nativity, Preliminary 2020 Data

		US-born (50 states and D.C.)								US territory-born	
		All US-born		White, non-Hispanic		Black, non-Hispanic		Hispanic (of any race)		Hispanic (of any race)	
		Cause	Count	Cause	Count	Cause	Count	Cause	Count	Cause	Count
Rank		All causes of death	72,204	All causes of death	57,869	All causes of death	12,328	All causes of death	1,533	All causes of death	2,425
1		Heart disease	15,507	Heart disease	12,956	Heart disease	2,305	Unintentional injuries	282	COVID-19	505
2		Cancer	12,107	Cancer	10,191	COVID-19	2,161	COVID-19	202	Heart disease	440
3		COVID-19	9,977	COVID-19	7,542	Cancer	1,684	Cancer	176	Cancer	335
4		Unintentional injuries	3,602	Unintentional injuries	2,570	Unintentional injuries	692	Heart disease	173	Diabetes	105
5		Stroke	2,815	Stroke	2,242	Stroke	519	Homicide	46	Unintentional injuries	101
6		CLRD	2,510	CLRD	2,157	Diabetes	488	Diabetes	41	Stroke	84
7		Alzheimer disease	2,073	Alzheimer disease	1,868	CLRD	322	Stroke*	36	Alzheimer disease	72
8		Diabetes	1,693	Septicemia	1,254	Kidney disease	319	Chronic liver disease*	36	Septicemia*	56
9		Septicemia	1,588	Diabetes	1,149	Septicemia	298	Suicide	28	CLRD*	56
10		Kidney disease	1,296	Influenza and pneumonia	970	Essential hypertension	262	Septicemia	27	Influenza and pneumonia	45

		Foreign-born									
		All foreign-born		White, non-Hispanic		Black, non-Hispanic		Hispanic (of any race)		Asian, non-Hispanic	
		Cause	Count	Cause	Count	Cause	Count	Cause	Count	Cause	Count
Rank		All causes of death	20,058	All causes of death	6,845	All causes of death	1,141	All causes of death	6,813	All causes of death	3,618
1		COVID-19	5,662	Heart disease	1,499	COVID-19	347	COVID-19	2,784	COVID-19	916
2		Heart disease	3,377	Cancer	1,172	Cancer	171	Heart disease	855	Heart disease	604
3		Cancer	2,979	COVID-19	1,146	Heart disease	168	Cancer	790	Cancer	589
4		Stroke	774	Stroke	298	Stroke	63	Unintentional injuries	243	Stroke	162
5		Unintentional injuries	609	Alzheimer disease	285	Diabetes	41	Diabetes	205	Diabetes	142
6		Diabetes	609	Unintentional injuries	190	Unintentional injuries	33	Stroke	184	Unintentional injuries	94
7		Alzheimer disease	507	CLRD	186	Septicemia	26	Influenza and pneumonia	130	Septicemia	87
8		Septicemia	401	Diabetes	136	Kidney disease	24	Alzheimer disease	128	Kidney disease	80
9		Influenza and pneumonia	393	Septicemia	131	Influenza and pneumonia	23	Septicemia	107	Influenza and pneumonia	77
10		CLRD	329	Influenza and pneumonia	126	Alzheimer disease	18	Chronic liver disease	95	Alzheimer disease	56

Notes:

Only those race/ethnicity/nativity groups with over 1,000 deaths are shown.

* tie

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Leading Causes of Death among New Jersey Residents by Place of Death†, Preliminary 2020 Data

Rank	All NJ residents		Hospital inpatient		Nursing home/Long term care		Hospital emergency department	
	Cause	Count	Cause	Count	Cause	Count	Cause	Count
	All causes of death	95,472	All causes of death	34,689	All causes of death	19,081	All causes of death	5,172
1	Heart disease	19,501	COVID-19	10,982	Heart disease	4,330	Heart disease	1,800
2	COVID-19	16,318	Heart disease	4,551	COVID-19	3,548	Unintentional injuries	532
3	Cancer	15,492	Cancer	4,307	Cancer	1,770	COVID-19	490
4	Unintentional injuries	4,369	Stroke*	1,587	Alzheimer disease	1,240	Cancer	313
5	Stroke	3,688	Septicemia*	1,587	Stroke	781	Diabetes	286
6	CLRD	2,925	Influenza and pneumonia	1,124	CLRD	672	Homicide	135
7	Alzheimer disease	2,666	Unintentional injuries	1,039	Diabetes	394	CLRD	134
8	Diabetes	2,424	CLRD	742	Parkinson disease	354	Septicemia	102
9	Septicemia	2,064	Kidney disease	695	Kidney disease	343	Stroke	102
10	Kidney disease	1,666	Chronic liver disease	549	Essential hypertension	288	Essential hypertension	98

