

Prostate Cancer

Prostate cancer develops in the prostate gland, which is a male reproductive system gland located beneath the bladder, in front of the rectum, and surrounding the urethra. The prostate gland makes some of the fluid in semen. Prostate cancer is generally very slow to grow, and most men will develop prostate cancer if they reach advanced age. Screening tests include the digital rectal exam and the blood test for prostate-specific antigen (PSA test).

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer diagnosis and the second-leading cause of cancer death in men in both Texas and the nation. It is estimated that, in 2007, approximately 15,011 Texas men will be diagnosed with invasive prostate cancer and 2,061 will die of the disease. Hispanic men are at lower risk of developing colorectal cancer than non-Hispanics, and African-American men are at greater risk than whites. The risk of prostate cancer increases with age. Besides age and race/ethnicity, the only other well-known risk factor for prostate cancer is a family history of the disease.

Prostate Cancer Incidence in South Texas

Prostate cancer incidence in South Texas (137.1 cases of prostate cancer per 100,000 men) was lower than in the rest of Texas (150.8/100,000) or nationwide (170.3/100,000). When compared to Hispanic men in the rest of Texas or nationwide, Hispanic men in South Texas had a significantly lower incidence of prostate cancer. However, non-Hispanic whites in South Texas had a slightly higher prostate cancer incidence (153/100,000) when compared to non-Hispanic whites in the rest of Texas (148/100,000), although they still had a lower incidence than among non-Hispanic whites nationwide (166.8/100,000) (Figure 5.8). Non-Hispanic white men had a much higher incidence of prostate cancer than Hispanic men in South Texas (Figure 5.8).

Key Point: Compared to Hispanic men in the rest of Texas or the nation, Hispanic men in South Texas had a significantly lower incidence of prostate cancer.
Prostate cancer incidence increased with age for both Hispanic and non-Hispanic white men in South Texas up to ages 70-74, but, at ages 75 and older, declined among non-Hispanic whites and leveled off among Hispanics (Figure 5.9). Non-Hispanic whites had a higher risk of prostate cancer than Hispanics in all age groups except ages 85 and older.

Figure 5.8. Age-adjusted incidence of prostate cancer among males, by location.

Figure 5.9. Incidence of prostate cancer among South Texas males, by age group and race/ethnicity, 2000-2004.
Source: Texas Cancer Registry, Cancer Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, Texas Department of State Health Services
In South Texas, men living in metropolitan counties had a higher incidence of prostate cancer (138.6/100,000) than those living in non-metropolitan counties (127.8/100,000). Bexar County had a higher incidence of prostate cancer than observed in South Texas among both Hispanic and non-Hispanic white men. Webb County also had a higher, though not a statistically significantly higher, incidence of prostate cancer than South Texas for Hispanics and non-Hispanic whites. The Lower Rio Grande Valley region had a lower incidence of prostate cancer than South Texas as a whole for both Hispanics and non-Hispanic whites (Figure 5.10).

![Prostate Cancer Incidence by Location](image)

Figure 5.10. Age-adjusted incidence of prostate cancer among South Texas males in selected South Texas locations, by race/ethnicity, 2000-2004.
Source: Texas Cancer Registry, Cancer Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, Texas Department of State Health Services

The overall prostate cancer mortality rate in South Texas was 23.7 deaths per 100,000 persons. Like incidence, prostate cancer mortality rates were lower in South Texas than in the rest of Texas or nationwide. However, mortality rates among non-Hispanic whites were lower in South Texas than in the rest of Texas, and virtually no difference in prostate cancer mortality rates was seen between Hispanic and non-Hispanic white men in South Texas (Figure 5.11).
The trend in age-specific prostate cancer mortality for South Texas also was different from the trend seen in prostate cancer incidence; mortality rates continued to increase among the oldest age groups (Figure 5.12). Also, unlike prostate cancer incidence, no difference was observed in metropolitan and non-metropolitan counties’ prostate cancer mortality rates.
Figure 5.12. Prostate cancer mortality among South Texas males by age group, 2000-2004.
Source: Texas Cancer Registry, Cancer Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, Texas Department of State Health Services

References


