Prostate cancer is the most common type of cancer diagnosed among males in Pennsylvania. In 2013, prostate cancer accounted for about 21 percent of all invasive cancer diagnoses among men. Age-adjusted incidence rates per 100,000 decreased between 2003 and 2004, from 155.1 to 143.9, followed by an increase to a high of 167.7 in 2007. From 2007 to 2010, the rate decreased by 20.8 percent to 136.5 in 2011. The rate has since dropped dramatically to a low of 101.2 in 2013. There were 7,973 cases of prostate cancer reported among Pennsylvania male residents in 2013 compared to 9,882 cases in 2003.

Annual age-adjusted mortality rates for prostate cancer have declined between 2003 and 2013. In 2003, there were 1,584 prostate cancer deaths reported for an age-adjusted rate of 28.7 per 100,000. By 2013, the number of prostate cancer deaths decreased to 1,359 for an age-adjusted rate of 19.6 per 100,000. The 2013 age-adjusted rate was approximately 32 percent lower than the 2003 rate. In 2013, prostate cancer was the second most common cause of cancer deaths among Pennsylvania male residents.

Although the differences were small, Pennsylvania's age-adjusted incidence rates in 2013 for invasive prostate cancer were lower than the United States rates for all cases, whites and blacks. Rates among black men were considerably higher than rates among white men for both Pennsylvania and the United States. In Pennsylvania, the 2013 cancer incidence rate for blacks was 68 percent higher than the rate for whites.

In 2013, Pennsylvania's age-adjusted mortality rates for prostate cancer were about the same or a little higher than the United States rates for all deaths and for whites. The state rate among blacks of 44.1 per 100,000 was 13 percent higher than the United States rate of 39.1. The 2013 mortality rates among black men were more than two times higher than the rates among white men in both Pennsylvania and the United States.
The percentage of prostate cancers diagnosed at the early stage among white males has decreased in each successive three-year period from 2007-2009 to 2011-2013, falling from 81.3 percent during 2007-2009 to a low of 77.4 in 2011-2013. Early stage percentages were significantly higher than late stage percentages. The percentage of late stage cases has increased steadily from 13.1 percent in 2007-2009 to 17.8 percent in 2011-2013, the highest late stage percentage recorded over the period 2007-2013.

During the three-year period 2011-2013, 75.3 percent of prostate cancer cases among black males were detected at the early stage, down from 76.1 percent in 2010-2012. The 2011-2013 early stage percentage of 75.3 is about 5 percent lower than the 79.0 percent observed in 2007-2009. Early stage percentages were consistently higher than late stage percentages. In 2011-2013, the percent of cases detected at the late stage among black males increased slightly from 19.0 percent to 19.7 percent, the highest percentage among blacks during 2007-2013.

**BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTORS for Prostate Cancer**

**Pennsylvania Males Aged 50 and Older, 2014**

Because there are risks and uncertainties associated with prostate cancer screening, the American Cancer Society recommends that men, beginning at age 50, talk with their health care provider about the pros and cons of testing so they can decide whether testing is right for them. African-Americans and men who have a father, brother or son who had prostate cancer before age 65 should have this discussion with their doctor beginning at age 45. Men who have more than one first-degree relative who had prostate cancer before age 65 should have a conversation with their health care provider at age 40. Men who decide to be tested should have a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test with or without a digital rectal examination (DRE).

**PSA TEST** - According to the 2014 Pennsylvania Department of Health's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey, 66 percent of Pennsylvania men aged 50 and older who had ever been recommended for a PSA test to detect the presence of prostate cancer said that they had ever had it. The percentage was similar for white male residents (68 percent), but black male residents (54 percent) had a considerably lower percentage. Estimates for 2014 were also produced for men who indicated that they had a PSA test within the past year with 60 percent of male residents having had the exam. Sixty-one percent of white males and 53 percent of black males had been tested in the past year.

**DIGITAL RECTAL EXAM** - According to data from the 2010 statewide sample telephone survey conducted by BRFSS, 86 percent of Pennsylvania men aged 50 and older had ever had a digital rectal exam, and 47 percent had such an exam in the previous year.

**NOTES:** This pamphlet was produced by the Division of Health Informatics, Pennsylvania Department of Health. The division can be contacted by email (ra-dhincontactus@pa.gov) or phone (717-782-2448). For additional cancer statistics, go to www.statistcse.health.pa.gov. The department is an equal opportunity provider of grants, contracts, services and employment. Call the department toll free at 1-877-PA-HEALTH. All the age-adjusted rates that appear here were calculated by the direct method using the 2000 United States standard million population. United States incidence rates are based on data collected by the SEER (Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results) program of the National Cancer Institute from nine cancer registries throughout the country that are considered to be reasonably representative subsets of the United States population.

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