



Kathleen Sebelius, Governor
Roderick L. Bremby, Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND ENVIRONMENT

www.kdheks.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
June 4, 2008

Contact: Patrice O'Hara, 296-1228
Mike Heideman, 785-296-4363, mheidema@kdhe.state.ks.us
www.kdheks.gov

June is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Prostate cancer is the most common type of cancer diagnosed in men and the second leading cause of cancer death in Kansas. June is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month and men should become aware of the risks and become informed on the effectiveness of screening.

According to the American Cancer Society, an estimated 1,350 cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed in Kansas in 2008, and about 220 deaths will be attributed to the disease. The prostate is a small gland located just below the bladder in men.

“We make every attempt to provide men with the most current information about the benefits and risks of prostate cancer screening so that they can discuss issues with their health care provider and make informed choices,” said Paula Marmet, KDHE Office of Health Promotion.

Prostate cancer is the third leading cancer killer of men in the United States. Nearly 186,000 new cases will be diagnosed in 2008 and more than 28,000 men will die from prostate cancer. In order to help understand their risks, men should consider that:

- Two out of three prostate cancers are found in men over the age of 65.
- Men with close family members, such as a father or a brother, who have developed prostate cancer at a young age, are more likely to develop the disease. High levels of male hormones also may play a part in developing prostate cancer.
- Prostate cancer is more common among African-American men and Jamaican men of African descent. The disease occurs more often in Whites than in Asians.
- Studies suggest that a diet high in saturated fat also may be a risk factor.
- Men over the age of 65 who exercise vigorously and on a regular basis have a lower rate of prostate cancer.

Screening tests for prostate cancer include a digital rectal exam (DRE) to check the prostate for lumps and/or a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test. These tests can detect early-stage prostate cancer, but the evidence that it improves health outcomes for men is inconclusive.

###

As the state's environmental protection and public health agency, KDHE promotes responsible choices to protect the health and environment for all Kansans.

CURTIS STATE OFFICE BUILDING, 1000 SW JACKSON ST., STE. 230, TOPEKA, KS 66612-1274

Voice 785-296-8916 Fax 785-296-8059

Through education, direct services and the assessment of data and trends, coupled with policy development and enforcement, KDHE will improve health and quality of life. We prevent illness, injuries and foster a safe and sustainable environment for the people of Kansas.