Rank	Hospice		Hospital, DOA		Home		Other	
	All causes of death	3,252	All causes of death	335	All causes of death	28,278	All causes of death	4,649
1	Cancer	1,050	Heart disease	131	Heart disease	7,480	Unintentional injuries	1,065
2	Heart disease	378	Unintentional injuries	56	Cancer	7,300	Heart disease	829
3	COVID-19	344	COVID-19	22	Unintentional injuries	1,465	Cancer	739
4	Stroke	259	Diabetes	19	Diabetes	1,236	COVID-19	202
5	Kidney disease	125	Cancer	13	CLRD	1,145	Alzheimer disease	200
6	CLRD	108	Homicide	12	Alzheimer disease	1,086	Suicide	195
7	Septicemia	97			Stroke	841	CLRD	117
8	Alzheimer disease	72			COVID-19	729	Stroke	114
9	Chronic liver disease	47			Essential hypertension	488	Homicide	100
10	Influenza and pneumonia	41			Parkinson disease	447	Diabetes	92

Notes:

† Place of death is where the person was at the time of death, not where they were living at the time of death.

*tie

Causes with fewer than 10 deaths are not shown.

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Leading Causes of Death among New Jersey Residents by Month of Death, Preliminary 2020 Data								
Rank	January		February		March		April	
	Cause	Count	Cause	Count	Cause	Count	Cause	Count
		All causes of death	6,928	All causes of death	6,245	All causes of death	7,990	All causes of death
1	Heart disease	1,697	Heart disease	1,505	Heart disease	1,836	COVID-19	8,375
2	Cancer	1,382	Cancer	1,287	Cancer	1,363	Heart disease	2,429
3	Unintentional injuries	407	Unintentional injuries	380	COVID-19	649	Cancer	1,326
4	Stroke	320	Stroke	314	Unintentional injuries	389	Alzheimer disease	479
5	CLRD	297	CLRD	263	Stroke	346	CLRD	426
6	Alzheimer disease	204	Alzheimer disease	211	CLRD	287	Diabetes	405
7	Septicemia	182	Septicemia	179	Influenza and pneumonia	236	Stroke	387
8	Diabetes	178	Diabetes	154	Alzheimer disease	232	Influenza and pneumonia	385
9	Kidney disease	150	Kidney disease	132	Septicemia	208	Unintentional injuries	358
10	Influenza and pneumonia	144	Influenza and pneumonia	122	Diabetes	199	Septicemia	224

Rank	May		June		July		August	
	All causes of death	Count	All causes of death	Count	All causes of death	Count	All causes of death	Count
		All causes of death	9,592	All causes of death	6,335	All causes of death	6,131	All causes of death
1	COVID-19	2,958	Heart disease	1,447	Heart disease	1,443	Heart disease	1,421
2	Heart disease	1,641	Cancer	1,183	Cancer	1,295	Cancer	1,248
3	Cancer	1,218	COVID-19	648	Unintentional injuries	405	Unintentional injuries	406
4	Unintentional injuries	430	Unintentional injuries	401	Stroke	280	Stroke	268
5	Stroke	333	Stroke	225	COVID-19	230	CLRD	198
6	Alzheimer disease	245	CLRD	199	Alzheimer disease	186	Alzheimer disease	169
7	CLRD*	224	Alzheimer disease*	160	CLRD	169	Diabetes*	155
8	Diabetes*	224	Diabetes*	160	Diabetes	160	Septicemia*	155
9	Septicemia	158	Septicemia	143	Septicemia	132	COVID-19	130
10	Influenza and pneumonia	147	Kidney disease	127	Kidney disease	121	Kidney disease	124

Rank	September		October		November		December	
	All causes of death	Count						
		All causes of death	5,904	All causes of death	6,229	All causes of death	7,092	All causes of death
1	Heart disease	1,387	Heart disease	1,437	Heart disease	1,513	COVID-19	2,165
2	Cancer	1,263	Cancer	1,243	Cancer	1,343	Heart disease	1,745
3	Unintentional injuries	358	Unintentional injuries	302	COVID-19	809	Cancer	1,341
4	Stroke	319	Stroke	268	Unintentional injuries	311	Stroke	364
5	CLRD	194	COVID-19	234	Stroke	264	Diabetes	245
6	Diabetes	168	CLRD	216	CLRD	218	Alzheimer disease	239
7	Alzheimer disease	162	Alzheimer disease	207	Diabetes	206	CLRD	234
8	Septicemia	142	Diabetes	170	Septicemia	190	Unintentional injuries	222
9	Kidney disease	140	Septicemia	165	Alzheimer disease	172	Septicemia	186
10	COVID-19	120	Kidney disease	122	Kidney disease	130	Kidney disease	151

