

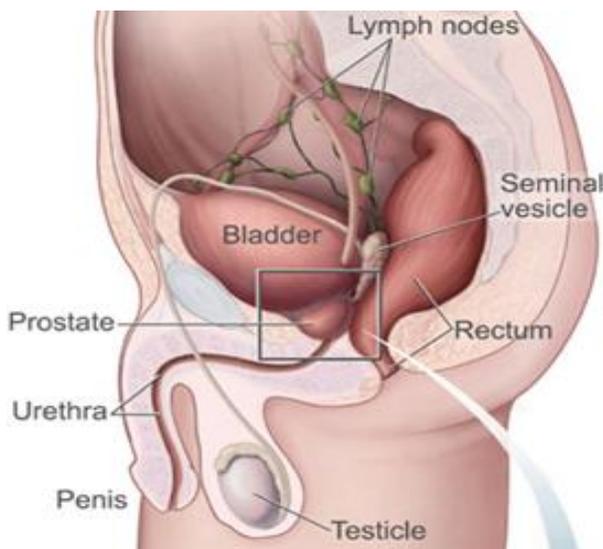


# Prostate Cancer in Nevada 2000-2009

Brian Sandoval, Governor  
Michael J. Willden, Director  
Department of Health and Human Services

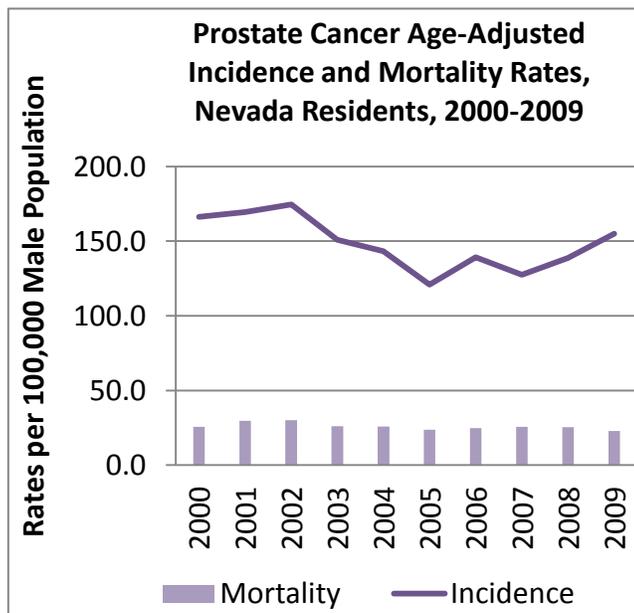
Richard Whitley, MS, Administrator  
Tracey D. Green, MD, State Health Officer  
Nevada State Health Division

**Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among men in Nevada.** It is also the third leading cause of cancer-related deaths for men in Nevada, following lung and colorectal cancers. In 2009, 1,947 new cases of prostate cancer were diagnosed, and 206 Nevada men died from it.



**What is prostate cancer?** Prostate cancer is a malignant disease where abnormal cells, originating in the prostate gland, grow out of control. When prostate cancer cells spread to other parts of the body, they are called metastases.<sup>1</sup>

