

Prostate Cancer Disparities in People Enrolled in Medicare Fee-for-Service

The prostate gland is part of the male reproductive system that produces fluid that forms part of semen. Prostate cancer develops when cells in the prostate grow out of control. Risk factors for prostate cancer include increasing age and having a family history of prostate cancer. Some symptoms for prostate cancer include difficulty urinating, frequent urination, pain in back, hips, or pelvis, and blood in urine or semen. However, not all men experience symptoms from prostate cancer. Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer and the second leading cause of cancer death among men in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 114.7 per 100,000 of all men were diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2021.¹

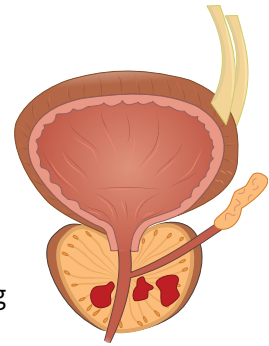
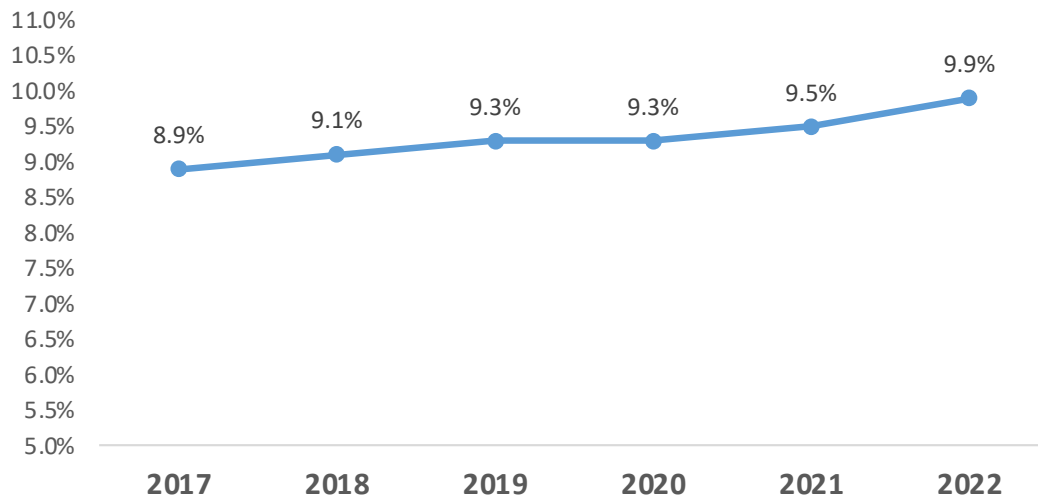
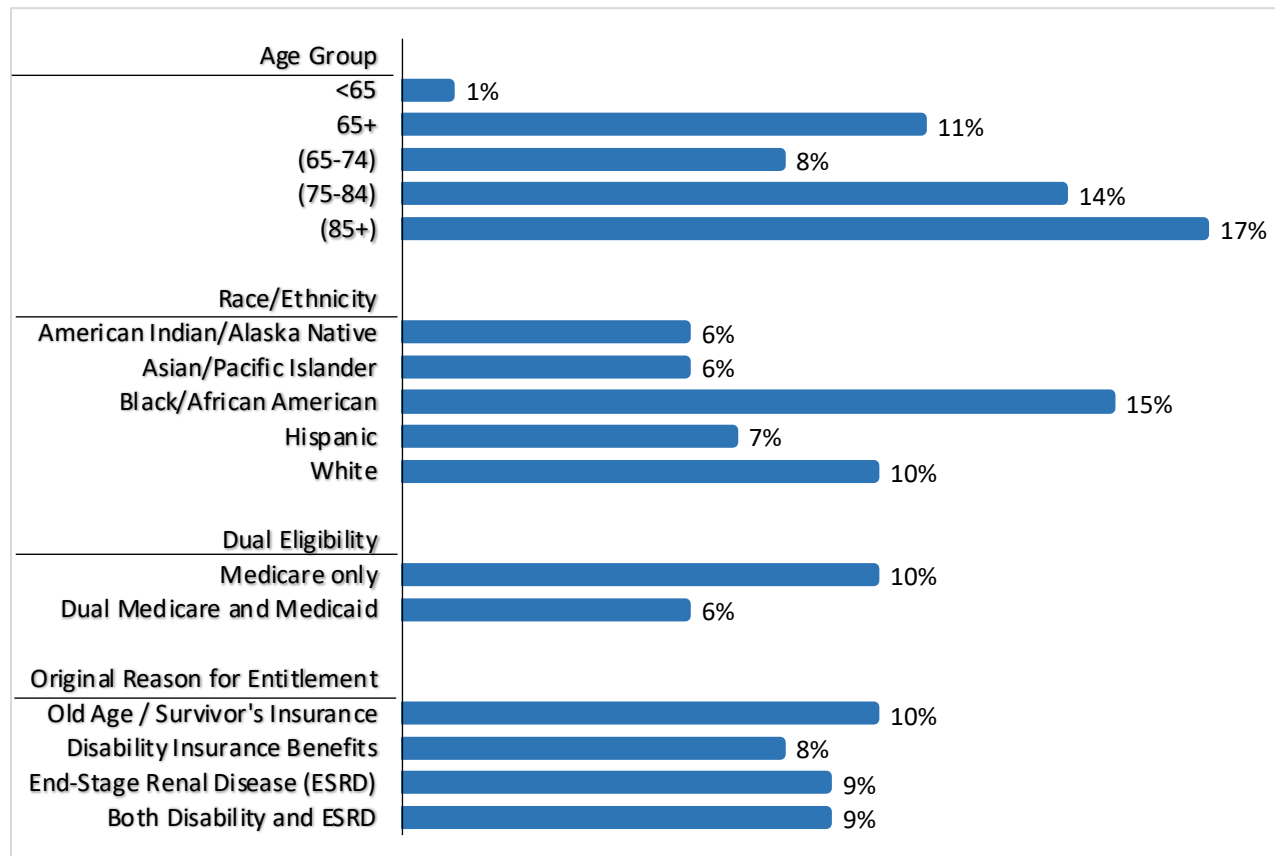


