

# Alabama's health

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## Prostate Cancer Screenings Reach Rural Men

One in every six men will get prostate cancer some time in his life. The death rate from prostate cancer for African American men in Alabama is higher than in any other state, and late stage identification is a factor in many of these deaths.

To highlight the need for awareness and to announce prostate cancer screening events, State Health Officer Dr. Donald Williamson and Dr. Thomas Moody, president of Urology Centers of Alabama, held a news conference by satellite in September.

"More men need to take advantage of the screening methods that can find this cancer early, when treatment outcomes are more favorable," said State Health Officer Dr. Donald Williamson. "Men should talk to their doctors about screening beginning at age 50, age 40 for African Americans, or even earlier if there is a strong family history of the disease."

Dr. Moody said, "There are no noticeable symptoms of prostate cancer while it is still in its early stages so screening is very important."

Screenings were held on Saturdays at county health departments in Hale, Marengo, Perry and Wilcox counties, and 273 men were screened.



*Two hundred seventy-three men were screened in Hale, Marengo, Perry and Wilcox counties. Perry County staff and other volunteers are shown here.*

In 2008 Urology Centers of Alabama and the Urology Health Foundation screened a total of 504 men. Of those men, 13 percent were found to have some form of abnormal result, either an elevated PSA or an abnormal digital rectal examination.