



# BRIDGING THE GAP

## Sustaining Excellence and Innovation in Prostate Cancer Care in the United States

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**United States** maintains one of the most advanced prostate cancer care systems globally, with widespread access to early detection, cutting-edge diagnostics, and a broad spectrum of treatment options. High survival rates reflect robust infrastructure, advanced research, and strong patient advocacy networks. However, disparities persist across racial, socioeconomic, and geographic lines, with African American men and rural populations facing higher mortality and lower screening uptake.

This policy brief examines the U.S. prostate cancer landscape at **Level 5 – Advanced** maturity and outlines strategies to sustain excellence while closing equity gaps.

### INTRODUCTION

#### Leading in Innovation, Confronting Inequities

Prostate cancer is among the most common cancers in American men, but early detection and treatment have contributed to high survival rates—often exceeding 95% at five years for localized disease. The U.S. benefits from comprehensive screening guidelines, insurance-covered diagnostic services, and access to innovative treatments, including minimally invasive surgery, targeted therapies, and immunotherapies.

Yet, systemic inequities mean not all groups benefit equally. Moving forward, the challenge lies in **maintaining innovation while ensuring equitable outcomes nationwide**.





## PROSTATE CANCER IN THE UNITED STATES

### Current Landscape and Strategic Gaps

Pillar	Current Status	Strength	Policy Action
Early Detection & Diagnosis	National screening guidelines recommend PSA testing based on shared decision-making for men aged 55–69, with consideration for earlier screening in high-risk groups.	Widespread access through primary care, Veterans Affairs, and employer-based health systems.	Expand targeted outreach for high-risk populations, particularly African American men and those in rural areas.
Biomarker & Molecular Testing	Broad access to advanced biomarkers (e.g., PHI, 4Kscore) and genomic profiling to guide personalized care.	Integration into standard clinical pathways and coverage by most insurers.	Increase utilization in community and rural settings through telehealth and partnerships with reference labs.
Treatment Access	Comprehensive access to surgery, radiotherapy, brachytherapy, hormone therapy, targeted therapy, and immunotherapy; strong clinical trial infrastructure.	Availability of advanced technology and multidisciplinary cancer centers.	Address cost barriers for uninsured/underinsured populations and expand navigation programs in underserved areas.
Clinical Guidelines	National guidelines from NCCN, AUA, and ASCO provide evidence-based pathways for screening, diagnosis, and treatment.	Regularly updated and widely implemented.	Enhance dissemination to community hospitals and smaller practices to ensure consistent application.
Palliative & Survivorship Care	Well-developed survivorship programs and palliative care services integrated into cancer centers.	Increasing adoption of patient-reported outcomes and long-term follow-up care plans.	Expand survivorship resources in rural areas and integrate culturally competent support services.





## CONCLUSION & Call to Action

The United States is a global leader in prostate cancer care, yet eliminating disparities is essential to achieving true excellence. By focusing on equitable access, culturally tailored interventions, and continuous innovation, the country can further improve outcomes and set a model for comprehensive, inclusive cancer care.



### KEY POLICY PRIORITIES

1

**Target Equity in Screening:** Increase awareness and screening uptake among high-risk groups through community-based initiatives.

2

**Expand Access to Advanced Diagnostics:** Ensure biomarker and molecular testing reach rural and underserved areas.

3

**Close Cost and Insurance Gaps:** Enhance coverage and affordability for advanced therapies.

4

**Maintain Research Leadership:** Continue investment in clinical trials and translational research for next-generation treatments.

5

**Strengthen Survivorship Care:** Ensure nationwide availability of psychosocial, physical, and sexual health support services post-treatment.

## CONCLUSION

With a **Level 5 – Advanced** maturity, the United States demonstrates what is possible when innovation, infrastructure, and policy align to combat prostate cancer. However, the persistence of racial, geographic, and economic disparities underscores that progress must be measured not only by national averages but also by equity of outcomes. Sustained investment in both cutting-edge science and community-level interventions will ensure that all men, regardless of background, benefit equally from the nation's advances in prostate cancer care.