Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) Testing in Men Aged 65 and Older

Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) Testing in Men Aged 65 and Older

PSA Test Rate by Public Health Region, 2009

PSA Test Rate by County, 2009

• Men living in the Eastern part of Texas were more likely to receive a PSA test.
• Those living in or near bigger cities were more likely to be tested.

The rate of PSA testing in Texas had been increasing since 2001 and started to drop at 2009.

White men have the highest PSA testing rate comparing to Black and Hispanic men.

For men aged 75 and older, the PSA testing rate started to drop at 2008 while it remained steady for men aged between 65 and 74.

Men with stage 1, 2 or 3 prostate cancer have the same survival as men without prostate cancer.
**Things to Remember About Prostate Cancer Screening**

- Guidelines released in 2012 by the USPSTF recommend against routine screening.
- In most cases, especially among older men, the risks outweigh the benefits.
- No group in the United States (American Cancer Society, American Urologic Association or American Geriatrics Society) recommends routine PSA screening in men aged 75 and older.
- PSA can still be useful to evaluate a man who has symptoms that might be related to prostate cancer.

**Benefits and Risks of Routine PSA Screening**

- Benefits are questionable. Even when detected early, survival is nearly the same as in those with no cancer.
- Risks include:
  - False positive test.
  - Detection of cancer that is not lethal and where side effects of treatment are worse than cancer symptoms.

**More Information on Prostate Cancer & Screening**

- “Some facts to consider in prostate-screening debate”
- U.S. Preventive Services Task Force
- Texas Cancer Registry
- American Cancer Society
- Texas Cancer Information
- Texas Department of State Health Services –Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention
- National Cancer Institute