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Leading Causes of Death by County of Residence, New Jersey, Preliminary 2020 Data				
County of Residence	Rank as Leading Cause of Death			% of deaths due to COVID-19
	1	2	3	
New Jersey	Heart disease 19,501	COVID-19 16,318	Cancer 15,492	17%
Atlantic	Heart disease 752	Cancer 612	COVID-19 280	9%
Bergen	COVID-19 1,941	Heart disease 1,826	Cancer 1,524	21%
Burlington	Heart disease 1,015	Cancer 860	COVID-19 519	11%
Camden	Heart disease 1,146	Cancer 983	COVID-19 692	12%
Cape May	Heart disease 378	Cancer 257	COVID-19 113	8%
Cumberland	Heart disease 437	Cancer 318	COVID-19 177	9%
Essex	COVID-19 2,039	Heart disease 1,547	Cancer 1,085	23%
Gloucester	Heart disease 695	Cancer 631	COVID-19 336	10%
Hudson	COVID-19 1,505	Heart disease 1,066	Cancer 752	26%
Hunterdon	Heart disease 268	Cancer 230	COVID-19 145	13%
Mercer	Heart disease 763	Cancer 630	COVID-19 598	16%
Middlesex	Heart disease 1,522	COVID-19 1,442	Cancer 1,272	18%
Monmouth	Heart disease 1,438	Cancer 1,205	COVID-19 920	13%
Morris	Heart disease 1,007	Cancer 841	COVID-19 822	17%
Ocean	Heart disease 2,244	Cancer 1,529	COVID-19 1,127	13%
Passaic	COVID-19 1,329	Heart disease 947	Cancer 768	25%
Salem	Heart disease 219	Cancer 155	COVID-19 92	10%
Somerset	Heart disease 562	Cancer 520	COVID-19 519	17%
Sussex	Heart disease 316	Cancer 280	COVID-19 219	14%
Union	COVID-19 1,357	Heart disease 1,067	Cancer 807	24%
Warren	Heart disease 285	Cancer 233	COVID-19 146	12%

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**COVID-19's rank as a leading cause of death, by selected characteristics
New Jersey residents, Preliminary 2020 data**

Characteristics	COVID-19's Rank	Characteristics	COVID-19's Rank	County of residence	COVID-19's Rank
All residents	2	Race/ethnicity		Atlantic	3
Sex		White	3	Bergen	1
Male	2	Black	1	Burlington	3
Female	3	Hispanic	1	Camden	3
Age		Asian	1	Cape May	3
Under 25 years	6	Place of birth (nativity)		Cumberland	3
25-44 years	2	US-born	3	Essex	1
45-64 years	2	Foreign-born	1	Gloucester	3
65-84 years	3	Place of death		Hudson	1
85 years and older	2	Hospital inpatient	1	Hunterdon	3
Race/ethnicity and sex		LTCF	2	Mercer	3
White male	3	Hospital, ED	3	Middlesex	2
Black male	1	Hospital, DOA	3	Monmouth	3
Hispanic male	1	Hospice	3	Morris	3
Asian male	1	Home	8	Ocean	3
White female	3	Other	4	Passaic	1
Black female	2	Month of death		Salem	3
Hispanic female	1	January	--	Somerset	3
Asian female	1	February	--	Sussex	3
Race/ethnicity and place of birth		March	3	Union	1
US-born White	3	April	1	Warren	3
US-born Black	2	May	1		
US-born Hispanic	2	June	3		
Terr.-born Hispanic	1	July	5		
Foreign-born White	3	August	9		
Foreign-born Black	1	September	10		
Foreign-born Hispanic	1	October	5		
Foreign-born Asian	1	November	3		
		December	1		

Source: New Jersey Resident Death Certificate Database. Retrieved on February 16, 2021 from New Jersey Department of Health, New Jersey State Health Assessment Data website:

<https://www.doh.state.nj.us/doh-shad/query/builder/provdth/Mort/Count.html>.

This table is based on the data file as of February 11, 2021 at 8:12 pm. Rankings may change in cases where very few deaths separate different causes.

Prepared by: Center for Health Statistics, Office of Population Health, New Jersey Department of Health

<https://nj.gov/health/chs/covid/index.shtml>