



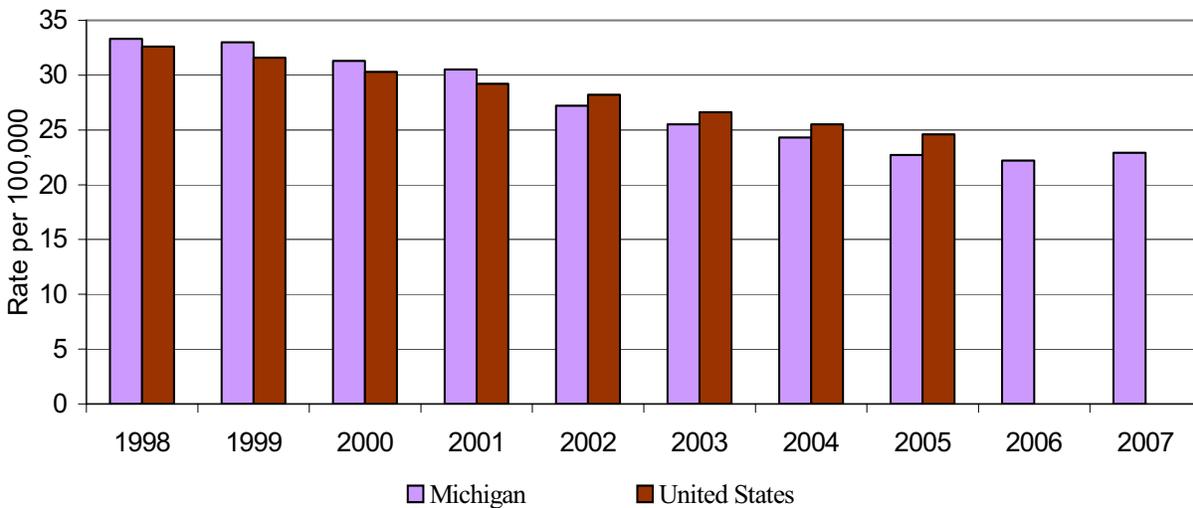
Topic: Cancer and Cancer Screening

17. Prostate Cancer Deaths

Unlike other cancers, many types of prostate cancers grow slowly, and do not cause problems or affect how long a man lives. However, some types of prostate cancers are a serious health threat, growing quickly and spreading beyond the prostate gland to other parts of the body, and at times are fatal. The Gleason Score, which is a measure, reported upon a prostate tumor biopsy, is a way of determining how fast the cancer might be growing. Research is ongoing to discover ways of distinguishing virulent from indolent forms of cancer and to address both short term and long term mortality outcomes.

How are we doing?

Invasive Prostate Cancer Death Rates



Coinciding with the development of the prostate specific antigen (PSA) test in the late 1980s, mortality associated with prostate cancer has declined fairly consistently. Even though prostate cancer death rates for Michigan men have decreased over the past few years, prostate cancer remains the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in Michigan men.

In 2007, 967 Michigan men died from the disease. Death rates associated with prostate cancer have decreased in Michigan, falling from 33.3 deaths per 100,000 men in 1998 to 22.9 deaths per 100,000 men in 2007. In 2008, the American Cancer Society estimated that 7,180 Michigan men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer and approximately 850 men within the state will die from the disease.

How does Michigan compare with the U.S.?

In 2005, the Michigan age-adjusted death rate for prostate cancer was 22.7 per 100,000 compared to the slightly higher U.S. rate of 24.7 per 100,000.

How are different populations affected?

African-American men have a higher incidence of prostate cancer and are also more likely than Caucasian men to die of the disease. The prostate cancer incidence rate is 60% higher and the age-adjusted death rate for prostate cancer is 2.4 times greater among African-American men than Caucasian men.



What is the Department of Community Health doing to improve this indicator?

Although screening with the PSA and digital rectal exam can detect prostate cancer at an earlier stage, definitive evidence is lacking on whether screening and early treatment of prostate cancer decrease prostate cancer mortality. In addition to the lack of evidence that screening saves lives, each prostate cancer treatment may result in lingering and sometimes lifelong problems that impact a man's quality of life. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Michigan Department of Community Health and the United States Preventive Services Task Force for Clinical Preventive Services do not support population-based prostate cancer screening with PSA. The American Cancer Society and the American Urological Association recommend screening, and the MDCH and the Michigan Cancer Consortium recommend that each man weighs the pros and cons of screening for them.

Screening for prostate cancer must be the result of shared decision making between the man and his healthcare provider. Informed consent encourages the patient to actively participate in the decision, emphasizing the importance of the patient's values and preferences.

The MDCH and the Michigan Cancer Consortium have developed and offer high quality informational materials to empower men to more effectively decide whether to be tested and, in the event early prostate cancer is found, to decide among several treatment options, including 'watchful waiting'.

The MDCH and the Michigan Cancer Consortium have an initiative underway to address the needs of prostate cancer survivors and their families. In collaboration with the Michigan Cancer Registry, 7,019 surveys were mailed to a randomly selected sample of prostate cancer survivors statewide to assess survivors' needs. Results from the survey and advice from prostate cancer experts will be used to develop materials to assist men, their families, and their healthcare providers to manage the problems that develop after treatment, thereby enhancing their quality of life.

More information can be found at:

www.michigancancer.org/OurPriorities/Prostate_InformationForConsumers.cfm.

Source: ACS Facts & Figures 2008. Accessed online at:

<http://www.cancer.org/downloads/STT/2008CAFFfinalsecured.pdf>

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<http://www.cancer.org/downloads/STT/CAFF2007PWSecured.pdf>