Figure 1. Prevalence rate of Prostate Cancer among Males Enrolled in Medicare FFS by Year, 2017-2022



The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS's) chronic condition data as shown in Figure 1 indicates that 9.9% of males enrolled in Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) had claims with a diagnosis of prostate cancer in 2022, and the prevalence increased over time during 2017 – 2022.² [The Mapping Medicare Disparities \(MMD\) Tool](#) developed by CMS Office of Minority Health shows the prevalence rate of prostate cancer among male Medicare FFS enrollees varied by age group, race and ethnicity, Medicare and Medicaid dual eligibility, original reason for entitlement, and geographic areas in 2022 (Figure 2 – 4).³

Figure 2. Prevalence rate of Prostate Cancer among Males Enrolled in Medicare FFS by Enrollee Characteristics, 2022



Note: Prevalence rates for race and ethnicity, dual Medicare and Medicaid eligibility, and original reason for entitlement were age standardized rate.

As shown in Figure 2, the older age groups of FFS enrollees had a higher prevalence rate; 11% of males aged 65+ had claims with prostate cancer while only 1% of the males under the age of 65 had claims. Of males aged 65+, enrollees older than 85 had the highest prevalence rate (17%), compared to 75-84 (14%) and 65-74 (8%) age groups. The age standardized prevalence rate of prostate cancer was highest among Black/African American enrollees (15%), followed by White (10%), Hispanic (7%), American Indian/Alaska Native (6%), and Asian/Pacific Islander (6%) enrollees. It was lower among Medicare and Medicaid dual eligible enrollees (6%) compared to the Medicare only (10%) enrollees, and higher among those whose original reason for entitlement was Old Age / Survivor's Insurance (10%) compared to the Disability Insurance Benefits (8%), ESRD (9%), or both (9%) in 2022.

