

**Prostate Cancer Briefing Document**  
**Presented to the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities**  
**September 20, 2007**

**Prostate cancer** is a cancer that forms in the tissues of the prostate. The prostate is a gland in the male reproductive system found below the bladder and in front of the rectum.

**CRITERION #1: PREVALENCE / INCIDENCE**

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- In 2004, the overall age-adjusted incidence rate for prostate cancer in Washington was 163.0 per 100,000.
- The 2004 incidence rate for prostate cancer in Washington was significantly lower than the rate in 1992.
- In 2004, prostate cancer was the most common cancer among Washington men and the second leading cause of cancer overall with 4,428 cases.

**CRITERION #2: SEVERITY**

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- In 2004, the overall age-adjusted death rate in Washington from prostate cancer was 25.8 per 100,000 people.
- In 2004, 590 men died from prostate cancer in Washington. Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer mortality in men in Washington.
- The trend in the age-adjusted mortality rate for prostate cancer in Washington has declined from 1992 to 2001.

**CRITERION #3: DISPARITY**

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- In the years 2000-2004 combined, blacks had a significantly higher rate of prostate cancer (252.9 per 100,000) than all other races and ethnicities. Whites had the next highest rate (168.1 per 100,000), followed by Hispanics (134.4 per 100,000), American Indians/Alaska Natives (121.2 per 100,000), and Asian/Pacific Islanders (98.8 per 100,000).
- The Index of Disparity for incidence by race and ethnicity was 71.2%.
- One study found disparity between African American men and white men in the treatment of nonmetastatic prostate cancer in the U.S. between 1991-1999.
- In the years 2000-2004 combined, the age-adjusted mortality rate for prostate cancer was significantly higher for blacks (46.2 per 100,000) than for all other races and ethnicities. Whites had the next highest rate (27.7 per 100,000), followed by Hispanics (18.6 per 100,000) American Indians/Alaska Natives (17.4 per 100,000), and Asian/Pacific Islanders (12.8 per 100,000).
- The index of disparity for mortality by race and ethnicity was 114.4%.

**The Index of Disparity** is the average of the difference in rates between the racial/ethnic group with the "best" rate and all other racial/ethnic groups.

*Keppel KG et al., Measuring progress in healthy people 2010. Statistical Notes, no 25. NCHS, 2004*