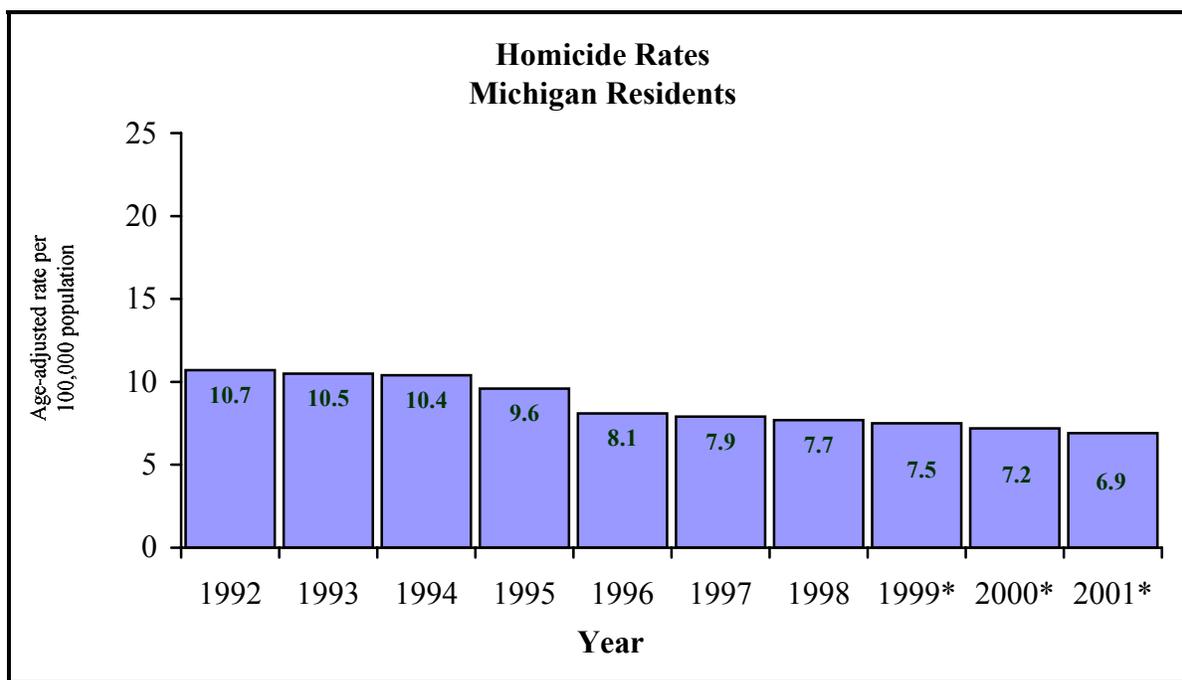


## Vital Statistics Indicators

### *Homicides*



\* Death data based on ICD-10 coding. See *Technical Notes* for detailed explanation on ICD coding changes.  
Source: Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics, MDCH

### ***How are we doing?***

Homicide is the fourth leading cause of Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL) for people below the age of 75 in Michigan.

Homicide is the negligent or intentional killing of one person by another. Homicide may be the result of an act of violence between friends or acquaintances, or an incident of domestic violence or child abuse. Homicide may also be the result of crimes perpetrated by strangers.

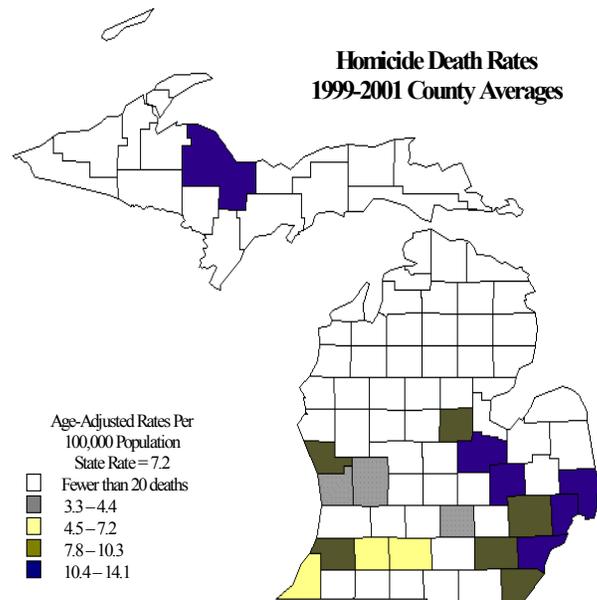
In 2001, there were 684 deaths due to homicide in Michigan. The age-adjusted rate for homicide was 6.9 per 100,000 population. Age-adjusted homicide rates have steadily declined since the peak in 1991. Homicide was one of Michigan's top 10 leading causes of death between 1990 and 1996.

### ***How does Michigan compare with the U.S.?***

Michigan's 2000 age-adjusted homicide rate of 7.2 was similar to the U.S. rate of 6.1. Homicide was the sixth leading cause of YPLL in the U.S. in 1999. National homicide rates have also been declining and are the lowest they have been in three decades.

## ***How are different populations affected?***

Adolescents experienced an overall increase in mortality in the second half of this century. This is due mainly to an increase in homicide, suicide, and accidents for that age group. In Michigan, homicide was the second leading cause of death for 15-34 year-olds and the fourth leading cause of death for children 5-14 years old. Since the 1980s, adolescents, along with other groups, have shown a steady decline in homicide rates.



The homicide rate for African-Americans is over 13 times higher than it is for whites. In 2001, the age-adjusted rate for African-Americans was 32.2 compared to 2.4 for whites. The age-adjusted death rate is highest for African-American men at 58.5. Homicide is the leading cause of death for African-American men and women aged 15-34.

Men are more likely than women to be both victims and perpetrators of homicide. The age-adjusted homicide rate for men (10.9) was more than three times the rate for women (2.8).

For more state and local data on homicide deaths, visit the Michigan Department of Community Health Web site at [www.michigan.gov/mdch](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch).

## ***What other information is important to know?***

Lifestyle behaviors (such as weapon possession), a pattern of parental abuse or violence, racial discrimination, and a belief in the use of violence or physical punishment as a socializing agent are risk factors associated with being either a victim or perpetrator of homicide. In addition, alcohol and drug use have been shown to be a contributing factor to, but not the cause of, homicide.

## ***What is the Department of Community Health doing to affect this indicator?***

The department supports youth and domestic violence prevention and reduction efforts to change the circumstances that can lead to homicide.

The department has also developed and implemented a model system for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of intimate partner violence-related data and information.

The department responds directly to persons who are of potential danger to themselves as a result of mental illness by providing psychiatric inpatient care at three adult and one child and adolescent state-operated psychiatric hospitals as well as one of the community hospitals. Community Mental Health Service Programs, through contracts with the department, offer a comprehensive array of specialty services such as psychiatric inpatient care, hospital-based crisis observation care, intensive crisis residential and stabilization services, and community treatment.

For more information about injury prevention, visit the Michigan Department of Community Health's Injury Prevention Section at [http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2940\\_2955\\_2981-51165--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2940_2955_2981-51165--,00.html)

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