Figure 3. Prostate Cancer Prevalence among Males Enrolled in Medicare FFS by County, 2022

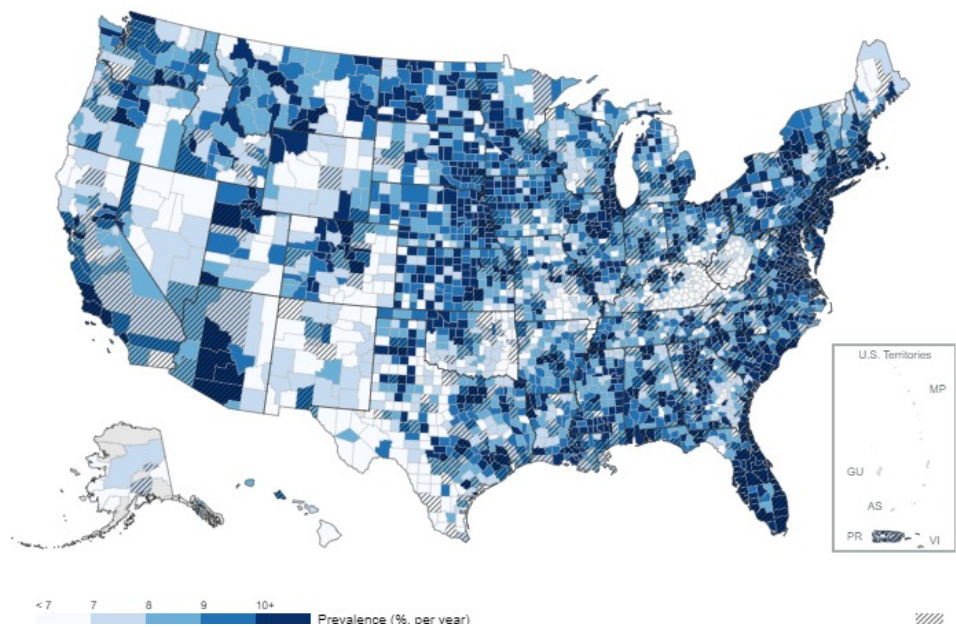
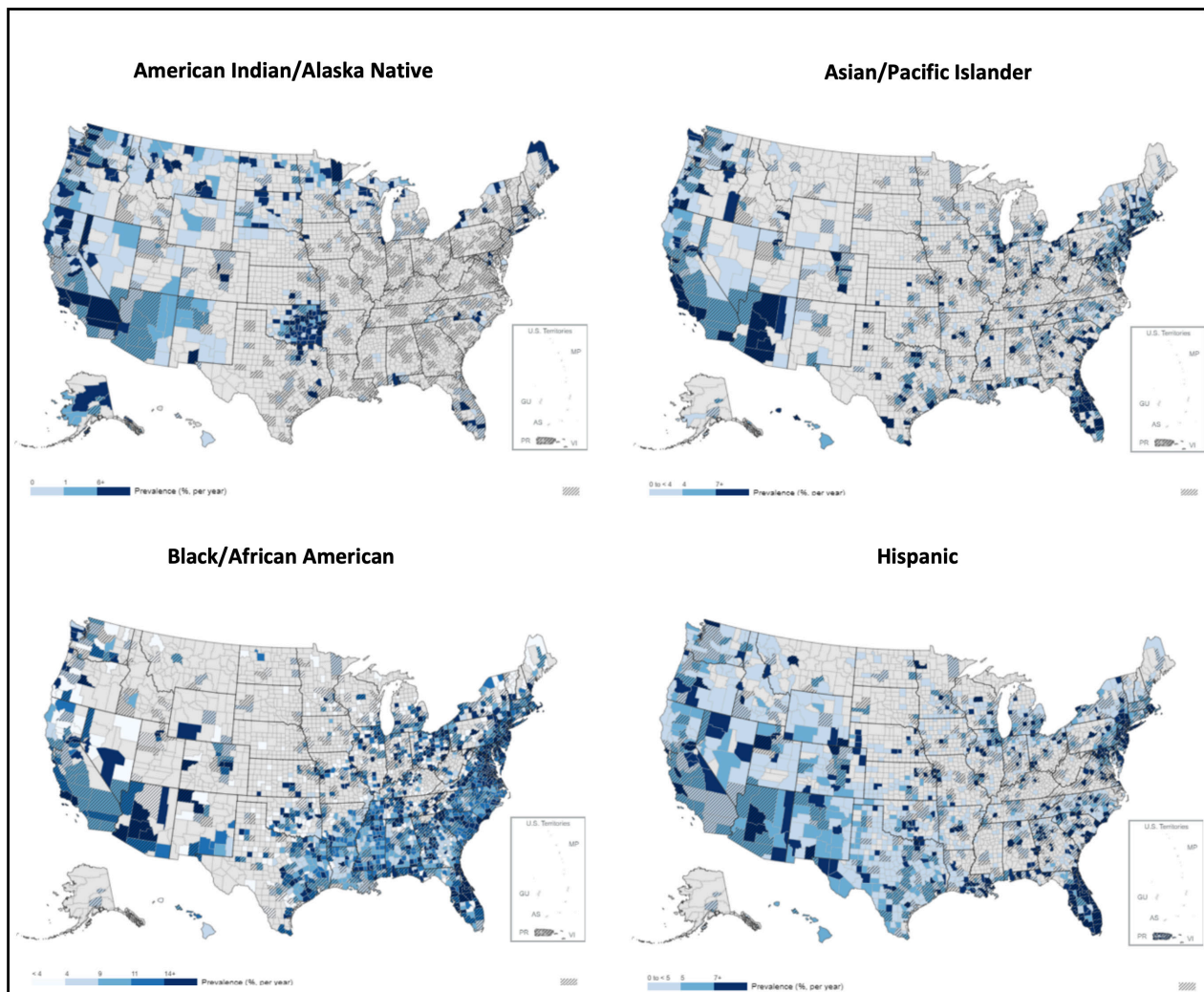


