

Hampton Roads Prostate Health Forum's

Paint the Region Blue and

Father's Day Rally Against Prostate Cancer

Prostate cancer is one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers in men. Prostate Cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related death in men. *2021 in Virginia, estimated new cases 6,540, deaths 940. *1 in 8 of all men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime. * Black men are at increased risk for the disease. *1 in 6 Black men will be diagnosed with the disease at some point in his life. *Black men are 2.2 times more likely to die from the disease and 1.8 times more likely to be diagnosed with the disease. * Veterans who were exposed to herbicides like Agent Orange are at increased risk for developing Prostate Cancer and are more likely to have an aggressive form of the disease. If detected earlier, survival rates improve.

On Father's Day, let us take information on Prostate Cancer to places of worship, community group meetings, and different locations where others are gathered to help achieve our mission to reduce the number of men dying in the region from Prostate Cancer. Let us join our national colleagues in prayer. A prayer from the Virginia Prostate Cancer Coalition is provided below for your use. However, any prayer your faith community prefers can be used.

"We pray for all those suffering with

Prostate Cancer and remember those who were

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taken from us by this disease. May your healing presence give strength and sustenance to their families and loved ones. Lord, help us especially young men, to be vigilant in caring for our earthly bodies. Bless those survivors who have been cured of this cancer. We also call upon you to provide insight to those in the forefront of research as they seek to find a cure for Prostate Cancer. In Your name we pray. Amen!"

Please join us in the battle! Early Detection really does make a difference.

Virginia has among the highest prostate cancer mortality, morbidity and incidence rates in the nation. The statistics in our region are frightening! Recent data indicates the rate of prostate cancer cases in Virginia was 99.1 per 100,000. Please compare the state rate with that of our local health districts for the same time period:

- Chesapeake 121.7
- Hampton 115.0
- Norfolk 126.5
- Peninsula 112.1 (excludes Hampton and includes Newport News, Williamsburg, Poquoson, James City and York Counties)
- Portsmouth 131.5
- Virginia Beach 122.8
- Western Tidewater 131.4 (includes Suffolk, Isle of Wight, Franklin City, and Southampton County)

Even more disturbing are the **death rates** for Black men. The mortality rates per 100,000 for Black men compared with White men from 1995-2017 are:

	White	Black
VA	17.2	38.8
Chesapeake	21.0	41.0
Hampton	14.0	43.5
Norfolk	21.1	42.5
Peninsula	15.0	35.2
Portsmouth	18.1	54.3
Virginia Beach	17.1	37.9
W. Tidewater	19.5	51.8