

Impact of NPCA



NPCA
National Prostate
Cancer Audit



HQIP
Healthcare Quality
Improvement Partnership

NATIONAL

Evidence of national improvements in the quality and outcomes of care

The [NPCA's second State of the Nation Report](#) was published on 9th January 2025.

The number of men diagnosed with prostate cancer in England in 2023, using the Rapid Cancer Registration Dataset, was 55,241. This was the highest number of diagnoses reported by the NPCA, a 9% increase since 2022 and a 25% increase since 2019, with an accompanying 20% increase in radical treatments. In Wales, there was a 26% increase in men diagnosed with prostate cancer between 2022 and 2021 (26% in England).

The proportions of the six performance indicators reported (metastatic diagnoses [18%], radical treatments in low [10%] and high-risk patients [69%], complications following radical treatment [6-17%]) remained stable compared to previous years in England and Wales.

The report highlighted diagnoses and treatment variation (age, ethnicity and Index of Multiple Deprivation) in England (2021-2023).

- 90% of prostate cancer diagnoses in England were in white men
- Black populations had more cases per 1000 men than other ethnicities (17/1000s for 70-74 yrs)
- White men aged >85 years were more often diagnosed with stage 4 cancer than 65-84 years (1.5/1000 vs 1.1/1000)
- Black men aged 60-69 years were less likely to receive radical treatment than white men (68% vs 82%), and men living in more deprived areas had lower treatment rates than those in less deprived areas (75 vs 83%)

SYSTEM

How the project supports policy development & management of the system

NPCA results are published in peer reviewed publications and presented at national conferences (annually at BUG and BAUS Oncology).

Key peer reviewed publications since June 2024 include:

[Are Evidence-Based Guidelines Translating into Clinical Practice? A National Population-Based Study of the Use of Treatment Intensification in Metastatic Hormone-Sensitive Prostate Cancer \(mHSPC\) in England](#). March 2025

[Geographic, socioeconomic and demographic inequalities in the incidence of metastatic prostate cancer at time of diagnosis in England: a population-based evaluation](#). April 2025

This research has translated into a new performance indicator included in the next NPCA State of the Nation report and which will be a key focus of the NPCA Quality Improvement Initiative.

Results from the NPCA State of the Nation Report (January 2025) were included in a [Prostate Cancer UK Campaign](#) and reported in [The Guardian](#), [Sky](#) and in the [BMJ](#).

LOCAL

How the project stimulates quality improvement (QI)

In September 2024, the NPCA published their [Quality Improvement Plan](#). This set out the renewed scope, care pathway, and updated quality improvement goals of the audit. Aligned to these goals were the performance indicators which the NPCA reports on.

[Resources](#) are published on the NPCA website to support local Quality Improvement (action plan templates, provider-level reports) and the [NPCA Data Dashboard](#), updated quarterly, was launched in April 2025.

The NPCA ran a formal outlier process for the 2nd time (post Covid-19 pandemic), for two performance indicators:

- Proportion of patients experiencing at least one genitourinary (GU) complication requiring a procedural/surgical intervention within 2 years of radical prostatectomy (presented at the level of the surgical centre)
- Proportion of patients receiving a procedure of the large bowel and a diagnosis indicating radiation toxicity (gastrointestinal [GI] complication) up to 2 years following radical prostate radiotherapy (presented at the level of the radiotherapy centre)
- Three centres were found to be formal outliers and the [outlier communications](#) are available

The NPCA publishes quarterly Newsletters, disseminated to provider Clinical Leads and NPCA contacts, providing regular updates on the current and future work of the audit. <https://www.npca.org.uk/news/>

PUBLIC

How the project is used by the public and the demand for it

The NPCA Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Forum last met in October 2024, to review the findings from the State of the Nation with members of the NPCA's Project Team.

The team also provided updates on quarterly reporting, research being carried out and quality improvement plans.

The PPI Forum members provided feedback regarding their preferred format for the State of the Nation Patient Summary.

An infographic-based Report was favoured and published simultaneously in January 2025 <https://www.npca.org.uk/reports/npca-patient-summary-2024/>

The group will meet again in June 2025 to review the next State of the Nation Report findings, due for publication October 2025.

Findings from the NPCA are shared on our [Twitter/X](#) page and we have expanded our social media presence in 2025 to include [Bluesky](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Our charity stakeholders, Prostate Cancer UK, also share the audit's work on social media and with their supporters and have used the State of the Nation report findings in one of their [media campaigns](#).