## Community-Based Prostate Screening for Black Men: Changing the Equity Landscape in Metropolitan Atlanta and Rural Georgia

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**Background:** The 5-year relative survival rate for men with prostate cancer (PC) is greater than 99% when diagnosed at an early stage. The prognosis is much worse for men diagnosed with advanced disease as there is no cure for metastatic PC. With the establishment of prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood testing as an effective tool for early screening for PC, the prevention of mortality from this disease is attainable. Black men are less likely to be screened despite population-specific guidelines for earlier screening in this group; they are also more likely to develop PC and die. Georgia ranks #5 in the nation for PC incidence and #6 in the nation for PC deaths. Disproportionate outcomes are compounded for communities with a high population of Black men including metropolitan Atlanta and some areas of rural Georgia. For these reasons, increasing the reach of PSA screening within these high-risk communities is an imperative goal to raise awareness and reduce disparate mortality from PC.

**Methods:** Morehouse School of Medicine's (MSM) Prostate Cancer Precision Prevention Program (PCP3) comprised of faculty, students, staff, phlebotomists, and licensed nurses leverages community partnerships to provide point-of-care PSA testing at no cost to Black men in the greater Atlanta area and rural Georgia. Community-based screening events were initiated in June 2023 and have been conducted in collaboration with churches, municipalities, and non-profit organizations. Participants are recruited to these events and consented to provide one tube of blood drawn by MSM phlebotomists and registered nurses for quantification of PSA levels. Results are processed through Morehouse Healthcare and participants are contacted with individual results by our clinical staff and provided with options for follow-up.

**Results:** To date, PCP3 has provided PSA testing at no cost to over 1013 men (96% Black men). As expected, Black men are more likely to have higher PSA levels compared to men of other races/ethnicities. Since the inception of PCP3 in 2023, we are observing a stark increase in PC diagnoses reported at public hospitals within the catchment areas. PCP3 is leveraging partnerships with several managed care systems to provide wraparound support and follow up care throughout the state of Georgia. PCP3 has opened the door to expand current research studies and clinical trials into the community. PCP3 is gaining national attention for its model of engagement and efforts.

**Conclusions:** PCP3 has provided awareness and PSA testing to over 1000 Black men in Atlanta and rural Georgia at higher risk for aggressive and lethal PC. There has been an observed measurable increase in PC diagnoses reported at public hospitals. PCP3 aims to assess whether community-based screening reduces mortality from PC for Black men in metropolitan Atlanta and select regions in rural Georgia over the next few years.

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