Figure 3 presents the prostate cancer prevalence rate among males enrolled in FFS by county, the darker areas on the map had the higher prevalence rates. It shows the prevalence rate of prostate cancer differed by geographic areas. The tool also indicates Virgin Islands (13%), Florida (12%), and New Jersey (12%) had the higher prevalence rate, and American Samoa (3%), Northern Marianas (4%), Guam (5%) and Alaska (6%) had the lowest prevalence rate. The prostate cancer prevalence rate among each minority racial and ethnic group also differed by geographic areas as shown in Figure 4. See the [MMD Tool](#) for details.

Figure 4. Prevalence of Prostate Cancer among Minority Race/Ethnicity Group Males Enrolled in Medicare FFS, by County, 2022



Catching cancer early often allows for more options of treatment. It is recommended that males 50 years and older get screened for prostate cancer which is covered by Medicare. Medicare Part B provides coverage for two prostate cancer screening procedures, the Digital Rectal Exam (DRE) and the Prostate specific antigen (PSA) test; however, analysis of CMS claims data found that only 18% of male Medicare FFS enrollees took advantage of this benefit in 2022.³

Beneficiary Resources

- [What Is Prostate Cancer?](#)
- [Should I Get Screened for Prostate Cancer?](#)
- [Medicare and You Handbook](#)
- [Medicare & You: “Medicare’s Preventive Benefits” \(video\)](#)
- [Your Medicare Coverage: Prostate cancer screenings](#)
- [Prostate Cancer Causes, Risk Factors, and Prevention](#)

Provider Resources

- [Chronic Care Management Services](#)
- [CMS-Medicare Learning Network: Medicare Preventive Services](#)
- [Prostate Cancer Screening](#)
- [Cancer Statistics At a Glance](#)
- [Advances in Prostate Cancer Research](#)

References/Sources

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. U.S. Cancer Statistics Prostate Cancer Stat Bite. 2024. <https://www.cdc.gov/united-states-cancer-statistics/publications/prostate-cancer-stat-bite.html>
2. Medicare Beneficiary Prevalence for 30 CCW Chronic Conditions using Fee-For-Service Claims, 2017-2022. Chronic Conditions Data Warehouse. 2024. <https://www2.ccwdata.org/web/guest/medicare-tables-reports>
3. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Mapping Medicare Disparities Tool. <https://data.cms.gov/mapping-medicare-disparities>



CMS Office of Minority Health
7500 Security Blvd. MS S2-12-17
Baltimore, MD 21244
<http://go.cms.gov/cms-omh>

If you have any questions
or feedback, please contact
HealthEquityTA@cms.hhs.gov.