

Prostate Cancer: What You Need to Know

Prostate cancer is one of the most common diagnoses for the Veteran community.

American Indians and Alaska Natives serve in the U.S. Armed Services at a higher rate than any other ethnic group.

VA is building culturally informed environments conducive to healing. VA is delivering the health care and benefits that American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans deserve and earned.

Key Facts

- American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans are diagnosed with prostate cancer at a higher rate than their white and Asian Veteran peers, but lower than their Black and Native Hawaiian Veteran peers.



Over 200,000 Veterans are prostate cancer survivors, and VA diagnoses approximately 10,000 new cases of prostate cancer every year.

Who Should Get Screened?

Generally, men should begin talking to their doctor about prostate cancer screening in their mid-40s. However, for groups at higher risk, screening may be recommended beginning at age 40.

You might be at higher risk if you:

- Have a family history of cancer
- Were exposed to Agent Orange or other environmental toxins

Talk to your VA provider about whether prostate cancer screening is right for you.

What Happens If I'm Diagnosed for Prostate Cancer?

VA is ready to stand shoulder to shoulder with you and your family every step of the way.

Not all prostate cancer cases require treatment, but if you do, VA can support you through a diagnosis with access to the latest technology and approaches for individualized care.

Treatment can be tailored to your unique genetic profile, helping you and generations to come. There are also options that can bring anti-cancer therapy to you.

Learn more about VA benefits specific to American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans:



If you have questions about cancer care or screening options available at VA, visit cancer.va.gov.