

# PROSTATE CANCER



# WE CAN

REDUCE THE IMPACT OF PROSTATE CANCER IN SOUTH CAROLINA

## PROSTATE CANCER IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Approximately **3,363\*** men are diagnosed with prostate cancer and **476** die from the disease each year.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in the United States and the rate of new cancers is much higher in African-American men. Although prostate cancer is relatively common, it often grows so slowly that it is unlikely to cause health problems during a man's lifetime. Most men with prostate cancer are older than 50 years and do not die from the disease.

*\*This statistic **excludes** in situ cancers. Carcinoma in situ: An early stage cancer that is still confined to the layer of tissue from which it started and has not spread to surrounding tissue or other parts of the body.*

## SCREENING

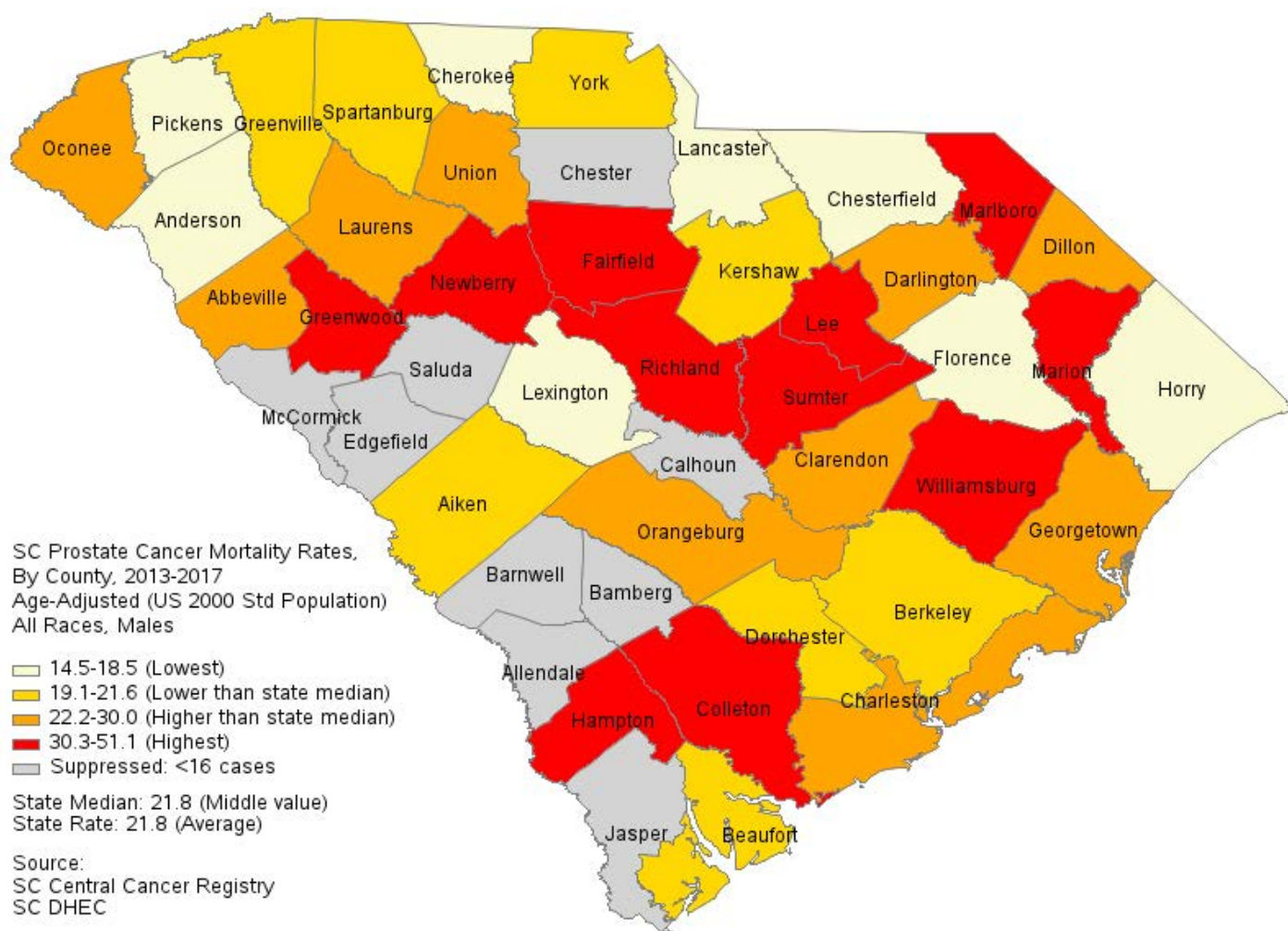
There are **two tests** commonly used to screen for prostate cancer:

**Prostate-Specific Antigen Blood Test**  
Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) is a substance made by cells in the prostate gland (both normal cells and cancer cells). A simple blood test can detect PSA levels for screening.

**Digital Rectal Exam**  
For a Digital Rectal Exam (DRE), the doctor inserts a gloved, lubricated finger into the rectum to check for any bumps or hard areas on the prostate that might be cancer.

*You should **speak with your doctor** and make an informed decision about the screening process.*

# South Carolina Prostate Cancer Mortality Map



## What is a RISK FACTOR?

A risk factor is anything that affects one's chance of getting a disease such as cancer. Different cancers have different risk factors. Some risk factors, like smoking, can be changed. Others, like a person's age or family history, can't be changed.

Having a risk factor, or even several, does not mean that you will get the disease. Many people with one or more risk factors never get cancer, while others who get cancer may have had few or even no known risk factors.

## RISK FACTORS

### age

Prostate cancer is rare in men younger than 40, but the chance of having prostate cancer rises rapidly after age 50.

### race/ethnicity

Prostate cancer is more common in African-American men and in Caribbean men of African ancestry than in men of other races.

### family history

Having a father or brother with prostate cancer more than doubles a man's risk of developing this disease.

*Content was reviewed and approved by the South Carolina Cancer Alliance Prostate Cancer Work Group.*