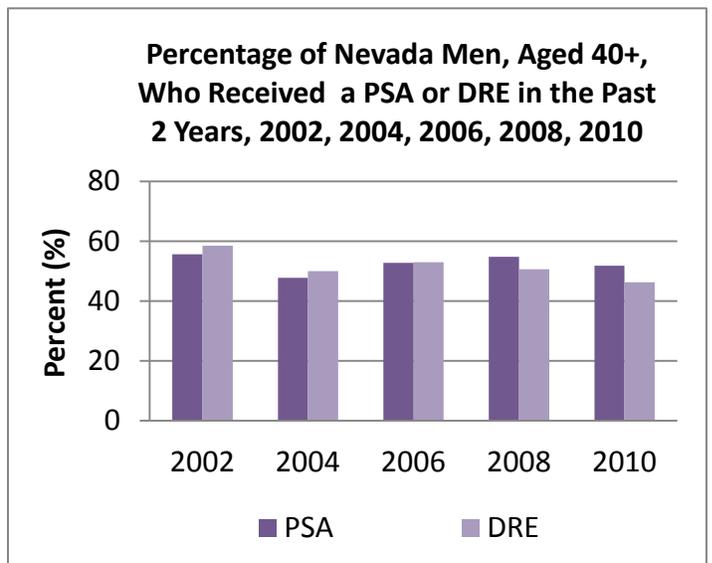
The prostate gland is a part of the male reproductive system, which includes the penis, prostate, and testicles. The prostate is located just below the bladder and in front of the rectum. It is about the size of a walnut and surrounds the urethra (the tube that empties urine from the bladder). The job of the prostate is to produce fluid that makes up a part of semen.<sup>1</sup>



**Risk factors, which may increase your chances of getting prostate cancer, include:** Age, family history, genetics, and race. Prostate cancer is more common in some racial and ethnic groups than others.<sup>1</sup> Both nationally and in Nevada, prostate cancer is more common in Black (non-Hispanic) men compared to men of other racial/ethnic groups.<sup>1</sup>

**Some symptoms of prostate cancer include:** Difficulty starting urination; weak or interrupted flow of urine; frequent urination; difficulty emptying the bladder completely; pain or burning during urination; blood in the urine or semen; pain in the back, hips, or pelvis; and painful ejaculation. It is important to emphasize that some men may not exhibit any symptoms. If you do have symptoms that worry you, consult a doctor.

**Prostate cancer can be found at early stages, when it is easier to treat, through prostate cancer screenings.** Digital Rectal Exams (DREs) and Prostate Specific Antigen Tests (PSAs) are two commonly used screenings. A DRE is a screening where a clinician can manually feel the prostate through the rectum. This allows the examiner to feel for any abnormalities, and estimates the size of the prostate. A PSA test is a laboratory test that measures the level of PSA in blood. PSA is produced in the prostate. Men who have prostate cancer usually have higher levels of PSA in their blood. However, high PSA levels can also be due to other conditions that effect the prostate.<sup>1</sup>



Reports on related topics can be obtained from the Nevada State Health Division website at:  
[www.health.nv.gov/FP\\_Publications.htm](http://www.health.nv.gov/FP_Publications.htm)

For additional information and support about prostate cancer, contact UsToo! at:

5003 Fairview Ave  
 Downers Grove, IL 60515  
 800-808-7866  
[www.ustoo.org](http://www.ustoo.org)  
[www.ustoo.com](http://www.ustoo.com)

Northern Nevada  
 PO Box 19538  
 Reno, NV 89511  
 775-355-7311

UStOO is a grass roots organization started in 1990 by prostate cancer survivors to serve prostate cancer survivors, their spouses/partners and families. They are a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit charitable organization dedicated to communicating timely and reliable information enabling informed choices regarding detection and treatment of prostate cancer. Ultimately, UStOO strives to enhance the quality of life for all those affected by prostate cancer.

Technical Notes:

- Data are from the Nevada Central Cancer Registry.
- The International Classification of Diseases for Oncology (ICD-O) Codes are used to code site (topography) and histology (morphology) of neoplasms, usually obtained from a pathology report.
- Following the criteria of the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR), only invasive cases are included in this report.

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Prostate Cancer. *Basic Information About Prostate Cancer* [Internet]. [accessed 2012 Jan 24]. Available from: [www.cdc.gov/cancer/prostate/basic\\_info/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/prostate/basic_info/index.htm).

Requests for additional information can be made to:  
 Kyra Morgan, Biostatistician II, Office of Public Health Informatics and Epidemiology  
[kmorgan@health.nv.gov](mailto:kmorgan@health.nv.gov) | (775) 684-5965