



Take Action to Reduce Prostate Cancer Disparities
A Call to Action for Pennsylvania Health Care Providers

September 2025

Dear Pennsylvania Health Care Provider,

Prostate cancer remains a leading cause of cancer-related death for men in Pennsylvania. As a trusted provider, you play a critical role in recognizing men at risk, initiating conversations about screening, and making timely referrals. Your actions can mean the difference between catching cancer early or facing a late-stage diagnosis—between saving lives or losing them.

Where patients live has an impact on prostate cancer outcomes in Pennsylvania.

- **Northeast & Northwest:** Higher incidence and mortality, fewer urologists, lower screening.
- **Philadelphia & surrounding suburbs:** Black men face mortality rates more than double White men; disparities are tied to poverty and access.
- **Central PA:** Rising rates in rural areas with fragmented referrals and limited screening.
- **Southwest:** Underserved and minority communities fall behind, even with strong healthcare systems nearby.

Your role is critical: identify risk, discuss screening, and refer early. *Early diagnosis saves lives.*

What You Need to Know Here in PA

High Late-Stage Diagnosis Rate

Pennsylvania's **late-stage prostate cancer incidence rate is 25.3 per 100,000**, higher than the national average (24.7 per 100,000). More than **1 in 5 prostate cancer diagnoses** in the state are detected at a late stage.¹

Elevated Mortality

Prostate cancer mortality in Pennsylvania stands at **18.4 per 100,000 men**. The state's goal is to reduce this rate to ****16.9 by 2030.****²

Stark Disparities

Nationally, **Black men have a 70% higher incidence** of prostate cancer and are more than **twice as likely to die** from the disease compared to White men.³ These disparities are mirrored in Pennsylvania, especially in underserved and rural communities.

Regional Hotspots in PA

In the 10-county Northeast PA region alone, there are an estimated **1,245 prostate cancer cases and 168 deaths** annually.⁴

Review prostate cancer data for your catchment or service area here:
[PA Cancer Statistics Dashboard](#)



Take These Clinical Actions

1. Start the Conversation

Talk to men—especially those over 50, Black men, and anyone with a family history—about prostate cancer risk and whether screening makes sense for them.

2. Offer or Refer for PSA Screening

Keep up with the latest screening guidelines and refer high-risk patients for screening or urology consults when appropriate:

[ACS Prostate Cancer Screening Guidelines](#)

3. Advance Health Equity

Address issues like cost, mistrust, and access to care. Use culturally sensitive, clear communication to help your patients navigate their options.

4. Engage in Local Partnerships

Team up with public health programs, community groups, and cancer coalitions to bring screening and education efforts into high-risk neighborhoods.

5. Support Research and Referrals

Promote clinical trial participation and help make sure diverse populations are represented in prostate cancer studies.

Together, We Can Turn the Tide

Early detection and prevention should be a routine part of men's health care throughout Pennsylvania. With your support, we can ensure that no man is left behind—regardless of where he lives, his background, or his access to resources.

Your voice, your practice, and your leadership truly matter.



Resources and More Information:

<u>Pennsylvania Prostate Cancer Coalition</u>	<u>ACS Cancer Facts & Figures 2025</u>
<u>Pennsylvania Cancer Coalition</u>	<u>ACS CancerRisk360, Risk Assessment</u>
<u>State Cancer Profiles, Incidence Rates</u>	<u>Pfizer & ACS: Change the Odds</u>
<u>CDC Prostate Cancer Information</u>	<u>American Urological Association</u>

Citations:

1. State Cancer Profiles. Prostate cancer (late-stage) incidence rates, 2017–2021. <https://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/incidencerates/>
2. Pennsylvania Department of Health. Healthy People 2030 – Prostate Cancer Death Rate.
3. American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts & Figures 2025.
4. Northeast Regional Cancer Institute. Prostate cancer burden in NEPA. <https://cancernepa.org/services/cancer-surveillance>