

**Father's Day Rally Against  
Prostate Cancer**

**Prostate Cancer**

Prostate cancer is one of the most prevalent forms of cancer among American men. Nearly 164,690 men are projected to be diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2018 and approximately 29,430 are projected to die from this disease. Any man may be at risk for prostate cancer, but increased risk factors include race, family history, elevated PSA trends, positive findings on a digital rectal exam, and selected pathological findings on prior biopsies. Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths among men. Black men will die at a rate 2.5 times higher than men of any other racial group, making this a major health crisis.

On Father's Day, let us take information on Prostate Cancer to places of worship, community group meetings, and other places where others are gathered to help achieve our mission to reduce the number of men dying in our region from prostate cancer. Let us join our national colleagues in prayer. A prayer from the Virginia Prostate Cancer Coalition is provided below; however any prayer that your faith community prefers is appropriate.

***"We pray for all those suffering with prostate cancer and remember those who were 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! We ask that you wear something "**Blue**" on **Father's Day** as a symbol to bring attention to this cause

Virginia has among the highest prostate cancer mortality and morbidity rates in the nation. The statistics in our region are frightening! In the most recent data published for 2008-2012 the rate of prostate cancer deaths in Virginia was 22.4 per 100,000. Please compare the state rate with that of the following health districts:

- Chesapeake 27.8
- Hampton 31.0
- Norfolk 24.7
- Peninsula 23.1 (excludes Hampton and includes Newport News, Williamsburg, Poquoson, James City and York Counties)
- Portsmouth 37.4
- Virginia Beach 20.7
- Western Tidewater 32.9 (includes Suffolk, Isle of Wight, Franklin City, and Southampton County)

Most disturbing is the death rate for African-American men. Between 2008 and 2012, the death rates for African-American men compared with white men are as follows:

	White	Black
VA	18.9	46.2
Chesapeake	20.9	45.8
Hampton	19.7	50.9
Norfolk	19.4	37.4
Peninsula	20.2	42.4
Portsmouth	-----	65.0
Virginia Beach	18.4	47.4
W. Tidewater	20.4	61.5