

## FEATURE ARTICLE

# Prioritizing Men's Health: Prevention, Early Detection, and Empowerment

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June marks Men's Health Month, a dedicated time to raise awareness about preventable physical and mental health issues that disproportionately affect men. Despite medical advances, men continue to face significant health challenges such as heart disease, cancer, and mental health disorders, often worsened by delays in seeking care and low rates of preventive screening.

### THE STATE OF MEN'S HEALTH TODAY

Nearly 15% of men in the U.S. report being in fair or poor health, with over half affected by hypertension and nearly 40% classified as obese. Alarmingly, only about 28% of men meet federal physical activity guidelines, and many avoid routine health check-ups, increasing the risk of late-stage disease diagnosis (CDC, 2025; TMB, 2024).

### THE POWER OF EARLY DETECTION

Regular screenings for blood pressure, diabetes, and cancers such as prostate and colorectal cancer can detect disease early when treatment is most effective. Prostate cancer, the most commonly diagnosed solid tumor in men, has significantly better outcomes when screened starting between ages 40-55, especially for high-risk groups (AAJMC, 2025).

#### **MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS**

Men face unique challenges with mental health stigma, often discouraging them from seeking help.

Approximately one in eight men experience a mental health disorder annually, yet many remain undiagnosed due to social expectations of stoicism. Promoting open dialogue and providing accessible mental health resources are critical to improving outcomes (Spill, 2024). omen's Health Expert

### TAKING ACTION THIS MEN'S HEALTH MONTH

- Schedule regular check-ups and age-appropriate screenings.
- Engage in at least 150 minutes of moderate exercise weekly.
- Prioritize mental wellness by seeking support and managing stress.
- Adopt balanced nutrition and hydration habits.
- Participate in Men's Health Week events such as health fairs and educational talks.

Men's Health Month is a call to action for men to take ownership of their health—not only for themselves but for their families and communities. Preventive care and early detection save lives.

### **FOOTNOTES:**

CDC. (2025). Men's Health FastStats.

TMB. (2024). Benefits of Regular Health Screening for Men. AAJMC. (2025). Men's Health Month Prostate Cancer Spotlight.

Spill. (2024). Male Mental Health Stigma.