



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Take 10 minutes for a healthier life; free prostate cancer screening offered on March 31 at Pike County Health Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Men over 40 are invited to take 10 minutes to have a free prostate cancer screening on Saturday, March 31, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Pike County Health Department, 900 S. Franklin Drive, Troy. Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer in men, but it is one of the most treatable when caught in its early stages. The screening usually takes only about 10 minutes.

Statistics show that detecting prostate cancer early, through physical exams and blood tests, can mean a 95 percent survival rate if the disease remains confined to the organ.

Prostate cancer is a disease that will affect one out of every six men (one in four African American men) at some point in their lives, and more than 33,720 will die from prostate cancer this year. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related death among men in the United States. In Alabama, 539 men died of prostate cancer in 2010.

According to Dr. Thomas Moody, Urology Centers of Alabama, regular screenings for prostate cancer are crucial because the disease typically produces no symptoms until the cancer is in its more advanced stages.

Dr. Moody states, "The percentage of men getting screened in Alabama has been low. Our death rate from prostate cancer is the third highest in the nation, and we believe it is related to the number of men who are not getting screened."

The prostate screening clinics are provided free of charge to all men regardless of insurance. For those men whose screenings reveal potential problems, follow-up procedures will be recommended. For those without insurance or otherwise unable to afford follow-up procedures, Dr. Moody and his associates will assist with providing or arranging care.