

Call to Action for Pennsylvania Healthcare Providers

Prostate Cancer Awareness: *Annual Provider Brief, September 2026*

Healthcare Providers: Your Role Matters

Prostate cancer continues to be one of the top causes of cancer-related death among men in Pennsylvania. As a trusted healthcare provider, you have a vital role in identifying men at risk, discussing screening options, and ensuring timely referrals. Your guidance can make the difference between early treatment and late-stage diagnosis - and ultimately, between life and death.

Why This Matters in Your Community

Although advances in screening and treatment have improved outcomes, important disparities remain across the Commonwealth. Black men, men with a family history of prostate cancer, and men living in medically underserved communities continue to experience a disproportionate burden of disease. Access to screening, specialty care, and timely follow-up also varies across rural, suburban, and urban Pennsylvania.

As a trusted healthcare provider, your recommendation is one of the strongest influences on whether a patient seeks screening, asks questions about prostate cancer risk, or follows through with additional evaluation. Working together, we can improve early detection, reduce disparities, and help ensure that every Pennsylvanian has access to high-quality prostate cancer care.

This letter shares key local data, recommended actions, and helpful resources to support you and your team.

Priorities in Pennsylvania

- Promote informed discussions about prostate cancer risk and screening.
- Encourage shared decision-making and evidence-based screening for men at increased risk.
- Improve timely referral, follow-up, and patient navigation when additional evaluation is needed.
- Reduce disparities affecting Black men and other underserved populations.
- Support partnerships among healthcare providers, health systems, public health agencies, and community organizations.

Improving access to screening, timely referrals, and coordinated care can help promote earlier detection and improve prostate cancer outcomes throughout Northeast Pennsylvania.

What You Need to Know

- **High Late-Stage Diagnosis Rate**
Pennsylvania's **late-stage prostate cancer incidence rate is 26.4 per 100,000**, higher than the national average (26.0 per 100,000).¹ Nearly **1 in 4 prostate cancer diagnoses** in the state are detected at a late stage.
- **Elevated Mortality**
Prostate cancer mortality in Pennsylvania stands at **18.1 per 100,000 men (2020-2024)**. The state's goal is to reduce this rate to ***16.9 by 2030**.^{*2}
- **Stark Disparities**
Nationally, **Black men have a 67% higher incidence** of prostate cancer and are **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 **1,426 prostate cancer cases and 167 deaths** annually.⁴

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.

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 Make a Difference

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.

Thank you,
Pennsylvania Cancer Coalition Men's Health Workgroup

Resources and More Information:

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

Citations:

1. State Cancer Profiles. Prostate cancer (late-stage) incidence rates, 2018–2022.
<https://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/incidencerates/>
2. Pennsylvania Department of Health. Healthy People 2030 – Prostate Cancer Death Rate.
[Prostate cancer death rate | Pennsylvania Healthy People, county level](#)
3. American Cancer Society. Cancer Statistics, 2025: Prostate Cancer. [Press Releases](#)
4. Northeast Regional Cancer Institute. Cancer Surveillance – Local Cancer Statistics: Prostate Cancer. 2021.
<https://cancernepa.org/services/cancer-surveillance/>